

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 15th June 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 A Gerrelli Elected Verderer
Mr P Frost Countryside Agency Appointed Verderer
Mr J F Kitcher 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
Mr J R Gerrelli Head Agister (first three items only)

APOLOGIES: Cllr K Heron Hampshire County Council Appointed Verderer
Miss D Macnair Elected Verderer

IN COMMITTEE

The Head Agister was present for the first three items.

2005/1671 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING DISCHARGE

The Minutes of the Court held on Wednesday, 18th May 2005 were approved and signed.

2005/1672 ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS DISCHARGE

The Announcements and Decisions were approved.

2005/1673 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

Report by the Head Agister

The grass is now coming through. Most cattle are now out. A few small cattle in Brockenhurst had to be removed as they were turned out too early. One or two mares with foals have failed to pick up and they are being removed as the agisters think fit but this is not unusual.

On the whole the stock is looking good. The few young ponies which had lost condition through the winter have improved.

Mr Kitcher commented that the cold nights and fresh wind has not helped. Until a couple of weeks ago there was not much grass although it is growing well in the burnt areas.

The Head Agister confirmed the commoners continue to be helpful with few complaints being received about animals which have had to be removed.

The Head Agister left the meeting.

Report by Mr John Adams – Chairman of the Staff Committee

Mr Adams had nothing significant to add to the Head Agister's report.

2005/1674 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESUME

The New Forest Golf Club will be raised later in the meeting and the Official Verderer declared an interest as a director of another Golf Club in the Forest.

As a member of the New Forest Fox Hounds, Mrs Thorne declared an interest in the items on the Agenda concerning hunting.

The Elected Verderers and Mrs Thorne declared an interest in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

2005/1675 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RESUME

The Clerk has been unable to produce the Financial Statement for May due to pressure of work and a week's holiday. This will be prepared and circulated in the next two weeks. The April statement was circulated.

2005/1676 MARKING FEES

RESUME

Unfortunately the marking fee report was also not available. The information will be provided at the same time as the May Financial Statement.

2005/1677 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT

RESUME

Three commoners will shortly receive letters. Two concern pigs on the Forest which are claimed to be animals from the Western Commons and the third is in respect of bulls which are also on the Forest and originate from the Northern Commons.

The Official Verderer reported that he is unable to attend the Magistrates' Court hearing on the 30th June and asked if another Verderer could attend in his place in case the Solicitor requires instructions. Mr Adams said that he had already been asked by the Clerk if he can attend but regretted that due to a prior commitment he cannot. Mr Kitcher then agreed to attend and asked the Official Verderer to brief him in advance.

2005/1678 NEW FOREST COLT SCHEME

RESUME

Mr Adams reported that the Sub-Committee has met. It is felt that as quite a number of 2 year old colts are coming forward for inspection there may not be the need for a specific colt scheme at this time.

If there is some additional grazing on offer, it is felt it would better benefit the older stallions. Some commoners did not avail themselves of the New Park grazing because of concerns over how well the stallions would get on together in a relatively confined space. As expected, however, all was well and as a result it is thought more stallion owners may be interested in grazing this year. Mr Adams said he has briefly spoken to Mr Richard Manley about the possibility of the New Forest Trust assisting with the funding of additional grazing for mature stallions and the answer was that the Trust would probably be prepared to help. The Official Verderer asked if written confirmation of an offer in principle could be obtained. It will be necessary to find out where the grazing is likely to be and who will be prepared to pay for any

fencing that is required to make the land fully secure for stallions. The Official Verderer then said that Mr Richard Cuzens of the New Forest Show Society has indicated that some grazing may be available at Longdown but he needs to know definitely if it is needed. New Park is at full capacity already and cannot accommodate more than the 20 stallions which were grazed in there last winter. A decision on grazing is required as soon as possible. Mr Adams agreed to speak with Mr Manley and Mr Cuzens. (See also Minute No. 2005/1714)

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER

2005/1679 LYNDHURST GOLF CLUB

As requested in the presentments made by Mr Mike Cooper on behalf of the New Forest Commoners Defence Association (CDA), and Mr Bob Cooper in his own right, the matter of the fence on one of the greens and the turf cutting at Lyndhurst Golf Club was discussed in committee, and our serious concerns were expressed to the Deputy Surveyor.

