

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 16th January 2013 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 Gerrelli	Elected Verderer
	Miss D Macnair MBE	Elected Verderer
	Mr C Maton	National Park Appointed Verderer
	Mr B Dowsett	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
	Mr A H Pasmore	Elected Verderer (from Minute No. 2013/6445)
	Mr D Readhead	Elected Verderer
	Mrs P Thorne	DEFRA Appointed 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

2013/6428 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The Minutes of the Court held on Wednesday, 19th December 2012 were approved and signed by the Official Verderer.

2013/6429 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

The Official Verderer, the Elected Verderers, including Mr Readhead together with Mrs Thorne and Mr Maton all declared an interest in the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

Mr Gerrelli declared an interest in matters concerning campsites.

Mr Maton advised the Court that he undertakes contract work for the Forestry Commission and therefore declared an interest in such matters.

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

2013/6430 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister told the Court that the weather is not on our side. It was very wet, and now it is cold and wet. The condition of ponies has dropped off significantly in the past couple of weeks and the Agisters are already removing animals from the Forest. Mares with foals have been the first to lose condition, followed swiftly by some young ponies.

Having said that, the overall condition of stock remains good. A lot of animals look fine.

The Forestry Commission is cutting holly but the Court felt that if more could be done it would be extremely beneficial to the ponies in particular. The Official Verderer had noticed cut holly on Fritham Plain and also some has been cut at Holmsley. Mr Deakin said he is going to raise holly cutting with the Forestry Commission later in the meeting.

2013/6431 STOCK LOSING CONDITION AND REMOVED FROM THE FOREST RESUME

In December 3 ponies comprising 2 mares and a filly were removed from the Forest due to poor condition. This compares with 4 in December 2011.

2013/6432 MARKING FEES RECEIVED IN DECEMBER 2012

18 ponies

2013/6433 MARKING FEES RECEIVED IN 2012 RESUME

	Forest	Common	Total	Total 2011
Ponies	4123	801	4924	4598
Cattle	2280	879	3159	2385
Donkeys	89	68	157	128
Pigs	181	105	286	302
Sheep	0	136	136	130
TOTALS	6673	1989	8662	7543
Total PCD	6492	1748	8240	7111

2013/6434 FUTURE SCANNING SURVEILLANCE FOR ANIMAL DISEASES RESUME

An invitation has been received for a representative of the Court to attend one of a number of workshops being organised by DEFRA to discuss this subject.

The Court asked the Head Agister to attend the workshop in Exeter on 28th January.

2013/6435 HEALTH & SAFETY - LONE WORKING PROCEDURE DISCHARGE

This was raised whilst the Head Agister was present. The Official Verderer reported that an approach has been made to a Health & Safety consultant Mrs Julie Brown, with a view to arranging for a review of the Court's Health & Safety documentation and procedures. In particular the Lone Working Procedure may need further consideration.

See
2013/6478
below

The Official Verderer suggested that Mr Deakin, the Clerk and Head Agister should meet with Mrs Brown to help with the review.

The Head Agister left the meeting.

2013/6436 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT RESUME

There are no byelaw enforcement issues at present.

2013/6437 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS RESUME

The Announcements and Decisions were approved.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER

2013/6438 VERDERERS HALL PA SYSTEM

Following complaints that those of you sitting at the back of the Court were having problems hearing presentments, we have adjusted the public address system and I hope that you are now able to hear everything clearly. If not, please let us know!

2013/6439 SHEEP ON THE COMMONS

At the November Court, Mr Geordie Cook again raised the issue of sheep which he believes should not be depastured on the Forest or commons. The Verderers discussed this at both November's and December's committee meetings.

The Court has considered Mr Cook's various presentments very carefully and the paper he produced at the last Court (a list of animals turned out in the past) was also scrutinised. The position is not, however, black and white. It is clear that the Forestry Commission, for whatever reason, did not record any rights over the commons except Pasture – being the right to turn out ponies, cattle and donkeys. Formal confirmation of whether or not sheep rights exist over the National Trust Commons does not exist and as a result the National Trust has chosen to permit sheep to be depastured on its commons in the north of the Forest.

The issue of sheep remains a grey area and the Court is currently of the opinion that it is not on firm ground and therefore any attempt to remove the sheep would quite possibly fail. It was felt the status quo should be allowed to continue.

