

**MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at  
9.30 a.m. in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Lord Manners	Official Verderer
	Mr Richard Deakin	Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman
	Mr A B Dowsett	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
	Cllr Edward Heron	National Park Appointed Verderer
	Mr J Greenwood	Elected 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
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Mr Jonathan Gerrelli	Head Agister
	Miss Sue Westwood	Clerk to the Verderers

**IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

2018/9859    **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**    **RESUME**

The Minutes of Court held on 18<sup>th</sup> April were approved and signed.

2018/9860    **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 Greenwood and Mr Readhead 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.

Miss Macnair is on the New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society Council.

Mr Hallam 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 sits on the Board of Trustees of the New Forest Trust.

Members of the Court will declare any additional interests that may arise during the course of the meeting, at the item.

Means of declaring interests was discussed. It was agreed to compile a Register of Interests which will be filed with the Clerk and also published on the Verderers' website. The Register will take the place of the list which is produced in each set of minutes. The Register will be reviewed every six months but it will be the responsibility of all Verderers to ensure that it is kept up to date by informing the Clerk of any changes. In order to maintain transparency, however, Verderers' financial interests will be declared in meetings at the time the topic is discussed.

Cllr Heron agreed to provide the Clerk with the Register of Interests template used by the Council.

Action EH

2018/9861    **CONDITION OF STOCK**

**RESUME**

The Head Agister reported on the recent Welfare Tour. The Tours are felt to be a very useful exercise. There are always new faces attending from the welfare bodies and this greatly assists with educating people about the semi-feral herds. Those who attend regularly appreciate how the management of semi-feral herds differs from animals kept on private land.

A good number of animals were seen on the Tour and overall the comments received from the welfare representatives were positive. One particularly interesting comment was that stock on private holdings used to follow the seasons as do the semi-feral herds, but they don't any more.

Some ponies seen were described as OK but lean, however they were felt to be acceptable for the time of year, especially given the difficult conditions experienced this winter. Several comments were received regarding poor looking cattle.

The Head Agister felt ponies on the Forest have improved in the past couple of weeks. The grass was late but is now growing well. He added that the Agisters have refused to mark cattle on some holdings as they felt their condition needed to improve before they are turned out. There has been a shortage of fodder as a result of the long winter.

Mr Dowsett referred to the pony which was dumped in extremely poor condition at Hale. The incident received wide publicity on social media and in the local press. It is understood the Police are continuing their investigations in order to attempt to identify the animal's owner. The Agister has been praised for his actions regarding the pony, which sadly had to be humanely destroyed because of its extremely poor condition.

2018/9862 REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND RESUME  
COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Forest Ponies	4684	4645
Forest Cattle	2942	3829
Forest Donkeys	111	105
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	7737	8579
Common Ponies	599	659
Common Cattle	1263	1040
Common Donkeys	64	67
Common Pigs	21	36
Common Sheep	89	137
Total Common Stock	2036	1939
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	7737	8579
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	1926	1766
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	9663	10345
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	9773	10518

The Head Agister commented that there are still a lot of cattle left to mark.

2018/9863 ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS RESUME

The Announcements and Decisions were approved.

**The Head Agister left the meeting**

2018/9864 POLICY ON FILMING RESUME

The Clerk explained that the office receives numerous requests from film makers wishing to include the Verderers and Agisters in their productions.

Cllr Heron said he felt the Court should consider how public engagement can best be managed. There is also concern that by not partaking in filming opportunities, there is a risk that the historical record will be incomplete.

It was agreed a meeting would be arranged with a local film maker.

Action  
Clerk

**OPEN COURT – 10.00 a.m.**

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

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER**

2018/9865 DAMAGE TO THE FOREST BY POACHING

On 27th April I wrote to all commoners who depasture stock, drawing their attention to the potential implications of some areas of the Forest having been damaged this winter by excessive poaching, principally by cattle. It was essential that my letter went to all commoners, not just those who may be responsible for the excessive poaching, given that the potential consequences affect all commoners.

My letter was accompanied by a letter from the Deputy Surveyor expressing support for the concerns and warnings expressed in my letter. The National Trust has also expressed its support in relation to its commons.

I will not repeat the points set out in the correspondence, since many of you present will have received these letters. Copies of the letters will be available on the Verderers' website in the near future.

