

**MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 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 A B Dowsett	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
	Mr A Gerrelli	Elected Verderer
	Mr E Heron	National Park Appointed Verderer
	Miss D Macnair MBE	Senior Elected 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 J R Gerrelli	Head Agister

**IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

2015/8289	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	RESUME
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The Minutes of Court held on 21<sup>st</sup> October were approved and signed.

2015/8290	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	RESUME
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The Official Verderer, the Elected Verderers and Mr Stride all declared an interest in the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, the Verderers Grazing Scheme and Single Farm Payment/the new Basic Payment Scheme.

Miss Macnair is a member of the New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society Council.

Mr Deakin, Mr Readhead and Mr Stride are members of the New Forest Commoners' Defence Association committee. Mr Deakin is also Treasurer.

Mr Dowsett is a Forestry Commission Volunteer Ranger.

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

Mr Deakin, Mr Readhead and Mr Stride are Directors of the New Forest Livestock Society.

Mrs Westerhoff and Mr Stride are tenants of the Forestry Commission.

Cllr Heron declared his membership of Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council and the New Forest National Park Authority. He will declare any additional interests that may arise during the course of the meeting at the item.

2015/8291	CONDITION OF STOCK	RESUME
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The Head Agister told the Court that the drifts are now complete and overall the condition of the ponies which were caught was very good.

The weather is mild albeit rather wet, but the grass is continuing to grow and there is a lot of food still on the Forest.

Many of the cattle have now been removed although there is a herd at Linford and a report has been received this morning that some are looking a little plain. The herd will be checked later today.

So far there have been fewer deaths due to acorns than might have been expected given the heavy acorn crop. This is thought to be due to the large amount of grass which is still growing.

Pigs are just beginning to cause a few problems. Some are more interested in grass than nuts and as a result have gained access to some poorly fenced fields. Some are also 'hooking'. The wet ground means it is easy for pigs to root for worms and other food and so adequate ringing is essential. Commoners are being asked to add rings where necessary.

2015/8292 REPORT ON ANIMALS REMOVED FROM THE FOREST RESUME

This very useful report had been circulated prior to the Court.

2015/8293 STOCK DEATHS - OTHER THAN ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS RESUME

This very useful report had been circulated prior to the Court.

2015/8294 REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR RESUME

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Forest Ponies	4642	4329
Forest Cattle	3185	2686
Forest Donkeys	107	96
Forest Pigs	351	133
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	8285	7244
Common Ponies	715	726
Common Cattle	1115	1098
Common Donkeys	93	60
Common Pigs	63	23
Common Sheep	232	142
Total Common Stock	2218	2049
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	7934	7111
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	1923	1884
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	9857	8995
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	10503	9293

2015/8295 MARKING FEES FOR 2016 DISCHARGE

The current financial position indicates that an increase in marking fees is not necessary at the moment. Mr Gerrelli therefore proposed the marking fees should remain unchanged in 2016. Mr Deakin seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously.

2015/8296 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT RESUME

No byelaw offences have been reported.

**Head Agister Jonathan Gerrelli left the meeting.**

2015/8297 ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS

RESUME

The Announcements and Decisions were approved.

2015/8298 FLY POSTING & REDUNDANT SIGNAGE

DISCHARGE

A redundant cycling event warning sign in Brockenhurst has still not been removed. Cllr Mr Heron will provide the Clerk with the contact details of the person at NFDC who is responsible for monitoring signage.

Action  
EH

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor  
Mr Paul Grugeon, Land Agent (New Forest)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER**

2015/8299 VERDERERS' ELECTION 2015

The terms of office of Richard Deakin, Tony Gerrelli and Richard Stride, come to an end this month.

Tony Gerrelli has decided to retire from the Court, having served as an elected Verderer for 18 years. He has been a doughty protector of commoning, supporting our ancient tradition of pastoral farming. Tony has been an active member of the staff committee, and has also been involved in the establishment and management of the Verderers Grazing Scheme, and before that its predecessor, the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. He has represented the Verderers on many outside bodies. Thank you for your long service, Tony, and we wish you a happy retirement from the Court.

Richard Stride has also decided to stand down: he was co-opted in 2013 after Anthony Pasmore resigned to care for his terminally ill wife. Thank you Richard for your two years of very useful and enthusiastic service.

