

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 21st May 2014 at 9.30 a.m. in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.

PRESENT:	Mr Dominic May	Official Verderer
	Mr R Deakin	Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman
	Mr B Dowsett	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
	Miss D Macnair MBE	Senior Elected Verderer
	Mr C Maton	National Park Appointed Verderer
	Mr G M H Mills	DEFRA Appointed Verderer
	Mr D Readhead	Elected Verderer
	Mr R Stride	Co-opted Verderer
	Mrs D Westerhoff	Natural England Appointed Verderer
IN ATTENDANCE:	Miss S Westwood	Clerk to the Verderers
	Mr R Maton	Agister
APOLOGIES:	Mr A Gerrelli	Elected Verderer

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

2014/7277 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The Minutes of the Court held on Wednesday, 16th April 2014 were approved and signed by the Official Verderer.

2014/7278 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

The Official Verderer and the Elected Verderers and Mr Stride, co-opted Verderer all declared an interest in the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme and the Verderers Grazing Scheme.

The Official Verderer, Mr Deakin, Miss Macnair and Mr Readhead are all members of the New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society.

Mr Dowsett advised the Court that he is a Forestry Commission Voluntary Ranger.

Mr Hallam Mills declared an interest in HLS Schemes as his Estate is in Higher Level Stewardship. The Estate is also involved in the Better Boundaries Project, run by the New Forest Land Advice Service with support from Natural England. Mr Mills is also a Patron of the New Forest Trust.

Mr Deakin and Mr Readhead are members of the New Forest Stallion Syndicate.

Mr Maton reminded the Court that he is a Forestry Commission contractor, and that he is involved with a tender to re-fence Longmeadow (2014/7179).

2014/7279 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

Agister Maton reported that on the whole stock is in very good condition. As always, a few young animals and mares with foals could look better. However the grass is growing now and stock is improving and most stock look strong and healthy with good shiny coats.

There are quite a number of foals on the Forest now. All agreed that the stallion turnout time is about right – three weeks to a month. Foals being born this year indicate that each stallion turned out last year sired in the region of 25 foals. This is a manageable number. Time will tell whether the young colts which are being turned out this year will sire more or less.

2014/7280 WELFARE TOUR DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin told the Court that the comments received on the Welfare Tour were very positive. Several people came along who had not attended before. They were very complimentary. They recognised that a feral herd's condition will fluctuate during the year. There was one lone voice who felt that condition of stock could be better.

The discussion included how young commoners can be educated. Whilst there is no doubt that the best way to learn is from an experienced member of the family, not everyone can benefit from that and therefore Dr Ferris's proposal to implement a scheme for training young commoners was considered to be a good idea. Trailer training has been arranged for a number of young commoners with HLS funding.

2014/7281 STRANGLES RESUME

Strangles is still rumbling around. It is mainly young ponies that are affected. Some animals look worse now than they have all winter.

2014/7282 HOT BRANDING RESUME

In accordance with the requirements of the newly introduced code of practice, the Head Agister has drawn up a list of approximately 200 commoners who are considered to be competent at branding ponies. A training programme will be introduced for new commoners wishing to learn how to brand their own stock and their names will be added to the list once they are considered to be competent.

A date has been suggested for Defra Minister Lord de Mauley to watch a demonstration of hot branding, and confirmation is awaited as to whether he will be able to come along.

2014/7283 STOCK LOSING CONDITION AND REMOVED FROM THE FOREST RESUME

Mares with foals – 2
Mares with yearlings – 5
Mares - 8
Fillies – 10
Geldings – 1

The total removed last month was 26 compared with 83 in the same period last year.

The year to date figure is 148. In 2013 it was 326.

2014/7284 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE IN 2014 RESUME

	Forest	Common	Total
Ponies	4284	701	4985
Cattle	2280	1030	3310

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 21st May 2014 in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.

