

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 20th April 2011 at 9.30 a.m. in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.

PRESENT:	Mr O Crosthwaite Eyre DL	Official Verderer
	Mr R Deakin	Elected Verderer
	Miss D Macnair MBE	Elected Verderer
	Mr C Maton	National Park Appointed Verderer
	The Hon R Montagu	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
	Mr A H Pasmore	Elected Verderer
	Mrs P Thorne	DEFRA Appointed Verderer
	Mrs D Westerhoff	Natural England Appointed Verderer
IN ATTENDANCE:	Miss S Westwood	Clerk to the Verderers
	Mr J R Gerrelli	Head Agister
APOLOGIES:	Mr A Gerrelli	Elected Verderer
	Mr J F Kitcher MBE	Elected Verderer & Chairman of the Staff Committee

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

2011/5420 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The Minutes of the Court held on Wednesday, 16th March 2011 were approved.

2011/5421 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister reported that overall he is very pleased with the condition of stock. It has been a very good winter, much better than last year. The weather has been good but some rain would now be welcome. Mares are beginning to foal and one or two have had to be removed following the birth of their foals. A few animals are looking quite scruffy as usual at this time of year, due to a combination of losing their winter coats and some lice.

There have been one or two issues with cattle. Some which were marked early in order to tie in with TB tests have lost condition in the meantime and are now looking quite poor. The owners have been asked to remove these animals.

Mr Maton commented that this year spring has come earlier than for years. There is more food on the Forest than would normally be expected and it was agreed that everything appears to be about one month in advance of a normal year. Where burning has been undertaken the new growth is coming through well.

The Head Agister left the meeting.

Mr Deakin confirmed that he agreed with the Head Agister's report and added that now animals are foaling and calving, some will inevitably look worse for a few weeks. Mr Maton said he felt the Agisters have done a brilliant job.

2011/5422 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS RESUME

The announcements and decisions were approved.

2011/5423 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

The Elected Verderers and Mrs Thorne declared an interest in the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

Mr Deakin declared an interest in matters connected with the Beaulieu Road Sale Yard as he is a director and the treasurer of the New Forest Livestock Society.

The Official Verderer declared an interest in matters concerning golf clubs.

Mr Gerrelli declared an interest in matters concerning campsites.

2011/5424 FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement for March 2011 was approved.

2011/5425 REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE IN 2011 RESUME

Ponies	3558	Pigs	14
Cattle	918	Sheep	108
Donkeys	73		
SUB TOTAL	4549	TOTAL ALL ANIMALS	4671

The number of ponies paid for at this stage is down on last year. This is likely to be due to the abolition of the discount for early payment but the Agisters will be asked whether they think there are animals not yet paid for.

2011/5426 ANIMALS REMOVED IN MARCH DUE TO POOR CONDITION RESUME

3 mares with yearlings
14 mares
20 fillies
3 geldings
1 cow with a calf

2011/5427 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT DISCHARGE

There are currently no reported byelaws infringements.

ENCROACHMENTS

2011/5428 ENCROACHMENT - HOME FARM, BARTLEY RESUME

The report has been received from the Surveyor. A few minor amendments were necessary. The Verderers/CDA solicitors have now written to the solicitor acting for the owner of the property enclosing the report and their response is awaited.

OPEN COURT – 10.00 a.m. in the Verderers' Hall

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Mike Seddon, Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest
Mr Kevin Penfold, Acting Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest
Mr Mark Street, Area Land Agent (New Forest)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER

2011/5429 WELCOME TO ACTING DEPUTY SURVEYOR AND NEWLY APPOINTED ASSISTANT TO THE CLERK

Mr Mike Seddon has been seconded to an important role in London for the next six months. Mr Kevin Penfold has been appointed Acting Deputy Surveyor to cover for his absence and we welcome him to the Court.

I also have pleasure in welcoming Mrs Linda Ryan who has been appointed Assistant to the Clerk.

