

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 20th February 2008 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
	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:	Mrs D Halford	National Park Authority Appointed Verderer

IN COMMITTEE

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

2008/3565 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING DISCHARGE

The Minutes of the Courts held on Wednesday, 16th January 2008 were approved.

2008/3566 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister reported that he is a little happier about the condition of stock than he was last month. The recent dry spell of weather has provided some respite and stock has generally maintained condition. The Agisters have, however, removed a lot more animals than at this time last year. Animals are being checked and removed as necessary and at present the situation is under control.

2008/3567 STRANGLES RESUME

A few more cases of strangles have been noted particularly in the Pilley and East Boldre areas. One case has been found at Mill Lane Burley and several at Aldridge Hill. This is not a good time of year for ponies to be suffering from strangles.

If a vaccine becomes available it is felt it will not be of much help to the Forest. Attempts are also being made to find an effective test for strangles but again it may not be particularly useful in the Forest. As strangles is endemic in the Forest, the ponies are thought to have some immunity and they do not generally suffer as much as horses kept privately.

2008/3568 BLUE TONGUE DISEASE RESUME

The Forest is now in a protected area which means cattle must be tested before they can be sold at market during the current vector free period. However when the VFP period comes to an end this will stop.

2008/3569 AGISTER ANDREW NAPHTHINE

RESUME
April

Andrew Naphthine is currently back at work on light duties. He is able to ride but not round-up stock and he is not attending RTA's. He has a further hospital appointment in a few months time when it is hoped he will be given the all-clear.

The Head Agister left the meeting.

Mr Adams had nothing to add to the Head Agister's report on the condition of stock.

2008/3570 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS

RESUME

The announcements and decisions were approved.

2008/3571 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESUME

The Elected Verderers 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.

2008/3572 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RESUME

The Financial Statement for January was approved.

2008/3573 REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED AS AT END OF JANUARY 2008

RESUME

Ponies	4206	Pigs	0
Cattle	526	Sheep	40
Donkeys	104		
SUB TOTAL	4836	TOTAL ALL ANIMALS	4876

2008/3574 ANIMALS REMOVED FROM THE FOREST JANUARY 2008

RESUME

	POOR	SICK OR INJURED	WANTED BY OWNER	OTHER	TOTAL
MARES WITH FOALS					0
MARES WITH YEARLINGS	26				26
MARES	19	2		1	22
FILLIES	33		8		41
COLTS	2		1	1	4
GELDINGS					0
STALLIONS					0
CATTLE	32		1		33
CALVES	4				4
DONKEYS WITH FOALS		1		1	2
DONKEYS					0
PIGS					0
PIGLETS					0
SHEEP					0
TOTAL	116	3	10	3	132

TWO YEAR OLD COLTS

	3
--	---

SUMMARY BY SPECIES	
PONIES	93
CATTLE	37
DONKEYS	2
PIGS	0
SHEEP	0
TOTAL	132

2008/3575 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT

RESUME

Mr Cooper's appeal hearing will take place on 7th April 2008.

Mr Barnes' first hearing was held on Tuesday, 19th February when he entered a not-guilty plea. A trial date has been set for 30th April 2008.

Reference was made to a recent letter which appeared in the Lymington Times in which retired Judge Norman Rudd, condemned the Verderers for the amount of money they have spent on legal fees. The Court is of the view, however, that the majority of commoners fully support the Verderers in their actions in ensuring the byelaws are properly enforced.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER

2008/3576 STALLIONS

The Stallion inspections will take place on Saturday 29th March at the Beaulieu Road Sale Yard.

To satisfy concerns over loss of bloodlines, new rules have been introduced for this year as follows:-

No more than three closely related Stallions will be allowed in the Scheme, of which no more than two may be in the same age group.

Closely related means, by the same sire, out of the same mare, father and son.

Age group means 5 years and over and 4 years and under.

All 4yo and under stallions will be subject to a bloodline score/penalty.