Donkeys	96	59	155
Pigs	0	23	23
Sheep	0	142	142
Total	6660	1955	8615

Ponies, cattle and donkeys on the Forest – 6660
Ponies, cattle and donkeys on the Common – 1790
Total Ponies, Cattle and Donkeys – 8450

MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO THE SAME DATE IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

	Forest	Common	Total
Ponies	4271	772	5043
Cattle	1811	853	2664
Donkeys	93	68	161
Pigs	0	35	35
Sheep	0	108	108
Total	6175	1836	8011

Ponies, cattle and donkeys on the Forest – 6175
Ponies, cattle and donkeys on the Common – 1693
Total Ponies, Cattle and Donkeys – 7868

2014/7285 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT DISCHARGE

One commoner has yet to pay his marking fees. The Agister has asked him several times. If he does not pay, further action will be taken.

Agister Maton left the meeting

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Mike Seddon, Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest
Miss Melissa Jones, Assistant Land Agent (New Forest)

ANNOUNCEMENT AND DECISIONS

2014/7286 DOG POO BAGS LEFT ON THE FOREST

The Verderers have noticed the astonishing habit of some dog walkers to collect their dog's poo in a bag, and then leave the bag, with dog poo in it, hanging from a tree, slung over a fence, or hidden under a pile of logs. This is a most disgusting practice, and it leaves appalling litter spoiling the attractive landscape; and it could also potentially germinate disease. Who do these dog-walkers expect to collect these dog poo bags? Please will all dog walkers take their dog poo bags home, so that our beautiful New Forest is not spoiled by this revolting detritus.

2014/7287 BASALT HOGGIN

Thank you to Brian Tarnoff of the New Forest Association for drawing the Court's attention last month to the possibility of the Forestry Commission to maybe use Basalt Hoggin again.

Basalt was originally used in 2009 with approval from Natural England as the material is chemically inert and was, therefore, not considered to be harmful to the Forest. At the time, the Court also raised no objection. Locally-sourced gravel does not bind together as

well as basalt and as a result car parks surfaced with gravel have to be repaired more often, resulting in additional cost to the Forestry Commission.

The basalt is a different colour, however it has been found that the colour lightens over time. This is evident in all the car parks where basalt has been used, with the exception of Longslade Bottom where a finer size stone was originally used which led to a more engineered, dark finish. The finer stone is no longer used.

The Deputy Surveyor has advised the Court that the Forestry Commission may in future wish to use basalt on additional car parks, and he is fully aware of the need to consult the Verderers first.

The NFA has suggested that vegetation will not re-colonise on basalt in the same way as it does on gravel. However there is no data to indicate that is the case, and the issue is not relevant because it is not the intention to re-colonise the car parks with vegetation.

The Deputy Surveyor said a small scale study by an ecologist may be undertaken to see whether there have been any changes in vegetation around the car parks where basalt has been used.

2014/7288 STALLIONS

10 stallions were turned out on Monday, at Ashley Fields, Pilley, High Corner, Matley to the south of Lyndhurst, Hale Purlieu, Dur Hill near Burley, Shirley Holmes, Moonhills near Exbury, Wootton, and Millyford Bridge between Emery Down and Bolderwood. They will run out for four weeks, until Monday 16th June.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2014/7289 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR APRIL 2014

The Agisters attended 6 accidents in April compared with 7 in April last year.

1 pony and 2 cows were injured and had to be destroyed. 1 pony and 1 cow were injured. A further pony, reported to have been involved in an accident, hasn't been found.

3 of the accidents occurred in daylight, 1 at twilight and 2 in the dark.

1 accident has not been reported. The remaining accidents all involved cars or light commercials.

3 of the motorists were locals.

Details of April's accidents are as follows,

On Wednesday 2nd April at 8.45 a.m. a Charolais Heifer was injured at Norleywood Crossroads. The driver came from Southampton.

On Thursday 3rd April at 8.50 p.m., Agister Mike Lovell was called out to a heifer which had been injured in a collision with two vehicles. The animal had to be destroyed. One driver was from Eastleigh and the other from Lyndhurst.

The following morning, Friday, 4th April at 9.30 a.m., Agister Robert Maton was called to attend to a red steer that was found injured in the same location as the heifer which had been killed the night before. The steer had a broken leg and also had to be destroyed.

The drivers involved in the accident with the heifer on the Thursday evening were

adamant that they hit one animal and not two. The accident involving the steer has therefore been recorded as a hit and run.