The Verderers will be monitoring the affected areas this summer to gauge the extent of their recovery and then throughout next winter. It is to be hoped that next spring the Verderers will not have to be considering more drastic steps to ensure that the fabric of the Forest is protected from this type of damage.

#### 2018/9866 SPEED LIMITS

Mrs Gray has addressed this Court on two occasions recently, urging the introduction of a 30 mile an hour speed limit across the forest.

The Verderers of course support in principle any measure that will reduce animal accidents. Speed is undoubtedly a factor in many animal accidents but it is not, as we all know, the only factor.

We believe that the police will not support the introduction of a 30 mile an hour blanket speed limit across the forest as they say it is unenforceable, so we think that it is unlikely to happen.

However I have recently received a letter containing the response from the Police and Crime Commissioner to the recommendations from the Hampshire police and Crime Panel's Review of Traffic Related Crime and Nuisance.

In it, the PCC is recommended to continue to develop and lead partnerships aimed at reducing speeding and animal casualties within the New Forest National Park.

I will be liaising with the Commissioner to understand better what this may mean in practice. I will also put forward suggestions as to how this may be achieved.

#### 2018/9867 THE COASTAL PATH

Mr Tarnoff has addressed the court on the issue of the proposed extension to the coastal path along the Solent from Highcliffe to Calshot.

Although the Verderers are concerned by anything which places additional recreational pressure on the Forest, much of the route does not directly concern us. However, we have submitted objections to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural affairs. We have expressed our concerns about the increased pressure that will be caused by the section of the route which crosses the Open Forest close to Hilltop, which we will believe will lead to loss of grazing and disturbance of habitat.

We have also expressed our concerns about those sections of the route which cross areas of land used for back up grazing.

#### 2018/9868 DOGS

There have been a number of incidents lately where dogs have been seen worrying livestock. Allowing a dog to be out of control on the Forest is illegal. It is irresponsible, inconsiderate and dangerous. The animals being worried suffer significant stress; both the animals being worried and the dog doing the worrying may run into the road and be hit by a vehicle; both are at high risk of being injured or even killed. In addition, being worried makes the Forest animals very unpredictable and potentially aggressive towards dogs and

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their owners. Most dogs are very well behaved and most owners keep their animals under control. It is a minority who are creating serious animal welfare issues and getting dog owners a bad name.

#### 2018/9869 FILMING

The Verderers have been approached by Big Wave Productions in Chichester for permission to film the Verderers' Court as part of a one hour film for BBC4. The film will explore the wildlife, landscapes, history and people of the New Forest through the seasons over a year.

We do not think it appropriate for the Court proceedings to be filmed but are content for the exterior of the Court to be filmed, including those arriving at Court.

We wanted to let everyone know that the filming is likely to take place at the June Court.

### **ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT**

#### 2018/9870 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR APRIL 2018

The Agisters attended 5 accidents in April, the same number as in April last year.

1 donkey was injured and destroyed and 3 other donkeys were injured. 1 cow was injured. 1 pony which was reportedly involved in an accident could not be found.

1 accident occurred in daylight, 1 at twilight and 3 in the dark.

1 accident was not reported by the driver involved. 3 motorists were local.

The total number of commoners' animals killed and injured so far in 2018 is 22. This compares with 17 in the same period last year.

### **PRESENTMENTS**

#### 2018/9871 SPEED LIMITS Presentment by Mrs Mary Gray, Commoner

Mrs Gray said she appreciates the concerns that the Verderers have expressed regarding the speed limit. She added that the problem is that if the speed limit is 30mph, drivers travel at 40mph and if the limit is 40mph, they travel at 50mph. For this reason, Mrs Gray felt if the speed limit could be reduced on the Forest's roads, there would be fewer animal accidents.

#### 2018/9872 POACHING AND DAMAGE TO THE FOREST Presentment by Mrs Mary Gray, Commoner

Mrs Gray referred to the letters sent to all commoners lately, and said she does not deny there is poaching outside the family holding this year. She added, she understands about the damage which they make good and the family will do their best next winter. She added that problems are inevitable and commented that in the past animals were turned out from ten gates rather than one.

#### 2018/9873 POACHING AND DAMAGE TO THE FOREST Presentment by Mr Chris Aldhous, Commoner

'Approximately 2 years ago I presented a presentment written by my neighbour Ashley Jenkins, (who was on a business trip) highlighting our concerns over poaching of the Forest by large herds of cattle. In fact these concerns were also expressed by some commoners at the CDA AGM and also later at the pony drifts.

