

**MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 9.30 a.m. in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Lord Manners Mr R Deakin Mr A B Dowsett Mr J Greenwood Miss D Macnair MBE Mr G M H Mills DL Mr A H Pasmore Mr D Readhead Mrs D Westerhoff	Official Verderer Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer Elected Verderer Senior Elected Verderer DEFRA Appointed Verderer Elected Verderer Elected Verderer Natural England Appointed Verderer
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Cllr E Heron	National Park Appointed Verderer
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Miss Sue Westwood Mr Jonathan Gerrelli	Clerk to the Verderers Head Agister

**IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

2017/9390 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The Minutes of Court held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017 were approved and signed.

2017/9391 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

The Official Verderer declared an interest in the Verderers' Higher Level Stewardship Agreement as tenants on his Estate benefit from the Verderers Grazing Scheme and his Estate is in Higher Level Stewardship.

Elected Verderers Mr Deakin, Mr Greenwood, Miss Macnair and Mr Readhead declared an interest in the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, Verderers Grazing Scheme and Basic Payment Scheme. Mr Pasmore declared an interest in the Basic Payment Scheme.

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

Mr Deakin and Mr Readhead are Directors of the New Forest Livestock Society. They are also members of the New Forest Stallion Syndicate.

Mr Dowsett is a Forestry Commission Volunteer Ranger.

Mr Greenwood is employed part-time by Cadland Estate and therefore has an interest in the Stallion Grazing. Mr Greenwood also has a stallion of his own.

Cllr Heron declared his membership of Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council and the New Forest National Park Authority. He will declare any additional interests that may arise during the course of the meeting at the item.

Mr Hailam Mills declared an interest in HLS Schemes as his Estate is in Higher Level Stewardship. The Estate is also involved in the Better Boundaries Project, run by the New Forest Land Advice Service with support from Natural England. Mr Mills is also a Patron of the New Forest Trust

Mrs Westerhoff is a tenant of the Forestry Commission. Mrs Westerhoff has also been co-opted onto the Board of Trustees of the New Forest Trust.

2017/9392    **CONDITION OF STOCK**    **RESUME**

The Head Agister reported that overall the condition of stock is very good. The rain last night is helpful as the Forest was beginning to look rather dry and brown.

It seems to have been a good year for all vegetation, unfortunately including ragwort, bracken and acorns.

On the question of ragwort, Mr Deakin queried whether the Forestry Commission's ragwort pulling teams only pull the verges or whether they move further into the Forest. The Head Agister thought that in the past, only the verges were cleared, up to the ditch. In some places the Forest Harvester has been used to cut and pick up ragwort.

Action  
FC

The drifts will start soon. Any unthrifty animals which come in will be dealt with as usual.

2017/9393    **REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR**    **RESUME**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Forest Ponies	4725	4692
Forest Cattle	4770	3741
Forest Donkeys	124	108
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	9619	8541
Common Ponies	808	649
Common Cattle	1124	1084
Common Donkeys	106	90
Common Pigs	57	89
Common Sheep	244	271
Total Common Stock	2339	2183
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	9619	8541
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	2038	1823
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	11657	10364
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	11958	10724

2017/9394    **BYELAW ENFORCEMENT**    **DISCHARGE**

There are no current byelaw enforcement issues.

2017/9395    **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS**    **RESUME**

The Announcements were approved.

**The Head Agister left the meeting.**

**OPEN COURT – 10.00 a.m.**

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

**The Head Agister opened the Court with the usual proclamation.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER**

**2017/9396 REPLACEMENT BRIDGE A35 HOLMSLEY TEA ROOMS JUNCTION**

The Verderers have received a presentation from Hampshire County Council Highways Department about the proposed replacement bridge and associated works on the A35 at Holmsley.

On the information presently available it seems that the works are both necessary and well thought through.

The proposals need to be worked up in greater detail before the consent of the Verderers is sought for the works. Accordingly I will make a further announcement when that happens and allow time for any presentments on the subject to be made.

**2017/9397 NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY RECREATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW**

I have previously made an announcement about the current consultation on the National Park's recreation management strategy. The Verderers and other Forest organisations, including the Forestry Commission and Hampshire County Council, asked the National Park Authority to lead on this important matter. This is a vital issue that is being debated and once again I encourage as many people as possible to give their views and in doing so put the Forest first in the hope that it will be protected for generations to come.

