

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 16th January 2008 at 9.30 a.m. in the Library, The Queen's House, Lyndhurst.

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

IN COMMITTEE

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

2008/3503 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING DISCHARGE

The Minutes of the Courts held on Wednesday, 19th December 2007 were approved.

2008/3504 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister expressed concern that the general condition of some ponies on the Forest is not as good as it has been at this time in previous years. The weather has been very wet which always has a negative impact on the condition of stock. The Agisters are a lot busier than usual, removing animals which have gone back in condition. The problems are mostly with young ponies aged around 2 or 3 years and older mares which in the past may have been taken off the Forest permanently. There are a lot of new commoners and it is thought they may be responsible for the increase in the number of ponies in these age groups. Having said all this, the Head Agister said he is confident everything is under control and most ponies still look in good condition.

Mr Gerrelli commented that in his opinion the ponies have lost condition in the last fortnight. He suggested an announcement should be made in Open Court asking commoners to monitor their stock but it was decided that such a statement would in all probability be misunderstood by the press who may well assume the situation to be out of control when it clearly is not.

2008/3505 STRANGLES RESUME

There are a few ponies showing symptoms of strangles in the Stockley and Hatchet Pond area. The pony seen around Linwood by the Welfare Tour which was thought to be suffering from strangles and was subsequently removed from the Forest, is recovering well and her foal appears not to have caught the illness.

The Head Agister left the meeting.

2008/3506 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS RESUME

After some minor amendment, the announcements and decisions were approved.

2008/3507 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.

Mrs Halford declared an interest in matters concerning Burley in her capacity as a Burley Parish Councillor.

2008/3508 FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement for December was distributed.

2008/3509 REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED AS AT END OF DECEMBER 2007 RESUME

Ponies	4479	Pigs	182
Cattle	2528	Sheep	55
Donkeys	118		
SUB TOTAL	7125	TOTAL ALL ANIMALS	7362

2008/3510 ANIMALS REMOVED FROM THE FOREST DECEMBER 2007 RESUME

	POOR	SICK OR INJURED	WANTED BY OWNER	OTHER	TOTALS
MARES WITH FOALS	5	1	2		8
MARES WITH YEARLINGS					0
MARES	7				7
FILLIES		1	1		2
COLTS	1				1
GELDINGS	1				1
STALLIONS					0
CATTLE		1	3		4
CALVES					0
DONKEYS WITH FOALS					0
DONKEYS					0
PIGS					0
PIGLETS					0
SHEEP					0
TOTAL	14	3	6	0	23

TWO YEAR OLD COLTS

SUMMARY BY SPECIES

PONIES	<input type="text" value="19"/>
CATTLE	<input type="text" value="4"/>
DONKEYS	<input type="text" value="0"/>
PIGS	<input type="text" value="0"/>

SHEEP	0
TOTAL	23

2008/3511 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT

RESUME

Mr Cooper's appeal is continuing.

Mr Barnes was served with a summons whilst he was in the Magistrates' Court observing a hearing concerning Mr Cooper. Mr Barnes is due to appear before Southampton Magistrates on February 19th when he will be invited to enter a plea.

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

2008/3512 BYELAWS

The byelaws that we passed on August 8th have now been slightly amended and were formally approved and made in committee on December 19th. Advertisements have already been placed in the local press as required by the New Forest Acts stating our intention to ask the Minister to confirm our amended byelaws no earlier than February 8th.

Copies of the amended byelaws are available in the office on request, and they can also be viewed on our website. Any comments on the byelaws must be received in writing by February 1st.

2008/3513 MARKING FEES

I would like to remind all those who owe marking fees that the discount for early payment is available to those who pay their fees during the month of January.

2008/3514 BRANDS

The cost for issuing a new brand will now be £250, however new brands for those who are close members of families who are currently practicing as commoners will be unchanged.

2008/3515 COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

I am pleased to confirm that we received our funds from DEFRA just before Christmas, and we have now sent out cheques to all last year's participants. Application forms for next year's scheme will be being posted towards the end of next month.