We felt the responses we received to the presentment at the time, were platitudes.

We were delighted by the recent letters from the Official Verderer, Deputy Surveyor, and chairman of the CDA and would like to thank you all for taking this matter seriously. My neighbours have expressed the sincere hope that these letters will be followed up by action.

Since our presentment, the poaching by the cattle, which was the subject of our complaint, has grown over and disappeared. The parallel tracks left by the vehicle carrying the feed, have become permanent features. While feeding on the Forest is not a right, I accept, the designation of feeding points may be better than having the animals constantly milling around the owner's holding. The provision of such points needs careful consideration and importantly DESIGNATED FEEDING POINTS SHOULD BE ADHERED TO.'

2018/9874 POACHING AND DAMAGE TO THE FOREST  
Presentment by Mrs Ailsa Farrand on behalf of the New Forest Equestrian Association

'The NFEA is seriously concerned about the damage being caused to the Forest in the Beaulieu Heath area, where the constant movement of a herd of white cattle has turned a footpath leading to Ipley into nothing more than a virtually impassable quagmire.

In addition the NFEA is extremely concerned about the manner of cattle movement in that at feeding times they move quickly and en masse to the feeding point.

On one occasion a woman with a young child in a push chair was forced off a bridge and one of our members has been sworn at by the owner of the cattle when attempting to remonstrate about the cattle.

We all need to co-operate in the use of the Forest and it is hoped the Verderers will take appropriate action.'

2018/9875 NATIONAL GRID PROPOSALS FOR UNDERGROUNDING THE HIGH VOLTAGE LINES  
IN THE NORTH OF THE FOREST  
Presentment by Mr Peter Gear, resident of Hale

'My name is Peter Gear, a resident of Hale. I am representing a number of people who are concerned about the National Grid's proposal to 'underground' the electricity cables traversing Hale Purlieu. Such an act would require trenching across a 4km stretch of the purlieu to a width of 60 – 100 metres. This is twice the width of the M27 (hard shoulder to hard shoulder). It is our view that this would cause irreparable damage to the purlieu, both to the landscape and to the flora and fauna. We are holding a public meeting at Hale Village Hall on 22nd May at 7.30 to ascertain the strength of the following we have to proceed further with our strong objections. Any Verderers who are free are welcome to attend. Following this meeting we intend to write a Paper detailing our objections and I respectfully ask that we be allowed to present this Paper to the Verderers at a time convenient to the court.'

2018/9876 POACHING AND DAMAGE TO THE FOREST - GRAZING LEVELS  
Presentment by Dr Tony Hockley, Chairman, New Forest Commoners' Defence Association

'I would like to make a presentment on grazing levels.

The CDA warmly welcomes the initiative taken by the Official Verderer and Deputy Surveyor to write to all those on the marking register to encourage individual responsibility for stock numbers.

I have also written to CDA members, on behalf of our committee, emphasising the importance that the Association attaches to personal responsibility on stocking decisions; so that grazing continues to deliver the high levels of environmental benefits for which the Forest is renowned, and to protect the welfare of all commoners' stock. It is imperative that the reputation of commoning is not put at risk by the actions of a tiny minority. Mutual responsibility is the lifeblood of commoning: The CDA's own rules require that no member acts in ways that prejudice the interests of all commoners.

We look forward to the day when, after Brexit, the financial support that commoning so desperately needs is tailored to the Forest; locally-designed and locally-led; building on the best of the Verderers Grazing Scheme. The Brexit transition, however, looks set to last several years at least. During these years, before a new scheme can be put in place, we must all do our utmost to ensure that the EU-designed Basic Payments Scheme works to the benefit of the Forest, whilst we plan for a bespoke scheme for the future.

The CDA, therefore, asks the Court to take the following three steps:

- Firstly, as soon as possible, to reconvene the Verderers' Grazing Scheme Advisory Group, which last met in 2014.
- Secondly, to develop and share improved data on depastured stock numbers
- Thirdly, to be seen, alongside the Forestry Commission and National Trust, to act on the byelaws, HLS conditions, and other legal tools at their disposal to protect the common grazing.'

