





Common Ponies	659	640
Common Cattle	1040	980
Common Donkeys	67	90
Common Pigs	36	67
Common Sheep	137	233
Total Common Stock	1939	2010
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	8452	8278
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	1766	1710
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	10218	9988
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	10391	10288

2017/9289 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT

DISCHARGE

The Head Agister advised that there is an unlicensed two year old colt at large. It escaped from a field but has so far evaded capture. The owner and the Agisters are doing their best to remove the colt as soon as possible.

**The Head Agister left the meeting.**

2017/9290 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS

RESUME

The Announcements were approved.

**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**

2017/9291 OFFICIAL VERDERER

'My first task, on this my first Court, is to say how honoured I am to have been chosen for the post of Official Verderer. I follow in the footsteps of many illustrious predecessors who have given diligent and selfless service to the Forest. Starting out in a new post such as this one often feels that one is standing on the shoulders of giants but it is my hope and intention to serve the Forest to the best of my ability and be a worthy successor to those giants.

I draw great strength from the knowledge that amongst my fellow Verderers, and in the office, there is an extraordinary depth of knowledge and commitment without which the Verderers would not be the force that they are and will remain.

At the last Court many fulsome tributes were rightly paid to my predecessor Dominic May. It is not my intention to repeat what was said last time but I do wish to take this opportunity to add a few words of my own. Since I was appointed in March Dominic has given me an enormous amount of his time and his knowledge to ensure that I hit the ground running and for that I am extremely grateful.'

2017/9292 BROADBAND

'At the last Court we had a presentment from Alexi Sugden on the subject of a more suitable design for the broadband cabinets that are now an essential part of our lives but are industrial and urban in appearance and unsuited to the Forest landscape.

The Verderers will naturally support any approach to Openreach to persuade them to produce a more appropriate structure for use on the Forest and perhaps in other areas of outstanding natural beauty and landscape value.'

2017/9293 BRACKEN HARVESTING

'The Deputy Surveyor explained that the Forestry Commission has already been in correspondence with Mrs Bolton, who made a presentment at our last Court about the method of harvesting bracken. The Deputy Surveyor has asked his staff to consider if any further practical measures can be taken to minimise ground damage.'

**ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT**

2017/9294 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR APRIL

THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR APRIL 2017

The Agisters attended 5 accidents in April.

A pony and a cow were injured and destroyed. A donkey was uninjured and nothing was found following the other two accidents.

Three accidents occurred in the dark, one in daylight and one at twilight.

One of the accidents was not reported.

2 drivers were local. 4 of the vehicles were cars or light commercials.

The number of animals killed and injured to date is 17, compared with 21 in the same period last year.

2017/9295 THE SPEED CAMERA VAN

In March 161 drivers were caught speeding on the unfenced Forest roads and 726 on the fenced roads.

The Clerk explained that whilst the figure for the number of drivers caught on the unfenced roads seems low, the figures are dependent on things such as holidays and shift patterns and she assured the Court that we are getting our money's worth.

2017/9296 HIT & RUNS – MAY 2017

As many of you will know, in the past week there have been two hit and run incidents.

The first, on the Lymington to Beaulieu Road, not far from Norley Wood Crossroads, involved a heavily in-foal Shetland pony mare. The mare and foal died. I won't go into the gory details here; the accident having been reported in detail in the local press.

Unfortunately, despite several telephone calls from members of the public, no information has so far been forthcoming that has led to the driver to be identified. All we know is that the vehicle involved was a Ford.

A few days later another hit and run accident occurred in the Linwood/Appleslade area, in daylight and involving two animals, a pony and a steer. Although the animals were found a couple of hundred yards apart, we believe the two collisions occurred within a very short space of time and we think both animals may have been hit by the same vehicle. A white Audi S4 was seen to hit the steer but unfortunately the witness was unable to make a note of the registration number of the car.

The Hit and Run Reward Scheme will pay up to £1,000 to anyone who provides evidence which leads to the conviction of a driver responsible for failing to report an accident involving a commoners' animal.

It may be worth pointing out that drivers who are involved in accidents with Forest stock are very unlikely to be prosecuted if they report the accident promptly and they provide their details. They will be expected to pay for losses incurred by the owner of the animal. These may be the value of the animal if it is killed, plus the cost of its disposal or possibly a veterinary bill. Conversely, a driver who fails to report an accident and is subsequently identified, will find him or herself in Court. Apart from answering a charge of failing to stop, the driver may also face a charge of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal. In the past, sentences have ranged from a fine, costs and points on a licence, to detention and a driving disqualification.

