



Verderers of the New Forest
THE QUEEN'S HOUSE
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Official Verderer
Lord Manners

3rd July 2019

MINUTES OF THE HLS BOARD MEETING HELD ON 3rd July 2019

Voting Members		
Lord Manners	OV	Official Verderer – Verderers of the New Forest (Chairman)
Bruce Rothnie	DS	Deputy Surveyor – Forestry England
Alison Barnes	AB	Chief Executive – New Forest National Park Authority
Non-Voting Members		
Jenny Thomas	JT	Lead Adviser New Forest - Natural England (NE)
In Attendance		
Tina Woodley	TW	VGS Administrator
Nick Wardlaw	NW	HLS Contract Manager – Forestry England

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Tony Hockley – CDA Representative

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.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESUME

Wetland Restoration Monitoring

OV requested an update on the progress of the monitoring results. NW informed the board that the reports would be completed at the end of the working season.

Verge Restoration

AB asked if consideration had been given to the inclusion of verge restoration and archaeological projects in the event of HLS rollover. NW confirmed that the Verge Restoration officer and LS have been consulted and are putting forward possible projects for consideration.

Engagement and Interpretation Officer

AB informed the board that a new Communications officer is due to start at the NPA in early July and she will be working with the rest of the HLS team on communications, updating the website and the ongoing year of celebration projects. The board noted how good the website looked and how user friendly it was.

PROGRAMME AND SUMMARY

The board studied the programme register which had monthly updates of the actual spend. Geophysical surveys are planned for Beaulieu Heath and Bratley Plain as these SAM's have never been surveyed before.

OV requested an update on the progress of the LiDAR data deposition with ADS, AB offered to get an update and report back to the board.

OV asked when the results for the species surveys undertaken this year would be available. NW replied they will be available by the end of the year except the Breeding Waders which will continue on into the following year. The board agreed that the survey results presented a good opportunity for interesting publicity. DS and AB requested that the comms team and the wildlife societies get involved. OV and JT commented on the need to also consider national trends when assessing the conservation status of species in the New Forest . OV requested an update on the survey results for the October board meeting.

JT asked for TW & NW to work together to compile an end of term report detailing the projects completed under the HLS agreement to support the case for a potential rollover.

The board studied the account reconciliation supplied by TW. It was agreed to organise a meeting between AB, the NPA finance officer, the FE finance officer and TW, to analysis final year accounts and potential roll over budgets and projections.

RESUME

Action AB

Action NW

Action NW &
TW

Action AB

FE UPDATE

RESUME

Wetland Restoration

NW reported on the wetland restoration works being carried out this season. The board congratulated the HLS team and NE on winning the prestigious UK River Prize 2019 and the Nigel Holmes Trophy for the restoration work delivered under the Verderers' HLS Scheme. SLM circulated a letter received from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs congratulating the HLS team on their achievements.

Terrestrial Restoration

The board studied the report on the Terrestrial works being undertaken, including Rhododendron treatments and Ridge and Furrow and stump clearance.

Verge Restoration

The Verge Restoration Officer has been very pro active with engagement with local residents and parish councils.

Wetland Restoration Monitoring

The board studied updates on the Hydro-Chemistry monitoring, the Physical monitoring and the Biological monitoring including the extended Riverfly monitoring. A number of Stakeholder/Engagement/ Training events have taken place during this quarter.

ENGAGEMENT AND INTERPRETATION OFFICER WRITTEN UPDATE

RESUME

The progress update from the Communications officer was studied by the board. The AGM was a great success and well attended. The board agreed the early evening format was worth repeating. The year of celebration events were discussed and AB requested TW to check the budget for the travelling exhibition.

Action TW

HIWWT WRITTEN UPDATE

RESUME

The board studied the excellent report from the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project. This project continues to be great value for money and is vitally important in the war against non-native species across the agreement area.

FUTURE NEW FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME UPDATE

RESUME

JT updated the board on the current situation regarding the potential rollover of the HLS agreement. The decision is now with the Secretary of State, an indication is hoped for within the next month but it still has to be approved by the RPA.

AOB

RESUME

TW has received the 2018 Statement of Accounts and will forward to the board for approval before the OV signs them off.

Action TW

TW informed the board that she has a meeting tomorrow with representatives from Dartmoor who are hoping to set up their own Verderers' Grazing Scheme and require more information.

Meeting closed at 11.40am

DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday 2nd October 2019 – 9am (Site visit pre meeting)

Wednesday 22nd January 2020 – 9am

Delegated Actions to		
Alison Barnes	AB	Chief Executive – New Forest National Park Authority
Tina Woodley	TW	VGS Administrator
Nick Wardlaw	NW	HLS Contract Manager – Forestry England

Lord Manners
Official Verderer

