

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 13th February 2019 at 9.30 a.m. in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.

PRESENT:

Lord Manners	Official Verderer
Mr R Deakin	Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman
Mr A B Dowsett	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
Mr J Greenwood	Elected Verderer
Cllr Edward Heron	National Park Appointed Verderer
Miss D Macnair MBE	Senior Elected Verderer
Mr G M H Mills DL	DEFRA Appointed Verderer
Mr A H Pasmore	Elected 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

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

2019/10295 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The Minutes of Court held on Wednesday, 16th January 2019 were approved and signed.

2019/10296 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME
October
2019

Declarations of interest can be found on the Verderers' website – www.verderers.org.uk. The Declarations of Interest will be reviewed in October 2019.

2019/10297 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

Some animals have gone back in condition quite significantly. The fairly rapid deterioration is due primarily to the wet then cold weather which has been experienced over the past few weeks.

The Agisters are very busy catching poor ponies but they have a backlog because of the number of cattle they are having to mark. The combination of the BPS and the Forest TB Control Plan has resulted in commoners wanting their cattle marked in the first two months of the year. The Head Agister said he hopes that the majority of cattle have now been marked and the Agisters can concentrate on the ponies. Several pony catching sessions have been arranged for the coming week. Many ponies are, however, still looking really well. As usual it is mares with yearlings and young ponies which are faring the worst.

2019/10298 REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR RESUME

NB – The following figures for 2018 are interim. Final figures should be available for the February Court.

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Forest Ponies	32	277
Forest Cattle	72	224
Forest Donkeys	0	2
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	102	503

Common Ponies	0	94
Common Cattle	0	55
Common Donkeys	0	4
Common Pigs	0	0
Common Sheep	0	0
Total Common Stock	0	0
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	102	503
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	0	153
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	102	656
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	102	656

2019/10299 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT RESUME

Three or four, two-year-old colts are still at large on the Forest.

2019/10300 MARKING FEES FOR 2019 DISCHARGE

The Court decided not to increase marking fees for 2019.

2019/10301 VERGE PROTECTION WORKS ON MILL LANE, LYNDHURST DISCHARGE

Cllr Heron advised that the Parish Council has agreed to take responsibility for vegetation clearance, through the use of the Parish Lengthsman, following some initial clearance work by the County Council.. Hampshire County Council will be replacing damaged dragons teeth in March.

2019/10302 ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS RESUME

The Announcements and Decisions were approved.

2019/10303 EQUINE FLU DISCHARGE

Mr Mills commented that there is no legal requirement to vaccinate equines against the flu virus. The virus is endemic in the horse population, much like strangles. It is not usually fatal.

Hunting has been suspended as was racing although the latter is resuming today with enhanced biosecurity measures.

ENCROACHMENTS NOT INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2019/10304 FENCE ON HARLICKS HILL, BEAULIEU DISCHARGE

At Harlicks Hill on the road from Hatchet Pond into Beaulieu, a barbed wire fence has been erected to keep a herd of cattle out of the adjacent fields. The Commoners' Defence Association (CDA) claims the new fence is an encroachment. Meanwhile, Hampshire County Council Highways is concerned that the fence is too close to the public highway and being barbed wire, is a danger to members of the public, particularly cyclists and motorcyclists. It is understood an enforcement notice will shortly be served, requiring the fence to be removed. It will have to be set back on its original line in the hedge, or put in the fields on the other side of the hedge. One advantage of the new fence is, however, that donkeys have been prevented from standing with their heads in the hedge and their bottoms out in the road.

2019/10305 LOG STORE ON OPEN FOREST (BEAULIEU ESTATE) AT HIDES HILL DISCHARGE

A structure has been erected on Hides Hill behind the Motor Museum that is considered to constitute an encroachment. The CDA is taking up the matter with the landowner.

