

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 18th July at 9.30 a.m. in the Library, The Queen's House, Lyndhurst.

PRESENT: Mr O Crosthwaite Eyre Official Verderer
Mr J Adams Elected Verderer & Chairman of the Staff Committee
Mr P Frost Natural England Appointed Verderer
Mr A Gerrelli Elected Verderer
Mrs D Halford National Park Authority Appointed Verderer
Mr J F Kitcher Elected Verderer
Miss D Macnair Elected Verderer
The Hon R Montagu Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
Mr A H Pasmore Elected Verderer
Mrs P Thorne DEFRA Appointed Verderer

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss S Westwood Clerk to the Verderers
Mr J R Gerrelli Head Agister

APOLOGIES: None

IN COMMITTEE

The Head Agister attended the meeting for the first two items.

The Official Verderer welcomed Mrs Diana Halford to the Court.

2007/3201 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

DISCHARGE

The Minutes of the Court held on Wednesday, 20th June 2007 were approved.

2007/3202 CONDITION OF STOCK

RESUME

The Head Agister reported that stock is presently in very good condition. The wet weather has resulted in there being more food on the Forest than usual and the majority of animals look very well.

The Agisters have spent a lot of time in recent weeks in the North of the Forest catching cattle for TB testing and only noticed two or three ponies whose condition needs watching.

2007/3203 TUBERCULOSIS

RESUME

The Official Verderer thanked the Agisters for their hard work in assisting commoners in catching their cattle for TB testing.

The Head Agister said 95% of the cattle wanted for testing have been caught. Commoners in the area are waiting for DEFRA to decide what to do next. DEFRA is reluctant to test all the cattle at once, probably due to a lack of resources.

The commoner who had a confirmed case of tuberculosis in his herd has had two more reactors and 20 which are inconclusive. Testing continues in respect of that herd.

The Head Agister advised the Court that cattle in an infected area are subject to annual testing as well as pre-movement testing of animals over 42 days of age.

The Head Agister left the meeting.

Mr Adams did not have much to add to the Head Agister's report and added that all that can be done is to wait for the results of the various tests. DEFRA clearly does not have a policy for dealing with TB on the Forest.

2007/3204 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS RESUME

The announcements and decisions were approved and it was agreed that an additional announcement would be made regarding 4.5 acres at Ashurst cricket ground which has recently been thrown open to stock.

2007/3205 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

The Elected Verderers, Mrs Halford and Mrs Thorne all declared an interest in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

Mr Gerrelli declared an interest in any items concerning Campsites and the Official Verderer declared an interest in any matters concerning golf clubs.

Mr Kitcher later declared an interest in certain works to be carried out under Rural Pathfinder as he is a contractor employed by the Forestry Commission on these projects.

2007/3206 VERDERERS' AUDITED ACCOUNTS DISCHARGE

The Audited Accounts which had been circulated prior to the meeting were formally approved for signature by the Official Verderer.

2007/3207 BUDGET & FIVE YEAR PLAN DISCHARGE

The Budget and Five Year Plan has been completed.

2007/3208 FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement for June was circulated and showed a satisfactory financial position.

2007/3209 REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED AS AT THE END OF JUNE 2007 RESUME

Ponies	4407	Pigs	24
Cattle	2355	Sheep	39
Donkeys			117
TOTAL ALL ANIMALS			6942

2007/3210 ANIMALS REMOVED FROM THE FOREST JUNE 2007

RESUME

	POOR	SICK OR INJURED	WANTED BY OWNER	OTHER	TOTALS
MARES WITH FOALS	5	2		1	8
MARES WITH YEARLINGS					0
MARES		4			4
FILLIES		3			3
COLTS		1			1
GELDINGS					0
CATTLE		1			1
CALVES					0
DONKEYS		1			1
PIGS					0
PIGLETS					0
SHEEP					0
TOTAL	5	12	0	1	18

TWO YEAR OLD COLTS

SUMMARY BY SPECIES

PONIES 16
 CATTLE 1
 DONKEYS 1
 PIGS 0
 SHEEP 0
 TOTAL

2007/3211 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT

RESUME

Mr Bob Cooper

The pre-trial hearing is on Monday 23rd July at Southampton Crown Court. The Official Verderer will attend with Counsel.