Three candidates, Mr Richard Deakin, Mr Jim Greenwood, and Mr Anthony Pasmore have put their names forward for the three places on the Court. Therefore, as it is uncontested, there will not be an election, and all three candidates will serve for six years until 2021.

The Official Notice of this Election result will be posted on the Verderers' Hall door on Friday 27th November, the day the election would have been held had it been contested.

2015/8300 NEW FOREST STALLIONS

Thank you to Mrs Lindsay Stride for asking that we consider turning out more stallions next summer.

An increase in stallion numbers and possibly the time period that they are permitted to run out may be appropriate in order to ensure the genetic variety of the New Forest pony herd is not lost. It was therefore agreed that our Stallion Sub-Committee should discuss this request for more stallions to be turned out, make a recommendation and bring it back to the Court. The CDA will also be asked for input prior to the discussion.

2015/8301 FLYPOSTING

Thank you to Mr Alan Gilbert for drawing the Court's attention to illegal flyposting around the forest. The Court believes that flyposting is detrimental to the landscape beauty of the New Forest. The Deputy Surveyor has promised to remind all Forestry Commission staff to remove illegal signs. We shall also be asking New Forest District Council to help as it has legal powers under the Environment Act to issue fixed penalty notices.

2015/8302 2015 DRIFTS

Our drifts are now complete, and we have had a very successful season. I would particularly like to thank the Forestry Commission's keepers, rangers and particularly thank the volunteer rangers for their help. This makes the management of the drifts so much safer for the public, and allows our Agisters to concentrate on stock management. Thank you.

## **ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT**

2015/8303 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2015

The Agisters attended 15 accidents in October, compared to 11 in October last year.

2 ponies and 2 donkeys were injured and had to be destroyed and 2 donkeys were killed outright.

2 ponies were injured.

1 donkey involved in an accident was uninjured and in 1 instance where a donkey was reported to have been involved in a accident, nothing was found.

4 accidents occurred in daylight, 4 at twilight and 7 in the dark.

2 accidents were not reported.

The total killed and injured in October was 8, compared with 7 in October last year.

The total killed and injured for the year to date is 57 compared with 63 at the same date last year.

## **THE SPEED CAMERA VAN**

In the first month of the second year of the speed camera van initiative, 991 drivers were caught exceeding the speed limits in the Forest. Of those, 416 were on the unfenced roads.

## **PRESENTMENT BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR**

2015/8304 PANNAGE SEASON EXTENSION

Following requests from both the Commoners Defence Association and the Verderers I can announce that I have agreed to an extension of the pannage season this year in light of the quantities of acorns present this autumn.

The pannage season will now close on Sunday 20 December 2015, an extension of 36 days. I ask that commoners ensure that all pigs are removed from the Forest by the end of this revised end date.

## **PRESENTMENTS**

2015/8305 RETIRING ELECTED VERDERERS

Presentment by Dr Graham Ferris, Chairman, New Forest Commoners' Defence Association

On behalf of the CDA, Dr Ferris thanked Mr Gerrelli and Mr Stride for their services as Verderers.

2015/8306 SLIPPERY SURFACES ON BRIDGES – FORESTRY COMMISSION AND NETWORK RAIL

Presentment by Mrs Ailsa Farrand

'Official Verderer and Members of the Court. My presentment is on behalf of the New Forest Equestrian Association. My name is Ailsa Farrand. I am a member of the NFEA Committee and a Commoner.

Over the past year several riders have asked for non-slip surfaces to be restored to Forest bridges, as many have become dangerously slippery. I know this only too well, as my own horse suffered a fall very recently. We understand that there has been a problem for the Forestry Commission in obtaining supplies of the required materials. If correct, then something needs to be done to put things right as soon as possible.

More worryingly, we have been informed by Network Rail that, after 150 years, it is now absolving itself of all liability for providing safe surfaces on its crossings. It claims that it is responsible only for "super structures", not "surfaces".

The treacherous timber surfaces on some bridges near Beaulieu Road have led Hampshire County Council and the National Park Authority to offer to use their own funds to help make these bridges safe. At the moment a whip-round of user groups is also underway. Network Rail has offered nothing at all.

Whilst we welcome the action by the County and the Park Authority in resolving this specific case, we are extremely concerned that it also sets a very dangerous precedent. One that is unsustainable for the future.

