



Verderers of the New Forest
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Official Verderer
Lord Manners

6th October 2017

MINUTES OF THE HLS BOARD MEETING HELD ON 4th October 2017

Voting Members		
Lord Manners	OV	Official Verderer – Verderers of the New Forest (Chairman)
Alison Barnes	AB	Chief Executive – New Forest National Park Authority
Bruce Rothnie	DS	Deputy Surveyor – Forestry Commission
Non-Voting Members		
Jenny Thomas	JT	Lead Adviser New Forest - Natural England (NE)
Robert Stride	RS	CDA Representative
In Attendance		
Sonia Lorenzo-Martin	SLM	Head of Planning and Environment – Forestry Commission
Nick Wardlaw	NW	HLS Contract Manager
Tina Woodley	TW	VGS Administrator

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All present

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

OV is Chairman of the VGS Management Committee.

AB declared an interest in all Wetland Restoration projects because of the NPA's responsibilities as local planning authority.

RS is a member of the VGS and a committee member of the CDA.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

CPRE

AB reported that Steve Avery has now met with representatives of the new Hampshire team of the CPRE. It may be appropriate to understand the national CPRE position on schemes post Brexit.

DISCHARGE

Receding Heather

AB confirmed to the board that LiDAR can be used to monitor changes in the area/density of heather and showed the board examples of LiDAR images.

DISCHARGE

Social Media Training Course

TW & RS gave feedback to the board on the success of the social media training course organised by Lyndsey Stride. In particular the attendance of representatives from all the partner organisations. The board discussed the importance of setting up a meeting of the partners and the HLS E&I officer to implement a strategy to highlight the successes of the HLS. TW was asked to supply the board with copies of Social Jungles proposal document that was circulated to attendees at the training day.

DISCHARGE

Action TW

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE INQUIRY

The board discussed the positive response from the NAO with particular discussion on the legacy of monitoring post HLS.

DISCHARGE

PROGRAMME REGISTER AND SUMMARY

RS queried the current underspend on VGS payments and Bracken clearance, TW informed the board that VGS payments were not due to be made to commoners until December and NW added that the bracken control was an activity that took place later in the year due to minimising disturbance to ground nesting birds and protecting Gladioli sites. RS also queried the reduction in the projected spend on heather baling and verge restoration in future years. NW responded that the projected spend on baling was dependant on the demand for heather bales and the verge restoration budgets have been adjusted to reflect the realised costs.

RESUME

NW explained the revised 2017/18 figures for the wetland restorations were due to the wet weather this summer affecting the work schedule. NW updated the board on those projects that will be carried forward to next year. AB congratulated the HLS team on how much they had managed to achieve this summer.

HLS PRESCRIPTION REVIEW

JT was able to confirm to the board that the funding for the Educational visits was able to remain unchanged and this has been submitted to NE for amendment. The updated HLS agreement will be issued as soon as it has been processed.

DISCHARGE

FC UPDATE

NW gave the board a summary of the FC's report and explained the monitoring processes. AB described the Forest as a living, working landscape. NW was asked to organise a report for the HLS AGM on monitoring. JT reminded the board that the New Forest is home to many critically endangered species and for some species this is the last stronghold in Britain and that it is the Forest's long history of unchanging management that supports these rare species.

RESUME

Action NW

Verge Restoration Officer

The board were pleased to welcome Jane Albery to the HLS team and NT informed the board that the role was already showing positive results. AB requested that the leaflets due to be distributed by the Verge Restoration Officer are linked up with the planned leaflet from the Western Escarpment team.

Stumps and Furrows removal

NW informed the board that discussions for trial areas are due to start next week and a framework for contractors will then follow. OV reiterated the need to seize the opportunity to get this project underway. SLM commented that the focus should be on newly felled areas as older sites have established habitats.

LAND ADVICE SERVICE WRITTEN UPDATE

The board studied the report supplied and commented that the NFLAS had experienced a very busy and productive couple of months.

RESUME

ENGAGEMENT AND INTERPRETATION OFFICER WRITTEN REPORT

TW to liaise with Matt Stroud over action re: social media and media strategy to include focusing on the landscape story and promoting public support post Brexit.

RESUME

LiDAR

The board considered the application for HLS funding of a second LiDAR flight. JT informed the board that following consultation with NE it was viewed as complementary to the agreement rather than being a requirement and was therefore unable to be added to the scheme at this late stage. The board felt it would be have many benefits particularly with supplying evidence for securing any future schemes. Other options of funding are to be investigated.

RESUME

Action JT

HIWWT WRITTEN UPDATE

The board studied the report. JT commented that Catherine Chatters is very active and does a wonderful job including lobbying Defra for unlisted invasive non-native species to be added to the British list. OV agreed that the HIWWT teams' work is money very well spent.

RESUME

LETTER TO ANDREW SELLS

The OV reported to the board that he had written to Mr Andrew Sells, Chairman of NE to invite him to visit the New Forest. No reply has yet been received.

RESUME

AOB

The board were asked to consider a bid for the funding of securing anonymised mobile phone data relating to visitor habits within the New Forest. The board requested more information as to what detail of information could be supplied and the possibility of a sample/free taster. AB will report back to the board.

RESUME

Action AB

DS wanted to ensure that the tarmac and concrete that had been removed at Stoney Cross as mitigation for the proposed Broomy road works was recorded as a credit with NE as a start date for the Broomy works has not yet been agreed. JT confirmed this would be noted.

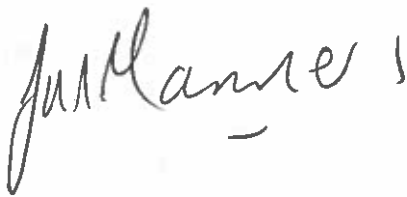
Meeting closed at 12pm

DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

10th January 2018 at 9am – Queens House, Lyndhurst

4th April 2018 at 2pm – Queens House – followed by HLS AGM 5.30pm

Delegated Actions to		
Alison Barnes	AB	Chief Executive – New Forest National Park Authority
Jenny Thomas	JT	Lead Adviser New Forest - Natural England (NE)
Tina Woodley	TW	Verderers' Grazing Scheme Administrator
Nick Wardlaw	NW	HLS Contract Manager



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