Unmarked Cattle

The commoner with cattle which are neither freeze-branded or brand-tagged is continuing to ignore the Verderers request for the animals to be identified in accordance with their byelaws. All the papers in this connection are now with the Court's solicitors for prosecution.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Mike Seddon, Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest
 Mr Will Parke, Area Land Agent (New)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER

2007/3212 NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY APPOINTED VERDERER

As previously announced, now that the National Park has become the local planning authority it is responsible for the appointment of a Verderer to this Court. For the past six years Mrs Kathy Heron has sat as the County Council's appointed Verderer, and latterly as the National Park Authority's, however I am sad to announce that her

period of office has come to end. Both Mrs Heron's knowledge of the Forest, and her experience as a seasoned County Councillor, have proved invaluable to the Court on numerous occasions. We shall miss her wise counsel, and I would like to thank her on behalf of us all for her hard work and commitment over the years.

I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Diana Halford, who sits with us for the first time this morning, has joined us as the National Park Authority's appointed Verderer and I am delighted to welcome her to the Court.

2007/3213 BYELAWS

We are currently amending our Byelaws and will formally approve and then pass them over the summer. In accordance with Section 25 of the 1877 New Forest Act (as amended by Section 9(5) New Forest Act 1949) we shall be placing notices in the local newspapers stating our intention to apply, no earlier than one month from the date of the appearance of the notices, to the relevant Minister at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, for confirmation of the Byelaws.

Once the revised byelaws have been passed, they will be available to view on the Verderers' web site.

2007/3214 ROAD FENCES

Over the years we have become increasingly concerned by the growing state of dilapidation of the fencing that runs along the A337, the A35 and the A31. It does not need much imagination to picture the sort of accident that could be caused if animals were to stray on to any of these busy roads, the A31 in particular. Since much of this fencing is over 25 years old the time has come to face the fact that a strategy of only effecting running repairs is no longer either reasonable or safe.

We have brought our concerns to the attention of Councillor Mel Kendal, who is the County Council's Executive Member for the Environment, and he has been extremely supportive in tackling this growing problem. Councillor Kendal has confirmed that funding has been specifically earmarked for the renewal of the fencing along the A337 and the A35, for which the County Council is responsible, and he is helping us in trying to persuade the Highways Agency to make the same decision in respect of the A31. I would like to record our gratitude to Councillor Kendal for all his help to date.

2007/3215 COMMONS AND FOREST MARKING FEE RATES

In order to avoid any confusion arising as to when these two different rates of fee apply we have issued specific clarification in the run up to 2008, as follows:

Commoners who occupy land which benefits from rights over the adjacent commons may only pay the concessionary common rate of marking fee on animals which remain on the commons.

However, if an animal which is turned out by a commoner holding rights over the adjacent commons spends the majority of its time on the Forest, i.e. 75% or more, then the Forest rate is due.

This rule will take effect from 1st January 2008.

2007/3216 ORIENTEERING AT NIGHT

In his presentment on behalf of the Commoners Defence Association, Mr Michael Cooper expressed concern at cyclists who appear to be participating in organised

night-time orienteering activities. The Forestry Commission advised us that they are aware that the activity is taking place and confirmed that no consent has been given for such activities. Their staff are endeavouring to identify the persons involved and would be grateful to receive information in this connection.

2007/3217 STEPS FROM WILVERLEY PIT CAR PARK

In June Colonel Peter Sweet expressed concern in a presentment about a new flight of steps leading from the car park to Wilverley Plain. He asked if the Court had given consent for the steps and also pointed out that they may contravene the 2006 Disability Discrimination Act because wheelchair users cannot use them. We took this matter up with the Forestry Commission and were advised that the new steps replace an old set which had fallen into disrepair. The Deputy Surveyor said the steps do not contravene the Disability Discrimination act and excellent access for disabled people is available from the adjacent Wilverley Plain car park.

2007/3218 PROGRESS PROJECT INFORMATION BOARD

Colonel Sweet also asked about an information board which he had noticed at Hincheslea, sited approximately 1 metre from the edge of the car park. We gave consent for a number of these boards earlier in the year. The boards are designed to educate the public about ground nesting birds and hopefully prevent damage or destruction of nests by encouraging people to use paths avoiding particularly sensitive sites. The boards are temporary and were due for removal as soon as the birds have finished nesting. As far as we are aware all of the boards have now gone and we will be asking for confirmation of this later from the Deputy Surveyor.