OPEN COURT – 10.00 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor
Mr Paul Grugeon, Land Agent (New Forest)

The Head Agister opened the Court with the usual proclamation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER

2019/10306 MARKING FEES 2019

Marking fees have remained at the same level since 2012 and I am pleased to announce that there will be no increase next year.

Marking fees for 2019 are therefore the same as for last year:

Ponies & Donkeys on the Forest £24.00 per head
Ponies & Donkeys on the Commons £12.00 being half the Forest marking fee
Cattle on the Forest £24.00
Cattle on the Commons £3.00 being 1/8 of the Forest marking fee
Sheep on the Forest £8.00
Sheep on the Commons £4.00
Pigs on the Forest £4.00
Pigs on the Commons £2.00 per head

Please remember that marking fees are due from the 1st January. Under our Byelaws, the deadline for payment of all marking fees for continuously depastured animals is 31st March. If not paid by 31st March you will not be eligible to join the Verderers Grazing Scheme. Marking fees for animals which are not continuously depastured are due before the animals are turned out. It is the responsibility of commoners to volunteer payment of marking fees, not the responsibility of the Agister to chase you for them.

2019/10307 VGS PAYMENTS

I regret that we are still unable to give a definite date as to when we can process the 2018 Verderers' Grazing Scheme payments. This is due to the New Forest HLS 2018 monies having not yet been received from the Rural Payments Agency.

2019/10308 HOME FARM ASHURST – HILL FORT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

Following Mr Ingram's presentment at our last Court, the Forestry Commission has advised that the contractors who erected the fencing did not use a vehicle to access the site because of the wet conditions. They spent some considerable time hand carrying in the fence panels and other materials. The fencing which was reportedly partially down over Christmas, was rapidly reinstated and has been further anchored. The Forestry Commission is making weekly visits to the site to check on fencing and the condition of recovery of the site.

We suggested that the Heras fencing should be replaced by post and rail if required to be in situ for a few more months. However, Historic England has not given consent to break the ground with posts, and so the fencing contractors have added sand bags to the base of the panels to keep them secure. In addition, they have removed the panels that were erected at right angles to the main perimeter fence which were at risk of being used as scratching posts for stock.

2019/10309 VERGE PROTECTION WORKS

We are pleased that Lyndsey Stride acknowledges the efforts of the Verderers and Forestry Commission to protect the verges of the New Forest and the use of Dragon's teeth as a tool to limit that damage.

Lyndsey raised concern that in some locations the protection work can simply displace the impact on the Forest and asked to what extent is this potential consequence considered at the planning stage.

Concerns about damage to the Forest verges can be raised by the Forestry Commission, the Verderers or their staff, local residents and parish councils. Wherever possible we start by talking with those responsible for parking without care for the Forest. In many cases improving understanding of the Forest is sufficient to reduce the impacts but in other areas some physical measures are required, either ditch and bank or Dragon's teeth, to prevent parking.

Forestry Commission staff will consult with parish council representatives, Natural England, the National Park Authority, the Commoners Defence Association and us, to identify the best mix of measures for each site, taking into account any constraints of ecology, archaeology, buried utilities and tree roots as well as emergency access. Time is also taken to talk with local residents before the work is implemented.

The Forestry Commission monitors whether the work delivers a change of behaviour and goes back to address any further impacts that may have arisen.

Many of these verge measures are planned to help protect the Forest for which all the communities share a responsibility. We will continue to work across the Forest to find ways to reduce the loss of important habitat.

As respects future maintenance of verge protection measures, the Forestry Commission has always been able to provide some core funding for such work, outside of HLS, but this will be limited in future. It is not possible to speculate on future funding. As with all organisations, the Forestry Commission has to live within the means available.

We approached Hampshire County Council about the traffic calming measures in Mill Lane, Emery Down, which need some maintenance and we understand that the work will be undertaken in March.