2011/5430 HLS

I would like to mention good progress on a number of our key Grazing Scheme projects that are currently funded by the HLS.

Census

Firstly, I am very pleased to report that we have had a very satisfactory response to the census forms, and the information that we can collate will be extremely valuable in terms of planning our future HLS spending in support of commoning and I would like to thank all those who have replied.

Beaulieu Road Saleyard

Secondly, despite some unexpected problems during a wet period in the winter, I am happy to report that the majority of the new mains water pipe for the Beaulieu Road Saleyard has been laid, and we are now waiting for a dry spell in the summer to complete the section under the Beaulieu River, and a small 500m run of pipe across a particularly wet bit of heathland near Decoy Pond. Most of the planning and other necessary consents for the new lavatory block, wash-down area and lighting have now been granted, and hopefully once the tendering process is over work can commence in time for a grand opening in the late summer. We have pencilled in the 1st August when it is hoped that the Minister, Richard Benyon, will come along to open the Sale Yard.

Bloodline Scheme

We have had an excellent and enthusiastic response to our request for suitable mares to be offered for inclusion in our bloodlines scheme, with nearly 80 being offered for selection. We have also managed to secure some very well located extra grazing for the scheme with the help of both the Cadland Estate and the Forestry Commission at New Park.

Agisters Holding

One of the aspirations of the HLS is to leave behind a legacy of some sort that will help perpetuate the system of commoning in the Forest. We have now decided that the provision of permanent housing and land for use by one and possibly even two Agisters will satisfy that aspiration, and to that end we are now actively looking for potentially suitable buildings, land and fields to secure that goal.

With the help of the FC and the NPA, we would ideally be looking to build a cottage on FC land which would thereafter be let to the Verderers on a long lease, and tied in perpetuity for use only by an Agister. Before any such project can take wing it needs to have the

support of Natural England, which is the final arbiter in deciding whether or not this sort of expenditure is in keeping with HLS objectives. We now confidently await that decision. There is a new HLS website and the address is shown on the slips that have been distributed around the Hall.

2011/5431 FORESTRY COMMISSION ENGLISH PUBLIC ESTATE

The independent panel of experts has now been set up by the Secretary of State, Mrs Caroline Spelman. It is principally charged with producing advice on future forestry policy including the management and ownership of the so called heritage woods such as the New Forest. The panel is specifically asked to gather as much first hand evidence as it can, and we intend to participate in that process as fully as we are allowed. We have asked Bishop James who is chairing the panel to meet us in the Forest as soon as possible.

The Deputy Surveyor has been asked by the Forestry Commission and Defra to play a very senior and central role assisting the panel in its work over the next six months, and it is very reassuring to know that he will be there when the future of the Forest comes on to the agenda.

2011/5432 BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB

Following a presentment at the March Court concerning the management of Bramshaw Golf Course, the Verderers met with Mr Trenowieth on the Course. The terms of a new licence, which will address the type of issue that Mr Trenowieth raised are under currently under discussion and a Management Plan is being drawn up.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2011/5433 ACCIDENT REPORT FOR MARCH 2011

The Agisters attended 10 accidents, compared with 7 in March last year.

3 ponies were killed.

8 accidents occurred during the hours of darkness.

9 involved private cars or light commercials and 1 involved a motorbike.

All the accidents were reported.

6 accidents involved local motorists.

The total killed and injured for the year to date is 18 compared with 16 for the same period last year.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR OF THE NEW FOREST

2011/5434 OFFICIAL VERDERER

'Good morning ladies and gentlemen, Verderers and Official Verderer.

My presentment this morning is to express the sincere thanks of the Forestry Commission to the Official Verderer for the very significant role he has personally played in the life of the New Forest over the last nine years.

During those nine years, you have Oliver, as Official Verderer, been generous of your time, energy and intellect. You have demonstrated outstanding chairmanship skills and

have been a highly effective advocate for the Verderers, commoning and the wider New Forest.