2013/6440 MAXIMUM AGE FOR ELECTED VERDERERS

In November, Mr Cook suggested that Miss Macnair was not allowed to serve as an elected Verderer because of her age. I have researched this issue and I found no grounds to indicate that there is a maximum age for an elected Verderer.

2013/6441 VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME

In November, I announced that we have set the grazing payment value of £100 for one livestock unit.

So the following values will be used to calculate payments to Crown Land commoners:

Cattle £100
Registered pure bred New Forest ponies £80
Other equines £40
Pigs £30
There is a maximum payment of £6,000.

Grazing payments will be made to Crown Land commoners by electronic bank transfer towards the end of February.

At a recent meeting of the Verderers' Grazing Scheme Advisory Group, the National Trust, Natural England and the CDA reached consensus about a possible solution for grazing payments on the adjacent commons with associated conditions. This will be considered

later today in committee and next week by the Verderers' Grazing Scheme Management Committee. I will report to you next month what is decided. If possible, we would like to make payment to those who graze the adjacent commons and the Crown land commoners at the same time, towards the end of February.

May I please remind all commoners that the pot of money will now be fixed at the total based on the current turn-out at these Livestock Unit payment rates. If the total number of animals depastured increases the pot won't increase and so the result will be a pro-rata decrease in the value of the Livestock Unit, so commoners will receive less grazing payment per animal. This is designed to stop a huge increase in animals turned out simply to claim the subsidy.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2013/6442 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR 2012

An initial analysis of animal accidents reported during 2012 shows that the accident rate is probably the lowest since records began

- 65 deaths (almost identical to last two years) (2010: 65, 2011: 66)
 - 52 ponies, 7 cattle, 6 donkeys died
- 18 injured – only in 2003 was it less than this (16). (2010: 27, 2011: 36)
 - 13 ponies, 5 cattle were injured
- 83 killed and injured – nine less than the previous lowest total in 2010.
- 137 accidents in total – we think this is lower than ever before

There was however a massive preponderance of night-time accidents this year: 119 of the 137 accidents – the messages are therefore watch out at night / go slowly when passing other traffic with their headlights on / look for collars and look for ponies without collars.

That said, 13 accidents occurred in daylight where there can surely be little excuse.

As usual most of the vehicles involved were cars or light commercials. 106. No HGV's collided with commoners' animals last year but we had 2 accidents involving motorcycles and 1 involving a tractor.

59 of the motorists were local which means they live in the Forest or in the towns and villages on the Forest's border. 23 accidents were not reported. This number is of course still too high.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2012

In December there was also a welcome reduction in the number of accidents compared with the previous year.

However, the Agisters still attended 10 accidents, all involving ponies. This was less than half the previous December when 24 accidents were reported.

Only one driver was local.

6 ponies were killed, 2 of which were foals, and 1 pony was injured and had to be destroyed. None were wearing collars.

2 ponies were uninjured and 1 which was reportedly involved in an accident could not be found.

9 cars or light commercials were involved. 1 driver have failed to report the accident.

That accident occurred on the 1st December when a foal was found dead at lunchtime on the B3078 at Howen Bottom.

Accidents occurred on the road between Longslade and Setthorns campsite, at Sway on the railway bridge and at Hatchet Pond. Also between Marlpit Oak and Setley, outside Burley School, at Latchmoor and at Claypits, which like, Howen Bottom is on the B3078.

The Official Verderer thanked the Clerk for all her hard work relating to the reduction of animal accidents. He stated that although it is pleasing that accidents appeared to be at an all-time low, the Verderers will continue to campaign for an ultimate goal of zero animal accidents.

PRESENTMENT BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR OF THE NEW FOREST

There were no presentments from the Deputy Surveyor at this Court.

PRESENTMENTS

2013/6443 COMMONING

Presentment by Mrs Mary Gray, Commoning Family at Brook

'Twenty years ago a Mr Allen, past Captain of Bramshaw Golf Club, started the ball rolling concerning our cattle leaving and returning from our holding, parallel to the first fairway on the Forest Course (Brook Common), 'Burn Fuzzen' as my late father called it!

Remembering our animals have a right to do this!! Not on licence, as the Golf Club are.

This could go on being discussed until 'the cows come home' excuse the pun.

The point I am making today, at Open Court, for our future generations to know, 'do commoners legally turned out stock, have support from the Official Verderer, the commoners' Elected Verderers, Natural England also Forestry Commission representatives, not forgetting National Park' OR will recreation and other interests become priority over commoners' rights on Open Forest in general.