In respect of the Turf cutting we agree with both presentments that such an act is akin to vandalism, and we have urged the Forestry Commission to consider prosecuting the Club under their Byelaws.

We have also asked English nature if they intend to take any action.

2005/1680 LIFE III, MARKWAY LAWN

A comprehensive site visit took place on Monday 6th June at which the plans for Ober Water, drawn up by the Forestry Commission's expert consultants, were explained. Along with the CDA, we have made it plain that we need to see persuasive plans for the restoration of the grazing at Markway Lawn, and the site meeting went some way towards achieving that purpose.

Bearing in mind that the Life III works on the water channels need to commence in July, time is running short. However a scheme has now been presented by the Forestry Commission that may have a chance of successfully addressing the problems that are causing the flooding of the lawn, and we shall be considering these new proposals in committee this morning.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2005/1681 ACCIDENT REPORT FOR MAY 2005

The agisters attended 6 accidents in may which compares with 11 for the same period last year.

2 ponies were killed and 2 were injured.

All 6 accidents occurred during the hours of darkness. 5 involved private cars or light commercials and one accident was not reported. 4 accidents involved local motorists.

The total killed and injured for the year to date is 35 compared with 38 for the same period last year.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR OF THE NEW FOREST

There were no presentments by the Deputy Surveyor

PRESENTMENTS

2005/1682 ASHURST CRICKET PITCH

Presentment by Mr Richard Reeves on behalf of the New Forest Association

"This area of land formed part of the New Forest until the passing of the New Forest Act 1964. Its use as a cricket pitch has recently been discontinued. The area forms part of the New Forest cSAC and SSSI and is currently in unfavourable condition. The NFA would like to see this area, mainly lawn and extending to about 4½ acres, returned to the Open Forest for the benefit of commoning, conservation and the public in general.

The NFA therefore wishes to encourage the Verderers and Forestry commission to support the proposals being advanced at present, to find a legal process by which lands outside the Forest's perambulation may be brought back within the Open Forest system. If such a process can be identified, it will be of major benefit in returning additional lands to the Forest and protecting them for future generations".

This presentment was also supported by Mr Mike Cooper, Practising Commoner and Mr Bob Cooper.

2005/1683 ASHURST CRICKET PITCH

Presentment by Mr Len Mansbridge, Practising Commoner

Mr Mansbridge supported Mr Reeves' presentment requesting the return of the former cricket pitch at Ashurst to the Open Forest. Mr Mansbridge said he has known the area all his life and he went on to describe how various commoners' animals used to graze the area.

2005/1684 FENCED AREA BEHIND THE OLD POLICE STATION, LYNDHURST

Presentment by Mr Len Mansbridge, Practising Commoner

Mr Mansbridge asked for the fence which encloses a small area of Open Forest behind English Nature's offices to be taken down. The gate is sometimes left open which allows stock to become shut in without access to water. The area was reportedly open Forest which was enclosed whilst a building was demolished. Now the work is completed, Mr Mansbridge felt the fence should be removed.

2005/1685 STALLION SCHEME

Presentment by Mr Michael Cooper, Practising Commoner

Mr Cooper expressed concern at the continuation of the stallion scheme in its present form and particularly with the alteration this year which allowed stallions to be turned out from 1st February. The likelihood of very early foals next year was, in Mr Cooper's opinion, high and he was concerned that criticism will be forthcoming from welfare organisations, particularly following the success of the stallion scheme over the past few years in reducing the number of foals born and improving their quality.

Mr Cooper went on to express concern about how the decision to change the date for stallions to be turned out was agreed. He felt that the mare owners should have had a say in the matter as it is they who have to deal with early foals. Mr Cooper requested that before any further decisions are made concerning stallions, an open meeting be held to which mare as well as stallion owners be invited.

The Official Verderer said that the Verderers are aware of the concerns and that come January, the situation on the Forest will be very carefully monitored.