On Sunday 6th April at ten past eight in the evening, Agister Lovell was called to an injured grey pony in Hatchet Lane Beaulieu. The driver of the vehicle involved came from Hythe.

On Thursday 10th April at 11 p.m., Agister Maton was called to an accident involving a brown pony between Wootton Bridge and the Rising Sun Public House. The pony was fatally injured and had to be destroyed. The driver came from Hordle.

Later in the month, on the 21st, at 10.27 a.m., Agister Peter Rix was called to investigate a report of an accident involving a chestnut mare in Burley Village. Nothing was found injured. The driver was from Ringwood.

The total number of animals killed and injured at the end of April 2014 is 20, compared with 31 in the same period last year.

So far in May there have been 4 accidents, all of which resulted in the deaths of the animals involved.

A donkey was killed outright on Penn Common Road, Bramshaw.

3 ponies were involved in collisions at Shepton Bridge outside Beaulieu, Pages Lane in East Boldre and on Godshill Ridge. All 3 ponies had to be destroyed.

All 4 accidents occurred in the dark. 1 of the motorists came from East Boldre, the other from Eastbourne in East Sussex. The remaining 2 accidents – the one on 3rd May in Bramshaw and the other on the 6th May at Shepton Bridge were hit and runs.

As always, the £1,000 reward will be offered to anyone providing information which leads to the successful conviction of a driver involved in a hit and run accident with a commoner's animal. In the past, a condition of receiving the reward has been that the recipient had to come to the Verderers' Court to receive their cheque. This was done in order to provide some publicity for the Hit and Run Reward Scheme. However, the Verderers understand that in some cases, the person may have good reason for not wishing his or her identity to be made public and therefore, in a recent review of the rules of the Hit and Run Reward Scheme, the Verderers agreed that witnesses may remain anonymous except for providing the necessary witness statement to the Police.

PRESENTMENTS

There were no Presentments from the Deputy Surveyor or the Public at this Court.

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

NEW SUBMISSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2014/7290 **BLACKWATER ARBORETUM GATEWAY – NEW DESIGN** **DISCHARGE**
Mr Richard Burke, Forestry Commission Recreation and Public Affairs
Manager, joined the meeting for this item.

The Verderers' were invited to express their views on proposed new designs for the main entrance to the arboretum, and at the car park. The Deputy Surveyor said that prior to commissioning a designer, he would like to get a feel of the type of design that the Verderers feel is appropriate.

The Verderers view is that the entrances should be simple, rustic, natural and not too elaborate. It was suggested that the Forest's heritage in providing timber for shipbuilding could be incorporated or borne in mind during the design process. All agreed that the main entrance must be accessible by anyone, including people using wheelchairs.

The Deputy Surveyor said he will bring the worked up designs back to the Court for further consideration.

Mr Burke left the meeting.

2014/7291 SWAN GREEN CRICKET CLUB DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer declared an interest: he is a former player at Swan Green and he has had training from the New Forest Beekeepers.

The Swan Green Cricket Club has folded. The ground is no longer suitable for playing County League Cricket and membership had declined to the point that the Club is no longer viable.

Miss Jones brought a proposal to the Court for its consideration. She suggested a change of use be permitted in order to allow the building to be used by a local organisation for recreational purposes. One such use could be to allow the Forest Beekeepers to use the facilities for training sessions and also to keep a few hives.

A discussion ensued on the merits or otherwise of agreeing to a change of use, but ultimately the Court felt that it would not be appropriate to allow another type of recreational activity to take over the site and asked the Forestry Commission to arrange for the pavilion to be demolished and the land reinstated to open Forest for the benefit of the grazing animals.

2014/7292 MANAGEMENT IMPACTS ON BIODIVERSITY: A CASE STUDY IN THE NEW FOREST BY PhD STUDENT ALEXANDER LOVEGROVE – FENCING OF STUDY PLOTS DISCHARGE

The Court approved the proposal by Alexander Lovegrove (who is financed partly by the HLS and partly by the National Park Authority) to erect 15 study plots each 1 metre square to investigate the effect on the vegetation of the various wetland site projects undertaken over the past few years. Approval was given subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions, compensation for loss of grazing etc.