This could be a devastating effect on the house-keeping of our Open Forest. A more economical, friendly, natural way of architecting God's good green land, could not be equalled.

Pointing out to Mr Allen in 1993, 'Take a look over gate, come spring, nature will do its job, with a little self help'.

Blessed with more kind seasonal weather, this of course is not in our hands! Thank you.'

2013/6444 SHEEP

Presentment by Mr Geordie Cook

Mr Cook returned to the Court to again raise the grazing of sheep on the commons. He produced a map, which he said he had taken into the office, which he said shows the rights but said there are no rights for sheep.

He then accused two Verderers of laughing at him last time he attended Court, and he complained that the Official Verderer had also been disrespectful by asking him for clarification.

Mr Cook then repeated his claim that Miss Macnair is too old to be a Verderer.

Mr Cook said he would not return to the Court again to raise the issue of sheep

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In response, the Official Verderer said that we live in a democracy and so Mr Cook is entitled to come to Court and to voice his opinion. The fact is, however, that although sheep rights were not officially recorded in 1964, they have been grazing the National Trust commons, with the agreement of the National Trust for many years. It is unlikely that an attempt to remove the sheep would succeed and the Court has decided that the status-quo should be allowed to continue.

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

Mr Anthony Pasmore joined the meeting

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2013/6445 AGE LIMIT FOR VERDERERS RESUME
Presentment by Mr Geordie Cook

The Deputy Surveyor said he would check to see if there is an age limit for public appointments. Action MS

The Official Verderer confirmed that he is satisfied that there is nothing in the local legislation to indicate that there is a maximum age for an Elected Verderer.

2013/6446 COMMONERS RESUME
Presentment by Mrs Mary Gray

The advantages and disadvantages of feeding cattle on the Forest versus cattle coming home each day to be fed were considered in detail.

The Court agreed that there should be no doubt that it supports commoning.

From time to time there will inevitably be conflicts between commoners and other Forest users and recreational activities and facilities.

Receiving payment for depasturing stock brings with it a responsibility for ensuring stock are properly managed so as to cause the least possible damage to the Forest. Payment is made for good practice. That said, in wet weather it is inevitable that some damage will occur and then it becomes a question of what is and what is not acceptable.

Commoners do not have a 'right' to put out supplementary feed for their animals and feeding on the Crown Lands must be agreed with the Forestry Commission, Natural England and the Verderers.

There is a long standing conflict between the Gray family's commoning activities and the adjacent golf course which has never been satisfactorily resolved. Further efforts are being made in this respect and a further site meeting is likely to be required. Mr Street said that the golf course license and therefore its layout predates the gate. The gate was put in as a result of increased traffic which made turning animals out of the main farm gate onto the road too hazardous. Action DW

Mrs Westerhoff explained that the golf course was, in the past, considered to be in unfavourable condition for an SSSI. As a result, certain works were carried out to try to bring the land into favourable condition. It was suggested that some of those works which included infilling some drains may have created wetter ground which has perhaps contributed to the increased poaching.

Mrs Westerhoff said she would be happy to visit the site with a view to making sure that the golf course management plan is being adhered to if Natural England and the Forestry Commission would like her involvement. If the plan is not working it may need to be reconsidered.

The Official Verderer suggested that the size of the RLR parcel needs to be confirmed and the percentage which is poached calculated to see if it meets or exceeds HLS criteria.

Action
DW

The Court clearly supports commoning but it was agreed that the payment of subsidy for grazing brings responsibilities. The money which is paid to commoners under the HLS/VGS is for conservation, not damage. The number of animals turned out from this particular holding in 2012 increased threefold and this will have exacerbated the poaching.

Action
OV

2013/6447 SHEEP ETC

DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer apologised on behalf of the Court for any offence caused.

NEW SUBMISSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2013/6448 JUBILEE OAK AT BLOOD OAKS GREEN, BRAMSHAW

DISCHARGE

Whilst it is not normally the Court's policy to agree the planting of commemorative trees, the planting of a commemorative oak on Blood Oaks green is agreed as it is understood the new tree is a replacement for an existing landmark tree which is (relatively speaking) nearing the end of its life.

The consent is subject to the approval of Natural England and is also conditional on agreement that the protective fencing, which will consist of a post and rail enclosure approximately 2.5m square, will be properly maintained for as long as necessary so as not to become dilapidated and a hazard to depastured stock.