2005/1686 ASHURST CRICKET PITCH

Presentment by Ms Sally Arnold, Chair of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council

Mrs Arnold read from a statement she had made at the Parish meeting the night before. The Parish Council supports the suggestion of returning the Cricket Pitch to Open Forest grazing. However it is also keen to ensure that the land remains accessible to the public for various recreational activities including holding an annual fete.

2005/1687 ILLEGAL CAMPING

Presentment by Mr Derek M Bennett, Sway resident

Mr Bennett asked if the Verderers can do anything in respect of illegal camping in the Forest. Mr Bennett went on to say that illegal camping is unfair to honest holidaymakers who pay to site their caravans or pitch their tents. He was concerned about possible health risks to stock and the public because some campers do not have their own toilets and he added that he has himself picked up glass and other rubbish from where people have camped illegally. Mr Bennett requested larger "No caravanning or camping" notices.

2005/1688 HGV RESTRICTIONS IN THE NORTH OF THE NEW FOREST

Presentment by Mrs Susan Barnhurst-Davies on behalf of Downton Residents Against Traffic

Mrs Barnhurst-Davies appraised the Court of the proposals for a 7.5 ton weight restriction (except for access) on the B3080 through Downton as well as her association's campaign for restrictions on the B3078 and B3079, which would form a "box" scheme, forcing heavy vehicles to use the designated lorry routes between Wiltshire and Hampshire, namely the A36, A338 and A31. Lorries accessing Pound Bottom landfill site would be exempt from the scheme because it will still allow for access. As this site has a life of at least a further 10 years, the Residents Association and Godshill Parish Council is calling for an alternative access route from the A36.

The proposals for the Downton restriction are already underway. Wiltshire County Council has funding set aside and the legislative process has started. Hampshire County Council has not yet committed to a mandatory ban even though they have agreed in principle.

The proposed Brunel Link/Harnham Relief Road scheme was also brought to the Court's attention. This the scheme goes ahead it will discharge all classes of traffic from north and west Wiltshire as well as Salisbury's Churchfields Industrial Estate, onto the A338. This is likely to encourage more vehicles onto the minor roads through the Forest to Southampton as a short cut.

The "box" scheme is considered by the Residents Association to be essential in order to prevent an increase in all classes of traffic on the unfenced roads.

Mrs Barnhurst-Davies called on the Court to support her association in trying to ensure the "box" scheme is implemented.

The National Park Authority is also being asked to support the "box" scheme.

2005/1689 MARKWAY LAWN, HGV RESTRICTIONS AND ASHURST CRICKET CLUB
Presentments by Mr Bob Cooper, Minstead Manor Commoner

Markway Lawn

Mr Cooper asked the Court to keep a careful watch on the works to restore Markway Lawn to ensure they are carried out satisfactorily.

Ashurst Cricket Club

Mr Cooper commented that there is no possibility of "new" common land being established as it would require ground breaking legislation. He added that Minstead has the same problem with a piece of land which no-one claims but to which stock has access.

2005/1690 POLLUTION OF POLLARDS MOOR STREAM
Presentment by Mr Bob Cooper, Minstead Manor Commoner

Mr Cooper raised concerns about the waste from washing out lorries at a nearby coal yard which sometimes runs into the nearby stream. This pollution has reportedly been going on for 20 years. Numerous representations have been made to English Nature, the Environment Agency, New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council. The stream flows onto the common at Newbridge. Some private land is totally badly polluted. The Verderers' support is requested.

Mrs Mary Gray, a practising commoner, supported Mr Cooper's Presentment and said she hoped the problem will be addressed.

2005/1691 GELDINGS
Presentment by Mrs Mary Gray, Commoner

Mrs Gray expressed concern at the number of geldings on the Forest, some of which chase after the mares and foals. Geldings have been seen chasing mares across Bramshaw Golf Course and the B3078 and B3079, which is extremely dangerous.