2008/3516 WELFARE TOUR

We held our usual early winter tour of the Forest on 11th December, at which representatives from numerous national and local welfare organisations were present. Over 500 animals were seen, and the overall reaction was that their condition was very good. We were pleased to hear particular praise being given to the Agisters for their work in overseeing the general welfare of the stock, and all agreed that the system of regulation that we currently have in the Forest is of a very high standard,

and that it is a flagship for the other areas of the country where common rights are actively exercised. Indeed the RSPCA Chief Inspector who has been attending the tours since their inception seven years ago went on to say that the animals' condition was consistently so good that " you're putting us out of a job!"

2008/3517 APPOINTMENT OF NEW OFFICIAL VERDERER

You may recall that when I was invited to serve a further three year term as Official Verderer the offer was made on the basis that I placed the office back at the disposal of the Crown on April 30th 2008, and this I have now done.

I have subsequently been informed by the Secretary for Appointments at No.10 Downing Street that it has been decided to seek to appoint a new Official Verderer by public competition. This means that the process of seeking a successor will be conducted in accordance with the Code of Practice for Public Appointments (otherwise known as the Nolan Rules), and it is hoped that a new Official Verderer will have been chosen in time for a change-over period of at least a month. I can confirm therefore that I shall be standing down at the end of April.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2008/3518 ACCIDENT REPORT FOR 2007

The agisters attended 167 accidents in 2007, compared with 174 in 2006. Despite the total number of accidents being less than the previous year, sadly they more than doubled in December when there were 26 accidents compared with 12 in December 2006.

The total number of animals killed and injured in 2007 was 128 compared with 131 in 2006.

65 ponies were killed and 23 injured
15 cattle were killed and 8 injured
5 donkeys were killed and 6 injured
5 pigs were killed and 1 injured

108 accidents occurred during the hours of darkness.

132 accidents involved private cars or light commercials, 4 involved motorcycles and 33 were not reported.

97 accidents involved local motorists.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR OF THE NEW FOREST

2008/3519 REPLACEMENT TOILET & WASHING FACILITIES AT ROUNDHILL CAMPSITE
This presentment is made on behalf of Forest Holidays.

The toilet and washing facilities at Roundhill campsite consist of three groups of mobile buildings. The buildings presently in operation have been in use for over 14 years, and are themselves a replacement of earlier toilet facilities at the site. Due to the age of the buildings they are in a poor state of repair, both internally and externally, and they have reached the end of their usable life. They are now having a negative impact on the amenity of the area. Accordingly it is considered practical and necessary that the units are replaced in order to provide appropriate sanitation and cleaning facilities.

In this regard, it is proposed that the existing three groups of toilet and washing buildings will be replaced with new mobile units, with the layout being reconfigured externally and internally to make more efficient use of the established curtilage. This will enable inclusion of shower facilities. Overall there is a small change in the exact footprint of hardstanding resulting in a net return of forest land.

In addition, it has been identified that, in replacing the dilapidated buildings, this will present Forest Holidays with the opportunity to improve the general appearance of the buildings and therefore it is also proposed that the units will be clad in timber. It is considered that this will improve the visual appearance of the buildings and the wider amenity of the area.

Finally, there is an area of the campsite that is utilised by parties of young people undertaking "Duke of Edinburgh". Presently there are no facilities in this location, although there is an existing concrete hardstanding and drainage being the remains of a former toilet facility. It is proposed to refurbish the current disabled toilet and relocate it to this location in order to make necessary provision for the Duke of Edinburgh groups. There would be no ground works involved and no loss of forest grazing.

All of the proposed buildings will be mobile and will be removed from the campsite when it is not in operation, as per current practice. The Planning Authority has confirmed that the proposals do not require planning permission and Natural England has consented to the minor changes of footprint. Plans of the proposed replacement buildings are displayed at the rear of the Court.

The views of the Verderers are sought on these proposals and where necessary agreement is also requested.