Our Chairman has written today to the two New Forest MPs asking them to raise this matter with ministers. We would ask the Court also to pursue this as a matter of great urgency, to remind Network Rail of its specific obligations to the New Forest and to confirm their legal responsibility for the bridge surfaces.'

2015/8307 LATCHMORE STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT

Presentment by Dr Fiona Macdonald

'I am Dr Fiona Macdonald, veterinary surgeon, with a special interest in fish and I am an Honorary Life Member of the Fish Veterinary Society.

My concerns in respect of the Wetland and Stream Restoration planned for Latchmore are as follows:-

1. With respect to work itself, the import of large quantities of gravel and hoggin which are proposed bring a risk of the introduction of disease, alien species not to mention the addition of massive quantities of silt and silicates to be leached into the water, which is a serious if not fatal risk to the gill function of fish and other water dwellers such as amphibians (newts etc.), and other invertebrates.
2. The plan is to re-connect the existing stream with the adjacent mire by introducing shallow meanders in place of the existing watercourse. There has already been substantial tree felling around this area, with more planned during the project to allow construction vehicle access, which when combined with the new meander creation will inevitably lead to a combination of high water temperatures during summer and no adequate shade – this habitat will be unsustainable for fish life – this was highlighted in a recent study by the University of Southampton.
3. Currently the brook is inhabited by some protected fish species which are likely to find the proposed engineering works uninhabitable. These are:-

- Bullheads – which are protected as Special Area of Conservation (SAC) listed species (Annex II). They live on the bottom of fast-flowing, clear, stony, rivers and streams. There is no provision for this in any of the proposals.
- Sea Trout – which are listed under the BAPS priority fish species. BAPS stems from The Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio 1992) which produced The UK Biodiversity Action Plan now superseded by the Biodiversity Framework, but this still affords protection for listed species.
- Let's just examine the Sea Trout and the consequences to this rare and protected fish. It is the same species as Brown Trout. After hatching in fresh water gravel beds the immature sea trout remain in fresh water for 2 or 3 winters. Once they are about 6 inches long they undergo a metabolic change to adapt to life in sea water - this is seen by them turning silver. They then migrate to sea, returning in late summer/autumn to where they were spawned to in turn lay eggs and so the cycle is completed. The problem is that they are programmed genetically to return to where they were spawned, and if this route is seriously disrupted, as would happen as a result of the 'Restoration' works, then they cannot complete the cycle and so the valuable genetic material will be lost.
- The third important species which will certainly be impacted by this proposed work is the European Eel.
- The European Commission has initiated an Eel Recovery Plan (Council Regulation No 1100/2007) to try to return the European eel stock to more sustainable levels of adult abundance and glass eel recruitment. Each Member State is required to establish national Eel Management Plans (EMPs). These plans aim to achieve an escapement of silver eel to the spawning population that equals or exceeds a target set at 40% of the potential biomass that would be produced under conditions with no anthropogenic disturbance due to fishing, water quality or barriers to migration.
- Each Member State is required to develop and take the management actions that are necessary to achieve or maintain compliance – since eels have been found in both Latchmore Brook and the stream that comes down from Thomson's Castle Mire, how can the proposed works achieve or maintain compliance with the section that requires 'no barriers to migration'? I can see no provisions for eel passes in particular, or even any reference to eels in general.

My final concern relates to horses and ponies – not only the Forest run ponies, but also all of the equines within and around the Forest. Equine Exotic Diseases are becoming increasingly important – the main ones are

- African Horse Sickness
- Equine Infectious Anaemia- 'Swamp Fever'.

These diseases have some important features in common:-

1. They are fatal – 90% death rate in the case of African Horse Sickness
2. There is no specific treatment
3. There is no vaccine available
4. And, ...they are spread by midges and mosquitoes.

The over-riding question is – has a risk assessment been made as to the likely effect of dramatically increasing midge and mosquito breeding grounds in the Forest as a result of Wetland Restoration? Has this been taken into account – one of DEFRA'S recommendations in the face of this very real threat is 'Habitat Control' to try to keep insect vector breeding to a minimum.....and with global warming the risks of the import of these and other emerging diseases is ever increasing – African Horse Sickness is already in Spain and parts of Italy are already declared 'endemic' for Swamp Fever.