Details of stallions and colts to be inspected MUST be given to the Verderers' Office by the Thursday 20th March. LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!

2008/3577 BYELAWS

As planned we have now sent the Minister our amended byelaws along with copies of all correspondence that we have received on the subject, and any presentments that have been made, since August 8th. We hope that they will be confirmed in due course.

In the meantime copies of the amended byelaws are still available in the office on request, and they can also be viewed on our website.

2008/3578 SPEEDING

Controlling the speed at which motorists drive through the Forest is an ongoing task, and one of the worst roads for animal accidents is the B3054. We encourage the police to mount operations to deter speeding whenever possible, and to that end we are pleased to publicise the very successful speed enforcement operation that was mounted by the police traffic team at Hythe on January 8th during the evening rush hour on that road.

Twelve tickets and one warning were issued, and all of the drivers stopped for speeding were, I regret to say, locals. This would tend to support the current statistics that show that the majority of animals killed are hit by cars being driven by local residents.

2008/3579 IDENTIFICATION OF PONIES

As a result of a concerted effort by the Commoners' Defence Association, New Forest Pony Breeding & Cattle Society, New Forest Livestock Society and ourselves, we have now received confirmation from Defra that our proposals for a derogation allowing the Forest's foals to be sold through the Beaulieu Road sales without microchips has been accepted. This is excellent news, and is the result of over a year's lobbying and persuasion.

This means that Forest bred foals are to be exempt from the incoming law, and they need not be microchipped when they are sold through the Beaulieu Road Sales. Instead they can be sold on a valid horse passport, or a completed application form for a passport. It will be the responsibility of the purchaser to have the animal microchipped.

This exemption is unique, and will only apply to foals sired on the New Forest and sold through Beaulieu Road, and it comes into effect in spring 2010.

More information on this will be made available by the Livestock Society and the NF Pony Breeding & Cattle Society.

We would like to record our gratitude to the officials at Defra in London for their patience and, ultimately, their understanding in helping us solve this problem.

2008/3580 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIAL VERDERER

As a result of an answer given in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State to various written questions by our two Forest Members of Parliament, it has been made clear that the formal re-appointment process for the next Official Verderer is open to all interested parties, including the incumbent. Accordingly I can confirm that I have submitted an application for the post.

Interviews are scheduled to take place on March 11th at a venue to be decided, and it is hoped that the successful candidate will be announced in April.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2008/3581 ACCIDENT REPORT FOR JANUARY 2008

The agisters attended 12 accidents, compared with 19 in January last year.

4 ponies, 2 cattle, 2 donkeys and 1 pig were killed.

9 accidents occurred during the hours of darkness.

10 involved private cars or light commercials and 2 were not reported.

9 accidents involved local motorists.

The total killed and injured for the year to date is 9 compared with 14 for the same period last year.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR OF THE NEW FOREST

None

PRESENTMENTS

2008/3582 FEEDING OF HAY ON ROADSIDE VERGES
Presentment by Mr Michael Cooper on behalf of the CDA

Mr Cooper advised the Court that someone is feeding stock with hay on the roadside verges at Hilltop, Ipers Bridge, Moonhills and other areas around Beaulieu. Unfortunately it has not been possible so far to identify who is responsible and Mr Cooper asked if the press would appeal to the person to stop before a serious accident occurs on what are some of the worst roads in the Forest for road traffic accidents involving stock. He suggested that if anyone is able to obtain a registration number of the vehicle involved, it should be reported immediately to the Verderers' Office.

2008/3583 HOLLANDS WOOD CAMPSITE
Presentment by Mr Michael Cooper on behalf of the CDA

The CDA remain concerned at the number of caravans that have remained on Hollands Wood Campsite over the winter and asked that further enquiries be made into the matter and action taken before Forest Holidays turns this into an annual event.

