

**MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 9.30 a.m. in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.**

PRESENT:	Mr Dominic May	Official Verderer
	Mr R Deakin	Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman
	Mr A B Dowsett	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
	Miss D Macnair MBE	Senior Elected Verderer
	Mr Clive Maton	National Park Appointed Verderer
	Mr G M H Mills	DEFRA Appointed Verderer
	Mr D Readhead	Elected Verderer
	Mrs D Westerhoff	Natural England Appointed Verderer
IN ATTENDANCE:	Miss S Westwood	Clerk to the Verderers
	Mr J R Gerrelli	Head Agister
APOLOGIES:	Mr A Gerrelli	Elected Verderer
	Mr R Stride	Co-opted Verderer

**IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

2015/7788 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The Minutes of the Court held on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015 were approved and signed.

2015/7789 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

The Official Verderer and the Elected Verderers all declared an interest in the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, the Verderers Grazing Scheme and Single Farm Payment / the new Basic Payment Scheme.

Mr Hallam Mills declared an interest in HLS Schemes as his Estate is in Higher Level Stewardship and borders the perambulation of the New Forest. He also declared an interest in the new Basic Payment Scheme, although not as a practising commoner. In addition, Mr Mills' Estate is involved in the Better Boundaries Project, run by the New Forest Land Advice Service with support from Natural England. The Estate has a tenant who is a Commoner. Mr Mills is also a Patron of the New Forest Trust.

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

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

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

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

Mr Dowsett is a Forestry Commission Volunteer Ranger.

Mrs Westerhoff is a tenant of the Forestry Commission.

2015/7790    CONDITION OF STOCK    RESUME

The Head Agister said that the weather, which is lovely one day but cold, damp and miserable the next, isn't helping the ponies, some of which have lost quite a lot of condition in the last month. The Agisters are busy moving stock off the Forest, not in huge numbers but enough to keep everyone busy. The next six weeks are always the hungriest time and it is expected that removing stock which is losing condition will continue into May.

2015/7791    STRANGLES    DISCHARGE

Strangles rumbles on. There are still cases in Woodgreen and Hale and on Penn Common. There were two cases at Holmsley, but the owner has kept these animals off the Forest.

2015/7792    REPORT ON ANIMALS REMOVED FROM THE FOREST    RESUME

The report on animals removed was circulated. The Official Verderer thanked the office staff for providing the information which he feels gives the Court a much fuller picture of what is happening. Mr Maton remarked that whilst the report is very interesting, he was concerned that compiling it must take a fair amount of office time. The Clerk concurred, but added that if the information is useful then it is worth the time taken.

2015/7793    STOCK DEATHS - OTHER THAN ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS    RESUME

The Official Verderer thanked the Clerk for the very useful statistics.

2015/7794    REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR    RESUME

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Forest Ponies	643	864
Forest Cattle	255	263
Forest Donkeys	10	14
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	908	1141
Common Ponies	185	120
Common Cattle	345	134
Common Donkeys	16	3
Common Pigs	32	1
Common Sheep	141	0
Total Common Stock	719	258
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	908	1141
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	546	257
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	1454	1398
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	1627	1399

2015/7795    BYELAW ENFORCEMENT    RESUME

No byelaw offences have been reported.

The Announcements and Decisions were approved.

**Head Agister Jonathan Gerrelli left the meeting**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Paul Grugeon, Land Agent (New Forest)

APOLOGIES: Mr Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER**

2015/7797 CHRISTOPHER TOWER NEW FOREST REFERENCE LIBRARY

We had a presentment in January's Court from Graham Ferris of the CDA, regretting the closure of the library after the redundancy of the librarian. The Verderers also regret that there is no longer a permanent librarian and I will use the importance of my office within the Forest to help seek funding for the library to employ a permanent librarian again in the future. In the meantime, I believe that the library has re-opened on two days each week staffed by volunteers.

The Clerk and I visited the library on 25th February. The Court's minutes are kept in the secure vault, and I am pleased to report that this is entirely separate from the library, with limited access by only a few key holders. We are satisfied that our records are safely stored in a secure environment with the correct temperature and humidity controls.