PRESENTMENTS

2008/3520 CAR PARKS IN THE DIBDEN AREA
NPA Planning Application No. 07/92136 made on behalf of the Forestry Commission
Presentment by Mr Michael Cooper on behalf of the CDA

"This application refers to the modification of an existing car park at Dibden Inclosure, and the creation of a new car park in Fawley Inclosure on the opposite side of the B3054. In respect of Dibden Inclosure, use is to be made of a track just inside the entry point to this car park, requiring the removal and re-siting of a Forest barrier along with extra parking either side of the main entry/exit track to the main car park. It is felt that should this take place, increased parking along the car park access track and spur will inevitably lead to complications during the drift season, as this precise point is used to run strings of ponies to the pound. Plans submitted to NPA planning, indicate that the Fawley Inclosure car park is to have an access made onto the B3054, close to the Dibden Inclosure entrance. Again, we do not see an additional junction onto the B3054 as a good choice having regard to animal safety and traffic movements. We would suggest that the car park and its entry/exit point are placed as a spur off an existing track, which is located some two hundred yards south west of the planned new entrance. This location was used some time ago very satisfactorily, when the Dibden Inclosure was closed for the removal of timber. Driftways form an all-important part of the annual drifts, and our animals do not embrace change easily, as has been seen in certain areas where fence lines have been removed. We would ask you to consider this application most carefully".

2008/3521 VERDERERS' BYELAWS 2nd & 3rd DRAFTS
Presentment by Mr Michael Cooper on behalf of the CDA

Our committee, having read the second draft of the byelaws wrote to you on the 19th October 2007, requesting amendments to Byelaws 8, 9, and 23. Firstly no reply was ever received from your office concerning our submissions, and now that the 3rd draft is available to read, see that none of our concerns have been taken on board. We understand that our letter was received, but would like to know if the content was discussed in committee, and your conclusions. Without this knowledge to hand,

We are unable to proceed, and time is pressing for us to make further comment to the appropriate authorities.

2008/3522 WARDENS' CARAVANS ON HOLLANDS WOOD AND ROUNDHILL CAMPSITES
Presentment by Mr Clive Maton, Chairman of Denny Lodge Parish Council

"The Parish Council has written to the Forestry Commission regarding the siting of permanent caravans at both Hollands Wood and Roundhill campsites.

The Council felt the reply from the Forestry Commission to be somewhat inadequate, as five units now exist at Hollands Wood and this contradicts a reply from the Forestry Commission stating a site manager would remain on site as a security measure, so we are at a loss about the other four.

At Roundhill campsite, there is only one unit, but there seems to be no justification for a site manager to still be resident as there appears to be no work undertaken. It was noted that one of the wooden barriers has recently been broken; so much for security.

Denny Lodge Parish Council would like the Verderers to investigate this situation as a matter of urgency before a precedent is set".

2008/3523 VERGE PARKING AT WATERS GREEN BROCKENHURST
Presentment by Peter Sweet, Commoner

"In Brockenhurst we have problems with College students parking on the Open Forest at Waters Green. Much of the edge of Waters Green has yellow lines but the top end by Baker and Spencers Garage with no white lines is where they park, sometimes on the grass of Walkers Green.

I have complained to Ian Young our local Keeper who tells me that he has already asked the Forestry Commission to raise a bank along this stretch of road. This has not been done.

Di Roberts, the College principal, has already arranged extra parking spaces within the College but some students do not wish to pay the modest College fee. There are often up to 15 cars parked along this stretch of the road which is narrow and if they are not parked close to the edge of the road the emergency services; the Brockenhurst fire engine and the Lymlington ambulances cannot get by.

May I ask the Court to arrange with the Forestry Commission to raise a suitable bank as soon as possible to preserve our grazing. Term has now started and urgent action is required".

2008/3524 REVISED BYELAWS
Presentment by Sarah Harrison on behalf of Kay and Sarah Harrison

"With reference to byelaws 3rd draft, 20th December 2007. This byelaw does not allow piglets to be able to run the Forest/Commons as baby pigs, because at present the byelaw states that all pigs have to be rung. The byelaws should state an age on piglets being rung that allows them to run with their mother.

We made our feelings quite clear in a letter to the Verderers with the draft byelaws made in August 2007 for amendments. Please can you tell us why our points have not been listened to, and clarify the position.

And another point, one sow and her piglets should be classed as one unit for payment like a pony and foal or cow and calf".

2008/3525 OFFICIAL VERDERER

Mr Clive Maton said he is very sad to hear that the Official Verderer will be standing down .

Peter Sweet said he was horrified to learn that the Official Verderer would be leaving. He said he has done a tremendous amount of good work for the commoners during his time on the Court.