If anyone can help us identify either of the drivers responsible for these accidents we would be very pleased to hear from them.

## PRESENTMENTS

2017/9297 WELCOME LORD MANNERS  
Presentment by Gale Gould, Vice Chair, New Forest Association

'Last month our Trustee Peter Roberts joined in with many tributes to the departing Official Verderer, Dominic May. This month we welcome Lord Manners, and perhaps should offer thanks in advance for your service at a time when the Forest faces a number of threats. Unprecedented levels of planned development on our borders (the Waterside to the East and Christchurch to the West), uncertain funding for commoning and the upkeep of the Forest, mounting recreational pressure, to name but a few.

Whilst many of these are beyond the purview of the Verderers, no doubt you will have to contend with the consequences. We offer our gratitude and support for the work of all the Verderers which is vital to the Forest and its future.'

2017/9298 HIT & RUN RTA  
Presentment by Mr Richard Deacon, practising Commoner from Linwood

'Richard Deacon, practising commoner from Linwood. My family have raised and depastured ponies and livestock for more than 200 years within the Linwood area.

On behalf of the commoners living in the hamlet of Linwood, I would like to welcome Lord Manners to his new task. We wish you well in your endeavours as the Official Verderer.

I am sure that your fellow Verderers will appraise you of my presentments in February and May of last year concerning excessive and dangerous levels of traffic on the single track road serving our village. We seek sensible management and controls of up to 700 vehicles per hour that pour through our village as they try to evade peak traffic congestion on the A31.

We welcome your predecessor's recent announcement of HCC's plans for reconfiguring the Linwood road between Milkham and Broomy Walk. However, we also fear that frustrated motorists having endured the new constraints will just put their foot down and

tear through our village irrespective of the risks to the many Forest visitors and our depastured livestock.

Sadly, to illustrate the point, and following the dreadful Hit and Run accident reported in the Lymington Times last week, involving a Shetland pony, I now have to report a double Hit & Run that occurred in Linwood in the early evening on Tuesday of last week. One of my best breeding mares suffered a compound fracture of her lower hind leg and was put down by Agister, Mr Peter Rix. This is the third Hit & Run loss of a pony that my family have suffered in the last 24 months.

At almost the same time and some 300 yards further on, a visiting camper staying at the Red Shoot campsite, witnessed and immediately reported, the driver of a white Audi car, who with a revving engine forced his way through a group of ponies in Appleslade Bottom only to drive into a yearling steer standing in the road 200 yards further on. The Audi car left an 8 yard long double skid mark on the road and the steer ended up on its bonnet. The car sped off towards Moyles Court and no report has been made by the driver to either the Police or the Verderers about either of the two incidents. A dreadfully bruised and lame animal returned to my brother's holding next day. No legs were broken but the car must at least have a severely dented front bumper and bonnet.

Mr Rix deployed two of the Verderers' yellow 'Hit and Run' notices on Wednesday evening. By early Friday morning both notices and their fastenings had been removed by persons unknown.

We appear to be dealing with a driver (or drivers), who have no respect for animals legally depastured on the Forest, and with the tearing down of the 'Hit and Run' signage, a total contempt for the authority of the Verderers.

We are grateful that the Verderers and the CDA have put up a £1000 reward for information leading to a conviction in this case and we appeal to the public to report to the Verderers, any suspicions they may have.

There is a white Audi out there somewhere with significant front end damage. Someone must know something.'

### IN COMMITTEE in the Library

#### CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2017/9299	HIT & RUN RTA'S	RESUME
	Cllr Heron suggested inviting the Police and Crime Commissioner to a meeting to discuss whether the Police may be able to offer more help in bringing motorists to book when they fail to report an accident involving a commoner's animal. It was agreed an invitation should be sent.	Action EH
	Mr Readhead suggested increasing the reward offered to £2,000 and it was agreed the Clerk should approach the Commoners' Defence Association and the New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society to ask if they would be willing to support this. Cllr Heron suggested the reward should be higher still and suggested £5,000.	Action Clerk
	Mr Readhead went on to suggest that local accident repair centres should be asked to keep a look out for cars which may have been involved in collisions with animals. A request for assistance could also be sent to loss adjusters and insurance companies. The Clerk felt this is possible but the office will need assistance in obtaining the necessary contact details. Mr Readhead offered to assist.	Action DR

Cllr Heron explained that in addition the National Accident Resource Centre at Newbury, which assesses all insurance claims may also be able to help.

