



Verderers of the New Forest
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Official Verderer
Lord Manners

2nd December 2022

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY HLS BOARD MEETING HELD ON 1st DECEMBER 2022

Voting Members		
Lord Manners	OV	Official Verderer – Verderers of the New Forest (Chairman)
Alison Barnes	AB	Chief Executive – New Forest National Park Authority
Craig Harrison	DS	Deputy Surveyor – Forestry England
Non-Voting Members		
Charlotte Lines	CL	CDA Representative
In Attendance		
Tina Woodley	TW	VGS Administrator

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESUME

Apologies from Jenny Thomas - New Forest Nature Recovery Senior Adviser – Natural England

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESUME

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.

CL is a member of the VGS and a committee member of the CDA

5 YEAR ROLL OVER OF CURRENT HLS AGREEMENT

The RPA have offered the New Forest HLS Scheme a 5-year rollover of the current agreement. The purpose of this extra ordinary HLS Board Meeting is to vote and formally minute the decision of the HLS Board. OV quoted from page 6 of the new domestic HLS Terms & Conditions that will be effective from 1 January 2023. Under the heading – Terminating agreements – it states “where you are successful in securing an agreement in another land management scheme (for example, Countryside Stewardship (CS) or Environmental Land Management schemes. Such as Local Nature Recovery) that will continue to deliver at least equivalent

management. In this case, in agreement with the RPA, you will be able to end your existing HLS agreement early and without consequence.”

With this assurance that accepting the extension would not prejudice other options in the future the board voted unanimously to accept the RPA’s offer. OV to sign documentation and return to RPA before the offer’s deadline.

Action OV

ROLE OF HLS BOARD

AB reminded the members that the HLS Board’s role is to govern the HLS Scheme and is not the forum to discuss other future schemes. We require a clear and ordered process for this conversation that gives partners ability to engage constructively and align resources to the task.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

As the roll over extension is a continuation of the existing agreement OV proposed to approve the existing Partnership Plan and for a MoA to be drafted to cover the extension period. It was noted that the partnership agreement could be reviewed with a view to updating/ amending at a later date.

Action TW

Delegated Actions to		
Lord Manners	OV	Official Verderer – Verderers of the New Forest (Chairman)
Tina Woodley	TW	VGS Administrator

*Jul Manners
19 December 2022*

Lord Manners
Official Verderer