**2017/9398 WATER FOR FOREST STOCK**

At our last court we received a presentment from Mary Gray about the well-intentioned, but potentially dangerous action of putting out buckets of water in periods of hot weather for the ponies.

I reiterate what I said in a recent press release, namely that there is plenty of natural water available on the Forest even during dry spells. In addition there are a number of strategically placed water troughs maintained by the Verderers. Putting out buckets of water attracts stock to the roadsides thereby increasing the risk of accidents and I would urge the public not to do so.

**ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT**

**2017/9399 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2017**

The Agisters attended 5 accidents in June.

1 pony was killed and 1 pony was injured.

The other three animals, reported to have been involved in accidents have not been found and were therefore presumably uninjured.

4 accidents occurred in the daylight, and 1 in the dark.

1 accident was not reported.

3 drivers were local.

The number of animals killed and injured to date is 26, compared with 27 in the same period last year.

2017/9400 THE SPEED CAMERA VAN

The data for June and July is not currently available.

#### **PRESENTMENT BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR**

2017/9401 PANNAGE SEASON 2017

In accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of the New Forest Act 1964, the Verderers have been consulted with regard to the dates of the pannage season and I hereby formally notify the Court that the season will commence on Monday 11 September 2017 and that it will end on Sunday 12 November 2017, both dates inclusive.

May I remind Commoners who hold the right of Common of Mast that:-

1. Pigs turned out must be levant and couchant in and upon the land from which the right is derived.
2. Pigs may not be turned out until they have been inspected by an Agister, effectively ringed, marked and the appropriate fee paid. This must take place during normal working hours. 48 hours notice must be given and the time and place where the pigs are to be inspected and marked must be agreed.
3. Pigs must be marked before they are put onto the Forest.
4. Pigs may not be turned out into the Inclosures.
5. Breeding sows, that is female pigs in-pig, may be allowed the privilege of remaining on the Open Forest after the end of the pannage season if so authorised in writing by the Deputy Surveyor for the period specified in the consent.
6. Any breeding sow that is granted the specific written consent of exercising the privilege must be inspected, ringed, marked and paid for during the pannage season.
7. Any breeding sow exercising this privilege must return to the holding at night.
8. Apart from the aforementioned privilege of turning out breeding sows with proper authorisation onto the Open Forest beyond the pannage season, no pig will be allowed to remain on the Forest after the end of the season.
9. No period of grace is allowed for the removal of such unauthorised pigs.
10. Any consent granted for the exercise of the privilege is limited to the period following this particular pannage season and cannot be presumed to apply for future years, for which a separate application must be made.
11. Any unmarked animal running on the Forest does so in contravention of the Verderers' Byelaws and the owner is liable to a fine of up to £200.00.
12. Property owners of land adjacent to the Forest are reminded that it is their responsibility to fence out Forest animals from their land.

## PRESENTMENTS

2017/9402 POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF WHARTONS LANE FIELD, ASHURST  
Presentment by Mr Graham Baker on behalf of the New Forest Association's Planning Committee

'The South Hampshire built up area is the UK's 7th biggest. Bigger than Tyneside and marginally smaller than Liverpool. (2011 census)

Within the National park and only 320 metres away at its narrowest point is the development boundary of Ashurst village at Foxhills.

The Parish consider it essential for its good and the good of the Park that this strip of traditional pasture on the edge of the National Park to east of the village remains entirely free of development. It accepts it has a duty to defend the NE frontier of the Park.

As part of the review of the Local Plan, the National Park Authority consulted on a list of potential housing sites. Included in these was a field to the east of Village boundary off Whartons Lane. This site has traditionally been used as back up grazing.

In the hope of avoiding building on this field, the Parish researched other possibilities and with some persistence discovered that much of Ashurst hospital site would soon become redundant and in the National Park Authority's second consultation document this site was included, but the Whartons Lane site was not withdrawn

We then discovered the Court had an interest in the land at the hospital site.

My purpose in coming here today is to ask the Court to do all it can in any negotiations on the hospital site to ensure that if it is redeveloped it is in place of and not in addition to the Whartons Lane site.

Thank you. I have details of the two sites to give to the Clerk'.