2019/10310 ANIMAL EMERGENCY HOTLINES CARD

Following Ms Nicola Denness' presentment at our November Court the Animal Emergency Hotlines Card has been redesigned by the Animal Accident Group and is being reprinted. The card, which many of you know, is credit card sized and designed to be easily carried in a wallet or car now includes the wording "DON'T DELAY: TO PREVENT UNNECESSARY SUFFERING, REPORT ALL ACCIDENTS IMMEDIATELY. EVEN IF IT RUNS OFF, THE ANIMAL MAY HAVE SERIOUS INJURIES". It is worth remembering that the information on the card is primarily aimed at telling people what to do in event of an accident involving Forest stock and it is not possible to include all the information that we might like to convey to the public about the Forest and its grazing livestock.

2019/10311 EQUINE FLU

We are aware of the outbreak of equine flu which is mostly within the racehorse population, but we currently see no reason to take any special precautions within the New Forest. This is, however, a convenient time to repeat and reinforce the message that it is always good practice to keep your distance from depastured stock, whether walking or riding, thereby minimising potential for any undesired interactions.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2019/10312 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT JANUARY 2019

The Agisters attended 18 accidents in January. In January last year there were 9.

7 ponies, 2 cattle and 1 donkey were killed. 3 cattle were injured. 2 animals were not injured and 3 animals reportedly involved in accidents, were not found

1 accident occurred in daylight, 1 at twilight and 16 in the dark.

5 accidents were not reported by the driver involved.

4 motorists are known to have been local.

The total killed and injured so far in 2019, therefore is 13 compared with 7 in January last year.

PRESENTMENTS

There were no presentments at this Court.

The Head Agister closed the Court

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest
Mr Paul Grugeon, Land Agent (New Forest)

DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS – ITEMS APPROVED AND TO BE RECORDED

2019/10313 DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS RECORDED AT THIS COURT

DISCHARGE

The following works were approved under the de-minimis system:-

DM0033 Utility connections to Staggs Barn, Kings Copse
DM0034 Broadband cabinet at Pilley

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

2019/10314 SSE REPLACEMENT POLES – BANK/ALUM GREEN/HOLIDAYS HILL

RESUME

There was nothing further to report at this meeting.

2019/10315	REVISION OF THE VERDERERS' BYELAWS / VEGETATION SURVEY	DISCHARGE
	<p>It was agreed that before considering the introduction of a byelaw to control the number of animals which are turned out, a detailed vegetation survey covering a number of years is needed. At present there are widely differing views and there is a lot of anecdotal evidence but nothing more substantial.</p> <p>Concern was expressed, however, that a survey will take too long for the Ancient and Ornamental (A&O) Woodlands, which are considered by some, to be in an advanced state of deterioration.</p> <p>The Forestry Commission does have the power to fence the A&O woodlands in blocks of up to twenty acres if considered necessary. Last year, it was agreed that two small areas in Mark Ash could be fenced. The areas are not, however, considered to be sufficient to address the issue. It is also suggested that it is not just the A&O woods that are suffering from grazing pressure.</p> <p>The Official Verderer has sought advice as to who might be asked to undertake a vegetation survey and several suggestions have been received. The first step is to formulate a brief. The Deputy Surveyor and the Official Verderer will discuss the way forward and report back to the Court.</p>	Action DS/OV
2019/10316	BT BROADBAND PROVISION IN THE FOREST INCLUDING FIBRE TO THE PREMISES	DISCHARGE
	<p>Mr Deakin, Mr Dowsett and the Clerk met with representatives of BT Openreach and its contractor, Morrisons. BT explained that in addition to broadband cabinets, it may also provide broadband via 'fibre to the premises'. These civil works generally require longer lengths of cabling and some junction boxes but no cabinets.</p> <p>Unfortunately, some outstanding issues between the Forestry Commission and Openreach regarding wayleaves have yet to be resolved.</p> <p>Mr Deakin, Mr Dowsett and Mr Marsh (FC) will co-ordinate site visits to check the proposals currently outstanding.</p> <p>Cllr Heron will assist the co-ordination with Hampshire County Council.</p>	Action FC Action RD/BD/SM Action EH
2019/10317	HILL FORT OUTSIDE HOME FARM, ASHURST – ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG & TEMPORARY FENCING	DISCHARGE
	<p>The Forestry Commission will monitor the ground and the temporary fencing will be removed as soon as the ground has recovered.</p>	Action DS
2019/10318	VERGE PROTECTION WORKS	RESUME
	<p>The Official Verderer and the Clerk will be meeting with the Forestry Commission's verge protection teams before the next Court.</p>	Action OV/Clerk
2019/10319	GATEWAY SIGNAGE INCLUDING ON HIGH RISK ROADS	RESUME April
	<p>The Animal Accident Reduction Group is asked to consider this signage. Mr Mills and Mr Dowsett are both keen that electronic signage be given serious consideration.</p>	Action Clerk