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2005/1692 ASHURST CRICKET PITCH

RESUME

It was agreed that the lawn is worthy of inclusion in the Forest grazing and that every effort should be made to ensure it is returned to Open Forest. The Forestry Commission owns the land and is considering its options. It also wished to hear the views of the Court. It was pointed out that if the land is voluntarily opened up to the Forest, the Verderers' byelaws will not apply and the liability on owners of animals grazing on it will be different to when the animals are on the Forest itself. It was then suggested a land exchange could provide the solution. There is nothing in the Acts that prohibits exchange of land outside the perambulation and if the land can be brought into the Forest by way of an exchange that will alleviate the liability problems, although not those of the Verderers' byelaws. The Forestry Commission's byelaws will apply in any event as it is owned by the Crown. The Verderers advised the Forestry Commission that they would like to see the land opened up to the Forest and it was agreed the Commission will investigate how best this can be achieved.

2005/1693 STALLION SCHEME

RESUME
February
2006

The Verderers are aware that problems exist and the situation concerning possible early foals will be very carefully monitored to see what happens. The rules can be amended for future years if necessary.

2005/1694 ILLEGAL CAMPING

DISCHARGE

The Forestry Commission confirmed its staff continue to try to move illegal campers on where it is reasonable to do so. Campers will not be moved if they are discovered late at night and they have children with them. The Deputy Surveyor said he has spoken to the Keepers who believe the problem is not as great as is perhaps thought.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Bennett thanking him for taking the time to make a Presentment and particularly for picking up litter.

2005/1695 HGV WEIGHT RESTRICTION IN THE NORTH OF THE FOREST

RESUME

Whilst the Court is happy to offer support, it does need to be qualified. The Clerk will discuss the matter further with Mrs Heron before writing a suitable letter.

2005/1696 POLLUTION OF POLLARDS MOOR STREAM

DISCHARGE

This issue is marginal to the Verderers' interest. Only a tiny bit of the stream at Newbridge is involved, it is mostly private properties.

2005/1697 GELDINGS

DISCHARGE

Problems are sometimes experienced when geldings chase mares and sometimes the stallions. Unless a gelding can be identified as being particularly aggressive it was agreed little can be done. The problem appears to be exacerbated by the increasing number of geldings on the Forest. The Clerk will write to Mrs Gray.

SUBMISSIONS BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2005/1698 ROUNDHILL WATER TOWER

RESUME

The Water Board is keen to find a means of preventing visitors climbing the tower. Fencing is one option and proposals will be brought to the next Court for consideration. As the tower is an intrinsic part of the local water supply network and has a long term future, a resolution to the problem needs to be found.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2005/1699 LYNDHURST GOLF COURSE

DISCHARGE

Turf Cutting

The Deputy Surveyor said very careful consideration has been given to how best deal with the Golf Club with respect to the recent turf cutting.

A very strong letter was sent to the Club stating that what it did was totally unacceptable. A further letter will be sent from the Forestry Commission's solicitors stating in the strongest possible terms that the turf cutting on the scale that was undertaken is an unacceptable practice and also that it is seen as a serious breach of the conditions of the lease.

Consent for any future work on the course will not be forthcoming until a detailed management plan has been drawn up and agreed. The plan is required under the terms of the lease and by English Nature.

The turf cutting was undertaken on three sites on the course. The Club has already filled in two of the sites using finger sized cores taken from tees and greens. The third site, nearest the Police Station is not yet finished. Some grass seed has been added as agreed with English Nature on this one occasion as a means of obtaining a quick covering of grass.

The Verderers are extremely concerned at the actions of the Club and noted the action taken by the Forestry Commission.

Fence

The protective fence round the green nearest the underpass was agreed between the Club and the Forestry commission but the Verderers wished to give the matter further consideration at this meeting. The Forestry Commission explained that originally the fence was erected as an experiment to try to prevent damage to the green from Forest stock galloping onto the course from the direction of the underpass. After some discussion, the Court agreed the fence could remain as a temporary structure, providing it does not cause problems with the drift.

2005/1700 A35 ASHURST TO LYNDHURST CYCLEWAY RESUME

Nothing further has been heard from Hampshire County council. Mr Parke will raise the matter again when he has received further information from John Sorrell (HCC). In the meantime efforts are continuing to find approximately 3,000 sq.m. of land in order that an exchange of rights can be effected as the verges of the A35, although fenced, are subject to common rights.