Is it worth the risk?'

## PRESENTATIONS

### 2015/8308 PRESENTATION OF THE ROWL KITCHER CUP 2015

In 2007, we resurrected the annual award of the Rowl Kitcher Cup which was kindly donated some years ago by Mr Rowl Kitcher's family. The Cup is awarded each year to the owner of the highest scoring 2 or 3 year old colt at the stallion inspections held in the spring and to qualify for the cup the colt has to run out on the Forest that season.

This year I am very pleased to announce that the Rowl Kitcher Cup has been won by Knavesash Goldfever, which was the highest scoring 2 year old colt presented to the Verderers this year for selection as a potential stallion for Forest.

Knavesash Goldfever is owned by Kate Robb from Burley and she is here today to receive the Rowl Kitcher cup which will be presented by Elected Verderer and Chairman of the Verderers' Stallion Sub-Committee, Mr Richard Deakin, who is also Rowl Kitcher's nephew.

### 2015/8309 PRESENTATION OF THE LIFE ROSEBOWL 2015

Pure Bred New Forest Pony mares which run on the Forest are inspected during the summer and assessed individually by three New Forest Pony Breed Society Panel judges. The mares are scored on conformation, breed type and movement at walk and trot. The pass mark is 70%. If they achieve this mark, they are graded and awarded points which are entered into the Society's Elite Scheme.

The Elite Scheme was established to help breeders, owners and potential owners interested in New Forest ponies to discover the consistently successful bloodlines in the breed. The aim is to highlight not only the achievement of individual ponies, but to link these to their sires and dams and/or progeny. The New Forest was the first UK native breed society to devise and implement a scheme such as this and its aims are to show the qualities of our ponies in as many different disciplines as possible, thus enhancing our steadily growing reputation for good quality, useful ponies capable of success in a diverse range of equestrian disciplines.

This year the top mare is Trenley Highlight, a 6 year old chestnut mare, owned by James Young and Trudy Nineham. Highlight is by Lovelyhill High-Jack out of Trenley Pauletta.

We are very pleased that Mr Young is able to be here today and Mr Deakin is going to present him with the Rosebowl.

## IN COMMITTEE in the Library

## CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

### 2015/8310 SLIPPERY SURFACES ON BRIDGES – FORESTRY COMMISSION AND NETWORK RAIL RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor confirmed he has received a communication from the New Forest Equestrian Association. Mr Stride said he has also raised the issue of slippery bridges with the Forestry Commission. The Deputy Surveyor confirmed he will investigate how the surfacing of FC bridges is now being handled. He added that the Forestry Commission will also assist where it can in respect of the problem with the railway bridges.

Action  
DS

2015/8311 LATCHMORE STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT

DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer felt that the scientists involved with the design of the project need to be aware of Dr Macdonald's observations and concerns. The Deputy Surveyor explained that fish will be reintroduced to the stream once the work has been done. He then showed the Court a short video of Brown Trout spawning in the stream at Harvest Slade Bottom four weeks after the restoration works had been completed. The video, which was taken on 11<sup>th</sup> November, will be added to the HLS website as soon as possible.

Action  
DS

The Deputy Surveyor said he will ensure the consultants and team involved with the stream restoration projects are made aware of the content of Dr Macdonald's presentment.

Action  
DS

As respects increasing the risk of disease in the equine population in the Forest, it was pointed out that the mire restoration projects are designed to maintain the mire system, not increase it. The midge population should not therefore dramatically increase.

Miss Macnair commented that it is felt in some quarters that the biggest threat to animal health in the United Kingdom is the lack of stringent border controls and quarantine for plants and animals that may bring disease into the UK.

#### **SUBMISSIONS BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION**

2015/8312 REPLACEMENT WATER MAIN – NEWTOWN ROAD, MINSTEAD

DISCHARGE

There was some debate as to whether this length of the new main, which is adjacent to the Rural Studies Centre, involves Crown Land, however, the Court was satisfied with the proposals and therefore was happy to grant consent subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions, compensation for loss of grazing etc.

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

2015/8313 STEPS IN WILVERLEY CAR PARK

DISCHARGE

The bank was steepened when the steps were installed in order to encourage people to stay off it. However, a valley remains where cyclists have ridden down it and that could do with a small amount of infill. Mr Stride suggested pegging down gorse which will effectively discourage any use of the bank. It was agreed this suggestion should be passed to Mr Gary North (FC). In addition a shallow ditch could be dug at the bottom of the bank.