Mr Deacon's concern is that the traffic calming measures on Broomy Plain may encourage disgruntled motorists forced to slow down on that stretch of road to try to make up time by speeding through Linwood. In that connection, it is understood that further research work is being undertaken by the County Council to ensure that the proposed works on Broomy Plain Road do not cause adverse effects elsewhere.

2017/9300 BRACKEN HARVESTING DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor said that Forestry Commission staff have been in discussion with and recently met Mrs Bolton. Discussions are also taking place with Natural England to consider bracken control in relation to sites with rarer plants.

On Blackwell Common, areas sprayed last year still have a layer of bracken which is stunting regeneration. The Deputy Surveyor will discuss this with the Open Forest team.

It was suggested that the stream restoration projects have helped control bracken because of more regular flooding onto the floodplain.

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

2017/9301 ESSO PIPELINE INSPECTION MID GW 6690 MARCHWOOD DISCHARGE

Mr Grugeon explained that this work became urgent and is already underway. The Clerk spoke to Mr Deakin who felt that in view of Esso's excellent track record of working on the Forest, no objection should be raised to the work commencing. The Court ratified the decision.

2017/9302 DANGEROUS WIRE DISCHARGE

Whilst discussing the Esso Pipeline, Mr Greenwood reported some dangerous wire fencing close-by, around what appears to be an old compound. The Deputy Surveyor said he will arrange for the area to be checked and the wire fencing made safe or removed if it is redundant.

to  
Action List

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

2017/9303 BROOMY PLAIN ROAD VERGE RESTORATION PROPOSALS RESUME  
July

A further meeting with Hampshire County Council (HCC) has been held, attended by Mr Greenwood and Mr Readhead. Some changes have been made to the specification in respect of the the verge restoration and protection. HCC will now prepare revised plans.

HCC is undertaking some further surveys on the haunches as there is a lot of concrete and other material that may not need to be removed.

The Deputy Surveyor asked that his team be kept informed of any correspondence with HCC as the FC will be leading on the delivery of the verge protection work.

The Forestry Commission will continue to work towards removing concrete from areas on Stoney Cross that have been identified as mitigation for loss of grazing land arising from the construction of the proposed passing places on Broomy Plain.

2017/9304	TRACK AND CROSSING PLACE AT MATLEY	RESUME September
	The Deputy Surveyor confirmed this work has been added to the passageway programme and it should be completed this summer.	
2017/9305	SEAT IN MARK ASH	DISCHARGE
	The family has re-sited the seat in Anderwood Inclosure at a location that is considered acceptable. Memorial seats are not usually permitted by either the Forestry Commission or the Verderers. Exceptionally, this one has been allowed because the family has a very strong working connection with the Forest.	
2017/9306	SWAN GREEN CRICKET PAVILION	RESUME September
	The Deputy Surveyor said that Mr Mike Graham is discussing the implications of the ecology report with Natural England prior to submitting the planning application for the demolition and reinstatement.	Action DS (MG)
2017/9307	ACCESS LICENCES	RESUME July
	The Official Verderer said he would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the wording of these licences with Mr Grugeon. The Court is keen to achieve a mutually acceptable resolution to this long standing issue.	Action OV/PG
2017/9308	RAILWAY EMBANKMENT AT LATCHMOOR, BROCKENHURST	RESUME
	The Deputy Surveyor advised that the initial work required to obtain quotations has been completed, but before final quotes can be obtained the final details of the work needs to be discussed with the Court.	
	Approximately 500 metres of the fence adjacent to the Golf Course is not fully stock proof. Further research into responsibilities and a dialogue with the Club is required. There is also a problem with the railway fence on a spur of land which may still be in the hands of Network Rail. A further site meeting is required. The Deputy Surveyor was asked to let the Clerk have some possible dates.	Action DS/Clerk
<b>SSSI RESTORATION WORKS</b>		
2017/9309	SSSI REPAIR & MAINTENANCE WORKS RECORDING SHEET	RESUME
	The current list was provided. Mr Readhead said he has a couple of additional issues and he was asked to contact Nick Wardlaw (FC) and let him have the details so they can be added to the list.	Action DR
	Mr Pasmore expressed his frustration that nothing has been done at Queen Bower where trees are dying due to waterlogging. The note on the work sheet says levels need to be monitored. However, this was first added to the list on 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2014. The Court felt sufficient time has passed that the necessary work should have been undertaken. The Deputy Surveyor said he will discuss with the HLS team.	Action DS



MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.