2007/3219 ASHURST CRICKET CLUB GROUND

We are very pleased that an additional 4.5 acres of grazing is now available to commoners' animals thanks to the Forestry Commission. The redundant Ashurst Cricket Club ground has been fenced and thrown open.

2007/3220 VERDERERS' AUDITED ACCOUNTS

The Audited Accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2007 have been formally approved and once they have been signed by the Auditors will be available for inspection.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2007/3221 ACCIDENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2007

The agisters attended 17 accidents, the same number as in June last year.

9 ponies and 1 cow were killed, and 2 ponies and 2 cattle were injured.

6 accidents occurred during the hours of darkness.

14 involved private cars or light commercials, 1 involved a motorcycle and 2 were not reported.

10 accidents involved local motorists.

The total killed and injured for the year to date is 47 compared with 51 for the same period last year.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR OF THE NEW FOREST

None

PRESENTMENTS

2007/3222 OFFER OF SEASONAL PITCHES BY FOREST HOLIDAYS
Presentment by Mr Michael Cooper on behalf of the Commoners Defence Association

Our association have recently had sight of a letter distributed by Forest Holidays to a number of there, as they describe '*valued customers*'. It is headed '*Would you like your own place in the country*'. A number of sites are advertised throughout the UK, including Ashurst, Hollands Wood, Holmsley, Ocknell, Longbeach, Roundhill, and Setthorns. The letter boasts the following quote, "We would like to give you first refusal on enjoying these sites all season, no touring, no pitching, just come along and enjoy" A number of terms and conditions are seen to accompany this offer in an effort to safeguard the environment, and from abuse of the scheme. However, as we have seen with cycling, such self-regulation seldom works. Clearly, the long term letting of campsite pitches is opening up a whole new concept to camping in the New Forest, and quite frankly, this association is dismayed that such steps have been taken without the proper consultation of all regulatory bodies. Are we now to see these sites evolve from touring vans to static boxes, as is often seen in holiday camps, and along our coastline? This association is totally opposed to the idea for a number of justifiable reasons, and we ask the Verderers to carefully consider the implications of such a project before making any decision. If this scheme were to go ahead, we see the Forest having to bear yet another unsightly scar on its fragile landscape.

2007/3223 BRIDGE AT IPLEY
Presentment by Mrs Natalie Lascelles of Boldre

Mrs Lascelles made her presentment on behalf of a group of friends and associates who ride and walk regularly around Ipley, Marchwood and Rushbush Pond.

Mrs Lascelles raised concerns about the decision not to replace the footbridge near Ipley. Her reasons were that the area becomes very wet in winter and she felt that damage to the habitat will occur if riders and walkers are obliged to find alternative means of crossing the stream. Mrs Lascelles commented that this is quite a narrow point where lots of riders and walkers access the Forest from Ipley and Marchwood. Photographs were provided for the Court showing the present ground conditions at various crossing places including the newly cleared approach to the ford.

2007/3224 REPORTING OF RTA'S
Presentment by Mr Chris Aldhous

"Mr Aldhous reported that at a recent New Forest Equestrian Association meeting, the committee discussed queries from members regarding the procedures when an RTA occurs involving Forest stock.

It was suggested that on occasions the Forestry Commission's 24 hour hot line gave a better response than the police call centre.

I did find the procedure on your website after following various links.

The committee asked me to draw to your attention that many members of the public do not know how to react in the case of an animal RTA and to ask you to publicise the procedure by all means available to you".

IN COMMITTEE in The Library

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Mike Seddon, Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest
APOLOGIES: Mr Will Parke, Area Land Agent (New Forest)

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2007/3225 OFFER OF SEASONAL PITCHES BY FOREST HOLIDAYS RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor said that seasonal bookings of pitches on Forestry Commission campsites has been permitted for years throughout the country. Various rules apply. He assured the Court that this is not a move towards permanent or static caravan sites in the Forest. It is just a case of allowing regular campers to keep a pitch.

It was suggested, however, that this goes against the spirit of camping that is unique to the New Forest and may restrict opportunities for other campers. It was also considered bad for the grazing as vans and awnings may remain in situ for weeks causing damage to the grass.

A number of other matters were then raised in connection with camping and the Deputy Surveyor suggested that the best way forward may be for him to arrange for a representative from Forest Holidays to meet with the Verderers. Such a meeting would enable the Verderers to express their concerns and in turn, give Forest Holidays an opportunity to explain its position and intentions for the future. The Court agreed this to be a good idea and the Deputy Surveyor said he would suggest some dates.