2015/7798 HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

You will remember that in October's Court, I complained that Hampshire County Council was damaging the New Forest every time it sent a contractor to work on our roads.

We have recently had a high level meeting with Councillor Sean Woodward who is the portfolio holder for transport. Also in attendance were representatives from the Forestry Commission and Natural England. Councillor Woodward has subsequently written to me with a commitment to improve HCC's work in the forest, and also to specifically give us advance warning of road works such as surface dressing, planned maintenance, fence repairs, culvert clearance and cattle grid cleaning.

2015/7799 MAINS WATER SUPPLY TO PROPERTIES AT BEAULIEU ROAD

Thank you to Mr Norris for informing us in our February Court that mains water has still not reached the properties at Beaulieu Road. Our office staff have been working hard over the last month with the Forestry Commission and the Water Board to bring this matter to a resolution.

2015/7800 PONDHEAD RIVERINE RESTORATION

I would like to thank Mrs Sally Hayward and Mr Richard Mabbutt for their presentments at February's Court regarding the Pondhead restoration. The Forestry Commission's HLS project team has withdrawn the planning application in response to your concerns. The HLS team are reviewing the scheme, particularly the work to the Eastern Drain, and will actively seek to find a solution which satisfies the points raised, while also addressing the unfavourable condition of the wetland habitats.

This demonstrates the importance of the Verderers' Court. It is a very good forum to express dissatisfaction about proposals which affect the New Forest. Thank you.

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2015/7801 DITCH END BOTTOM

Colin Draper made a presentment in July 2014 about the remedial work carried out within Ditch End Brook. We carried out a site visit at the time, and we agreed at the September Court to make another visit early this year, after some winter rain. Several Verderers have recently visited Ditch End, me included.

The brook looks good, mostly in bank even after rain, with a varying depth of the stream bed. The fords are working well, and plants are establishing in the stream.

One human intervention generally leads to another, so we accept that from time to time the Forestry Commission has to return to restoration sites when things are not working 100%. I am pleased to say that in this case, after a settling down period, the re-work in Ditch End Brook is now working well.

### **ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT**

2015/7802 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2015

RESUME

The Agisters attended 8 accidents in February. This compares with 5 in February last year.

1 pony and a cow were killed. Another pony was fatally injured and had to be destroyed by the Agister. 1 of the ponies was wearing a reflective collar.

In the remaining 5 accidents nothing was found.

7 accidents occurred in the dark and 1 in daylight.

7 of the vehicles involved were cars or light commercials.

3 motorists were local.

1 accident was not reported. Fortunately the animal involved appears to have escaped injury, as nothing has been found in the area where the accident happened.

12 animals have been killed or injured so far this year, which is 1 more than by this time last year.

### **PRESENTMENTS BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR**

There were no Presentments by the Deputy Surveyor.

### **PRESENTMENTS**

There were no Presentments from the Public.

**IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

**SUBMISSIONS BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION**

2015/7803 HOLLY MANAGEMENT TRIAL PLOTS DISCHARGE

The Court approved the two trial plots; Plot 01 at Bolderwood Hollies GR SU236 039 and Plot 02 at Shipton Holms, GR SZ358 990.

It was however, agreed that one plot should be deer fenced rather than only fenced against depastured stock.

The Court also stipulated that the fencing must be fully stock proof and regular inspections undertaken by the Forestry Commission to ensure that no animals become trapped. The Agisters will also be asked to monitor the sites.

2015/7804 SEMBCORP BOURNEMOUTH WATER - PROPOSED NEW WATER SUPPLY TO TEN OAKS, TOMS LANE, LINWOOD DISCHARGE

This straightforward proposal was approved subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions, compensation for loss of grazing etc.

2015/7805 SCOTTISH AND SOUTHERN ELECTRIC (SSE) – UPGRADING OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO FOXHILL HOUSE, THE GROVE, STONEY CROSS DISCHARGE

The request from SSE to replace a length of overhead electricity cable was approved subject to the stay for the pole being placed inside the property and the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions, compensation for loss of grazing etc.

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

2015/7806 MAINS WATER SUPPLY TO BEAULIEU ROAD PROPERTIES DISCHARGE

The Forestry Commission will issue the necessary wayleave to the Water Company for the last 10m of pipe to cross Forestry Commission land.