2018/9877 RECREATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY  
Presentment by Mr Brian Tarnoff on behalf of the New Forest Association

'At January's Court, I asked you to take with a blood pressure threatening portion of salt, the results of last year's online RMS survey, which by its own terms made no attempt to get "a balanced and representative sample", and included provably false misreadings of its mere 1500 respondents . A true consultation would present the relative merits, pros and cons of its statements, no attempt was made towards this in the survey.

When I make these complaints to park authority staff, who now erroneously refer to this poll as a "consultation", they have a tendency to brush these off with the tautological statement that all must be well because the process has been signed off by the Six Organizations on the RMS Steering Group including NE FC HCC NPA NFDC and of course, the Verderers. [This confers a collective infallibility which I would not burden you with.]

Sadly, as another online poll will be used to comment on new RMS proposals, we're now due to repeat that meaningless exercise this year. There are some good ideas within these proposals, but they are incomplete and unfocussed, and very much the result of the messy group think employed.

The review of the RMS should have a broader vision, which acknowledges that the complexity of solutions required may need more than 144 characters to express, should include not just the recreation provisions for neighbouring authorities, but strategic review of new development that puts greater recreation pressure on the Forest. This brings housing targets and mitigation regimen across the entire region into the discussion. This cannot be done in a format more suited to counting how many people like that photo of a fox cub, or if you think that dress is blue/black or white/gold.

The future of the Forest, and its millions of recreational visitors, should not be at the behest of an insecure online poll whose unverifiable population is half that of Lyndhurst. We want an RMS aimed at Managing Recreation Strategically to fulfil the Statutory Purposes of the Park, and the legal obligations to protect the designated habitats. We

want leadership able to defend that Strategy in a public consultation, even the measures which may not be simply explained, or may need defence against interest groups who would put their needs above those of the habitat, commoning's working farm and forestry. Please use your seat at the table to stop this important document, and the process guiding it from being dumbed down.'

### IN COMMITTEE in the Library

#### CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2018/9878	<p><b>SPEED LIMITS – AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS</b>                  Presentment by Mrs Mary Gray</p> <p>The Official Verderer said he will engage with the PCC to see if he is able to encourage the Police to look favourably on installing average speed cameras on the B3078. It is understood the technological side is deliverable. The problem appears to be a lack of back room resources needed to manage the data the cameras collect.</p>	<p>DISCHARGE</p> <p>Action OV</p>
2018/9879	<p><b>POACHING AND DAMAGE TO THE FOREST</b>                  Presentments by Mr Aldhous, Mrs Farrand (NFEA) and the Dr Hockley (CDA)</p> <p>See Minute No. 9888 below.</p>	<p>RESUME</p> <p>Action AHP/RD/JG/ Clerk</p>
2018/9880	<p><b>NATIONAL GRID PROPOSALS FOR UNDERGROUNDING THE HIGH VOLTAGE LINES IN THE NORTH OF THE FOREST</b>                  Presentment by Mr Gear</p> <p>The Official Verderer advised the Court that a copy of the latest proposals is held in the Verderers' Office. The Court has supported the principle of undergrounding the high voltage line but its formal consent will depend entirely on the final proposals.</p> <p>The Official Verderer said he will write to Mr Gear. Several Verderers will attend the public meeting at Hale on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The Court is happy to consider a detailed paper. Further presentments are welcome.</p> <p>The Clerk advised the Court that several payments have been received from National Grid in respect of the ground intrusive surveys that are being undertaken. It is understood that all landowners and others whose land is involved are receiving similar payments.</p>	<p>RESUME</p>

#### NEW SUBMISSIONS FROM THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2018/9881	<p><b>BROOMY PLAIN ROAD PASSING PLACES – MITIGATION, CONCRETE REMOVAL, STONEY CROSS</b></p> <p>The Court approved the revised proposals for a greater area of concrete to be removed resulting in a further gain to the Forest, subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing.</p>	<p>DISCHARGE</p>
2018/9882	<p><b>WOODGREEN CRICKET CLUB – WICKET COVERS</b></p> <p>The Court considered Woodgreen CCs request to be allowed to use wicket covers during the summer, with the covers being stored offsite over winter.</p>	<p>DISCHARGE</p>



Woodgreen Common is an iconic Forest scene, much reproduced on postcards etc. Because of the detrimental impact it is felt the covers will have on the visual amenity, the Court regrettably felt it cannot support their use. Additionally, it was felt that if approval is given for this Club, the others in the Forest may well also ask to use covers.