Across the nine years you have played a major role in some significant achievements, but I will restrict my comments to two:

Firstly, you have been instrumental in bringing to the forest very significant financial resources, originally through Countryside stewardship and latter the Higher Level Scheme. The contribution past, present and future of both schemes to the well being of commoning, biodiversity and the forest's precious landscape have been immense. And secondly and vitally, you have helped to maintain and enhance the relationships between the various organisations operating in this area, both statutory and non-statutory. The effective functioning of these relationships is critical to securing the best outcomes for the New Forest, and those outcomes should always take priority over organisational matters.

Finally, I would like to personally thank you for your support of myself as Deputy Surveyor, which you have been gracious to give even when we have disagreed. I wish you all the very best for the future'.

PRESENTMENTS

2011/5435 OFFICIAL VERDERER

Presentment by Mr Graham Ferris, Chairman, New Forest Commoners' Defence Association, joined by past chairmen Mr Richard Manley and Mr Brian Ingram

'We have been successive chairman of the Commoners' Defence Association during Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre's nine year tenure as Official Verderer. On behalf of the CDA members we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for all that Oliver has done for commoning and for the New Forest as Official Verderer. We would like to highlight some of his notable achievements:1

- The remit of the Verderers was clarified and strengthened as a result of Oliver's courage and determination to pursue various issues to a satisfactory conclusion.
- The Countryside Stewardship Scheme and its successor the Higher Level Stewardship scheme continue to provide much needed funding for commoning and for the wider Forest environment. The HLS has been remarkable for the partnership formed by the Verderers with the Forestry Commission and the National Park Authority.
- The Stallion Scheme has had its supporters and detractors but there is no doubt that in the current financial situation its economic impact has been positive.
- A new set of byelaws was successfully shepherded through the system.
- Inappropriate developments on the Forest by what ever party have been vigorously resisted and the Verderers' policies upheld.
- Oliver has been personally actively involved in pursuing illegal encroachments.
- and finally, Oliver took the lead in resisting the proposals in the recent abortive government consultation on the future of the Public Forest Estate in England.

Commoners being commoners, it would be strange if all commoners had agreed with every action taken by the Verderers under Oliver's leadership, but we have always respected his judgement, admired his quiet but steely determination, deep personal

commitment to resolving the issues of the moment and always had complete confidence that his motivation was what would be best for the future of commoning and the New Forest.

Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre leaves a major legacy for the New Forest as a result of his dedication as Official Verderer and from the CDA, we thank him most sincerely'.

2011/5436 OFFICIAL VERDERER & THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON FORESTRY POLICY
Presentment by Mr William Ziegler, Chairman of the New Forest Association

Mr Ziegler firstly said he concurred with everything said by Mr Ferris as regards the outgoing Official Verderer. He then went on to make a Presentment on....

The Independent Panel on Forestry Policy

'Given the concerns raised by the Association in the February Court, we welcomed the news that the consultation on the proposed disposal of the Public Forest Estate had been cancelled.

As to whether the Independent Panel on Forestry Policy that has been set up instead to consider the matter in great detail is good news or not has yet to be decided.

The Association intends to make a submission to this panel detailing our concerns for the future of the New Forest and would urge the Verderers to ensure that they and any other body they can influence does likewise.

We are heartened that at least two of the panel are known to us and have a detailed knowledge of the Forest and the way it works. However to our knowledge the remaining panel members do not and we will also be working to encourage the panel to come and visit the Forest in an effort to understand it better. We would again encourage the Verderers to do likewise if they have not done so already.

The importance of this panel is as yet unknown, but we would consider it foolish not to presume that its recommendations may help shape the future of the New Forest and as such every effort must be made to educate and influence it to ensure a favourable outcome for the Forest'.