2007/3226 BRIDGE AT IPLEY DISCHARGE

The request for a replacement bridge has already been given very careful consideration by the Forestry Commission. However, because of current public liability and health and safety requirements it is not possible to replace the old bridge with a similar structure. All bridges have to be constructed with concrete abutments and railings. Such a construction is considered unnecessary over what is little more than a ditch. Unless Natural England feels that unacceptable damage is being caused to the Forest as a result of the loss of the bridge, the decision not to build a new bridge will stand.

2007/3227 REPORTING OF RTA'S DISCHARGE

It was agreed that the Verderers' website could be improved so as to make instructions about what to do in the event of an RTA more prominent.

Ways of educating the public about the correct action to take, and indeed, how to avoid an accident in the first place are being discussed by the newly set up Animal Accident Reduction Group. One idea has been to print credit-card size cards that people could carry in wallets or purses.

The Forestry Commission's telephone number, which is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week may be used.

SUBMISSIONS BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

There were no submissions by the Forestry Commission

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2007/3228 MARKWAY INCLOSURE RE-INSTATEMENT RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor said that he has now inspected the area of the inclosure which was the subject of complaint by the Commoners' Defence Association. The southern part of Markway was felled a few years ago and the tree stumps and furrows were left. The Deputy Surveyor said work would be carried out to remove high stumps and level the furrows where stagnant water has accumulated. The remainder of the site will be left to naturally degrade.

Concern was expressed that any regeneration cannot be swiped when tree stumps are left, to which the Deputy Surveyor replied that some burning may be undertaken instead.

A plan of the proposed work was requested to be incorporated into the Court minutes in order to save arguments later on about what restoration work has been agreed. The Deputy Surveyor agreed to provide a map once the area has been mapped and a contract for the work drawn up.

2007/3229 STEPS FROM WILVERLEY CAR PARK AND DISABLED ACCESS DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor reported that he looked at the Disability Discrimination Act and has written to Peter Sweet.

2007/3230 DRAFT CROWN LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor asked if he could have any comments on the draft plan in the next two to three weeks.

2007/3231 FENCING ON THE A31, A35 AND A337 RESUME

The Official Verderer reported that the response from the Highways Agency was felt to be unsatisfactory. He has therefore written again to Cllr Mel Kendall and is awaiting his response.

Mr Adams said he contacted Mott MacDonald. The majority of the work needed at Hightown has yet to be done.

2007/3232 SSSI CONDITION ASSESSMENTS RESUME

It was generally felt that it is impossible to deal with all the sites on paper and site meetings will be required. The Official Verderer said the Court is not being obstructive but the papers so far provided do little more than list the 125 sites where works are proposed and are not sufficiently detailed.

The Deputy Surveyor explained that the list was intended as a way of getting the proposals into the public domain so that everyone can see

the scale of the works that need to be done. Mr Simon Weymouth is trying to find a way forward and he had hoped that it would be possible to remove from the list those sites where there would not be any issues. Unfortunately, so far this has not proved successful.

The Deputy Surveyor then suggested that perhaps some generic prescriptions could be constructed i.e. Where one heather bale is needed no further consultation would take place but if 6 were needed then it would be classed as a full engineering job requiring proper consultation and consent.

Mr Pasmore, however, regrettably disagreed with the idea, commenting that one heather bale in the wrong place can create big problems whereas somewhere else, 6 bales may actually be fine.

Mr Weymouth will continue to work on the problem.

2007/3233	PINCH POINTS ON THE C10	RESUME
	Cllr Mrs Heron was liaising with the Highway Authority to see if it is feasible for pinch points to be constructed on the road between Picket Post and Burley. The Clerk will contact her to see if she can continue to help with this matter.	
2007/3234	A31 RUBBISH	RESUME
	This was also being dealt with by Cllr Mrs Heron.	
2007/3235	ELLINGHAM CRICKET PITCH	RESUME
	This matter will be resumed in September due to the absence of Mr Parke.	
2007/3236	BYLAW SIGN AT WOODS CORNER	DISCHARGE
	The Deputy Surveyor agreed that this is not an official car park but is an area which is well used by the public. The sign, which is of a new design, is a replacement of an old one that was put up some 30 years ago.	
2007/3237	BIRD NESTING SIGNS	DISCHARGE
	The Deputy Surveyor confirmed the signs should have been situated within the car parks. He also confirmed they are temporary and they, and the posts on which they are mounted, will be removed at the end of each season.	

ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2007/3238 LIAISON WITH THE COUNTY COUNCIL RESUME

Mr Frost suggested that as Cllr Mrs Heron is no longer a member of the Court, it might be a good idea to see if it is possible to identify an Officer of the Council who would be able to advise the Verderers who they should approach in order to resolve the various problems that arise from time to time.

It was suggested the Clerk should seek the advice of Cllr Mrs Heron and also ascertain whether she is still prepared to help the Court.

2007/3239 ALDRIDGE HILL CAMPSITE DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor asked the Court's views on making a minor change to the opening dates of this campsite so that the site does not have to close for 10 days after the May Bank Holiday until nearly the end of June.

After some discussion it was agreed that the dates may be altered providing the overall length of time that the site is open is not increased. The Deputy Surveyor said the idea will be given further consideration.

2007/3240 NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY SIGNAGE RESUME

Unfortunately not all Verderers had had sight of the papers prepared by the National Park in connection with its proposed Boundary Markers and rationalisation of the Forest's signage. As a result the subject will be re-visited in September. A special meeting will be arranged if it is felt necessary.

Approval was given for some temporary signs which will be placed for a limited time on one of the worst roads for accidents with stock. The signs will indicate that an animal accident has occurred and the theory is that leaving the signs in situ for a limited time will bring it home to the public just how many accidents occur on the Forest's roads.

2007/3241 TEMPORARY FENCE AT OCKNELL DISCHARGE

It was commented that a temporary fence round some trees at Ocknell is in a very poor state of repair. It is a hazard to stock and it was requested that it be repaired or removed.

The Deputy Surveyor said the fence was intended to protect some new young trees and he would enquire whether it is still required. If it isn't it will be removed, otherwise it will be repaired.

2007/3242 NEW BUILD COMMONERS' DWELLINGS AT ANDERWOOD RESUME

Concern was expressed that there may be an issue if a large number of cattle are depastured from the new commoners' dwellings. Too many animals could be hazardous on the road and the nearby woodland could be damaged. The Deputy Surveyor said he would be interested to hear the Court's views on whether the number of animals turned out should be limited.

The Deputy Surveyor left the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COURT AND PREVIOUS COURTS

2007/3243 CAMPSITES AND CYCLISTS RESUME

Mr Montagu reported that he, Mr Frost and Mr Pasmore met as agreed. Mr Pasmore has had a further look at the legal Opinion obtained by the Court some years ago on the subject of cycling in the Forest and commented that it is very complicated. Mr Frost said he is looking at the concept of tranquil areas, what are the criteria and how is a designation arrived at.

Mr Montagu has spoken with the Deputy Surveyor and has requested some statistics on numbers. He added that he believes the Forestry Commission wants a good cycle network around the Forest but does not wish to include all possible routes.

Mr Frost said he understands the Deputy Surveyor would like the Verderers to explain exactly what they don't like about cycling.

It was agreed that the sub-committee should meet again to discuss the matter further.

On the subject of camping, Mr Montagu has asked the Deputy Surveyor for details of the information which is given to campers when they arrive on a Forest campsite.

2007/3244 KINGSTON GREAT COMMON RESUME

The Official Verderer reported that there is no further news at present.

2007/3245 ENCROACHMENT AT FIVETHORNS, BROCKENHURST DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer reported that for a number of reasons it has been decided not to pursue this particular case.

2007/3246 NATIONAL PARK RECREATION AND CAMPING REVIEW RESUME

The Official Verderer and Mr Pasmore are working on the document which should shortly be available for all members of the Court to read and comment upon. The Clerk will circulate a copy as soon as it is ready.

2007/3247 REVISION OF THE VERDERERS' BYELAWS RESUME

There is nothing further to report at present.

2007/3248 TWO YEAR OLD COLT DISCHARGE

The colt is not active and it is believed he may have been castrated. It was agreed this item should be discharged.

2007/3249 AIR QUALITY REPORT FOR LYNDHURST DISCHARGE

The Air Quality Report and Action Plan for Lyndhurst is available in the Office if any Verderer wishes to read it.