IN COMMITTEE IN THE LIBRARY

PRESENT: Mr Mike Seddon, Deputy Surveyor
Mr Will Parke, Area Land Agent, New Forest

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2008/3526 CAR PARKS IN THE DIBDEN AREA RESUME

The Progress Project has proposed changes to various car parks in the Dibden/Fawley Inclosure area and has submitted an application to the National Park Authority. After listening to the CDA's presentment, the Deputy Surbeyor said he will take any suggestions made by the CDA in relation to the proposals to the Progress team in order to make them aware of the difficulties that have been pointed out. Full plans will be brought to the Verderers, probably in February, once it is clear whether or not an Appropriate Assessment is required.

2008/3527 REVISION OF THE VERDERERS' BYELAWS RESUME

An explanation of the system for accepting comments will be provided to both the CDA and the Misses Harrison.

Following the deadline (1st February) for comments on the revised byelaws, a schedule is prepared listing the comments and providing an explanation by the Verderers as to why suggestions have not been implemented. The schedule, together with the correspondence from the commoners and public, will be forwarded to the Minister on or shortly after the 8th February with a request for the Byelaws to be confirmed. The Minister will then decide whether to confirm the byelaws as drafted or ask the Verderers to make further amendments. There is no promise of a timescale from the Minister.

It was agreed in future the Clerk will acknowledge receipt of all comments although this has not been the procedure in the past.

2008/3528 WARDENS' CARAVANS ON HOLLANDS WOOD AND ROUNDHILL RESUME
 CAMPSITES

The Deputy Surveyor said the Forestry Commission has responded to correspondence from Denny Lodge Parish Council, stating that the caravans are on site for security reasons and they will not be a permanent feature year on year.

It was the Deputy Surveyor's view that the caravans should be in place in the short term only and five vans on Hollands Wood is not acceptable to the Forestry Commission.

At Roundhill the site manager has been carrying out some work.

The Deputy Surveyor confirmed that when the Verderers were asked by the Forestry Commission, on behalf of Forest Holidays, to give consent for one wardens' caravan on each of the two sites over the winter months, it was made clear that this was a one off request for reasons of security, and that the caravans would not be permanent.

Mr Frost considered that planning consent is required if the caravans are to remain on-site all year round and that a retrospective application should be made.

The Deputy Surveyor advised that Mr Richard Palmer, Forest Holidays temporary Operations Manager is available to meet the Verderers in February if they wish.

2008/3529 VERGE PARKING AT WATERS GREEN, BROCKENHURST DISCHARGE

There is a bank already, however it is some 2ft from the edge of the road and therefore just gives room for cars to be parked. The Deputy Surveyor said it is not practical to try to construct a bank in the present weather conditions as it would immediately be destroyed. On other parts of the Green, double yellow lines have resolved the problem of illegal parking by students and it was agreed that the Parish Council should be asked to consider requesting the Highway Authority to paint lines opposite the garage. The College is also aware of the problem and is trying to resolve it.

SUBMISSIONS BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2008/3530 PIPERS WAIT RESERVOIR SAMPLING KIOSK DISCHARGE

The request by the Water Company to replace and re-site the sampling kiosk was considered and agreed subject to provision of screening and the usual conditions regarding reinstatement, safe working conditions, compensation for loss of grazing etc.

2008/3531 GAS REGULATOR BUILDINGS AT KNAVES ASH RESUME

Mr Parke provided plans to the three Verderers, Mrs Halford, Miss Macnair and Mrs Thorne who will attend the site meeting on the 18th January at 10.00 a.m. Natural England is expected to attend.

2008/3532 PROPOSED EXTENSION TO SWAN GREEN CRICKET PAVILION DISCHARGE

In view of this Club's good management record the request for an extension to the pavilion to provide extra storage and improved changing facilities was approved. The approval was given on the condition that equipment will no longer be left on the Open Forest. It was also made clear that this decision should not be taken to set a precedent for other clubs seeking similar consents. There remains a presumption against any construction on the Open Forest which results in a loss of grazing and Mr Parke assured the Court that all such applications are considered on their individual merit and Clubs must build a justifiable case for such works to be entertained. No pavilions are permitted to be larger than 1400 sq.ft. The three usual working conditions must apply.

2008/3533 PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE CRICKET PAVILION AT BURLEY DISCHARGE

No details have yet been provided about this proposal. When they are available, Mr Parke will bring them to the Court.