2018/9883 BRAMSHAW TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT DISCHARGE

Cllr Edward Heron declared an interest in this topic and abstained from the decision making process.

After careful consideration, the traffic calming measures were approved with the exception of the gateway signs which are felt to be out of keeping with the Forest landscape. In addition, it is requested that consideration be given to rationalising the signage at the Brook junction with the B3078. The Clerk will advise Hampshire County Council accordingly.

Action  
Clerk

The three usual conditions apply.

2018/9884 NATURAL REGENERATION PLOTS IN MARK ASH – REQUEST FOR FENCING DISCHARGE

Beech tree damage in Mark Ash is being studied. Although there is a relatively small area of damage, a high percentage of trees have been completely ring barked and their life expectancy is now short.

The Forestry Commission requested approval for two fenced trial areas in Mark Ash where beech trees have been damaged by livestock, one to exclude deer and stock and the other to exclude just stock, to monitor the variation in natural regeneration.

The Court is happy to approve the trial but feels it should be more extensive. It is also suggested that a third area be fenced which should be replanted.

It is also suggested that a review of areas fenced in previous trials should be undertaken. Mr Grugeon will request the review.

The Court reminded the Forestry Commission of the need to ensure that protective fencing is properly maintained.

Mrs Westerhoff offered to go back to Mrs Leanne Sargeant, Senior Ecologist for the Forestry Commission to assist with taking the project forward.

Action  
DW

2018/9885 BLACK KNOWL CARAVAN CLUB, ALDRIDGE HILL, BROCKENHURST DISCHARGE

BT has provided plans in relation to the proposed installation of new fibre optic ducting on Forestry Commission land. It will involve 1550 metres of new PVC duct/mole plough (600mm depth), 1 jointing chamber (W655mm x L1125mm x D1050mm) and 1 x 9m light pole with all associated cabling, wires and attachments. The route will follow the gravel road from Rhinefield Road, round to the campsite. The cable will be installed in the verge.

The Court approved the proposals subject to the pole being sited on the private property of the campsite, and the usual three conditions.

## DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS

2018/9886 REVIEW OF THE DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS PROCEDURE DISCHARGE

The system of approving applications by utility companies for minor works has been running for 6 months and in accordance with the original approval, was reviewed today by the Court.

It is felt by both the Forestry Commission and the Court that the system is working well. Without referral to the whole Court, de-minimis applications can be handled much quicker and there is a significant reduction in the paperwork that is required when the whole Court has to consider proposals.

It was agreed the system should continue with a further review in 12 months' time in May 2019.

Action  
Clerk

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

2018/9887 ENGLAND COASTAL PATH DISCHARGE

It was agreed there is nothing to add to the Official Verderer's announcement and no further action is required at this stage.

2018/9888 POACHING AND DAMAGE TO THE FOREST RESUME  
July

A number of measures are being considered to try to reduce damage to the Forest caused by stock.

The VGS committee will look at the level of payments for both cattle and ponies.

Improving the accuracy of the data on actual stock turned out is not feasible although the Head Agister has made some assumptions that are thought to be realistic.

Feeding areas will be reviewed and in future monitored more carefully. The Court will be stricter in future, ensuring that commoners use the areas they have been allocated. If these don't work they must come back to discuss moving their area. The access routes to the feeding areas will also be considered more carefully. Consideration may be given to limiting feeding on the Forest.

The Official Verderer said he is unwilling to re-convene the VGS Advisory Group as its remit was limited to the initial period of the VGS but he is very happy to sit down with the CDA to discuss the current issues.

The three main indicators which can be used to estimate stocking density are:- the welfare (condition) of stock, the extent of any poaching and the results of vegetation monitoring.

The Court discussed ways in which the issue of excessive poaching and possible overgrazing in certain areas might be tackled and it was agreed to set up a working party to look at these issues.

Action  
OV

2018/9889 RECREATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

DISCHARGE

Mr Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre, Chairman of the New Forest National Park Authority joined the meeting.

Mr Crosthwaite Eyre thanked the Court for inviting him to the committee today. He started by explaining the National Park's Recreation Management Strategy from its inception to the present day. A very detailed discussion then took place on the future of recreation management in the New Forest and the need to find ways of reducing pressures from recreation.

The Court approved the actions paper.

The next stage of the consultation will be announced in the coming months.