The Head Agister re-joined the meeting

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

2013/6449 PUBLIC SAFETY ON DRIFTS

RESUME
April

The Official Verderer requested that the Forestry Commission closes car parks and cycle route in the vicinity for the duration of a drift in order to maintain public safety.

The Deputy Surveyor welcomed the Court's review of the management of the drifts. He confirmed the Forestry Commission is happy to work with the Court 'in principle' to ensure the safety of the general public as well as

those who are actually involved in the drifts. He suggested a risk-based approach.

The Deputy Surveyor is tasking Mr Simon Smith from the Forestry Commission's Recreation department to review this with Mr Deakin and the Head Agister.

Action
RD / JRG

The Official Verderer confirmed that the VGS could help fund some new car park barriers and temporary signage if these are found to be necessary by the review.

The Head Agister left the meeting

2013/6450 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE PLAN RESUME

The Clerk confirmed a further draft of the maintenance plan has been received. Copies will be provided to Mr Street and Mr Pasmore and further comments or suggestions are invited.

Action
Clerk

2013/6451 CAMPSITE SURVEY RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor confirmed the Forestry Commission has received the campsite survey in a digital form that is compatible with its systems. It is now under consideration.

Action
MStr

2013/6452 VERGE CUTTING DISCHARGE

Work to cut back vegetation outside Burley is underway.

Mr Pasmore asked if the 'hedge' that has been created at Sluffers could please be cut down as it has now become a screen which prevents motorists from seeing stock. The Deputy Surveyor said he will arrange for the work to be done.

Action
MS

2013/6453 CAR FREE DITCHING DISCHARGE

The ditching work at Hilltop is welcome and considered to be a job well done. However, there are two places where someone appears to be deliberately driving over the newly constructed bank. There is another place close to the public house where the ditch stops and vehicles can still park. The Deputy Surveyor said these matters will be attended to.

Unfortunately some people are now parking in front of the barriers but it was reported that Hampshire County Council's Community Safety Officer has recently spent some time at Hilltop placing stickers on cars and moving on parked vehicles.

2013/6454 RHODODENDRONS IN BURLEY DISCHARGE

The Estates Keeper Mr Graham Wilson has met with Miss Macnair and the problem rhododendrons have been identified. The cutting back is in the work programme and will be done as soon as possible.

2013/6455	FORESTRY COMMISSION PROCUREMENT POLICY	DISCHARGE
	<p>The Minister's Mandate talks about the use of local contractors where possible. However, the Forestry Commission is obliged to comply with national and European legislation when inviting tenders. The Deputy Surveyor said that every effort is made to ensure that there are opportunities for local people to apply for contracts and price is not the only consideration. The environmental impact will also be considered. For example if a contractor is miles away and must travel some distance to get to the Forest, even though the price may be slightly cheaper, the environmental cost may in fact be higher.</p> <p>Without divulging commercial confidences, the Deputy Surveyor was able to reassure the Court that a number of local contractors have been successful in securing recent contracts.</p>	
2013/6456	CROWN LANDS CYCLE NETWORK	DISCHARGE
	<p>The Deputy Surveyor confirmed that the map showing the replacement "no cycling" signage has been received. Every effort will be made to get the signs in place by Easter. If there are any locations where the Forestry Commission does not agree there should be a sign, the Deputy Surveyor will bring them back to the February Court.</p>	Action MS
2013/6457	ROUNDHILL WATER TOWER	RESUME
	<p>Proposals should be available for consideration at the February Court. Mr Street will let the Clerk know if he feels it would be helpful for a representative from the Water Company to attend the Court.</p>	Action MStr
2013/6458	QUEEN'S MEADOW	DISCHARGE
	<p>The Deputy Surveyor confirmed work is outstanding. The bridge needs to be moved and the track reinstated. It is proposed the work will complete by Friday 22nd February. The Queen's Meadow fence is to be replaced before the end of the financial year. It was requested that a gate be placed at the Camel Green end as agreed. Once the water levels have subsided, work will be undertaken to remove the deadwood and reinstate the ditch which connects to Drivers Nursery. The pond which exists on the side of Poundhill Inclosure will also be drained.</p>	
2013/6459	PENNY MOOR	RESUME
	<p>A meeting to decide how to resolve the problems at Penny Moor, including the plant in the ditch, is to be arranged. The Verderers asked to be included at the meeting.</p>	Action MS
2013/6460	NO HORSE RIDING SIGN	DISCHARGE
	<p>The 'No Horse Riding' sign outside Little Hay, Burley has been removed.</p>	
2013/6461	NATIONAL GRID MAINTENANCE WORK AT DIBDEN	DISCHARGE
	<p>Mr Street advised the Court that National Grid is still forbidden to go back on site. Mr Street is pursuing a compensation claim for the damage caused to the grazing – a proportion of which will be payable to the Court, as "compensation for loss of grazing".</p>	