2011/5437 OFFICIAL VERDERER
Presentment by Ms Alison Barnes, Chief Executive, New Forest National Park Authority

'On behalf of the National Park Authority I wish to place on the record of this Court our deep gratitude for all the endeavours of the Official Verderer towards the upkeep of the New Forest and for all that that represents. During your 9 years as Official Verderer I am aware that you have contributed massively to life in the Open Forest and greatly enhanced the role of the Verderers. As a result of your work there are fewer attempts to breach bylaws and the welfare standard of the stock of the Forest has noticeably improved as a result of your strong support of the Agisters. You have witnessed many changes over 9 years, not least the birth of the New Forest National Park and most recently the successful bid for a £16M Higher Level Stewardship Scheme for the Forest in which you played a major role. I am personally grateful for your support in the first year of my role. I know I can speak for the HLS Board and for the members of the National Park Authority in saying a public 'thank you' for your service as Official Verderer and the legacy that you will leave. We wish you well for the future. Thank you'.

2011/5438 DOGS - ADDING SERIOUS DOG INCIDENTS TO THE ACCIDENT REPORT
Presentment by Mr Brian Tarnoff

'I am here today to make a small suggestion, that the Verderers add any serious incidents between dogs and livestock to the monthly animal accidents report. I make this suggestion, not to demonize dog owners, but to highlight the issue as a small but integral step toward education.

As a local dog owner, I enjoy the privilege of walking my dogs on the forest. I am lucky in that, through their lifelong exposure to the forest, they are inured to the presence of the livestock. Visitors to the forest may not appreciate that their dogs might find the novelty of ponies and cows extremely exciting, or they may naively assume that the docile grazing stock are tame, and not herd animals with fight or flight instincts. Even otherwise well controlled and obedient dogs may find temptation to chase in the scampering of foals, a potentially disastrous scenario.

Education may not reach those who are willfully irresponsible, but I believe that the majority of dog owners do heed their responsibilities to their dogs and others they may meet. This suggestion may form only a slight nudge, that should fit into an overall effort to inform dog owners that on the forest they need to be able to control their pets despite the provocative distractions that were most likely not on hand during their training classes. I hope that the Verderers may be able to offer a gentle reminder that despite the appearance of a tranquil idyll, the forest is neither a petting zoo, nor a country park, but a working landscape, demanding care and attention from all who use it'.

2011/5439 OFFICIAL VERDERERS' RESPONSE TO PRESENTMENTS AND THANKS

The Official Verderer said that this is his last chance to express his thanks in public for the kind words spoken earlier.

The Official Verderer then thanked his fellow Verderers for all their support, through the making of lots of difficult decisions and some difficult and stressful times. He said it has been a great privilege and he is proud to have served alongside them. He said that the Senior Elected Verderer deserves a special mention, having been extremely generous with his time and advice over the years which was very valuable.

The Official Verderer then went on to say that it is important that the Deputy Surveyor and the Official Verderer 'get on'. He said that the Deputy Surveyor and he quickly achieved a very positive working relationship and also a friendship that allowed us to establish great trust in each other – and also to be very frank with one another. The relationship never broke down. He also thanked Mr Will Parke, former Forestry Commission Land Agent, and Mr Mark Street, the current Land agent for their support.

The Official Verderer then said that the Verderers have a fantastic team of Agisters, headed so ably by Jonathan Gerrelli. He added he is very pleased to see that there is a full compliment of Agisters in Court today and that the Verderers are very lucky to have such a dedicated and professional team which is the envy of other commoning systems such as those on Dartmoor and in Exmoor and the Forest of Dean. He thanked them for all that they do.

The Stewardship Scheme commenced some 8 years ago and the Official Verderer said that Colin Draper had had to 'sell' the concept to the commoners with which he had great success. He then mentioned Chris Caswell, the current HLS Manager, saying they make an excellent team.

The Official Verderer then said that no Official Verderer can do the job without a good Clerk. Sue Westwood is more than good, she is superb.