2015/7807 SWAN GREEN CRICKET CLUB PAVILION RESUME  
June

The Forestry Commission is tendering for the demolition.

2015/7808 FALLEN TIMBER RESUME  
July

Although some work to clear tracks within Frame Wood has taken place the trial area at Frame driftway has been delayed due to Jane Smith's absence. Work will re-commence after the bird nesting season.

The Court is very disappointed that the trial has stalled again.

2015/7809	ORDNANCE AT MATLEY	RESUME
	<p>The Official Verderer has written to the Deputy Surveyor complaining that nothing has been done. Mr Mike Pittock (FC South Walk Beat Manager) had a site meeting with Sgt Clements of the MOD who has recommended a Deep Instrument Search, but at present there is still no clear timescale for action.</p>	
2015/7810	CAR FREE DITCHING REVIEW	RESUME
	<p>The Forestry Commission had previously been asked to review the programme. It is understood that Brian Ingram and Adam Coutts (on behalf of the CDA) met to agree what work should be done, but nothing has been done to stop work in areas where it is felt to be unnecessary. The agreed work was mapped in the Forestry Commission's offices. Mr Grugeon will find out whether the work can be scaled down in order to concentrate on areas where verge parking is a problem.</p>	Action PG
	<p>The Court is very disappointed that the ditching programme appears to be continuing when it has asked for it to stop and be reviewed.</p>	
	<p>Miss Macnair expressed concern that at Little Hay, Burley, water has been trapped on the Open Forest grazing by ditching spoil, and dragon's teeth need relocating.</p>	Action PG
	<p>Mr Gary North will be invited to attend the next Verderers' Court to discuss this matter.</p>	
2015/7811	BEAULIEU ROAD RAILWAY STATION LAND	RESUME
	<p>The Court agreed to seek Counsel's opinion on the conditions in the indenture. It was agreed the Railway Fund money should be used to cover the cost.</p>	
2015/7812	PARKING ON VERGES	RESUME
	<p>The Forestry Commission has been asked by the HLS board to consider works to reduce the issue of verge parking around the Forest. The HLS will fully fund the programme.</p>	Action PG
	<p>Mr Gary North will be asked to provide an update when he attends the April Court.</p>	
2015/7813	DAMAGE TO THE VERGES CLOSE TO PILLEY ALLOTMENTS	RESUME
	<p>This area is due for ditching work. However the Court requested a site visit to ensure that adequate access to the pound is maintained. Mr Grugeon will speak to Mr North and ask him to request the contractors who are currently undertaking the ditching works to stop for the time being.</p>	Action PG
	<p>Meanwhile the Clerk will contact Mr North to arrange a site visit to Pilley Allotments.</p>	Action Clerk

### SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2015/7814 REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE LIST RESUME

A list was not available for this meeting.

2015/7815 PONDHEAD RESUME

Minor adjustments to the proposal were agreed with the Verderers who attended the site meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. Mr Nick Wardlaw (FC Hydro-Geomorphologist) is arranging for levels to be accurately measured.

There is, however, a need for the eastern drain to be cleared right through from the boundary with the private properties. At the site meeting the Forestry Commission disagreed, but the Court is adamant that this work is necessary to reduce the risk of blockages, and this is therefore a condition of the Verderers' consent for the Pondhead works.

In addition, all the arisings resulting from felling the trees must be removed from the site.

The Court asked that the proposal document which was produced following the site meeting be amended to incorporate these two additional conditions.

One other minor amendment was requested, and that is to add 'Pondhead' to the title for ease of reference in future.

Once amended, the proposal document is to be sent to the Clerk for approval.

Action  
Clerk

### ENCROACHMENTS

2015/7816 ENCROACHMENT LIST RESUME

A revised schedule of current encroachment cases was circulated.

2015/7817 ENCROACHMENT AT 98 WOODLANDS ROAD, ASHURST – UNAUTHORISED DITCHING RESUME

The unauthorised earthworks on the SSSI at 98 Woodlands Road, Ashurst have yet to be resolved. There is a difference of opinion as to whether the road side ditches are car-free ditches or drainage ditches. A response from Natural England is awaited.