This project forms part of the Monitoring requirements of the HLS (Higher Level Stewardship Scheme).

2014/7293 PARABOLIC MIRROR OPPOSITE FIELD COTTAGE SHIRLEY HOLMES DISCHARGE

Planning permission was obtained by the previous occupants of this property for a new garage and access to this property. However, in practice the present owner is experiencing difficulties with line of sight whilst exiting the driveway.

Whilst sympathetic to the present owner's concerns, the Court does not wish to see the Forest despoiled by the installation of additional street

furniture and therefore it was not minded to alter the decision it made two years ago to refuse permission for a parabolic mirror.

The Court suggested that the owner contacts the National Park Authority Planning Department with a view to seeking a solution to the problem which is in part due to a planning condition which was imposed when consent for the new access was obtained by the previous owner.

Permission for the erection of a parabolic mirror on the opposite side of the road to this property was therefore refused.

2014/7294 BRAMSHAW VILLAGE SIGNS DISCHARGE

At four of the five locations where additional signs have been requested, the Court felt there are already adequate village signs affixed to the speed limit posts.

The additional signs are considered to be unnecessary, against the Verderers' policy to reduce signage, and therefore to approve them may set an unwelcome precedent.

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

2014/7295 CROSS COMPLIANCE RESUME

It is understood that the issues which have resulted in the penalty being applied by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) have been satisfactorily dealt with.

An appeal has been lodged with the RPA against its decision to impose penalties should be imposed (on the HLS) following identification of certain cross compliance issues during the last inspection. A response is awaited. Meanwhile Mrs Westerhoff will speak with Natural England to seek its support for the appeal.

Action
DW

The Deputy Surveyor explained the difficulties the Forestry Commission has in imposing new conditions in existing old licences. He said efforts are being made to find a way forward.

The Forestry Commission is looking into how it can support the principal licence holders in ensuring that they understand the importance of maintaining adequate records and ensuring cross compliance.

2014/7296 FALLEN WOOD DISCHARGE

Two dates for site visits to consider the amount of deadwood present in the A&O woodlands have been suggested in June.

In response to a query as to when work might start to clear the more general damage caused by the winter storms the Deputy Surveyor responded by saying that the works are being carried out in three stages.

Firstly, windblown and leaning trees which have been identified as being a threat to life or property have been removed.

Secondly, fallen or snapped smaller groups of trees will be dealt with via

the firewood sales system as per the current deadwood policy. There are 11 lots on the sales system at present.

Thirdly, the large areas of windblown trees, such as the block of Western Hemlock which has come down close to Roundhill Campsite, will be dealt with in the normal cycle of timber sales. The work on these areas will be undertaken later this year or earlier next year.

During the discussion, a request was made for the temporary fencing erected at Roundhill to discourage access by campers to the fallen timber, to be inspected. The fence is down in places. Action
DS

2014/7297 VINNEY RIDGE/BLACKWATER DRIFTWAY DISCHARGE

The necessary improvement in the condition of the driftway by realigning the fence north-eastwards is agreed in accordance with the proposal/plan dated 21st May. This will put the driftway onto drier ground in order to improve access to the pound.

The VGS will fund it with the FC doing the work.

2014/7298 ORDNANCE AT MATLEY RESUME

The Ashurst Drift may not be possible due to the continued presence of unexploded ordnance at Matley. The Court asked the Deputy Surveyor whether he has made any progress in getting the clearance work restarted. In reply the Deputy Surveyor said he is continuing to pursue the MOD, but that the MOD does not appear to consider it to be a priority.

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2014/7299 REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE LIST (FORMERLY THE SNAGGING LIST) RESUME

A new list was issued.

2014/7300 FLOODED LAWN AT QUEEN'S MEADOW RESUME

A site meeting is to be held on the 9th June. Verderers hoping to attend are Barry Dowsett, Richard Deakin, Clive Maton Hallam Mills, Richard Stride and Diana Westerhoff. The time for the meeting is to be confirmed. Action
S Oakley

There is a repair needed at Longwater. Mr Stride said he will notify Sarah Oakley. Action
RS

2014/7301 LATCHMOOR DROP IN EVENT – GODSHILL PARISH HALL DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor said that some 94 people attended this event. 50 people submitted comments about the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment. All the comments will be documented and placed on the HLS website, together with responses. The Scoping Report should be with the National Park Authority in June.