The Official Verderer ended by saying it has been a privilege to serve as Official Verderer and he hopes that his successor gets as much out of the job as he has.

2011/5440 PRESENTATION BY THE SENIOR ELECTED VERDERER, MR ANTHONY PASMORE

'Mr Chairman: Graham Ferris has given an excellent summary of the work you have done for the Court over the last nine years. There is no way I can better what he has said, but I would like to set your nine years as Official Verderer in the context of a truly amazing family tradition of service to the Verderers' Court and the Forest. In a moment I will present to you, on behalf of the Verderers, the Clerk to the Court and the Deputy Surveyor, a copy of John Wise's famous book on the Forest. It is a First Edition and at about the time it was published 140 years ago, your great great grandfather, George Edward Eyre, was sitting on this bench as a Verderer a decade or so before the present Court was even established. Then after 1877, your great great grandfather, Briscoe Eyre, became the longest serving Verderer ever – with a total of nearly fifty years. His daughter, your great grandmother Dorothy, then became the first ever lady Verderer, at least of modern times. Finally, your grandfather, Sir Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre (who will be remembered by many people in this room today) as an elected Verderer, fought the New Forest Bill of 1949 to obtain a fair settlement for the Forest, and then went on to give us the New Forest Acts of 1964 and 1970.

I think I can sum up by saying that this is the most outstanding record of dedication to the Forest and that your part in it has been second to none, for all the reasons that Graham Ferris has already given. I trust that many more generations of the Eyre family will occupy equally well-earned places on this bench. It is therefore with great pleasure that I ask you to accept this book inscribed by all members of the Court.

In reply the Official Verderer expressed his truly heartfelt thanks to all who contributed towards the book, which he said he will always treasure.

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2011/5441 DOGS - ADDING SERIOUS DOG INCIDENTS TO THE ACCIDENT RESUME
REPORT

Mr Tarnoff's concerns and suggestion were appreciated. However, few incidents are actually reported to the office and the Court felt it would be prefer to publicise the worst attacks.

A record of various types of incident is kept by the Forestry Commission in a database and dog attacks are included. The FC's policy is that dogs must be kept under control at all times. It was agreed that if the facts are collated, the next step is to approach the New Forest Dog Owners Group.

NEW SUBMISSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2011/5442 HAMPTWORTH ESTATE PROPOSED UNDERGROUND ELECTRICITY DISCHARGE
SUPPLY – POUND BOTTOM, FOREST ROAD, SP5 2PU

The proposal received from Mr Guy Anderson of Hamptworth Estate to put 57 metres of underground cable at the above location, which once installed will be adopted by Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution was considered. A copy of a location plan and detailed plan of the proposed route for the underground cable was provided to the Court. It indicates that the route does not affect any verges. The supply will

connect a new solar farm on the Estate to the National Grid. The Court raised no objections to the proposal which was therefore approved subject to the usual conditions regarding reinstatement, safe working conditions, compensation for loss of grazing etc.

2011/5443 APPLICATION TO LAY A NEW WATER SERVICE PIPE TO LAND NEAR HILL TOP FARM, BEAULIEU DISCHARGE

Mr Ralph Montagu declared an interest in this proposal as it is a water supply to land in the ownership of Beaulieu Estate.

Details of the proposal was provided to the Court which, subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions, compensation for loss of grazing etc., approved the proposal by Semcorp Bournemouth Water to install a new water supply to the field.

2011/5444 MARYAN COTTAGE, FOREST ROAD, NOMANSLAND – CREATION OF NEW VEHICLE ACCESS DISCHARGE

This matter was raised in the November 2010 Court but due to a clerical error did not appear in the minutes.

The Clerk explained her notes from that meeting indicate that the Court approved the proposals, subject to protection of the verge to prevent continuation of verge parking. In addition, the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions, compensation for loss of grazing etc., of course also apply. The decision to approve the proposals was now therefore ratified.