2005/1701 TRAIL HUNTING RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor reported that as yet the Forestry Commission has not stated its national position. He added that he is meeting with two local hunts in July and will come back to the Court to seek the Verderers' advice after those meetings have taken place.

2005/1702 REVIEW OF COMMON LAND LEGISLATION & SECTION 194 OF THE LAW OF PROPERTY ACT RESUME

The meeting between the Official Verderer and Mr Will Parke should take place as soon as possible.

2005/1703 FOREST INCLOSURES DISCHARGE

The Knightwood track has been referred to Mr Stride. This matter will now be discharged.

2005/1704 FURZEY LAWN CULVERT

DISCHARGE

There was nothing further to report on this matter save that it is on a list to be done.

2005/1705 BEAULIEU ROAD HOTEL SEWAGE SYSTEM

RESUME

Mr Parke reported that nothing further has been heard as respects a resolution of the hotel's sewage problems. It is considered surprising that the Environment Agency has not set a deadline for a new system to be agreed and installed.

The Official Verderer declared an interest as a hotelier within the New Forest. The Beaulieu Road Hotel is actually discharging sewage onto the Open Forest and has been doing so for some considerable time. Mr Parke said he has contacts at the Environment Agency and he will give the names and addresses to the Clerk so that the Verderers can apply some pressure.

LIFE 3

2005/1706 DAMES SLOUGH

DISCHARGE

The Forestry Commission commented that no restoration of the third ford will be undertaken because it has not been used for years and there is no evidence to suggest there is a need for it at this point of time.

The Verderers reluctantly agreed on the understanding that if hard evidence is forthcoming of the need for the additional ford, serious consideration will be given to constructing one.

The Deputy Surveyor remarked that the area is not part of the Open Forest and that the Verderers are welcome to express a view but their consent is not required. Mr Pasmore remarked that the commoners' rights in Dames Slough are in suspension only.

The Deputy Surveyor said he will explain to Maxine Elliott of the Environment Agency that the Verderers are disappointed and that they believe it is a mistake not to reinstate the ford.

2005/1707 MARKWAY LAWN

RESUME

Concern was expressed that the letter from Simon Weymouth (FC) dated 10th June 2005 following the site meeting, does not give any long term assurances. The Court wants English Nature to say that the lawn is an important grazing area which must be maintained.

The lawn used to be dry in summer and wet in winter. It is now saturated. The Verderers would like to see a defined water course which will be maintained. Mr Pasmore expressed grave concern that after 3 years if no further clearance is undertaken, things will be back to square one.

The Deputy Surveyor said if the proposed solution doesn't work the Forestry Commission will be prepared to discuss a way forward with the Verderers and Commoners' Defence Association but that he can't give a firm commitment to further works at this time.

Although the debris dams give serious concern, the Court unanimously agreed in principle to the works set out in the letter from Mr Weymouth but approval is subject to the further detail which is to be provided by the Forestry Commission.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2005/1708 ELLIGHAM CRICKET CLUB RESUME

It was reported that further items including coils of plastic drainage pipe and the pitch covers have been left laying about on Open Forest.

Mr Parke will investigate.

2005/1709 EAST BOLDRE FOOTBALL PITCH FENCE DISCHARGE

In the Staff Committee minutes reference is made incorrectly to the Allotment fence at East Boldre. In fact it is the fence around the football pitch which is the source of concern. It is in a poor state and coils of wire have been left where they are accessible by stock. Mr Parke remarked that the Parish Council are responsible for the repairs and he thought work is in progress.

2005/1710 HOLMSLEY PASSAGE RESUME

Mr Parke advised the Court that the Highway Authority has a scheme to improve the road. Drawings will be available for consideration before the July Court. The proposals include verge improvements and drainage.

2005/1711 ROAD CHIPPING DEPOT ON BEAULIEU AERODROME DISCHARGE

Mr Parke advised the Court that the Council has a temporary permission to use the road chipping storage depot on Beaulieu Aerodrome for approximately 3 weeks.

The Deputy Surveyor and Mr Parke left the meeting.