2019/10320	SIGNAGE IN CAR PARKS	RESUME May Action All
	Once the recommendations of the AARG have been received, further discussions regarding signage in car parks and on FC ladder boards will take place over the next few months.	
2019/10321	THE POSSIBLE USE OF PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPOs) IN THE FOREST	DISCHARGE Action Clerk
	This has been passed to the group discussing illegal activities and possible remedies. The Clerk sits on this group. The group will compile and share a report in due course.	
2019/10322	CONTROL OF DOGS – COMMERCIAL DOG WALKERS	RESUME Action DS
	A charter is being prepared by the National Park Authority in consultation with other groups and a draft will be shared with the Verderers.	
2019/10323	MEDIA TRAINING	RESUME April
	The Official Verderer has arranged a media training day on Monday 25 th March in the Annexe at Queen's House. Verderers attending will be the Official Verderer, Mr Deakin and Mr Greenwood. The Head Agister, Jonathan Gerrelli, Agister Robert Maton and Agister Peter Rix will also attend, together with the Clerk and her assistant.	
2019/10324	NEW FOREST GOLF CLUB (LYNDHURST) & BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB (FOREST) COURSE – USE OF PESTICIDES ON THE FOREST	DISCHARGE
	Further investigation has revealed that no chemicals are currently licenced for use on land which is classified as both agricultural and amenity. The golf courses may, therefore, seek to erect temporary fencing to exclude stock from the greens and tees for the recommended period.	
2019/10325	A31 CATTLE GRID AT CASTLE MALWOOD	RESUME
	The remedial work to the cattle grid to ensure that it is stock proof has still not been undertaken.	
2019/10326	AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS	DISCHARGE
	There is nothing further to report except that the introduction of average speed cameras in the Forest is a key priority for the National Park Authority.	
2019/10327	VERDERERS' INCLOSURES RENT REVIEW	RESUME
	The Deputy Surveyor and Official Verderer are due to meet soon.	
2019/10328	RESTORATION OF VERDERERS' INCLOSURES	RESUME Action DS Action All Verderers
	Mr Pasmore's plan of Turf Hill Inclosure will be circulated together with the list of the factors he considered. The Deputy Surveyor said the Forestry Commission can help by providing maps including the timing of future felling proposals will also be made available. Members of the Court are requested to assist with surveying the various areas. The Official Verderer will investigate whether LIDAR can assist the process.	