2011/5445 SCOTTISH AND SOUTHERN ELECTRICITY PROPOSED UNDERGROUND SUPPLY – WINDY RIDGE, TOMS LANE, LINWOOD DISCHARGE

Details of the proposal were provided to the Court which, subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions, compensation for loss of grazing etc., approved the proposal by Scottish and Southern Electricity to provide an electricity supply to this property.

2011/5446 WATER SAMPLING EQUIPMENT DISCHARGE

Prof Penny Johnes and Dr Steve Robinson on behalf of Eleni Geropanagioti and Chris Yates, PhD students at the University of Reading, have applied to install additional water sampling equipment at Cunniger Bottom. This is part of the Defra and EA funded Demonstration Test Catchments programme. Prof Johnes had produced a paper setting out the proposal to install unobtrusive and non-destructive equipment which they believe will pose negligible risks to the integrity of the site. 15 samplers will be installed across an area 50m x 50m. The study will be for two years from April 2011 until April 2013 when the equipment will be removed.

The Court approved the proposal subject to inspection once the samplers are in place, and the agreement of the University that if the court is not happy, they will re-visit the site and take advice on what needs to be altered in order to make the project acceptable. In the meantime, a request was made for the fence surrounding water sampling apparatus already in situ, to be properly maintained.

MATTERS ARISING OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

- 2011/5447 PUBLIC BODIES BILL RESUME
- A response has not yet been received from Jim Paice following the Official Verderer's letter containing specific questions on the possible effect of the Bill on the New Forest Acts. His response is awaited.
- 2011/5448 THE FOREST COURSE AT BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB, BROOK RESUME
- The Official Verderer confirmed his declaration of interest.
- Mrs Westerhoff produced and circulated a set of recommendations in respect of the granting of a new licence. The Court accepted the recommendations which will be forwarded to Mark Street.
- 2011/5449 NEW FOREST COURSE, LYNDHURST DISCHARGE
- Mrs Westerhoff also produced and circulated a paper in respect of the management of this course. The content of this paper was also accepted by the Court and Mrs Westerhoff was asked to go back to the Club with the Court's recommendations.
- The Official Verderer thanked Mrs Westerhoff, on behalf of the Court, for all her time and effort in respect of these matters.
- 2011/5450 BRIGHT GREEN SIGNS ON CAMPSITES DISCHARGE
- The signs form part of the rationalisation and renewal of signs being carried out by Forest Holidays as agreed by the Court a couple of years ago. The last ladder on the ladderboards is in the colour which the Court feels is disagreeable. However, as previously explained, it is in the corporate style as used by Forest Holidays on its sites throughout the UK. It was agreed that nothing further can be done in this respect and it is to be hoped that the signs will weather in time.
- 2011/5451 GRIT BINS RESUME
- Mr Street, the Head Agister and the Clerk met with Mr Richard Bastow who is Hampshire Highways new Chief Engineer in this area. Mr Bastow now has a better understanding of the type of works that require consent and this would include any grit bins that have been placed on Crown Land within the Forest. It was pointed out that bins placed on any common grazing is likely to be regarded as an encroachment. HHW will provide a plan of where the bins have been situated. The concerns about the bins being used for rubbish and the disappearance of the grit were also raised. The bins were installed at the request of the Leader of Hampshire County Council. It is hoped that bins which are situated on the Crown Lands and some of the more obtrusive bins can be relocated if not removed completely.
- 2011/5452 ROAD HAUNCH REPAIRS AND RESURFACING RESUME
- The same meeting as mentioned above, discussed this issue in detail. As a result, it is hoped that a solution to the repetitive problem of haunch repairs resulting in road widening can be found. Mr Bastow gave his assurance that contractors will be instructed that the Forest is different to

other areas and that the tarmac area must not be increased when road haunch repairs are undertaken. He also agreed that where additional tarmac has been laid, it will be taken back to the correct width next time the road is resurfaced.