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

2005/1712 NEW FOREST COLT SCHEME RESUME

Continuing the discussion from earlier in the meeting, Mr Adams reiterated that he needs to find out where any additional grazing will be situated and the condition of the fencing. If the grazing is not to be in New Park, it is quite likely that the fencing will not be secure enough for stallions. The cost of repairing or renewing sub-standard fencing is likely to be high and it was suggested that if it proves too costly, perhaps the extra money which is apparently available could be used to fully cover the rent for the land which is available in New Park, and so assist stallion owners further.

At this point Mr Kitcher pointed out that he is in a difficult position as a stallion owner. Mr Adams and Mr Gerrelli agreed that the situation applied to them as well and they all declared an interest in the discussion.

It was finally agreed that Mr Adams will contact Mr Richard Cuzens regarding additional grazing and a possible meeting which would be attended by the Stallion Sub-Committee.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

2005/1713 CLAIM UNDER HIT & RUN REWARD SCHEME DISCHARGE
Hit & Run Accident at Hinchleslea – October 2004

The Clerk explained that during a discussion with the police, it was confirmed that the information provided by the young lady who rang the office proved helpful to the police in tracking down the driver who failed to report this accident. The Court therefore confirmed that a sum of £100 should be paid without the necessity of revealing the recipients identity.

The rules of the Scheme currently state that recipients of rewards must be prepared to be identified but it was felt that this may discourage the public from making a claim and possibly also from providing important information.

It was agreed that greater publicity for the Scheme is required.

2005/1714 WILVERLEY INCIDENT RESUME

This matter has been referred to the Court's insurers who may contact the Court's solicitor direct.

2005/1715 A31 FENCING DISCHARGE

Mr Adams commented that he has never received the map and contact numbers promised by the Highway Authority. The Clerk explained that the office has contact numbers for both the local Highway Authority and Mott MacDonald (which acts as Highways Agency for the A31). The A36 is different again and the office has the number of W S Atkins which acts as Highways Agency for that road. The Clerk went on to say that the problems seem to arise when a fence has been temporarily repaired because the temporary repair is often never made permanent. Emergency repairs where the fences are not stock proof are usually carried out quite quickly.

2005/1716 FALLEN STOCK RESUME

The Clerk will write to the hunt asking them to let the Court know their plans for the collection of fallen stock after the end of the year.

VERDERERS' COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

2005/1717 ADVISORY GROUP MEETING DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer reported that the Advisory Group has recently met. The Group is happy with the Scheme's progress to date. Copies of the Minutes of the meeting are available from the Scheme Manager.

NATIONAL PARK

2005/1718 NEWLY APPOINTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE RESUME

The Official Verderer said that he is endeavouring to arrange an early meeting with the new Chief Executive, Mrs Lindsay Cornish.

2005/1719 NATIONAL PARK PLANNING DISCHARGE

Mr Frost reported that the officers recommendation is for the NPA to become its own planning authority. New Forest District Council has suggested a joint responsibility which could be cheaper. The New Forest Association support the officers recommendation. Apparently it would be unusual to have a joint planning authority.

Minerals and Waste are a separate issue. At present it is the responsibility of the County Council but it is understood that the NPA would like to take on Minerals and Waste planning as well.

Decisions may be taken in July.

MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

2005/1720 FORESTRY COMMISSION DESIGN PLAN DISCHARGE

Restoration has been speeded up in several area with certain inclosures being cleared quicker. Some concern has been expressed at the loss of screening and noise barriers. A separate meeting is due to be held to discuss fence re-alignment.

2005/1721 LIFE 3 – THE WAY AHEAD RESUME

The Official Verderer said the Deputy Surveyor is looking for ideas. Mr Kitcher said he is keen to see some projects aimed at improving grazing and the welfare of stock. Clearance of coarse herbage of the re-seeded areas is being suggested. A suggestion has been made that a new LIFE project could be used to put right any schemes carried out under LIFE 2 that may have failed to achieve their initial objectives. Funding towards the provision of recreational areas outside the Forest is also thought to be a useful idea.

Mr Frost and Mr Kitcher were asked to respond on behalf of the Court.

STAFF MATTERS (including the Staff Committee)

2005/1722 48 HOUR WORKING WEEK DISCHARGE

At the last Staff Committee meeting one of the Agisters raised the issue of the 48 hour working week. The matter will be discussed further once a decision is made by Government.