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2013/6462 SITE VISITS DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor said site visits have been temporarily suspended due to staff shortages. Two short-term appointments are being made in order to progress matters. A tender for a planning consultant is also being issued as the National Park Authority now requires a formal planning application for any significant engineering works on the Forest. The Forestry Commission does not possess that expertise which will now have to be 'bought-in' at considerable cost. Unfortunately the result will be less funding being available for actual work on the ground.

2013/6463 SNAGGING LIST RESUME

An updated snagging list was provided.

Mr Pasmore requested several further items be added to the list as follows:-

Sluffers stream restoration work: the upper section of the ramp down from the filling to the unaltered stream has virtually washed out leaving the risk of further rapid erosion and a tangle of binder twine which is a hazard to stock.

High tree stumps have been left in Sluffers – some 18" above the ground. These need to be reduced.

Lower Crockford Bottom – a quantity of cut Scots Pine has been left.

The Deputy Surveyor said he will add these items to the snagging list for action as soon as ground conditions permit.

Action
MS

ENCROACHMENTS

2013/6464 ENCROACHMENT LIST RESUME

Mr Street circulated the latest list which is getting shorter. It is hoped the message is getting through that moving fences out and laying new gravel where there wasn't any before is unacceptable.

Miss Macnair advised that the layby by the pumping station at Shappen Bottom appears to have been extended. Mr Street said he is aware of this issue and it will be dealt with.

Action
MStr

ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2013/6465 BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB MANAGEMENT PLAN RESUME

Mrs Westerhoff raised this matter again. Mr Street said that the Forestry Commission has not had the resources recently to check to ensure the Club is adhering to the plan but it is aware that some pea shingle has been laid, and a bridge has been widened. This needs chasing up.

Action
MStr

The question of ditching which was raised earlier needs to be considered further and Mrs Westerhoff said she is happy to visit the site to see if she can identify a means of alleviating some of the problems.

Action
DW

2013/6466 NEW FOREST GOLF CLUB RESUME

Mrs Westerhoff has been approached by the Golf Club which would like to upgrade some of the passageways across the mire on the northern side of the course. This is where there is run off into the river. Jenny Thomas of Natural England and Dave Morris from the Forestry Commission will be undertaking a site visit and Mrs Westerhoff said she would be happy to join them. She asked if the Court would permit her to make decisions on site on its behalf. Mr Deakin, Mr Gerrelli and Mr Pasmore offered to go along as well in which case it should be possible for decisions to be made on site. The area is known as Frankie Dellows Bottom. Any other members who wish to attend the meeting which is probably going to be held on the 7th February will be welcome.

Action
DW/RD/AHP

2013/6467 HOLLY POLLARDING RESUME

Mr Deakin asked if additional holly pollarding could be undertaken or whether the Deputy Surveyor could at least confirm that the programme for this winter will be completed.

In reply the Deputy Surveyor said it would not be possible to increase the amount this year but that he will check to see if the work is on schedule.

Action
MS

The Deputy Surveyor and Mr Street left the meeting

ENCROACHMENTS

There were no encroachments to discuss.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

2013/6468 REPLACEMENT SINGLE FARM PAYMENT SCHEME RESUME

A letter to DEFRA which must be approved by the Court is currently being drafted by Mr Sam Dovey and expected shortly.

Action
CD

2013/6469 DEFRA/BCMS CATTLE MOVEMENTS BETWEEN HOLDINGS DISCHARGE

Mr Draper (VGS Manager) and the Head Agister attended a recent meeting.

All cattle will in future be on one year testing schedules. Linked holdings will no longer be permitted. However if land has rights over the same common it will not be necessary to TB test cattle each time they are moved between parcels of such land. The New Forest is one common.

2013/6470 AGGRESSIVE PIGS DISCHARGE

Several reports have been received of aggressive pigs on the northern commons. A number of horse riders have reported being 'chased' by pigs.