The Court was not happy that the Forest Road, Burley and Hatchet Green have not been taken back to their correct width as promised. Mr Bastow will be asked about these roads again.

Further research is required in order to find a solution to the specific problem of how to satisfactorily repair the Forest roads, and Mr Bastow suggested that Southampton University may be able to assist in this respect.

In the meantime, a copy of the programme of future works will be provided and the Court will ask for remedial works to be carried out where necessary.

2011/5453 HIGH CORNER INN PARKING DISCHARGE

Vehicles are being parked along the track to the High Corner Inn as well as on a grass area adjacent to the Inn. Mr Street said the first step is to protect the green. Discussions will be held with the proprietor of the establishment about how to deal with the parking issues.

2011/5454 BURLEY STREET GARAGE PARKING DISCHARGE

Problems are also occurring at this location with vehicles being parked on the grass which has resulted in the gravel area encroaching on the grazing. There have been problems here before. Mr Street will take this up with the proprietor of the garage but it is felt the problem is being exacerbated by the way vehicles belonging to or visiting local residents are parked.

Mr Street explained that the Forestry Commission is targeting one village a year with a view to catching up with licensing and encroachment issues. Mr Graham Wilson is assisting with this process which will result in much more accurate records being held on file in Queen's House.

2011/5455 ABANDONED ANIMALS DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer thanked the Deputy Surveyor and Mr Street for offering Long Meadow. Discussions are now taking place.

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2011/5456 WOOTTON BRIDGE/AVON WATER RESUME

A number of issues were discussed which had been raised as a result of the recent site meeting. Some matters were agreed, with others requiring further consideration and agreement.

No clearance of trees will be undertaken between the powerline and the A35 because they constitute a screen.

There is no intention to clear fell. The intention is to look at the site again with the CDA and the Keepers and agree which trees should be retained.

It was suggested that Sarah Kelly, NPA Landscape Officer, should be consulted.

A precise location for a crossing point/ford needs to be agreed and recorded.

Assurance regarding future satisfactory culvert maintenance is also required to which the Deputy Surveyor confirmed that where the Forestry Commission creates something, it is responsible for it in the future.

Concern was also expressed about the likelihood of the adjacent mire moving across the restored drain particularly as there is some disagreement about the size of the drain and the spoil bank. The Court requires a shallow drain that is sufficient to take the run-off from the mire. The future of the lawn must be assured.

2011/5457 PENNY MOOR RESUME

Proposals from the Forestry Commission are awaited. Mr Pasmore's & Mr.Deakin's report will be copied to Mr Penfold.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2011/5458 DUR HILL DISCHARGE

Miss Macnair asked when the brash is to be cleared from Dur Hill. It was also suggested that the small pines need to be taken out. Mrs Westerhoff said she is delighted at the clearance.

2011/5459 ROPE SWINGS DISCHARGE

Mr Seddon explained that the Forestry Commission's general policy is to check the ropes are safe and if they are not causing damage to leave them in place.

2011/5460 BUCKHERD BOTTOM DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore reported that the site of the stream felling works is very untidy. There are cut pines strewn about together with waste heather and binder twine. Mr Penfold said that a check will be made and the area cleared up.

2011/5461 NETWORK RAIL BEAULIEU ROAD VEGETATION CLEARANCE RESUME

A large clump of birch which it had been agreed would be left, has been cut down. The Railway seems to have ignored or disregarded the agreement it made in respect of the vegetation clearance works. It needs to be told that they must observe the conditions that it has agreed.

Mr Street said a 'wash-up' meeting is due to be held. He added that Natural England may also have concerns. Ian Vicary will be asked to arrange a meeting.

The Deputy Surveyor and Mr Street left the meeting.

VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME (VGS)

2011/5462 AGISTERS' PAYROLL DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer reported that next year an additional £5,000 will be received from the HLS to cover the increase in the Agisters' payroll.