ENCROACHMENTS

- 2014/7302 ENCROACHMENT LIST RESUME
- An updated list was circulated and Miss Jones advised the Court of the latest position on the various issues.
- 2014/7303 KINGS COPSE DITCH / STAGGS BARN, BLACKFIELD RESUME
- Miss Jones reported that the Forestry Commission has completed the work to remove the ditch. However, in maintaining the track, the occupier has encroached onto the grazing creating further problems. Soil has been heaped up and the track has been widened. In addition there are several heaps of scalplings on the Open Forest which must be removed. Natural England is aware. If there is no early resolution the Forestry Commission will undertake the necessary works and invoice the person responsible for the damage. The situation is being closely monitored. Action MJ
- 2014/7304 PONDHEAD RESUME
- The occupier of the property at Pondhead, who has placed dragons teeth on the Open Forest without consent, is a member of the Verderers' Grazing Scheme. The Official Verderer said that he will arrange for the VGS Administrator to talk to the person concerned and advise that her VGS payments may be in jeopardy if she fails to abate the encroachment, for which she has admitted responsibility, without further delay. Action OV
- 2014/7305 FENCE AND DITCH OUTSIDE PROPERTY IN EAST END RESUME
October
- The Official Verderer declared an interest as the occupiers are personal friends.
- The ditch needs re-aligning and the fence moved back. However, Natural England will not allow the work to commence until August because of the risk to invertebrates in the ditch. It was pointed out that the ditch is dry and Mrs Westerhoff said she would go back to Natural England to see if it is possible for the work to be carried out earlier. Action DW
- 2014/7306 DAMAGE TO THE FOREST AT FOREST ROAD, BURLEY RESUME
- The Verderers requested an update as to whether the car-free ditching, which was proposed by the FC to resolve this encroachment and damage to the SSSI, will be carried out. Action DS

ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

- 2014/7307 GRUFFALO TRAIL ON ROUNDHILL CAMPSITE DISCHARGE
- The Official Verderer reported that during a recent visit to Roundhill Campsite he noted that the Gruffalo Trail signs, that should have been sited on hard standing, are actually on grass. As a result grazing has been damaged.
- The Deputy Surveyor apologised and said that he is taking urgent action to get the signs moved and sited as originally agreed. Action DS
- It is not known whether a similar problem exists on other campsites. The

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 21st May 2014 in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.

Deputy Surveyor said he will make sure that any signs which are in the wrong place are moved as a matter of urgency.

2014/7308 RECEPTION AREA AT SETTHORNS CAMPSITE RESUME

Mr Readhead said he is concerned at some alterations that have been carried out in the reception area of Setthorns Campsite. The Deputy Surveyor asked for more details. Action DR/DS

The Deputy Surveyor and Miss Jones left the meeting

ENCROACHMENTS NOT INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2014/7309 ENCROACHMENT AT HUCKLESBROOK, FURZE HILL (land formerly belonging to Somerley Estate) RESUME

Mrs Westerhoff said that a friendly request by the CDA asking for the dumped spoil to be removed, has unfortunately failed to yield a result. Natural England will now send a letter. Action DW

OTHER MATTERS ARISING

2014/7310 BOVINE TB RESUME

The Official Verderer reported on a recent meeting with the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratory Agency (AHVLA). The meeting was reasonably positive. Further work is in progress to produce a workable TB control plan for the Forest. This will be a one off opportunity to keep TB out of the Forest. Action SW/JRG

2014/7311 TRANQUILITY MAPPING RESUME

The draft new version of the tranquillity map has gone back for slight modification to improve interpretation. Once updated, copies will be circulated to everyone, together with the Ash Consulting Map of 1996.

Ground truthing is to take place in the last two weeks of June. Volunteers are requested. Mrs Westerhoff and Mr Dowsett have already offered to assist. Once the maps are available, Mr Dowsett will take a copy to Mr Pasmore with a request that he assists. Action BD

2014/7312 CYCLE EVENT ORGANISERS CHARTER RESUME

The final draft is out for comment. The plan is that it will be reviewed in a year's time.