2019/10329	TREE ON PARKHILL LAWN	DISCHARGE
	The tree which was obstructing the flow of water has been removed.	
2019/10330	SHOBLEY, PART OF HIGHTOWN COMMON, ATTEMPTED ENCROACHMENT	DISCHARGE
	The Clerk reported further on the recent attempt to encroach by enclosure, part of the Adjacent Commons at Shobley. The present situation is that the encroachment has been avoided following discussions between the property owner's agent, Natural England and the Clerk. The round feeder and water trough that had been put out on the common have also been removed. The area is being monitored and a further report will be provided to the Court if the situation changes.	
		Action DW/Clerk
	The Court noted that this portion of land, like the larger part of Hightown Common to the south, appears to have been waste of the Manor of Ringwood. Claims over Hightown clearly included Shobley, as evidenced by the bound hand-written notes which accompany the 1964 Atlas, prepared by the responsible Forestry Commission officer at the time (Mr Foard).	
2019/10331	FAWLEY FOOTPATH NO. 26	RESUME
	Mr Grugeon has looked at the path with Mr Sean Marsh. It seems the path has been used by riders to access the Forest for some time and Mr Grugeon feels it is difficult to oppose its upgrade to a bridleway. Mr Readhead said he wishes to walk the area which is thought to be quite wet. The Court is concerned at the proposals because upgrading the path to a bridleway will provide access straight out onto Open Forest, not only for horse riders but also by cyclists. The upgrading of the path may be regarded as a new means of access, requiring Verderers' consent. If so, and if consent is given, conditions can be imposed. Confirmation of future responsibility for the gate would be essential.	
		Action DR/PG
2019/10332	NETWORK RAIL – SUBSIDING EMBANKMENT AT NEW COPSE	DISCHARGE
	Mrs Westerhoff has taken some photographs. The road has been laid. Lessons learned on this site could be useful when consideration is given to the high-voltage power line undergrounding project on Hale Purlieu.	
2019/10333	SGN DIP POINTS EXCAVATIONS	DISCHARGE
	This job has proved to be far more extensive than originally thought, partly due to running sand being encountered during the excavations and the need to take out some trees. Natural England has given consent for the works to continue. Mr Sean Marsh is monitoring the site.	
2019/10334	WINDBLOWN TREES	RESUME
	The Court is very frustrated at the lack of action with regard to the removal of windblown trees when they have been reported as being dangerous to stock, obstructing tracks or damaging grazing. The Forestry Commission has previously agreed that such trees would be removed but very few actually are.	

It is recognised resources are limited and Natural England insists on a certain volume of wood being left if areas are to be maintained in 'favourable condition' but it is felt that in many places there is far more wood than is necessary to satisfy that condition.

Agisters and commoners must be able to access woods in order to catch ponies. In Penderley Wood for example, it is impossible to walk in a straight line even on the tracks.

Action DS

The Deputy Surveyor agreed to ask Mr Dave Morris to set up a meeting in Penderley Wood. Mr Deakin, Mr Readhead and Mrs Westerhoff will attend.

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2019/10335 REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE LIST

RESUME

An updated SSSI Repair and Maintenance List was circulated.

A blockage upstream from Queen's Meadow was reported. The Deputy Surveyor said he will ensure it is investigated.

Action DS

ACTION LIST

2019/10336 ACTION LIST

RESUME

An updated Action List was provided.

2019/10337 BURLEY NEW INCLOSURE

DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore reported that the old deer inclosure in Burley New Inclosure has collapsed and is extremely hazardous to stock with wire laying on the ground. Ponies and deer are climbing over the wire. The Deputy Surveyor undertook to ensure the area is made safe.

Action DS

2019/10338 KINGS COPSE ROAD

DISCHARGE

Some of the car free defences have been damaged. It is thought in some cases deliberately. The Court requested that those responsible be taken to task. Photographs are reportedly available, showing vehicles parked on the banks. The Deputy Surveyor agreed that suitable warning letters could be sent if evidence of the culprits is provided. In addition, the Police have been helpful in speaking to people who are parking in the wrong place.

Action DS

2019/10339 CATTLE SIGNS IN LONGDOWN & DEERLEAP CAR PARKS

DISCHARGE

Temporary signage was erected during the summer in the Longdown / Deerleap area, advising the public of the presence of cattle. Members of the Court asked to see the signs and the Clerk will circulate a copy by email.