## ENCROACHMENTS INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2017/9310 ENCROACHMENTS LIST RESUME

An updated encroachments list had been circulated.

### ACTION LIST

2017/9311 ACTION LIST RESUME

An updated action list was provided.

2017/9312 NEW PARK FENCING RESUME

The Forestry Commission has met with the New Forest Show Society (NFSS). The NFSS may be able to offer some funds to contribute to the cost of upgrading the perimeter fence. The Forestry Commission is now assessing options and preparing cost estimates to discuss with the NFSS.

Action  
DS

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2017/9313 SSE CABLE TO MALLARDS, EAST BOLDRE DISCHARGE

The cable has been laid in the verge and not under the track as was stipulated by the Court. Mr Grugeon apologised and explained that this was due to an error on the part of FC Estates as the message about the location of the cable was not passed to SSE. However, SSE has reportedly not followed its own plan either. Mr Grugeon assured the Court that in future, variations to proposals will be communicated accurately.

A discussion then took place about routing of cables and pipes and Mr Grugeon pointed out that in his opinion, disturbing gravel tracks can sometimes lead to problems with ruts developing after the works have been completed. The Court however, felt this can easily be avoided if the ground is compacted properly.

Mr Grugeon suggested that in future a higher level of compensation could be charged if contractors wish to cross the Forest grazing rather than dig through the access track and he suggested a sum of £100. The Court was not in favour of this suggestion.

The Court felt that there is always a risk that the easiest route is taken, with no consideration for the Forest ecology or grazing and this is not acceptable.

Contractors must be told they must do what they have consent for and that deviations are not acceptable. If a similar situation arises again, the contractor may be asked to re do the job. Mr Grugeon said he will check the wording of the construction licences to try to ensure there are no repeats.

Action  
PG

2017/9314 PLANNING APPLICATION NO 17/00291 - LAND OFF HARLEY LANE, BRAMSHAW DISCHARGE

The Court does not usually comment on planning applications for developments on private property. However, in this case the proposed change of use may result in additional unwelcome recreational pressure on Forest tracks.

Action  
DS/PG/Clerk

Cllr Heron felt that the Forestry Commission should write a letter advising the planning authority that it is concerned about the application. This was agreed. The Clerk will also write on behalf of the Court and the Deputy Surveyor/Mr Grugeon and the Clerk will discuss appropriate wording.

2017/9315 FOREST DESIGN PLAN – THROWING OPEN OF INCLOSURES

RESUME

The Court felt it is essential to agree some principles about fence lines and responsibilities before any more inclosures are thrown open. Firstly, the Court felt that a level of restoration is required before it is safe to take down the fences. A number of Verderers Inclosures have already been thrown open but the level of restoration has varied and this can lead to problems in the management of stock. Secondly, a number of pounds are reliant on inclosure fences to work satisfactorily and a number have been partially retained as drift fences.

Driving stock across ground where the remnants of the original ridge and furrow remain can be extremely dangerous when driving stock. Proper management of stock is essential and as important as it has ever been. The public rightly demand a high standard of animal welfare; something to which the Court fully subscribes. However, the health and safety risks for both stock and riders when stock has to be driven over ground with furrows and tree stumps makes the task impractical.

The removal of inclosure fencing will render some pounds useless and relocating pounds does not always work. Where drift fencing is retained and is no longer part of enclosed land, the Verderers expressed concern that they may be liable for future maintenance. Mr Deakin said he has calculated that roughly 17,000 metres of drift line fencing has been constructed under the HLS project. He estimates the cost of erecting those fences is approximately £100,000. Fences have to be maintained and at some point in the future have to be replaced. The ongoing maintenance and replacement cost for drift fencing alone is likely to be in the region of £5,000 per annum.

At present some 300-400 metres of the driftway fence at Turf Hill is down and needs attention.

The Deputy Surveyor said he is happy to look at the sites which are already open to see what can realistically be done to improve ground conditions. However, it is necessary to discuss what is achievable given budgetary and other constraints.

Action  
DS

The formal Design Plan public consultation is open and comments are welcome.