The 2015 drift dates will shortly be available on the Verderers' website and a copy will be sent to the New Forest District Council's Safety Advisory Group for inclusion on its website. The Clerk was asked to check the dates for Half Term in 2015 as the Holmsley Drift cannot take place until the campsite closes. Action BD

Action SW

2014/7313 CDA MOBILE SPEED CAMERA PROPOSAL DISCHARGE

Funding of £43,000 for this project for one year by the Court has been requested. Richard Deakin proposed that it be accepted. This was seconded by Mr Stride and approved unanimously.

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME (HLS)

2014/7314	DUAL USE	RESUME
	The Official Verderer has written to DEFRA explaining that it is essential that common land is exempt from the restriction on dual use. A response has been received from DEFRA, stating that a decision has not been made yet.	Action OV

VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME (VGS)

2014/7315	CATTLE OWNERSHIP	DISCHARGE
	The Official Verderer explained that the VGS rules state that commoners must own the animals which they enter into the Verderers' Grazing Scheme, and must be able to provide proof of ownership of these animals.	

MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2014/7316	NEW FOREST (WATER) CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT MEETING	DISCHARGE
	Mrs Westerhoff reported on this meeting. She advised that there may be plans for some work on Hatchet Stream.	
	The meeting had noted that despite the very wet winter, there was little or no flooding in Lymington or Brockenhurst. It has been suggested that the works which have been carried out on the Forest in recent years may have had a beneficial effect on flooding. Some of the hydro monitoring equipment which was installed during LIFE 3 is still in use and it has been suggested that a PhD student could possibly carry out a useful study. Mrs Westerhoff will discuss the possibilities with the HLS ecologists.	Action DW
	Mr Mills said a study is to be undertaken to investigate the quality of water feeding into the Avon.	

2014/7317	NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL	
	NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK'S LEGAL OBLIGATIONS	DISCHARGE
	Miss Macnair said that the NPA's legal obligation to enhance and protect the environment was raised at the last Panel meeting. It was suggested that the Park is not fulfilling that obligation. The NPA offered no response.	
	LOSS OF PASTURE WOODLAND	RESUME
	Miss Macnair went on to say that she is concerned about the loss of Pasture Woodland as a result of poor management – too much fallen timber and brash. It was agreed this matter should be put on the Agenda for the next Court during the part of the meeting where the Forestry Commission is in attendance.	

2014/7318	NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK LEADERSHIP GROUP	DISCHARGE
	The Official Verderer attended this meeting. He reported that it has been decided that rather than writing a new Five Year Plan, a smaller document outlining the Park's achievements to date and setting priorities to 2020 based on the 2010 - 2015 plan will be produced instead. The NFNPA	

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 21st May 2014 in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.

wants the Verderers to sign up to the new document. The draft will be available towards the end of June or early in July: the Verderers will then decide, on the basis of the draft, if the plan should be endorsed by the Court.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2014/7319 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR APRIL 2014 RESUME

The financial statement was noted.

STAFF MATTERS INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STAFF COMMITTEE MINUTES

2014/7320 A31 FENCE DISCHARGE

The Agisters have expressed concern that they may become too heavily involved in the routine inspection of the A31 fence following the Official Verderers' offer to provide an Agister to assist with regular inspections from the Forest side. The Official Verderer is very keen to ensure the fence is regularly inspected from the Forest side. He felt that it would be helpful to EM Highways (the Highways Agency Contractor responsible for the A31), if an Agister could provide a 4WD vehicle to enable an engineer to inspect the fence from the Forest side on a regular basis.

However, Mr Deakin and Mr Maton expressed the view that it is not the Agisters' job to do this. The Agisters do keep an eye on the fence but they cannot take responsibility for it.

2014/7321 SMART PHONES DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer said that smart phones should be purchased. The Clerk will research what is available and how internet/email access for the Agisters can be obtained.

Action
SW

2014/7322 HINCHESSLEA POUND DISCHARGE

The Clerk was asked to arrange for the removal of the old pound by a local contractor.

Action
SW

HEALTH & SAFETY & TRAINING

There were no items to discuss.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 13:32 hrs.