2011/5463 STALLION BLOODLINE DIVERSITY PROJECT RESUME

A very good response was received from commoners offering mares for inclusion in the scheme and a selection has been made. Inspections will commence tomorrow. Letters will soon be sent to the owners of five stallions which are felt to be suitable for use in the project.

2011/5464 VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME ADVISORY GROUP DISCHARGE

Mrs Diana Westerhoff attended the last Advisory Group on behalf of the Court. There is nothing to report at this time.

VERDERERS' HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME (HLS)

2011/5465 HLS BOARD MEETING RESUME

Chairmen retire in rotation, however, as the Official Verderer is only half way through his two year slot, the new Official Verderer could take over as chairman. This is not, however, legally binding, and the Court may decide to appoint someone else to attend on its behalf.

The Board has agreed to support the search for land/buildings for an Agister's holding. Natural England's agreement to the use of HLS funds for such a project is awaited.

2011/5466 PROJECT TO INVESTIGATE THE BENEFITS OF HEATHLAND MANAGEMENT FOR WILDLIFE (BURNING) DISCHARGE

The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust is keen to provide the Court with further information concerning its proposed HLS project to investigate the effects of burning vegetation on the Forest. The Trust is also seeking support for the project. The SAC Plan supports burning and the project should provide additional information to help with the management of heathland. The Court confirmed that in its view, the Project is an appropriate use for HLS funds.

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK

2011/5467 NATIONAL PARK TRAINING DAY RESUME

It was agreed that a training day for members and officers of the NPA should be arranged.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

2011/5468 STALLIONS RESUME

Following the stallion inspections at Beaulieu Road, the Stallion Sub-Committee gave careful consideration to the scores and bloodlines of those horses brought forward. It was previously agreed that only 2 closely related stallions may run out and this resulted on several stallions not being selected due to their bloodlines.

In total 21 stallions were selected to run out this year for four weeks. Three youngsters which received good scores will be offered free grazing for the winter but the owners will be required to sign an agreement undertaking to present the colts for inspection and possible selection in the forthcoming spring.

2011/5469 WELFARE TOUR RESUME

The Welfare Tour is due to take place on Tuesday, 10th May 2011.

MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2011/5470 RECREATION STRATEGY WORKING GROUP DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin represents the Verderer on this group and he sought the Court's views on proposals to increase the number of cycle routes across the Forest.

The proposed additional routes have all been considered before and refused on the grounds that they either open up tranquil areas to further disturbance and/or they will encourage trespass onto Open Forest. One route was originally available to cyclists but was subsequently closed because of unacceptable trespass onto a reseeded area.

The Court agreed unanimously that none of the proposed routes are acceptable and approving any of them would be contrary to the Verderers' published policies.

In an earlier discussion with the Official Verderer, Mr Seddon said that it is FC policy to support cycle routes that result in a more coherent transport network. The Court's policy is that it must be proven that any additional routes will not damage the special qualities of the areas they cross.

STAFF MATTERS (including the Staff Committee)

2011/5471 LONE WORKERS DISCHARGE

A policy for lone workers has now been formulated. The Court approved it and it will now be circulated to the Agisters.

TRAINING

No training is taking place

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

There are no issues affecting health and safety at present.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2011/5472 COMMONERS' HOUSING SCHEME DISCHARGE

The report on the review of the Commoners' Housing Scheme is ready to be issued. It will be submitted to the Verderers and there will then be a 6 week period for consultation.

2011/5473 TICK BORNE DISEASES DISCHARGE

The Animal Health Trust Centre for Preventative Medicines wishes to carry out a study of tick borne diseases in free ranging and domesticated New Forest Ponies. The proposal is for samples to be taken from approximately 50 ponies; some at the drifts. It is estimated that it would take in the region of 4 minutes per pony. Whilst the Court fully supported the study, for reasons of health and safety and time constraints, it felt unable to agree to the work being done at the drifts,

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 12.55 p.m.