Mr Pasmore advised the Court that his understanding of the legislation surrounding inclosing New Forest land is that there is nothing specifying what has to be done when the statutory inclosures are thrown open. However, if Verderers inclosures are thrown open early, then that does become a matter for the Court.

The Court is very keen to see that historical and archaeological features are properly protected when work to throw open inclosures is carried out. Past experiences indicate that doesn't always happen.

	<p>It was agreed that a meeting will be arranged with Mr John Stride so that the Verderers can understand the timing, location and approach to throwing open inclosures within the next 10 years. The CDA and possibly Natural England will also be involved in the process.</p>	Action J Stride/ Verderers/ Agisters
2017/9316	<p>GATE CATCHES</p> <p>Mr Mills confirmed he passed on the concerns about the trombone catches to the Access Forum and he asked for further advice about the type of catch that is felt to be more suitable for use by horse-riders. The Clerk said she would find details of the type of latch for Mr Mills.</p>	DISCHARGE  Action Clerk
2017/9317	<p>RESTORATION OF THE VERDERERS' HALL</p> <p>Mr Pasmore asked the Deputy Surveyor not to forget his request for a date to be added to the new window stonework to commemorate when the restoration works were completed. The Deputy Surveyor confirmed the date will be added and that he is expecting the stone mason to be back to undertake some further work. At that time, the date will be added.</p>	RESUME September  Action DS
2017/9318	<p>NEW CAR PARK SIGNS</p> <p>Mr Readhead commented that the new Forestry Commission car park signs look nice but the byelaws are on the back which means they are not easy to see which is felt to be regrettable.</p> <p>The 'No Cycling from this Car Park' signs are not intended to be placed at every car park but just where trespass by cyclists is a problem. The Deputy Surveyor said that counters have been deployed and it will be interesting to see what the data shows.</p>	DISCHARGE
2017/9319	<p>INCREASING RECREATIONAL PRESSURES</p> <p>The Court is very concerned at the ever greater pressures being placed on the Forest by recreation. In particular it is felt there is a real issue with commercial dog walkers having large numbers of dogs off lead and out of control. Deerleap is an area where it appears ground nesting birds have all but gone and several members of the Court felt that dogs should be on leads at least between April and August. The question was asked, why the Forest is different from areas covered by the CROW Act where dogs are required to be on leads between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> July and at all times around livestock?</p> <p>The Deputy Surveyor responded by saying that the Forestry Commission is in a difficult position. It does its best to ensure the public use of the Forest does not impact too severely on the nature conservation interest and commoning but it is hampered by insufficient resources, both financially and in respect of available personnel.</p> <p>It was felt that new pressures that are emerging, such as the flying of drones, must be strictly managed now, before people start to believe that they have a 'right' to fly them over the Forest. Off road cycling was originally considered to be something that would not become a long term problem but time has proved that is not the case and cyclists off track are now a major issue that is not being effectively managed.</p>	DISCHARGE

It was suggested that the forthcoming consultation on the National Park Authority's Recreation Strategy Review will be a good opportunity to try to improve the management of public recreation.

- 2017/9320 VERGE PARKING DISCHARGE
- Following on from the discussion above on recreational pressures, Mr Deakin said that in the last Staff Committee, the Agisters complained that they had difficulty travelling about the Forest over the Bank Holiday weekend because of illegal verge parking. Bolderwood was cited as an example where vehicles were parked all over the verges, despite the presence of Forestry Commission Rangers in and around the nearby car park.
- 2017/9321 DRAINAGE AT MILL LAWN RESUME
- The Deputy Surveyor said he will ask one of his team to meet with the Verderers and the local Agister to decide what can be done to improve drainage on Mill Lawn. In some areas the ground conditions are a hazard to stock. The problem is felt to be due to lack of maintenance; major works are not required. Action DS
- 2017/9322 GRUFFALO TRAIL DISCHARGE
- In response to an enquiry, the Deputy Surveyor said the Gruffalo Trail at Bolderwood will be running for the summer.
- 2017/9323 A35 HOLMSLEY REPLACEMENT BRIDGE DISCHARGE
- The Clerk requested some Verderer input and support in respect of this major engineering project which will be undertaken by Hampshire County Council. Mrs Westerhoff, Mr Pasmore and Mr Readhead offered their assistance. Once detailed proposals have been drawn up, HCC will seek all the necessary consents.