2008/3584 CAR PARKS IN THE DIBDEN AREA
Presentment by Mr Chris Aldhous

Mr Aldhous was dismayed at the proposals to put a car park in the vicinity of Fawley Inclosure. He said the area is used as an assembly point for the drift and during the Life II the Mire in Fawley Inclosure was subject to restoration as it is considered to be internationally important. He felt the location of the proposed car park to be totally inappropriate.

2008/3585 ROAD SIGNS ON THE HILLTOP TO DIBDEN ROAD
Presentment by Mr Chris Aldhous

Mr Aldhous reported that the "stay under 40" sign and the "don't feed the animals" sign had gone from this road whilst at the same time an additional sign for the National Park has appeared and there are other signs saying that the Forest is managed by the Forestry Commission and another relating to the New Forest District Council. He asked if the priorities were right.

2008/3586 NEW FOREST PONY GENE POOL/BLOODLINES
Presentment by Ms Pippa Rivers

Ms Rivers made a further presentment expressing her concern at a possible loss of the New Forest Pony gene pool. She went on to offer her family's services in carrying out research into pony colours and other effects which can be seen by the naked eye which indicate genetic variables. She also offered to share technical information that she has requested from the University of California.

Ms Rivers included further details for the Court's information.

2008/3587 RELOCATION OF CAMPSITES
Presentment by Mr Richard Reeves on behalf of the NFA

Mr Reeves pointed out that the SAC Plan recommends that Hollands Wood campsite should be relocated and the area restored to pasture woodland. He went on to say that the Forestry Commission has accepted that damage is being done to the area when it proposed the closure of a large section of the campsite. Now, however, permission is being requested for capital works without consideration of the long term viability of the site.

2008/3588 CAR PARKS IN THE DIBDEN AREA
Presentment by Mr Richard Reeves on behalf of the NFA

Mr Reeves said that Fawley Inclosure was considered in the Forest Design Plans and as a result large areas of it have been felled or are due to be felled in order to meet part of the Government's target for restoring heathland. The plans also allowed for the re-establishment of the valley mire. He expressed concern, therefore, that the provision of a car park will nullify the benefits gained by wildlife in the area.

Mr Reeves said that at Dibden Inclosure a similar situation exists but in that the topography of that area provides some protection for the valley mire.

Mr Reeves was concerned for any additional recreational pressure in either area.

IN COMMITTEE IN THE LIBRARY

PRESENT: Mr Mike Seddon, Deputy Surveyor
Mr Will Parke, Area Land Agent, New Forest
Mr Richard Palmer of Forest Holidays

AGENDA ITEM

2008/3589 NOTES OF THE MEETING WITH FOREST HOLIDAYS ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2007 DISCHARGE

No corrections were requested to the notes of the meeting produced by the Clerk.

2008/3590 DISCUSSION WITH MR PALMER OF FOREST HOLIDAYS DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer welcomed Mr Palmer to the meeting.

A lengthy discussion took place during which members of the Court expressed a number of concerns about the management of Forest Holiday's Campsites in the New Forest. The notes of this meeting are contained in a separate document.

The Official Verderer thanked Mr Palmer for joining the meeting and expressed satisfaction that Forest Holidays is seeking a long term trusting relationship with the Court. He added that Forest Holidays' need for commercial commitment is understood and he hoped it was useful to Mr Palmer to hear the Verderers concerns regarding the impact on the Forest of certain sites. Mr Palmer was invited to join the Verderers for lunch. He thanked the Verderers and left the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2008/3591 FEEDING OF HAY ON ROADSIDE VERGES DISCHARGE

The Court hopes the press will take note of Mr Cooper's request for publicity in respect of this matter. As there was only one press representative in the Open Court today, the Clerk will ensure the Presentment is circulated amongst other local press publications.

2008/3592 HOLLANDS WOOD CAMPSITE DISCHARGE

The concerns raised by Mr Cooper were discussed at length with Mr Palmer and assurances received that Forest Holidays does not intend any caravans to remain on the Forest Campsites over winter. Setthorns Campsite is the exception as that site is open all year round.