2017/9403 ROE INCLOSURE BRIDGE  
Presentment by Mr Richard Deacon, Commoner from Linwood

Mr Deacon asked the Forestry Commission to place a sign at Roe Cottage to say that the bridge within Roe Inclosure is closed to vehicles. This is a route to the meeting place to one of the drifts and Mr Deacon was concerned that commoners may try to drive down the track only to find their progress is blocked. Turning round at the bridge with a horsebox is not possible.

2017/9404 CANTERTON POUND  
Presentment by Mrs Mary Gray

Mrs Gray thanked Agister Naphine and commoner Mr James Penny for rebuilding Canterton Pound.

2017/9405 BRAMSHAW GOLF COURSE  
Presentment by Mrs Mary Gray

Mrs Gray thanked former Verderers' employees Colin Draper and Leanne Sargeant and also Verderer David Readhead, together with the present Golf Club Manager, for the recent alterations to the layout of the golf course. The changes should result in the resolution of the long standing issues which have persisted between the Golf Club and commoners in the area.

One small issue that does, however, need to be dealt with, is that of wooden/plastic 'tees' being discarded on the ground. These are a potential hazard to stock.

2017/9406 YOUNG COMMONERS REPORT – TRAILER TRAINING GRANT 2016-2017  
Presentment by Lyndsey Stride

'Good morning Official Verderer, Verderers and members of the public.

My name is Lyndsey Stride.

We would like to thank the Verderers for their continued support of the Young Commoners Trailer Training Grant Scheme.

The scheme continues to support young commoners in carrying out their commoning responsibilities independently of their family and friends.

In 2016 we allocated £2,460 to four young commoners who successfully passed their trailer towing tests. In 2017, we have allocated £3,749.20 to six young commoners with an additional five approved for funding.

The Young Commoners group continues to meet regularly to discuss the issues affecting them and the wider Forest, providing both training and opportunities to share their views. Our most recent event was a walk entitled 'My Haunt'. Commoners have a deep knowledge of their own small patch of Forest and it is important that we share our knowledge with others. We all love to walk in the Forest and our busy commoning lives often mean that we rarely wander from our own area. We all learnt a few interesting facts about Rockford Common and enjoyed an excellent discussion over Fish and Chips back at the holding.

We are also keen to develop stronger relationships with the Verderers and other Forest organisations to ensure the needs and opinions of young commoners are carefully considered.

Thank you once again for your support.

2017/9407 ENGLAND COASTAL PATH  
Presentment by Mr Brian Tarnoff, Habitat & Landscape Committee, NFA

'Legislation has mandated the England Coast Path, which in other regions may provide useful alternative recreation, pleasant views and tourist destinations. For the New Forest it will invite more disturbance into our most precious coastal habitats, a nearly uninterrupted series of highly designated and protected zones of international importance.

There is no funding for mitigation and little regard for infrastructure; some stretches, near or on small country lanes in the most remote parts of our coast, precisely where we wouldn't want to exacerbate the verge parking problem.

The Ordnance Survey will show the entire "coastal margin" (the entire seaward side of the path) as "access land", without delineating exclusions. As the route is likely to be significantly inland and much of our coast will be excluded for habitat protections, this depiction will be grotesquely inaccurate. Arguments will be had with visitors assured by the allegedly definitive map that they (and their pets) may trespass on bird nesting grounds regardless of what the signs say. The Ordnance Survey should restrict their illustration to the route of the path itself, and only show coastal access land as it unambiguously exists now at Calshot, Lepe Country Park and other similar extant areas.

Unfortunately these problems will be pertinent wherever it may be proposed, and we expect the consultation on the Lymington to Calshot route from Natural England later this month. We hope the Verderers will help press the case with the Ordnance Survey and will resist the worst excesses of this arbitrary unnecessary exercise which will bring not a jot of benefit to the Forest'.

2017/9408 CRAB HAT INCLOSURE FENCE  
Presentment by Mr Brian Ingram

Mr Ingram complained about the terrible state of the fence around this inclosure. He said it is constructed using high tensile wire and when he was an Agister he had trouble there. Posts are broken and the wire is down and now covered in vegetation making it extremely dangerous. Part of the fence is used during the drift to guide stock. The problems have been reported on many occasions but nothing has been done.

In addition, from Kings Hat Inclosure, upsides to Crab Hat and Dibden, a lot of damage has been done to the track by vehicles removing timber. Signs were put up saying the track would be repaired when the weather permitted. Nothing has been done. The ruts are 18" to 2' deep in places.

**IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

**CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS**

2017/9409 NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION AND WHARTONS LANE FIELD RESUME

The Clerk will write to the planning authority stating that whilst it is the Court's policy not to comment on private planning applications, there is concern at a loss of grazing that has in the past been used by commoners.

Action  
Clerk

2017/9410 ROE INCLOSURE BRIDGE DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor will check the state of the bridge and any planned works and, if required, ensure suitable signage is placed in order to avoid any commoner trying to access the drift by this route. The Verderers were of the view that there are alternative access routes for this drift if required.

Action  
DS

2017/9411 BRAMSHAW GOLF COURSE DISCHARGE

Mr Readhead said thanks should also go to Paul Grugeon and Jenny Thomas (NE).

The Clerk will write to the Golf Club about the tees.

Action  
Clerk

2017/9412 YOUNG COMMONERS REPORT – TRAILER TRAINING DISCHARGE

The Court acknowledged the thanks given by the Young Commoners, who the Court is happy to continue to support.

2017/9413 ENGLAND COASTAL PATH DISCHARGE

The Court remains of the opinion that the path should be routed off the Forest. It is felt the proposed pink shading on the OS map will confuse walkers, who will be unable to easily distinguish access land from private property. The Clerk will write accordingly.

Action  
Clerk

2017/9414 CRAB HAT FENCE RESUME

Mr Deakin suggested a site visit. The Deputy Surveyor agreed and said it is important to remove the wire and he will arrange for the appropriate FC staff member to arrange a site meeting. The local Agister will be invited to attend.

Action  
DS

2017/9415 DIBDEN INCLOSURE TRACK RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor said he will find out what work is outstanding in this area and when this track can be repaired. He acknowledged it needs to be done before winter.

Action  
DS

**NEW SUBMISSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION**

2017/9416 LISTER TOWER (FRITHAM) SOAKAWAY DISCHARGE

New regulations mean that it is not possible to site the soakaway for this property within its curtilage. The Court agreed to the proposals but was keen to stress the need for proper reinstatement. In response, the Land Agent confirmed that Mr Sean Marsh, FC Estates Officer, will keep a close watch on the works.

The proposals were agreed subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing.

2017/9417 SSE POLE CHANGE AT SHOBLEY DISCHARGE

The proposal to replace an existing pole which is now in poor condition was approved subject to the usual three conditions plus, there should be a prestart site meeting with Sean Marsh (FC Estates Officer) to check the route and also that the work must be postponed if the ground condition are likely to lead to damage caused by the vehicles they will be using.

The area must not be reseeded. Apparently this happened last time a pole was replaced.

2017/9418 NEW PRIVATE WATER MAIN TO ALDERMOOR LODGE DISCHARGE

Subject to the usual three conditions, the principle that the new main can follow the road, albeit a little way further onto the Forest rather than along the verge, was agreed.

The reason for suggesting the route be on the Forest side of the ditch and bank is that there is likely to be a lot of rubble etc., in the verge and possibly other services. It was suggested that the route could cut the corner by the cross road with the pipe going across the Forest around the trees. Where possible, the method of installation should be moleing. Mr Readhead and Mr Greenwood will attend the site meeting that will be needed to agree the final route.