Action  
RS/GN (FC)

2015/8314 VERGE RESTORATION PROJECT

RESUME

A meeting with Mr Gary North to discuss East Boldre is to be arranged. The Deputy Surveyor said he will remind Mr North and ask him to email the Official Verderer and Mr Deakin with his plans for East Boldre in advance of the meeting.

Action  
DS/GN



2015/8315	WESTERN ESCARPMENT CONSERVATION AREA VERGE RESTORATION	RESUME
	Mr Dowsett met Mr North and Mr Graham Wilson (FC Estates Keeper) at Woodgreen. Verge protection measures, consisting of dragons teeth or ditching were provisionally agreed, based on the verge damage maps provided by Woodgreen Parish Council.	
	Mr North has drawn up a plan for the works but a further meeting is required with the Beat Keeper present and also the local Agister. Subject to their agreement, the plan will be presented to the two Woodgreen Parish Councillors designated to represent the Parish Council on this project. The plan will then come back to the Court for final agreement.	
	In addition Mr North wishes to seek ideas from the Verderers for further areas of verge restoration and ditching. The Official Verderer stated that the verge restoration work should be replacing the car free ditching.	
2015/8316	NEW GRAVEL OPPOSITE EAST BOLDRE VILLAGE SHOP	RESUME
	Some new gravel has been laid without permission.	Action PG
2015/8317	BROOMY PLAIN ROAD	RESUME
	The Official Verderer mentioned that Hampshire County Council had promised to look at a scheme for repairing the damaged verges on the Broomy Plain Road but nothing has been forthcoming. The Clerk will send Mr Heron a copy of the letter received from Seán Woodward in February, in order that he can see whether he can take this forward.	Action EH
2015/8318	NARROWING OF FOREST ACCESS TRACKS	RESUME
	Several other tracks across the Forest have become wider over the years and the Court suggested they could be included in the verge restoration works. The tracks to High Corner, Fernycroft, High Coxlease and Kings Copse Road were specifically mentioned.	Action DS/GN
2015/8319	1 & 2 FOX COTTAGES	RESUME
	Mr Grugeon has arranged a meeting with the owner of the property for later this month. It is hoped he will agree to the track being altered to two strips with grass in the middle and to bringing in the sides as previously suggested.	Action PG
	It is understood there is a planning application for an extension to this property. The Deputy Surveyor assured the Court that the usual principle will apply that a temporary licence to store building materials and park builders' vehicles on the Open Forest will only be granted if there is no space within the curtilage of the property. In this case, as there is room within the property, the FC will not issue a licence.	
	The Clerk was asked to write to the planning officer to ask that any planning consent should contain the condition of no skips, building materials or parking on the open Forest.	Action Clerk

2015/8320	3 FOX COTTAGES AND BULL HILL HOUSE	RESUME
	Mr Grugeon was asked to provide the Clerk with details of the access licences for these properties. Mr Grugeon provided the information shortly after the meeting and it shows that there is no permission for parking.	Action PG
2015/8321	CASTLE HILL LANE RESURFACING	RESUME
	The track has been resurfaced with what looks like scalplings from outside a property called 'Rubbles' down to the pound. Mr Grugeon said he will investigate and take the appropriate action.	Action PG
2015/8322	PEA SHINGLE & SIGNAGE OUTSIDE THE CLOUD HOTEL, BROCKENHURST	RESUME
	Mr Grugeon confirmed he has visited the area outside the Cloud Hotel. The signs were put up by the Forestry Commission. One says Emergency Vehicles Only, and the other 'Residents Parking Only'.	
	Mr Grugeon will revert to the Court about the pea shingle.	Action PG
2015/8323	ROADSIDE TREES	DISCHARGE
	Mr Stride and Mr W Howells of the CDA have identified two sites where fallen trees close to the road are potentially increasing the risk of animal accidents. A meeting is being arranged with Mr Mike Pittock (FC) with a view to arranging clearance and understanding some principles about how close fallen deadwood can be left to the roads. Two sites where there may be current problems are Penerley and the other between the FC offices at Burley and Lucy Hill. Other sites will be identified once these two have been dealt with.	
2015/8324	DANGEROUS TREES AT SANDY SHOOT	DISCHARGE
	Miss Macnair commented that there is a large badger sett in the sandy bank which could undermine the trees. In the last great storm two large trees fell but were supported by the bank on the other side of the road, permitting vehicles to pass underneath. Miss Macnair felt that if no action is taken, there could be a serious landslip. The Deputy Surveyor said he will investigate previous management and whether further work is required.	Action DS
2015/8325	DEMOLITION OF SWAN GREEN PAVILION	RESUME Jan
	The planning application has been submitted. However a number of ecological surveys and an environmental impact assessment will now have to be undertaken.	Action PG
2015/8326	HOLMSLEY PASSAGE	RESUME
	Mr Heron is arranging a meeting with the County Highways officers to discuss this and Norley Wood Cross Roads.	Action EH

## SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2015/8327	REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE LIST	RESUME
	The Deputy Surveyor provided an updated list.	

2015/8328	SSSI RESTORATION PROJECT AT PONDHEAD	RESUME
	At the recent hearing, the planning application was deferred until February as the Planning Committee is seeking further clarification on several points.	
	The Deputy Surveyor said that details are contained in the application documentation but Jane Smith (FC) will speak with Steve Avery, Head of Planning to discuss what more may be required.	Action DS
2015/8329	SOLDIERS BOG	RESUME
	Mrs Westerhoff suggested that more pine could be cut as a lot of small trees remain. Mr Deakin felt that other than that, this is a very good example of restoration work.	
2015/8330	CORBETS HAT MIRE, HARVESTLADE AND OTHER STREAM AND RIVER CROSSINGS	RESUME
	The site visit has yet to be arranged. Mr Stride said he will attend.	Action DS
2015/8331	COWLEYS HEATH	RESUME
	Mr Readhead expressed concern that too much cut timber has been left on site which cannot be removed now until after the winter. Also no seedling pines have been removed. The clearance of the culverts which was requested has not been fully completed and there remains a real risk that the road will flood during heavy rain. It will also result in animals having to walk down the road and the flood water will be a serious risk to motorcyclists.	
	The Deputy Surveyor responded by saying that the work is not yet complete. Work has halted while wet conditions prevail and further work is arranged. Quality control of the contractors work will be monitored through contract review points and can influence the award of future work.	
<b>ENCROACHMENTS</b>		
2015/8332	ENCROACHMENTS LIST	RESUME
	An updated encroachments list was circulated and the various items discussed.	
2015/8333	OLDWELL COTTAGE	DISCHARGE
	This encroachment, resulting from the fence having been moved from the top of the bank to the bottom has not been resolved. This is stopping the siting of the new broadband cabinet.	
2015/8334	PILLEY ALLOTMENTS VERGE PARKING	DISCHARGE
	It transpires that there is a licence for the No Parking Sign, which was in fact put up by the Forestry Commission some time ago.	
	The verges are on Gary North's list for works to prevent damage caused by parking.	Action G North

2015/8335    CAMP HILL    DISCHARGE

The staddle stones will be replaced by dragons teeth. A meeting with the property owner is being arranged in order to resolve the other issues.    Action DS

2015/8336    MATERIALS ON THE FOREST AT HALLS LANE, NR BOLTON'S BENCH    DISCHARGE

The materials which were stored on the Forest and for which a licence had been issued, have now gone.

#### **OTHER AGENDA ITEMS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION**

2015/8337    DRIFT REVIEW – CYCLE ROUTES    DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin reported on the recent drift review which included a discussion on the closure of certain cycle routes.

The risk assessment does not require the closure of cycle routes if staff are in attendance to speak with visitors. The Volunteer Rangers who were in attendance on the day of the drift mentioned that it may be easier to close the cycle routes.

Mr Deakin raised the matter because closing the routes is a deviation from the risk assessment. The Deputy Surveyor suggested that the risk assessments should provide some flexibility and he will seek the views of those who manage the drift support.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION**

2015/8338    THANKS TO OUTGOING VERDERERS    DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor thanked Mr Gerrelli and Mr Stride for all their work. He said his team has greatly appreciated their experience, expertise and advice in delivery of work across the Forest.