Action
Clerk

2019/10340 FIREWORKS – LETTER FROM BURLEY PARISH COUNCIL

DISCHARGE

Burley PC has written to the New Forest National Park Authority regarding the negative effects of fireworks on the New Forest. The Clerk received a copy of the letter. The Court is willing to echo many of the Parish Council's concerns and the Official Verderer and the Clerk will draft a suitable letter.

Action
OV/Clerk

2019/10341	NFNPA SUBMISSION DRAFT LOCAL PLAN 2016-2036: PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SITE ALLOCATION AT ASHURST HOSPITAL	RESUME
	<p>The question of whether the land should revert to the Forest remains unanswered and investigations continue in this respect. On the information currently available, it is believed the common rights over the land were never extinguished.</p> <p>If part of the site is developed, the Court feels that the potential adverse impacts on the Forest SSSI must be effectively mitigated.</p> <p>Mrs Westerhoff will seek Natural England's views. The New Forest Association is believed to be concerned about the development and is investigating the history of the arrangements for the site.</p> <p>It was agreed that in the meantime, the Court should write a letter to the NFNPA, setting out the conditions which it feels must be imposed if development of the site goes ahead. The Court will, however, continue to make it clear that its view is that the land must be returned to the Forest.</p>	<p>Action OV/AHP</p> <p>Action DW</p> <p>Action OV/Clerk</p>

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2019/10342	WORK AT LINFORD BOTTOM	DISCHARGE
	<p>Cllr Heron complimented the Forestry Commission on the quality of work recently undertaken in Linford Bottom. He said the area was left very tidy.</p>	
2019/10343	PONDHEAD – POACHING BY CATTLE	DISCHARGE
	<p>Complaints have been received once more regarding the damage caused by cattle moving to and from the farm. Mr Readhead said that in his view, the condition of the access track is disgraceful but that the damage appears to be the result of tractor movements rather than stock. The occupiers with access rights over the track are not obliged to maintain it but Mr Grugeon will write to the farmer asking for the track to be repaired. In its present condition it is considered the rights of the other occupiers to use the track are being infringed. It was pointed out that the track is also a bridleway.</p>	<p>Action PG</p>
2019/10344	LATCHMOOR BROCKENHURST	DISCHARGE
	<p>Some fencing is due to be removed at this location. The works close to the Pound have been agreed. They will be checked by Mr Readhead and Mr Greenwood.</p>	<p>Action DR/JG</p>
2019/10345	BULL HILL CROSSROADS	DISCHARGE
	<p>Further highway safety works are required including replacing the present 'Give Way' signs with 'Stop' signs. Grippy tarmac is also to be added and some posts changed. No additional hard surfacing is required and no additional land is being taken on the corners of the junction. The Court therefore approved the works subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing.</p>	

The Deputy Surveyor and the Forestry Commission's Land Agent left the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING (NOT INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION)

2019/10346 NFDC (OUTSIDE THE NATIONAL PARK) PLANNING POLICIES DISCHARGE

A letter drafted by the Official Verderer was approved and will be sent.

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

2019/10347 THE FUTURE OF THE HLS DISCHARGE

It is still not known whether the New Forest HLS will be rolled over.

VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME

2019/10348 VGS 2018 PAYMENTS DISCHARGE

The money has still not been received from the RPA and therefore commoners have not yet been paid. The Assistant Clerk is chasing the RPA weekly.

MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

2019/10349 ENCROACHMENTS COMMITTEE DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer reported that the committee meets regularly and will continue to do so.

2019/10350 LITTER WORKING GROUP DISCHARGE

Mr Dowsett advised that the Forest Spring Clean will take place over a week this year. A photo call is being arranged and it is hoped the Court will be able to send a representative. The Official Verderer and Cllr Heron, who will also represent Hampshire County Council, confirmed they will try to attend. Action Clerk

2019/10351 PARTNERSHIP PLAN & THE LEADERSHIP GROUP DISCHARGE

Mrs Westerhoff reported that she had attended the recent Partnership Plan meeting. She explained the plan is designed to bring together and show the actions of the various bodies. Mr Mills attended the Leadership Group meeting. The Verderers' actions concentrate on the protection of verges in conjunction with the Forestry Commission and trying to reduce road traffic accidents involving Forest stock.