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

2008/3534 ROUNDHILL CAMPSITE – REPLACEMENT FACILITIES BLOCKS RESUME

No decision will be made until comments on the Presentment made by the Deputy Surveyor have been received next month. Additionally, the Court remained concerned that it is not clear whether new concrete is needed to accommodate the new buildings and if so, whether planning permission is required.

2008/3535 ROUNDHILL CAMPSITE – WATER MAIN DISCHARGE

Consent was given for the replacement water main, subject to the three usual conditions.

2008/3536 BLUE TONGUE DISCHARGE

Cattle may now be moved subject to successful testing. However, this situation will only continue until the beginning of the "midge" season.

A vaccination against Blue Tongue may well be introduced and it was suggested it may be more economical if it could be arranged for all Forest stock to be vaccinated.

This matter will be resumed as and when there is anything further to report.

2008/3537 COSTICLES POND DISCHARGE

The proposals to open up the area to stock will be progressed once funds are available.

2008/3538 BULL HILL CROSSROADS DISCHARGE

The Court agreed with the Forestry Commission that the whole concept of more signs is alien and that a properly engineered staggered junction is the only acceptable solution. Everyone agreed that as an interim measure, and whilst a proposal is worked up and funding secured, STOP signs should be installed on the minor road on both sides of the crossing.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2008/3539 ASHURST LODGE ROAD DISCHARGE

Mr Frost said he was pleased with the swift response from the Forestry Commission in dealing with a BMX site that had been constructed in a sandpit alongside the road to Ashurst Lodge.

2008/3540 RHODEDENDRON ENCROACHMENT AT "SANDFORD WAY" BURLEY RESUME

Miss Macnair enquired whether Mr Parke had received any response to the letter he was going to write to the occupants of the above property regarding their rhododendron bushes which have encroached onto the Open Forest. A grass area is all but overgrown and the encroachment means that it is now impossible to avoid a dangerous corner on the road.

2008/3541 AMIES WOOD DISCHARGE

Mrs Thorne congratulated the Forestry Commission on clearance work in her area.

2008/3542 ROSE COTTAGE FENCE RESUME

Mrs Halford asked if any progress has been made on the removal of the illegal encroachment at Rose Cottage. The fence remains in situ and it is clear the occupants of the Cottage are not going to take it down willingly. Mr Parke confirmed he has written to the occupants but has not received a reply.

2008/3543 FOREST ROAD BURLEY, VERGE PARKING DISCHARGE

Verge parking around Burley is reportedly very bad with a lot of damage being caused to the grazing. The Deputy Surveyor said this is a problem occurring all over the Forest. Action will be taken against persistent offenders but information as to where and when, plus vehicle details is required. Alternative mechanisms are being explored and the Deputy Surveyor said he expects to bring proposals to the Court later in the year. In the case of verge parking close to pubs, restaurants, etc., the Forestry Commission does liaise closely with proprietors to seek solutions. Restoration and construction of bunds is undertaken but they are often quickly destroyed.

2008/3544 BEAULIEU AERODROME CAR PARK DISCHARGE

Mr Gerrelli commented that the rails which are supposed to delineate the car park are all but gone. The Forestry Commission is working closely with the police to try to resolve the problems in the area and evidence is being gathered.

2008/3545 HOLLY CUTTERS DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore repeated concerns expressed a few weeks ago about the damage caused by holly cutters. The damage appears to be particularly bad this year. In reply the Deputy Surveyor said the Forestry Commission has issues with one particular person whose activities were totally unsatisfactory. He will not be allowed to cut holly under licence again.

2008/3546 SETTHORNS CAMPSITE ILLEGAL ENCLOSURE DISCHARGE

It was confirmed the illegal enclosure has been removed.

2008/3547 SEAT AT TURF CROFT, BURLEY DISCHARGE

Unfortunately the family who sited the memorial seat have not removed it. The Forestry Commission will now do so and it will be taken to the Burley Yard for collection.

The Deputy Surveyor and Mr Parke left the meeting.

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

2008/3548 CYCLING ON THE FOREST DISCHARGE

No further progress has been made to date and it was agreed to discharge this item.

2008/3549 REVIEW OF THE VERDERERS' BYELAWS RESUME

The deadline for comments is the 1st February after which the schedule will be prepared and sent on or just after the 8th February with the revised byelaws to the Minister for confirmation.