Action  
PG/DR/JG



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

2017/9419	NEW PARK FENCING	DISCHARGE
	<p>Since the new box gates have been installed at the Forestside entrances to the inclosure, the problem of stock accessing the inclosure and thence New Park appears to have been resolved. It was agreed therefore, that the situation should be monitored before further expenditure is incurred in adding stock fence to New Park's perimeter fences.</p>	
2017/9420	NEW FOUL SEWER TO THE PIG, BROCKENHURST	DISCHARGE
	<p>Mr Deakin, Mr Sean Marsh (FC), Mr Alex Orttewell (FC Consultant) and a representative of local groundworks firm, Farwells, met on site. A way forward was agreed, subject to the usual three conditions. The new pipe will avoid the trees. Mr Orttewell will contact BT as respects the exposed cables near the bridge. It was reported that there is still no resolution to the dispute between BT and the FC following BT's excavations in other parts of the Forest without consent.</p>	Action PG/AO
2017/9421	RAILWAY EMBANKMENT AT LATCHMOOR, BROCKENHURST	RESUME
	<p>This matter cannot progress until further information is obtained regarding the fence between the strip of land and Brockenhurst Golf Club. Mr Grugeon was asked to check the extent of the Golf Club's registered title.</p>	Action PG
2017/9422	FOREST DESIGN PLAN (FDP) - THROWING OPEN OF INCLOSURES & THE ANIMAL DISEASES EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLAN	RESUME
	<p>Further discussions are essential in order to ensure that throwing open inclosures and taking down fences does not compromise the Animal Diseases Emergency Contingency Plan, as a number of inclosures are shown in in the plan as emergency stock holding areas.</p> <p>The Deputy Surveyor advised the Court that Defra has its own Contingency Plan which needs to link with any actions undertaken under the New Forest Plan. The Deputy Surveyor is meeting with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) next month to ensure plans in the event of an outbreak of an animal disease are co-ordinated. It is important that local knowledge of the Forest and its stock management is understood by this lead agency.</p> <p>John Stride (FC) is arranging some site meetings to discuss how the need for fencing for stock management can be arranged around possible needs to fulfil grazing of habitats under the Inclosure Forest Design Plans.</p>	
2017/9423	DRAINAGE AT MILL LAWN	DISCHARGE
	<p>A site meeting has been arranged by Dave Morris (FC) for next week.</p>	
2017/9424	NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY RECREATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW	DISCHARGE
	<p>The Court's response to the online questionnaire has been submitted. A further detailed response will be sent my email.</p>	Action OV/Clerk

2017/9425 NEW FOREST GOLF CLUB - LYNDHURST DISCHARGE

The encroachment has been abated. The Forestry Commission will install dragons teeth as soon as possible to prevent any further problems. Action DS

2017/9426 FORESTRY COMMISSION OUT OF HOURS TELEPHONE ANSWERING SYSTEM AND RESPONSES TO ISSUES DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor said the issue reported by Cllr Heron has been looked into. The response Cllr Heron received from the call taker was not in line with the instructions issued to the call centre. The call centre has undertaken to address the problem. The Deputy Surveyor will discuss the matter further with Cllr Heron. Action DS/EH

The Deputy Surveyor went on to explain that a rota operates at weekends. A Duty Officer leads any co-ordination of response and a number of FC staff and some volunteers are available at weekends to respond if required.

A discussion then took place concerning the FC's response to reports of fire on the Forest. All fire incidents are dealt with by the Fire Brigade as a first responder who can be supported by FC staff for damping down over the following days if requested. The Court felt it should not be necessary for the Fire Brigade to be called out to deal with a barbecue in the wrong place.

### SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2017/9427 SSSI REPAIR & MAINTENANCE WORKS RECORDING SHEET RESUME

The content of the sheet was noted.

It was pointed out that the first two items on the list date back to 2014. One concerns the issue at Queen Bower / Poundhill mentioned below.

The Court asked the FC to decide whether the work which is listed will be carried out. If not, the reasons should be explained and the items removed from the list. Action DS

2017/9428 QUEEN BOWER / POUNDHILL (WARWICKSLADE CUTTING) RESUME

A further discussion took place concerning this system. Mr Pasmore remains unhappy that no further works have been carried out on the levels in the stream. The fall at Poundhill has still not been altered. Action FC (Nick Wardlaw)

As she has stated before, however, Mrs Westerhoff feels that no further work is required.

The Court suggested that the Forestry Commission needs to make a decision as to whether or not it is going to carry out further work. The Deputy Surveyor agreed to provide a report before the September Court. Action DS

### ENCROACHMENTS INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2017/9429 VERGE PROTECTION OFFICER DISCHARGE

The post is to be filled from within the Forestry Commission.

2017/9430 ENCROACHMENTS LIST RESUME

An updated encroachments list had been circulated. The last two items on the list are to be removed. A report on progress at Crowders will be provided at the September Court. Action PG

#### **ACTION LIST**

2017/9431 ACTION LIST RESUME

An updated action list was provided.

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

2017/9432 ASHURST (LYNDHURST ROAD) STATION RESUME

The Clerk reported the matter is progressing. The Crown Estate has written to Network Rail. The Clerk will provide an update in September.