Two Agisters have ridden their own horses in the area but have not encountered any problems.

It is thought that the pigs may be in-season sows which will sometimes show an interest in other animals including horses and ponies.

Many horses and their riders dislike pigs and the Court agreed that a pig cannot be removed without sufficient evidence. Pigs are one of the natural hazards that horse riders must be prepared to negotiate if they wish to ride on the Open Forest.

It was agreed that there is nothing further to be done at present.

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME & VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME

2013/6471 HLS/VGS REPORT

RESUME

The Official Verderer said that the next HLS Board Meeting is scheduled for 30th January.

Action
OV

The VGS Advisory Group which includes representatives of the National Trust, Natural England, the Commoners Defence Association and the Northern Commoners, met on 10th January, to discuss the payment of subsidy to commoners depasturing stock on the Bramshaw Commons.

The National Trust has also put forward proposals in respect to the amount it will pay to the Verderers Grazing Scheme to support commoners turning out on its commons. One condition may be that cattle owners who wish to receive subsidy, must remove their animals from the Commons for three months over the winter.

The National Trust has not yet finalised its proposals which will also have to be agreed by the VGS Management Committee before they can be implemented.

It is still hoped that payments to National Trust commoners can be made at the end of February together with those turning out on the Crown Lands.

2013/6472 FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL DRIFT SIGNAGE & CAR PARK BARRIERS

RESUME

The Official Verderer is proposing that additional signage required to ensure the safety of the public and those attending drifts should be paid from the VGS. In addition he confirmed he has offered to pay for barriers on those car parks which do not at present have them – to facilitate closure – as well as signs for cycle routes.

Action
OV

2013/6473 INDEXING OF THE COURT MINUTES

RESUME

The Court Minutes prior to the 1980s have not been indexed and the Verderers' office does not have the resources to do the work even though it is considered it would be most useful.

March

Unfortunately this was not considered to be an appropriate use of HLS funding and therefore Mr Pasmore and the Clerk will estimate costs and investigate possible alternative funding streams.

Action
AHP / Clerk

MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2013/6474 RECREATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY WORKING GROUP DISCHARGE

It is understood that Alastair Duncan, who chairs the Access Forum, has written a report on erosion which has upset the New Forest Equestrian Association. It was agreed a copy of the report should be obtained and circulated.

Action
RD / Clerk

Mr Pasmore's paper on the Tranquil Areas has been sent to Mr Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre.

2013/6475 COMMONERS' DWELLINGS DISCHARGE

Mrs Westerhoff reported that the recommendations for the revised scheme had not been fully implemented, mainly due to staff changes, but will be from now on.

The Court strongly agreed that the conditions of the revised scheme must be adhered to.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2013/6476 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR DECEMBER 2012 RESUME

The financial statement for December 2012 was approved.

STAFF MATTERS (including the Staff Committee) & TRAINING

There were no further matters under the above headings to discuss

HEALTH AND SAFETY

2013/6477 HEALTH & SAFETY REVIEW RESUME

The Official Verderer repeated that an outside consultant, Mrs Julie Brown, has been approached to review the Court's Health & Safety Policy, documentation and procedures.

Action
RD/Clerk/
JRG

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2013/6478 BRIDGE AT NEWLANDS CROSSING DISCHARGE

Mrs Thorne reported that a meeting is being arranged to look at the recently constructed bridge on the Linford side of the inclosure. Gates were installed to stop horse riders from crossing the bridge which was designed for foot traffic only. Forest stock and riders can use the adjacent ford.

It appears that some people object to the bridge and gates which have been subject to vandalism. In addition, it is thought there are problems with the track on the approach to the bridge where clay holes have appeared. The ford may now also be washing out, possibly due to the way in which the bridge has been constructed.

It is believed that commoner Mr Richard Deacon is attending the meeting.

2013/6479 PUBLICATIONS – CAMPING BROCHURE & CYCLE MAPS RESUME

The Official Verderer asked Mr Gerrelli to review the Forest Holidays camping publication to see that it concurs with the various agreements that have been made with the Forestry Commission concerning the management of camping.

Action
AG

The Official Verderer asked Mr Pasmore to review various cycle maps and cycle hire leaflets to see that they concur with the various agreements that have been made with the Forestry Commission concerning waymarked cycle routes.

Action
AHP

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 13.08 hrs.