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

**ENCROACHMENTS NOT INVOLVING THE FC**

- 2017/9324 FENCE AT KINGS COPSE RESUME
- The Forestry Commission's Estates Officer has ascertained that the newly erected fence is in fact on land owned by the householder and therefore there is nothing more the FC can do. The Clerk said she has spoken to the property owner and has explained that whilst he may own the land on the Forest side of the property's old fence-line, that does not give him the right to prevent stock from accessing it. This may be a matter for the CDA to pursue as it has done, quite successfully, on several fairly recent occasions. It was agreed that in the first instance the Clerk will go back to the property owner to see if she can persuade him to move his fence back to the correct position. The Forest Atlas is helpful in this instance as it clearly shows the boundary enclosing the property should be set back from the track. Action Clerk

2017/9325 ACORNS, SEAMANS LANE, MINSTEAD DISCHARGE

Notice of Court proceedings has been served on the owners of this property. The matter is now at the pre-Court mediation stage. It is hoped the issue can be resolved without the need to go to Court.

**Mr Pasmore gave his apologies and left the meeting**

#### **OTHER MATTERS ARISING**

2017/9326 NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY RECREATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY RESUME

The consultation commences on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Response via an online questionnaire will be requested. It was agreed a sub-committee consisting of the Official Verderer, Mrs Westerhoff, Mr Dowsett, Mr Mills and Mr Pasmore will consider and draft the Court's response. Mr Dowsett reminded the Court that he sits on the NPA's Recreation Advisory Group.

#### **OTHER AGENDA ITEMS**

2017/9327 DELEGATED POWERS FOR THE CLERK AND ONE OR MORE VERDERERS RESUME

The Court agreed that for de-minimis applications, the Clerk, together with one or more Verderers, as appropriate, should be authorised to make decisions on de-minimis applications for consent. The sort of things which will be included will be short lengths of cables, pipes and other minor works. A note of all decisions will be kept and the Court will be asked to ratify decisions where necessary. The Official Verderer and the Clerk will draft some ground rules for approval by the Court.

Action  
OV/Clerk

2017/9328 NEW FOREST SHOW DISCHARGE

The Clerk appraised the Court of the plans for this year's New Forest Show stand and asked for volunteers to help on the stand.

#### **HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME (HLS)**

2017/9329 HLS BOARD REPRESENTATION DISCHARGE

Lord Manners formally accepted the Court's request that he represent the Verderers on the HLS Board.

#### **VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME (VGS)**

2017/9330 VGS COMMITTEE RESUME

The next meeting is on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 3.00 p.m. in the Verderers' Office meeting room.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2017/9331 NFNPA FARMING GROUP & SUBSIDIES FOR THE FOREST AFTER BREXIT RESUME

The Court was represented by Mr Pasmore and Mr Greenwood on the group set up by the NPA Chairman, Mr Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre, to consider subsidies after Brexit. Mr Pasmore asked for another Verderer to take his place on the group as he would rather not continue. Mrs Westerhoff offered to take Mr Pasmore's place and her offer was accepted unanimously. The next meeting of the Group is at 2.00 p.m. Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May at Queen's House.

Action  
DW/JG

The Court is keen to design a subsidy scheme which will support commoning but not lead to overgrazing and other issues.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

2017/9332 FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement for April was noted.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

2017/9333 IOSH COURSE RESUME

The Agisters, office staff and staff committee Verderers will be attending this course. A date is to be arranged.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2017/9334 VERGE DAMAGE AT HATCHET GREEN DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore wrote to the Parish Council suggesting that some verge protection works should be undertaken on and around Hatchet Green. The Parish Clerk has now approached the Court for help. Mr Dowsett, Mr Pasmore and Sean Marsh from the Forestry Commission met with the Parish Council last week to take this forward.

Action  
BD/AHP/SM

2017/9335 DRIFT DATES DISCHARGE

The Court has been thanked for publishing the drift dates for 2017 and 2018 in good time. This gives event organisers the opportunity to try to avoid clashes and the initiative is considered to be very helpful.

2017/9336 HEATHER ENCROACHMENT ON THE RESEEDED AREAS DISCHARGE

Mr Readhead expressed concern at the amount of heather that is now encroaching on the reseeded areas and he felt that efforts should be made to halt its progress. It was suggested the CDA should be approached so that it can be added to the list of areas requiring treatment.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 2.00 p.m.

*Full Minute*  
21/6/2017