Forest Holidays investment in the campsites is being made in the full knowledge of the content of the SAC Plan and the Verderers' views on the future of certain Forest campsites.

2008/3593 CAR PARKS IN THE DIBDEN AREA DISCHARGE

Proposals have not yet been brought before the Court but the Deputy Surveyor confirmed Forestry Commission staff have met with representatives of the CDA and their concerns will be taken into account.

A copy of Mr Reeves' Presentment was requested by the Deputy Surveyor.

2008/3594 ROAD SIGNING ON THE HILLTOP TO DIBDEN ROAD DISCHARGE

The Court accepted that the removal of the signs is consistent with what is expected following the Verderers' approval for the National Park Authority's proposals for rationalising signage in the Forest.

2008/3595 NEW FOREST PONY GENE POOL/BLOODLINES DISCHARGE

The Court is grateful to Ms Rivers for her interest in this subject. However, it is felt the issue is already being satisfactorily addressed within the constraints on the powers available to the Verderers who are able to closely control the turning out of stallions but not the mares.

Most of the pedigree information is available from the Pony Society which is assisting in ensuring that the Stallion Scheme does not result in in-breeding. The measures which are being put in place may not go far enough but represent a good start and compromise between the ideal and what is practical.

Miss Macnair who has a considerable interest in this subject, said that from her examination of the pony pedigrees it is surprising how little in-breeding has actually occurred. This is undoubtedly due in no small part to the huge number of "outside" animals which were used to "improve" the breed at the beginning of the last century.

SUBMISSIONS BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2008/3596 ROAD SIGNING AT BRAMSHAW TELEGRAPH RESUME

Concern was expressed that the Highway Authority does not appear to realise that the sign on the corner of the junction where the road from Downton meets the B3078 effectively blocks the view of car drivers travelling south from Downton. For this reason, the signs at position S1 and S2 in the proposals were approved but the Authority will be asked to look again at the siting of S3.

2008/3597 ROAD SIGNING AT THE RISING SUN, WOOTTON DISCHARGE

The proposals for replacement signage on this junction was approved subject to the usual conditions regarding reinstatement, safe working conditions, compensation for loss of grazing etc.

2008/3598 RENEWAL OF 11KV UNDERGROUND CABLE AT WOODGREEN DISCHARGE

The Court approved the request from Southern Electric to renew existing cables in Woodgreen. Approval was given subject to the usual conditions.

2008/3599 SOUTHERN ELECTRIC SUPPLY TO FOREST CORNER, DISCHARGE
COBBLERS CORNER, BOLDRE

This proposal by Southern Electric to lay a new underground cable from an existing pole to the above property was also approved subject to the usual conditions.

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

2008/3600 GAS REGULATOR BUILDINGS AT KNAVES ASH RESUME

Following a site meeting the Court felt the proposals to be acceptable in principle but the design of the buildings needs to be improved. It

was felt that a more sympathetic design should be possible and it was agreed that before full approval is given, the views of the National Park Authority (as planning authority) should be sought on this point. An opportunity may exist to ensure that any similar structures which utility companies seek to site on the Open Forest are of a design which as far as possible blend into the landscape. The felling of the four scrubby pines which needs to be undertaken prior to the start of the bird nesting season was approved.

2008/3601 RHODODENDRON ENCROACHMENT AT SANDFORD WAY, BURLEY RESUME

Mr Parke will write a further letter to the occupants of Sandford Way.

2008/3602 ROSE COTTAGE FENCE RESUME
May

Mr Park has written again to the occupier of Rose Cottage but as yet there is no sign that they will give way and remove the illegal fence. This is an encroachment which must be abated and Mr Parke will continue to pursue the matter until a satisfactory conclusion is reached.

2008/3603 BULL HILL CROSSROADS RESUME
November

The Court is disappointed that the County has carried out the signage work without consent. None of the signs have Verderers' approval.