2007/3250 BUDGET AND FIVE YEAR PLAN RESUME

Copies of the budget/five year plan were circulated and comments invited. If there are no objections it will be forwarded to the Deputy Surveyor.

2007/3251 HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND BID RESUME

Matters are progressing. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 7th August.

2007/3252 SINGLE FARM PAYMENTS RESUME

Mr Draper, the CSS Manager, recently attended a meeting in London and he will be requested to produce a report.

COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

2007/3253 CSS ADVISORY GROUP DISCHARGE

The Advisory Group has confirmed it is happy to see scheme funds used to assist with the Stallion Scheme.

NATIONAL PARK

2007/3254 COMMONING REVIEW RESUME

The last public meeting of the Review was held last night in Lyndhurst, chaired by the Official Verderer.

Mr Pasmore felt the exercise has been useful and commented that the same complaints as those raised years ago came to the fore once more.

The Official Verderer Commented that the Review Group has worked hard, even though many of its conclusions are more than familiar.

2007/3255 HURN AIRPORT RE-DESIGN AND EXPANSION DISCHARGE

Mrs Halford was asked to obtain a copy of the NPA's response to the consultation in order that the Court may support the National Park Authority's objections.

MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2007/3256 STREAM RESTORATION SITE MEETINGS DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore reported that in his opinion the proposals for Hawk Hill, Frame, Rakes Brake and Broadley are all minor and uncontentious. The Court was content to approve the works on that basis.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

None

STAFF MATTERS (including the Staff Committee)

2007/3257 LAND ROVER MILEAGE DISCHARGE

With the exception of one, the overall mileage covered by the Agisters has actually gone down slightly so in terms of cost there is no difference. There is nothing to compare as respects personal mileage because the whilst running their own vehicles, Agisters were not obliged to keep records of mileage other than that covered in the course of their duties. Mr Draper had prepared a paper which was accepted by the Court. Mr Adams will speak to the one Agister whose private mileage is higher than the others.

2007/3258 COMMONER SUBJECT TO BAN ON THE KEEPING OF LIVESTOCK DISCHARGE

A commoner was recently banned from keeping livestock and the Agisters have asked how they should deal with animals which it is believed now belong to a member of his family but which he may wish to continue to have some involvement. After a short discussion it was agreed the Agisters should make a careful note in their diary of any such incidents and inform the office.

TRAINING

Nothing to report.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

2007/3259 POLICE ASSISTANCE AT THE DRIFTS DISCHARGE

The Police will assist with drifts this year where necessary but have advised that this may be the last year that they are able to help. The Clerk and Head Agister will liaise with the Police and Highways Department in order to seek advice for future years.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2007/3260 SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL – LASER GATEWAY DISCHARGE

The Court has been advised that the proposed Laser Gateway has been scrapped following a significant number of objections.

2007/3261 CYCLE PATH – ASHURST TO LYNDHURST DISCHARGE

The Court felt the Highway Authority has done a very good job in constructing the cycle path along the A35. The Clerk was asked to write to express the Court's thanks.

2007/3262 COSTICLES POND / WOODLANDS ROAD RESUME

Mr Frost suggested this area could be opened up to stock. The Court suggested Colin Draper could be asked to look at the possibilities.

2007/3263 MICROCHIPPING OF PONIES RESUME

Miss Macnair reported that a microchipping session is to be held at the Beaulieu Road Sale Yard. Commoners and Pony Society members will be invited to take along animals to be chipped.

2007/3264 RAGWORT RESUME

There is an appalling amount of ragwort growing on the verges of the A31. It was suggested that if it cannot be pulled or sprayed, it should at least be cut before it flowers and seeds. Mr Adams said he will speak to his contact at the Highway Agency.

2007/3265 THE LIFE ROSEBOWL DISCHARGE

This trophy has not been presented since the end of the LIFE Project. It was felt it would be nice to resurrect it and it was agreed that it should be awarded to the dam of the highest placed Forest bred performance pony each year. It was agreed that the Rose Bowl should be presented at the September Court in respect of the winning pony from 2006. The owner of the pony will be invited to attend the Court.

The New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society will be asked to formally confirm the name of the winning pony and its dam. The Clerk will then write to the owner.

2007/3266 STALLION SCHEME GRAZING DISCHARGE

Following a request for clarification it was confirmed that the stallions who ran out this summer will go into the grazing on 1st October 2007.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.07 p.m.