Action  
PG

2015/7818 TINSLEY'S EAST BOLDRE – GRAVEL DISCHARGE

A large pile of gravel has been dumped on the Open Forest outside this property. The lane has been resurfaced and this is the remaining gravel. The Estates Keeper is liaising with the property occupier to ensure the gravel is removed promptly.

Action  
G Wilson  
Estates  
Keeper

2015/7819 SEAT AT LESTER SQUARE, BURLEY

DISCHARGE

The seat at Lester Square is one of several covered by FC Licence No. 70.

To clarify the position regarding seats on the Open Forest:-

No new seats will be permitted.

Existing seats will be allowed to remain providing their location is suitable.

In the case of existing seats in locations which become unsuitable, the Court will seek their removal.

Replacements for old seats will be considered.

In the Minutes of the Verderers Court of 18<sup>th</sup> November 1996, Minute No. 7103 records that:- 'The Court was provided with proposals for consideration. Concern was expressed that appropriate designs must be used in different areas. For example, a more urban style of seat may be acceptable in village settings whereas seats constructed entirely of wood are likely to be more in keeping on the Open Forest. The Deputy Surveyor agreed to consult when it is intended that the concrete ended "Rushton" design is likely to be used'.

2015/7820 FIELD OPPOSITE BROOMHILL FARM

RESUME

A new gravel access track has been laid, but Mr Grugeon claimed that the track has been in existence for many years. He further claimed that it had grassed over and the current owner of the field has re-gravelled it. The Official Verderer produced some Google Streetview photos showing the location with the 'For Sale' sign - so dating from before the sale. These clearly show that no gravel track was in existence. The work has resulted in a loss of grazing. Mr Grugeon was asked to inform the Court whether the gravel track has a Forestry Commission licence.

Action  
PG

2015/7821 LAND EAST OF OLDWELL COTTAGE – NEW FENCE

RESUME

A new fence has been erected on the road side of the hedge instead of on top of the bank. The Estates Keeper is investigating. In its current position, the new fence stops the siting of the proposed BT Broadband cabinet alongside the existing BT phone lines cabinet.

Action  
G Wilson

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

2015/7822 TIMBER ON LAWN AT CLAY HILL, LYNDHURST

RESUME  
October

The Official Verderer reported that a considerable quantity of cut timber has been left on the lawn at Clayhill outside Lyndhurst.

Mr Clive Maton declared an interest in this as he is the contractor responsible for the work. He explained that the trees were cut by hand but the ground conditions prevented the logs from being extracted. They will be removed in September, after the bird nesting season and whilst the ground conditions are suitable. Mr Maton explained this is quite usual.

Action  
CM



2015/7823	HATCHET POND TOILETS	DISCHARGE
	<p>There is a disgusting mess behind the toilet block which includes human excrement.</p> <p>The solution appears to be a partial vegetation clearance which would expose the area to the road thus discouraging undesirable behaviour. Care will, however, be taken to ensure that as much of the visual screen for the block itself is retained.</p>	Action FC
2015/7824	AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE SURVEY	RESUME
	<p>The Court would like to know why the survey of amphibians and reptiles is proposed.</p> <p>More details will be provided in April concerning the survey. A request will be received for a number of artificial refugia to be distributed around the Forest.</p>	Action FC
2015/7825	POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF HOLMSLEY PASSAGE	RESUME
	<p>A list of roads which are to be subject to surface dressing over the next few months has been provided to the Court by Hampshire County Highways.</p> <p>Included in the list is Holmsley Passage. The suggestion to close this road to through traffic was considered by the Court to be an excellent way forward and one which would not only save the County Council the significant sums of money otherwise required for repairs and maintenance, but would also return a large area of currently tarmacked land to the Open Forest.</p> <p>The Clerk will ask for the scheduled resurfacing work to be delayed, and make enquiries as to how the proposal to close the road to through traffic could be progressed.</p>	Action Clerk
2015/7826	BULBS ON THE VERGES IN BURLEY	DISCHARGE
	<p>Miss Macnair reported that there has been a considerable increase in daffodils, crocus and the like on the verges around Burley Village. Given that the plants are poisonous to stock Miss Macnair felt that efforts should be made to discourage planting of bulbs. The Official Verderer said he will make an announcement in the next Court.</p>	Action OV
2015/7827	LITTER	RESUME May
	<p>Mr Dowsett commented that there is a huge amount of litter on the Forest at the moment. The Clerk said she had also noticed there seems to be a significant increase along some of the roadside verges and has reported it to the FC Ranger team. The Court asked Mr Dowsett in his role of Volunteer Ranger to discuss the possibility of organised litter clearing operations with the Deputy Surveyor.</p>	Action BD