A letter will be written to the Highway Authority advising them that Verderers' consent should have been obtained before the work commenced and that proposals for a staggered junction are expected as soon as possible.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2008/3604 CROWN LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT RESUME
April 2008

The Forestry Commission has invited the Verderers to respond to the draft Management Plan. The Official Verderer asked that comments be forwarded to himself or the Clerk.

2008/3605 WATER MAIN MARKERS RESUME

The blue coloured upright water main markers in the vicinity of Burley have never been removed despite frequent requests from the Forestry Commission for the water company to replace them with a design which lays flat. These markers are considered to be unsightly and potentially dangerous to horse-riders. It was suggested perhaps the National Park Authority could get involved in obtaining a resolution to this issue which has now been going on for some years. It is understood that any new markers that are needed will be of a more sympathetic design which lay flat on the ground and should therefore also be safer.

2008/3606 FENCE ADJACENT TO THE BEAULIEU ROAD HOTEL DISCHARGE

Mr Parke confirmed the fence between the Hotel and Station buildings should be removed.

2008/3607 DRAIN AT HILLTOP – B3054 RESUME

The verge adjacent to the drain is being eroded and the area is a mess. Bits of curb etc., have come adrift. Mr Parke undertook to investigate.

2008/3608 BULL HILL DRAGONS TEETH DISCHARGE

The Forestry Commission was thanked for replacing the dragons teeth but it was remarked that others on Beaulieu Aerodrome are yet to be done. This was taken on board by the Forestry Commission.

2008/3609 SEAT AT BERRYWOOD DISCHARGE

Mr Parke said he wrote once more to Mr Colin Moore but as the seat has still not been removed, Forestry Commission staff will take it away for storage and eventual collection from the Burley Yard.

2008/3610 ROAD/TRACK TO OLD HOUSE, OAKLEY RESUME

Concern was expressed at the excessive speed of certain vehicles using this access. It is being used as a racetrack and the likelihood of a nasty accident is high. One culprit is thought to be the Gardener working at Old House. Mr Parke undertook to speak to the householder. The Court asked if it would be possible for some traffic calming measures to be introduced.

2008/3611 NEW COMMONERS' DWELLINGS AT ANDERWOOD DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor handed out invitations to an Open Day on the 17th May where the first two new homes to be built on the Crown Lands of the New Forest for more than half a century will be unveiled.

A second Open Day, on Tuesday 20th May will also take place. Opening times are 11 am to 3 pm on both days.

Members of the Court thanked the Forestry Commission for their invitations.

2008/3612 HOLMSLEY LODGE DISCHARGE

Mr Parke confirmed that the sale of Holmsley Lodge and Shrike Cottage was completed at the end of January.

The Deputy Surveyor and Mr Parke left the meeting.

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

2008/3613 FOREST ATLAS PROJECT DISCHARGE

The Clerk reported that the National Park Authority may be able to help fund the Atlas Project. Her request for the Verderers to fund 50% of the cost, in total amounting to approximately £20,000 was approved. The Verderers' contribution, therefore, being in the region of £10,000. It was agreed this sum should be taken from the Railway Fund.

2008/3614 LYNDHURST TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS (SEMINAR) RESUME

The seminar was cancelled apparently at very short notice and for no specified reason.

A report on the viability of a bypass has been prepared by Mott Gifford but it seems they have completely missed out the fact that no fencing of Forest land can take place without an Act of Parliament. The Official Verderer will scrutinise the report and if this is indeed the case, a letter pointing out the omission will be forwarded to Mott Gifford.

COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

2008/3615 APPLICATIONS FOR 2008/ADVISORY GROUP MEETING DISCHARGE

Applications for this year have been sent out. An Advisory Group meeting will be held soon.