2008/3550 HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND BID – LIFE IN COMMON PROJECT DISCHARGE

The CDA has pulled out of the project and as a result the project has been discontinued and the New Forest Landscape Partnership Board disbanded. It is hoped that alternative funding can be found for some of the individual projects which were to be included in the bid.

2008/3551 FOREST ATLAS PROJECT RESUME

The digitising of the Forest Atlas was to be included in the HLF bid and the Court hoped that it will be one of the projects for which alternative funding can be secured. It was agreed match funding could be provided by the Court from the Railway Fund.

2008/3552 IDENTIFICATION OF PONIES RESUME
March

A letter has been sent to DEFRA, prepared by the New Forest Livestock Society and signed also by the, Commoners Defence Association, the New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society and the Verderers, setting out the proposed system for ponies being sold through the Beaulieu Road Sales. The system will provide for an exemption from the requirement to microchip ponies prior to sale.

2008/3553 NOTIFICATION OF AGENTS BY COMMONERS LIVING MORE THAN 15 MILES FROM THE FOREST DISCHARGE

All commoners currently paying marking fees and who live more than 15 miles from the Forest have now formally provided the office with details of their agents.

COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

2008/3554 PAYMENTS FOR 2007 DISCHARGE

Cheques were sent out before Christmas.

NATIONAL PARK

2008/3555 WORKING GROUPS RESUME

There have been no working group meetings since the last Court. The Official Verderer reported there is a Stakeholders Group meeting early in February which he will attend.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

2008/3556 KINGSTON GREAT COMMON RESUME
March

No further progress has been made on this.

2008/3557 HATCHET GREEN INTERPRETATION BOARD DISCHARGE

After careful consideration of the proposals, the Court agreed that if a formal approach for consent was to be made it would be rejected in the same way as every other similar request in other parts of the Forest has. The reasons are that the erection of such structures contravene the Verderers' Policies, they add to the urbanisation of the Forest and in this case there is an acceptable alternative site on the wall of the nearby village hall.

MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

No meetings have taken place since the last Court.

STAFF MATTERS (including the Staff Committee)

2008/3558 AGISTERS' DUTY MILEAGE DISCHARGE

It was agreed that in view of the rise in the cost of fuel, the rate of payment for Agisters duty mileage should be increased to 23p per mile from the current 20p per mile. The increase was agreed with the

proviso that if fuel prices should decrease, a further review will be undertaken and the payment may be reduced. The increase is with effect from incurred from the 1st January 2008.

2008/3559 TWO YEAR OLD COLTS DISCHARGE

The Agisters will be instructed to seek the removal of all two year old colts from the Forest by the 1st February.

TRAINING

2008/3560 ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATES RESUME

Mr Brian Ingram, former Head Agister, is attending a seminar in place of the Head Agister whose presence was required in Open Court this morning. Mr Ingram will report back to the Head Agister as to what the Agisters need to do to comply with the legislation.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

2008/3561 AGISTER NAPHTHINE RESUME

Agister Naphthine is recovering well. A more detailed report was requested for the next Court.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2008/3562 LYNDHURST TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS SEMINAR RESUME

Mr Pasmore said he will attend this seminar on the 13th February at the Hampshire Highways West offices in Jacobs Gutter Lane, Hounslow.

2008/3563 ERECTION OF BARRIER - TRACK TO NEWBRIDGE ISLAND FARM DISCHARGE

The Court approved the proposals to erect a barrier at the end of the track to Newbridge Island Farm. It will be suggested that the barrier be made of metal as in the past wooden barriers at this location have been vandalised.

2008/3564 PONY CAUGHT IN THE A31 FENCE DISCHARGE

Last year, a pony belonging to Mr George Jackson, had to be destroyed after it had become entangled in the A31 fence.

Mr Jackson is seeking compensation from the Highways Agency for the loss of his pony but in the absence of the Agency's willingness to co-operate he has been obliged to seek reparation through the Courts.

The Clerk was authorised to give all appropriate assistance to Mr Jackson, including making available to him, copies of letters and lists prepared in connection with the defective fencing which has been notified to the Highways Agencies over the past few years. The Clerk will report the result of the Court proceedings in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.10 p.m.