2005/1723 AGISTERS' REMUNERATION RESUME

The remuneration sub-committee, consisting of the Official Verderer, Mr Adams, Mr Kitcher and Mrs Thorne, will meet on Monday 11th July to discuss the Agisters' salaries. The meeting will take place at 9.30 a.m. in the Queen's House Library.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

There were no health and safety matters concerning employees to report at this meeting.

TRAINING

2005/1724 FIRST AID TRAINING

DISCHARGE

First Aid training is underway.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2005/1725 VERDERERS' POLICIES

RESUME

The Official Verderer asked the sub-committee to meet again on the 6th July at 10.00 a.m. to discuss and hopefully agree the policy so that it can be recommended to the remaining Court members and adopted at the July Court. *The meeting will take place in the Library at the Queen's House.* In the meantime a copy of the latest version of the policies will be circulated to sub-committee members for their consideration prior to the 6th July meeting.

2005/1726 NEW FOREST SHOW STAND

DISCHARGE

A number of Verderers offered to assist on the Show stand this year and the Clerk will draw up a rosta.

2005/1727 IDENTIFICATION OF HORSES

RESUME

Mrs Thorne attended a recent meeting at DEFRA in London on the subject of microchipping. Proposals have not yet been finalised but it seems DEFRA would like to see all foals born after 2007/8 microchipped. Forest foals may be exempt while on the Forest. The key issue seems to be the establishment of a reliable audit trail.

The possibility of foals which are destined for slaughter not needing to be chipped was also discussed. The problem appears to be the usual one that there is no guarantee who will buy animals put through the Beaulieu Road Sales.

Cost was also raised.

None of these questions, plus many others, have yet been resolved. Draft proposals from the EU are expected by September/October.

2005/1728 FORESTRY COMMISSION CAMPSITE PROPOSALS FOR HOLLANDS WOOD AND ROUNDHILL – THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

RESUME

It was suggested that Mr Clive Chatters of the Wildlife Trust be asked to consider the assessment and let the Court know his views. It was agreed it could be helpful to invite someone with a good understanding of the technicalities of the assessment to address the Court.

2005/1729 VERDERERS' ELECTIONS 2006

RESUME

The Official Verderer reported that the meeting to discuss the next Election has been held and Colin Draper (Stewardship Scheme Manager) has kindly agreed to mastermind a campaign to increase the numbers on the register of commoners eligible to vote. Various initiatives have been suggested and the paper prepared by Mr Draper will be amended and circulated in due course.

2005/1730 PROSECUTION OF CERTAIN NATIONAL TRUST COMMONERS

RESUME

The next hearing date is 30th June. The Official Verderer said unfortunately he will be unable to attend and asked if another Verderer would go in his place. Mr Adams is unfortunately also unable to attend so Mr Kitcher said he would be prepared to go. The Official Verderer will brief him in advance of the hearing.

Following on from the 30th June, a full week has been set aside which will hopefully see the end of the case. The dates are 18th to 22nd July which is the week of the next Verderers' Court.

2005/1731 PHOTOGRAPH OF THE COURT

DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer felt it would be useful to have some photographs of the Verderers in a more relaxed setting. He suggested perhaps the grounds of The Queen's House. This was agreed and Mrs Sally Fear who has taken some very good pictures of the Forest and the animals will be asked to come along on a future Court day.

2005/1732 MOYLES COURT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

RESUME

Mrs Heron was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting but she provided some papers to the Clerk for consideration. Mrs Thorne was asked to look at the proposals and comment. It was suggested that the dragons teeth should be extended further along the road to reduce verge parking.

2005/1733 REFLECTIVE COLLARS

DISCHARGE

It has been suggested that the Beaulieu Estate might like to donate some funds towards the manufacture of the reflective pony collars. The reason the Estate has been selected as a possible donor is the belief that the various events held in the Estate's grounds attract large numbers of visitors and so add to the number of vehicles using the unfenced roads. Mr Montagu responded by saying the matter would be given very careful consideration but added that actually the visitor numbers have, if anything, declined in recent years.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.25 p.m.