2017/9433 ASHURST HOSPITAL PROPOSED RE-DEVELOPMENT RESUME

The Court suggested the NHS and the New Forest National Park Authority Planning Department be advised that the Crown Estate and potentially the Verderers have an interest in this site. Action Clerk

**The Clerk gave her apologies and left the meeting. The Assistant Clerk, Miss Justine Bayley, took over as minute taker**

2017/9434 HOLMSLEY RAIL BRIDGE (A35) DISCHARGE

A very constructive meeting took place recently with HCC. A lot of thought has gone into the project to ensure the best outcome for all concerned. HCC is very receptive to the concerns of the commoners. Further information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

2017/9435 BOUNCY CASTLE ON BOLTONS BENCH DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor confirmed the bouncy castle on Boltons Bench at the weekend did not have consent.

2017/9436 DANGEROUS TREES DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor was asked whether there is a new contractor surveying roadside trees. Miss Macnair thought the same person should not do the surveys and the works. The Deputy Surveyor confirmed that the roles are separate and he will check this is still the case. Action DS

**The Deputy Surveyor and the Land Agent left the meeting.**

#### **ENCROACHMENTS NOT INVOLVING THE FC**

2017/9437 ACORNS, SEAMANS LANE, MINSTEAD RESUME

The Official Verderer met with members of the New Forest Commoners' Defence Association and Counsel. The next stage is to attempt mediation. It is hoped a settlement can be reached.

## OTHER MATTERS ARISING

- 2017/9438 FARMING GROUP - SUBSIDIES RESUME
- Discussions are continuing about how to ensure that future subsidy schemes deliver benefits to commoning whilst protecting the Forest. Action OV
- 2017/9439 NEW FOREST SHOW RESUME
- The request for additional payment for the Verderers pitch in 'The Heart of the Forest' has been withdrawn for this year. The OV has thanked the New Forest Show Society for this. Future attendance at the Show by the Verderers will be discussed in the autumn.
- 2017/9440 FIXED POINT PHOTOGRAPHY - VEGETATION CHANGE MONITORING RESUME
- The Official Verderer asked Mr Pasmore to provide a list of areas he thinks should be photographed. Jenny Thomas at Natural England (NE) is looking into whether this project can be funded by the HLS. Action OV/AHP
- It has been suggested that it might be possible to use the new, higher resolution LIDAR to monitor the heather cover but Mr Pasmore is doubtful the height of the heather can be assessed in this way. The NPA has asked whether further HLS funding may be available for a second flight. The Official Verderer said that it will be costly although may be not as expensive as the first flight. The suggestion is being investigated. Action OV

## VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME (VGS)

- 2017/9441 SMALL GRANT SCHEME RESUME
- The Official Verderer, Mr Deakin, Mr Mills and the VGS Administrator, Tina Woodley, will work up a procedure to be followed when approving applications for small grants. Action OV/RD/HM/TW

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 2017/9442 FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME
- The Financial Statement for June was noted.

## STAFF MATTERS

- 2017/9443 AGISTERS MILEAGE DISCHARGE
- Justine Bayley, the Assistant Clerk will look at providing fuel cards for use by the Agisters due to HMRC tax implications with the present system. Action JB

## TRAINING

- 2017/9444 IOSH TRAINING DISCHARGE
- All staff together with Mr David Readhead attended a one day IOSH course.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

2017/9445 COMMON PIGS ON THE CROWN LANDS OUTSIDE THE PANNAGE SEASON RESUME

The question of whether pigs which are allowed to run out all year round on the Northern Commons can move onto the Crown Land under the doctrine of vicinage was discussed. The Deputy Surveyor handed Mr Deakin a paper on the subject. Further research will be undertaken.

Action  
OV/AHP

2017/9446 CATTLE DEATHS ON PENN COMMON DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin reported that a commoner whose cattle graze on Penn Common has now lost 10 animals to suspected bracken poisoning. Tests are being carried out by the National Trust (NT) and the CDA to try to ascertain whether the cattle are being poisoned via water contaminated by run off from bracken stands in Foxbury Plantation, or through eating bracken plants. The cattle have been taken off the Common for the time being and the commoner proposes to provide a water trough outside his gate when his animals are turned back out. Other commoners with cattle in the area have not suffered a similar problem. Results of the tests will be available in due course.

Action  
NT/CDA

2017/9447 ENCROACHMENT AT KINGS COPSE RESUME

The owner of the property at Kings Copse is adamant that he has not encroached onto common land. The Court and CDA believe otherwise. The problem of encroachments is now so widespread a wider debate is needed on how to deal with them effectively.

Action  
RD

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 1.12 p.m.

*Jul Mannell*  
20/9/2017