The Court suggested that there should be included within the plan, a mechanism for monitoring the impact of housing developments on the New Forest.

The Official Verderer confirmed he will attend future Leadership Group meetings.

2019/10352 STALLIONS DISCHARGE

Following a recent New Forest Pony Breeding & Cattle Society meeting, Miss Macnair once again expressed concern that not enough is being done to ensure the future of the New Forest Pony, with too few stallions being licensed.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2019/10353 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR JANUARY 2019 DISCHARGE

The Financial Statement was noted.

STAFF MATTERS / HEALTH & SAFETY

2019/10354 AGISTERS' HORSE EXPENSES DISCHARGE

HMRC has agreed the Agisters' horse expenses may continue to be paid free of tax and national insurance and has confirmed the requested increase is acceptable. Mr Deakin will advise the Agisters that the increase will be implemented on 1st April. The Court thanked the Clerk on this achievement. Action RD/Clerk

2019/10355 DRIFT REVIEW DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin reported that the CDA's questions regarding the running of the drifts have been answered.

One car park has been subject to a further risk assessment and as a result the Forestry Commission may be asked to close it on drift day this year. Other than that, no major issues arose during last year's drifts. Action RD

2019/10356 STALLION INSPECTIONS DISCHARGE

The date of this year's spring stallion inspection is Saturday 6th April. It will be held at Beaulieu Road as usual.

TRAINING

2019/10357 FIRST AID DISCHARGE

Two staff attended a First Aid refresher course in January. The second course is due to take place next week.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2019/10358 SUPPORT FOR THE NEW FOREST TRUST COMMONING HOUSING POLICY DISCHARGE

As before, the Court agreed to support, in principle, the New Forest Trust's policy to build a limited number of commoners' dwellings. Action OV/Clerk

2019/10359 REVISED NEW FOREST ANIMAL EMERGENCY HOTLINE CARDS DISCHARGE

Following the presentment in the November Court, made by Miss Nicola Denness, a revision has been made to the cards which emphasises the importance of reporting all road traffic accidents without delay.

2019/10360 FAWLEY WATERSIDE DISCHARGE

The Court remains concerned at the risk that the SANGs (Suitable Alternative Green Spaces) are not legally tied in to this specific development. The Official Verderer will write a further letter stating that the Court believes the mitigation land must be retained in perpetuity under a Section 106 agreement. Action OV

- 2019/10361 GRAZING PRESSURES DISCHARGE
- Mrs Westerhoff said that the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is reviewing its understanding of grazing pressures on commons. Mrs Westerhoff has been invited to contribute to the discussions (in April). Action DW
- 2019/10362 NATIONAL GRID PROPOSALS FOR UNDERGROUNDING THE HIGH VOLTAGE PYLONS AND LINES IN THE NORTH OF THE FOREST RESUME
- Hale Parish Council has asked to meet with representatives of the Court who attend the Stakeholder Group, together with the National Trust.
- Before deciding whether it is appropriate to attend, the Court agreed that an Agenda and attendees list should be requested, together with more details of the reason for the meeting. The Clerk was asked to obtain this information. Action Clerk
- 2019/10363 LYNDHURST CRICKET CLUB SQUARE RESUME
- The galvanised railings which were installed last year are felt to be very visually obtrusive in the landscape. At the time they were installed, the Court agreed to allow time for them to weather prior to deciding whether or not they should be painted. It is felt, however, that the time has come for them to be painted, probably in a green colour. Members of the Court will look at the railings and a final decision will be made at the March Court. Action All

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 1.38 p.m.

Jan Mannes
20/3/2019