NATIONAL PARK

2008/3616 WORKING GROUPS DISCHARGE

The Recreation Strategy Stakeholders Advisory Group met on 12th February. There was very strong support for limiting or reducing recreational infrastructure on the Forest in the most sensitive and fragile landscape and habitats. This was welcomed by the Court.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

2008/3617 VERDERERS' TRAVELLING EXPENSES DISCHARGE

An increase in the mileage allowance from 40p per mile to 52p per mile for the first 5,000 miles was approved. The Clerk reminded the Verderers that this increase will mean that a P11D return will have to be completed for each Verderer in receipt of the payment which is greater than the tax free approved rate of 40p per mile. Mr Pasmore proposed the increase which was seconded by Mr Montagu and approved unanimously. The increase will be applied from April, the start of the next Tax Year.

2008/3618 OVERGRAZING REPORT BY NATURAL ENGLAND – PLAITFORD, WEST WELLOW & CANADA COMMONS RESUME

It was agreed that details of commoners depasturing stock on these commons will be released to Natural England/DEFRA, provided that DEFRA can satisfy the requirement that it is in the over-riding public interest to release such personal data. DEFRA will be asked to set out its reasons in writing.

2008/3619 SSSI RESTORATION WORKS DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer advised that site meetings will be organised in the coming months in respect of the proposals being drafted by Mr Simon Weymouth.

2008/3620 THE MINISTER'S MANDATE DISCHARGE

Consultation is due to start this spring. The Court is of the view that it is crucial that satisfactory future management of the Inclosures and A&O woodlands is assured.

2008/3621 ROUNDHILL CAMPSITE PROPOSALS DISCHARGE

Forest Holidays has confirmed that the disabled toilet unit which is to be sited on the motorcycle site will be mounted on sleepers, so avoiding the need for additional concrete. It has also confirmed that no additional hardstanding, which would have required formal planning permission, is required. It is also understood that all structures (facilities blocks, rubbish bins etc.) will be removed at the end of the season and there is to be a small net gain in respect of grazing.

The Official Verderer proposed the Court approve Forest Holidays refurbishment plans for this site. Mr Montagu seconded that proposal which was carried unanimously.

2008/3622 COMPENSATION PAYMENTS IN RESPECT OF CAMPSITES DISCHARGE

It was pointed out that catching ponies in the campsites is becoming increasingly difficult. It is, therefore, hoped that further consideration will be given to the possibility of increased compensation payments in view of the ever increasing interference with the commoners' rights.

MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

No meetings have taken place since the last Court.

STAFF MATTERS (including the Staff Committee)

None

TRAINING

2008/3623 ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATES RESUME

The Agisters are due to undertake assessment for the Animal Transport Certificates; hopefully next week.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2008/3624 MARKING FEES – MR BARNES DISCHARGE

The Agisters are to ask Mr Barnes to mark his cattle this year. Detailed notes of their conversations are to be taken.

2008/3625 LITTER ON THE FOREST RESUME

Concern was expressed at the enormous amount of litter on the Forest. Bottles are to be found in gorse bushes behind roadside verges, in ditches and along cycle routes. The Deputy Surveyor will be asked what action the Forestry Commission can take to alleviate the problem.

2008/3626 ROAD GRIT/SAND BOXES RESUME

Unightly yellow and green plastic boxes have appeared close to the roads at Moyles Court Ford, at the bottom of Blissford Hill and in other places in the Forest. These boxes are not on Crown Land. The Highway Authority will be asked if they are really necessary.

2008/3627 SEAT AT GORLEY GREEN DISCHARGE

In response to a proposal by the villagers of Ibsley, Mockbeggar and Gorley for a memorial seat to be placed on Gorley Green, the Clerk will write to the Parish Council advising that the Verderers policy is to object to such structures on the grounds of urbanisation.

2008/3628 ENCROACHMENT AT MINSTEAD RESUME

The Official Verderer reported that a blatant and obvious encroachment has been identified at Minstead. It consists of a fence that has been erected on privately owned land which is subject to common rights. The Court agreed legal advice should be sought as to whether the provisions of the new Commons Act apply in this case and approved the necessary expenditure – in the region of £1,000.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.10 p.m.