2015/7828 BARRIER AT BRAMSHAW RESUME

Mr Readhead reported that the track which runs along the bottom end of Bramshaw Golf Course to Canterton pound (previously known as Jack Young's pound) is open to the public. Vehicles are parked illegally on the track to gain access to the golf course. It has been suggested that a barrier be erected to prevent this happening. It is understood the owners of the neighbouring properties, and the Golf Club, are in favour. Mr Grugeon asked for further details in order that the request can be given consideration.

Action  
DR/PG

**Mr Grugeon left the meeting**

**ENCROACHMENTS NOT INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION**

2015/7829 ENCROACHMENT AT HUCKLESBROOK FARM RESUME

Mrs Westerhoff said vegetation has now grown over the dumped material. The question is what sort of vegetation is it and is it acceptable to Natural England. Mrs Westerhoff said she will make further enquiries.

Action  
DW

**OTHER MATTERS ARISING**

2015/7830 MOBILE TELEPHONES DISCHARGE

The current Samsung Smartphones appear to be working better although the signal strength remains poor in some areas. Signal boosters are being investigated although there have been concerns as to their legality. It was agreed boosters can be obtained providing it is legal to do so.

2015/7831 NEW BASIC PAYMENTS SCHEME RESUME

The new BPS has still not been finalised. There are serious concerns about how it will affect the New Forest and the Official Verderer has written to the Minister to express the Court's concerns.

Mr Mills suggested a copy of the letter should also be sent to Mr Simon Waterfield at Defra and the Court agreed. The Clerk will ensure it is sent promptly.

Action  
Clerk

2015/7832 HORSE PASSPORTS DISCHARGE

The new legislation should allow the present derogation to continue but it will be necessary to apply for it again. Mr Readhead will liaise with the Clerk at the appropriate time.

**OTHER AGENDA ITEMS**

2015/7833 SUPERFAST BROADBAND ROLLOUT IN THE NEW FOREST DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer has been attending site visits with BT Openreach, the Forestry Commission, Hampshire County Council and Natural England to agree suitable sites for the new broadband cabinets. The project is not progressing smoothly. A high level meeting has been held at the request of Cllr Edward Heron.

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- 2015/7834 SPRING WELFARE TOUR RESUME  
May  
The Spring Welfare Tour is to take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May. The usual invitations will be sent out. Action Clerk
- 2015/7835 NEW FOREST TOUR BUS 2015 DISCHARGE  
The Court approved the expenditure of £1,000 towards the advertisement on the back of the Tour bus.
- 2015/7836 BIN STORE AT HALE VILLAGE HALL DISCHARGE  
The request for consent for a larger bin store at Hale Village Hall was approved subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement and safe working conditions. Action Clerk
- 2015/7837 HIGHTOWN RESERVOIR - PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE FOR ACCESS ONTO HIGHTOWN COMMON DISCHARGE  
Natural England has confirmed that the original temporary access which the Court consented in January remains available subject to adequate checks for ground nesting birds. In view of this, Mr Dowsett proposed that the request for the alternative access be declined. Mr Deakin seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. The Court declined consent for the alternative access because it would involve a huge amount of disturbance and a lot of additional work. The Clerk will advise Sembcorp Bournemouth Water accordingly. Action Clerk

#### HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME (HLS)

- 2015/7838 AGM RESUME  
The AGM will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 – 17:30 hrs to 19:30 hrs in the Verderers' Hall.

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

- 2015/7839 NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY RECREATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY DISCHARGE  
Official Verderer responded to the National Park Authority with the comments received from members of the Court.

#### FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 2015/7840 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR FEBRUARY 2015 RESUME  
The financial statement was noted.  
Mr Dowsett will contact the Clerk as he wishes to familiarise himself with the Court's finances. Action BD/Clerk

**HEALTH & SAFETY & TRAINING**

2015/7841 COMMONS MANAGEMENT, GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY – DISCHARGE  
DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME

The Official Verderer said he has agreed the Court should pay the £80 fee for Leanne Sergeant, the HLS/VGS Administrator, to undertake the above course. In order to retain her CIEEM membership, Ms Sergeant is required complete 20 hours of structured learning and an additional 30 hours of informal learning each year and this course will count towards those hours.

This first course is a 6 week online programme that Ms Sergeant will undertake in her own time. It will be followed by a further 5 courses, some of which may be useful. Miss Sergeant will make a separate request in respect of fees for any additional courses she feels it would be helpful for her to undertake.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

2015/7842 LAND ROVERS RESUME

The Land Rovers have done over 70,000 miles, and are starting to have quite expensive breakdowns, which also remove them from service, leading to the added expense of hiring temporary replacements. Mr Readhead was tasked with looking at the options, to include running on the existing fleet of 5 vehicles, outright purchase of new vehicles, or leasing new vehicles, with a view to proposing a way forward.

Action  
DR

2015/7843 NORLEY WOOD CROSS ROADS EXPERIMENTAL ROAD LAYOUT RESUME

The Clerk was asked to contact Hampshire County Council Highways regarding the experimental road layout at Norley Wood Cross Roads. Consent for a one year trial was given 2 years ago. Someone has recently turned round some of the signs warning of the new road layout, so the signs are serving no purpose anyway!

Action  
Clerk

2015/7844 NATIONAL GRID PROPOSALS FOR UNDERGROUNDING THE HIGH VOLTAGE PYLONS AND LINES IN THE NORTH OF THE FOREST RESUME  
October

Mrs Westerhoff and Mr Dowset produced a paper following their recent meeting with National Grid. The National Grid Steering Committee will meet in September to prioritise the various schemes. The Court should try to ensure that the New Forest scheme will be top of the list!

Action  
DW

2015/7845 RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN DISCHARGE

Mrs Westerhoff will respond to the consultation on the above by the deadline of 10<sup>th</sup> April. Responses have to be online.

Mrs Westerhoff will highlight the HLS restoration projects and suggest it would be splendid if the Environment Agency and others could carry out work on streams outside the perambulation to enhance the HLS stream restoration works which are being carried out on the Forest. Sea trout come up the streams into the Forest and it is essential they continue to do so.

Action  
DW

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The Court wishes to be consulted on any work which may be undertaken on the Bartley Water. Soft engineering options are considered to be better.

2015/7846 ROAD SIGNS AT BROOK DISCHARGE

Mr Dowsett reported that someone had turned the road signs round at Brook! They have been returned to their correct position.

2015/7847 STALLIONS RESUME  
May

At the recent stallion sub-committee meeting, the practicalities of the forthcoming inspection were discussed. The format will be the same as in previous years. No decisions can be taken as to which stallions will be turned out until after the inspection on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April. However, it was decided that 10 stallions will be turned out and they must run out for 4 weeks. They must be in by the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> week. Details will be posted on the Verderers' website.

Action  
Clerk

2015/7848 JACK DONKEYS RESUME  
May

A veterinary inspection of Jack Donkeys will be held on the same day as the stallion inspection: 18<sup>th</sup> April at 12.30 p.m. at the Beaulieu Road Sale Yard. The Verderers' Veterinary Advisor, Mr Philip Hughes of Priors Veterinary Group, will carry out the inspection. Details will be put on the Verderers' website as soon as possible.

Action  
Clerk

2015/7849 PONY PUBLICITY GROUP CARDS DISCHARGE

Miss Macnair produced some of the new cards with the dates of the 2015 Beaulieu Road Sales. The cards were produced by the Pony Publicity Group. Miss Macnair asked members of the Court to circulate them where they can.

2015/7850 DE-MINIMIS SUBMISSIONS RESUME

The Official Verderer confirmed a meeting will be arranged to discuss this.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 13:33 hrs.