2015/8339    BROADBAND CABINET AT EAST BOLDRE    DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer reported that the owner of Old Field Farm, between East Boldre and East End, has agreed that the broadband cabinet can be sited inside his property.

Mr Grugeon advised the Court that the Forestry Commission has had significant difficulties with BT, principally involving the broadband rollout, which it has not been possible to resolve and as a result, the Head of Forestry Commission Estates has decreed that no wayleaves will be issued. BT Openreach's national office is refusing to follow agreed procedures.

Mr Heron expressed concern that this is holding up the broadband rollout and said he will do his best to try to secure a resolution.    Action EH

**The Deputy Surveyor and Land Agent left the meeting**

#### **OTHER MATTERS ARISING**

2015/8340    AGISTERS' LAND ROVERS    RESUME

This will be resumed in December.

## **OTHER AGENDA ITEMS**

2015/8341    BROADBAND CABINET AT BROOK    DISCHARGE

Retrospective permission for the cabling to this cabinet was granted subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions, compensation for loss of grazing etc.

## **HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME (HLS)**

2015/8342    HLS BOARD MEETING    DISCHARGE

The HLS board meets in the first week in January.

2015/8343    ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS    DISCHARGE

Mrs Westerhoff said that concern has been expressed that relatively few of the archaeological projects put forward have been approved.

The Official Verderer explained that the HLS agreement specifies that a certain number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments must be restored each year. There is no requirement for expenditure on historic monuments which are not Scheduled Ancient Monuments. With other funding priorities, at present only work to Scheduled Ancient Monuments is approved.

**Mr Edward Heron left the meeting.**

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

2015/8344    BHS BREEDS COMMITTEE    DISCHARGE

Miss Macnair reported that the new legislation governing equine passports which is due to come into force in January has not been fully explained and as a result the deadline cannot be met.

Significant issues remain concerning the Harmonisation of Studbook Legislation and also there is still no decision on who will run the new database.

Mr Readhead said that he is reliably informed that the threatened £60 charge for a horse passport won't be applied and there will be an extension to allow for all the problems to be properly addressed.

2015/8345    EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION    RESUME

The Clerk will circulate the current list of Verderers who represent the Court on other committees in order that replacements for Mr Gerrelli can be agreed. Mr Gerrelli confirmed he can remain on the Local Action Group (LAG).

Action  
Clerk

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

2015/8346    FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR OCTOBER 2015    RESUME

The Financial Statement was noted.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 2015/8347 RECREATIONAL EVENTS RESUME
- Mrs Westerhoff will ask Natural England for a list of the events it has consented on the SSSI. Action DW
- It seems Natural England was never asked to consent the waymarked cycle network.
- 2015/8348 TRANQUILITY MAP DISCHARGE
- Mr Dowsett has provided Mrs Jayne Albery with a copy of the tranquillity map to help her avoid issuing permissions for events that may disturb the tranquil areas.
- 2015/8349 NO CYCLING FROM CAR PARKS SIGNS RESUME
- Mr Dowsett reported that the wording on the signs differs from that which was approved: The signs say "No access to cycle network" whereas the agreed wording was "No Forest Cycling from this Car Park".
- Mr Dowsett feels more car parks require signage. The Official Verderer explained that the HLS board approved 6 trial sites where cycle counters had been placed. A Forest-wide list of car parks is already prepared for future signage.
- 2015/8350 WELFARE TOUR OF THE FOREST RESUME
- Mr Deakin reminded the Court that the Welfare Tour is on 11<sup>th</sup> December.
- 2015/8351 POLICIES & PROCEDURES DISCHARGE
- In response to an enquiry by Mr Deakin, the Court confirmed that it is happy for policy and procedure relating to day to day matters of animal management should be dealt with and agreed by the Staff Committee under delegated powers.
- 2015/8352 ELECTED VERDERER – MR ANTHONY GERRELLI DISCHARGE
- Mr Gerrelli said he has enjoyed his time on the Court and thanked everyone, including the staff for all their co-operation and help.
- 2015/8353 CO-OPTED VERDERER – MR RICHARD STRIDE DISCHARGE
- Mr Stride said he has also enjoyed being back on the Court. He feels it is a very good, strong Court. He added that 'he will be about'!

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 13:30 hrs.

*Done - Mary*  
*Official Verderer*  
*16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015*