2018/9890 COMMONS STANDARD MONITORING

DISCHARGE

Mrs Westerhoff explained that Natural England arranges for monitoring of SSSI units on a 6 year rotation. The monitoring is carried out by way of structured walk-over surveys or transects and spot counts. Positive and negative effects on plants and species are recorded.

Natural England publishes its SSSI Monitoring and Reporting regime.

**Cllr Heron & Mr Mills left the meeting.**

**SSSI RESTORATION WORKS**

2018/9891 REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE LIST

RESUME

The SSSI Repair and Maintenance List was circulated to the Court.

2018/9892 WETLAND RESTORATION DRAFT STRATEGY

RESUME

The report is awaited.

Action  
DW

**ENCROACHMENTS INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION**

2018/9893 ENCROACHMENT LIST

RESUME

An updated encroachment list was provided.

**ACTION LIST**

2018/9894 ACTION LIST

RESUME

An updated action list was provided.

**OTHER AGENDA ITEMS AND BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION**

2018/9895 SIGN BOARD AT BRAMSHAW GOLF COURSE CAR PARK

DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore repeated his concern that the additional board on this sign may obscure a small animal standing behind it. Mr Grugeon responded, saying that the overall dimensions of the sign have not changed and he feels the sign does not represent a hazard to stock. Mr Pasmore asked that his concerns be recorded.

**Mr Greenwood left the meeting**

2018/9896	THE THREE USUAL CONDITIONS	DISCHARGE
	The wording of 'the three usual conditions' which are imposed on most consents given by the Court for utility and other works has been reviewed and agreed.	
2018/9897	NO CYCLING SIGN AT GORLEY BUSHES	DISCHARGE
	Mr Pasmore advised the Forestry Commission that the no cycling sign at Gorley Bushes has been taken down again. This is a crucial sign that advises cyclists that they should not access Ashley Walk.	
	Mr Grugeon said he will pass this report to the Recreation Team.	Action PG
2018/9898	CYCLE TRESPASS – BACKLEY TO OLD HOUSE	DISCHARGE
	A no-cycling sign is requested at the underpass. There is evidence that the track leading from the underpass has doubled in size with wheel ruts very much in evidence. A sign on the road to Old House is also needed.	Action PG
	It was suggested that photographs of the damage should be taken for future reference.	Action PG
2018/9899	BACKLEY (A31) UNDERPASS	DISCHARGE
	The walls of the underpass have been defaced by graffiti. Highways England will be asked to arrange for it to be cleaned off.	Action PG/Clerk
2018/9900	VERGE PARKING	DISCHARGE
	Verge parking at weekends on many Forest roads means access with anything larger than a car is often impossible. Brockenhurst, Bolderwood and Woods Corner were cited as being particularly bad. Agisters and Commoners are having real difficulty getting through with horse boxes or trailers when they are going about their daily business as well as if they need to attend sick or injured stock.	
	In addition, rubbish is being left in car parks and barb-ques are being used on the Open Forest, some of which are left behind when those using them leave.	
	It is felt insufficient Forestry Commission staff are available to deal with these issues.	
2018/9901	TOMS LANE, LINWOOD – TRACK REINSTATEMENT	DISCHARGE
	The Court wished to thank the Forestry Commission for its excellent work in reinstating Toms Lane.	

**Mr Grugeon left the meeting.**

## OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

2018/9902 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS - EMAIL ADDRESSES DISCHARGE  
FOR THE VERDERERS

In order to assist with compliance with the new GDPR requirements which come into effect later this month, each member of the Court will be provided with an @verderers email address.

Action  
Clerk

2018/9903 VERDERERS' WEBSITE DISCHARGE

It was agreed it is time the Verderers' website is updated.

Action  
Clerk

## HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

2018/9904 HLS OPEN DAY & AGM DISCHARGE

The open day and AGM was well attended and considered to be a success.

## VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME

2018/9905 PAYMENTS DISCHARGE

The basis on which payments are calculated and enforcement of the VGS rules will be reviewed prior to applications forms being sent out for next year.

Action  
OV/TW

## MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

2018/9906 FOREST FARMING GROUP DISCHARGE

The Rt Hon Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, has responded to the Official Verderer's letter asking for the present HLS to continue, saying that no decision can be made until post Brexit.

2018/9907 ENCROACHMENTS COMMITTEE DISCHARGE

The Encroachments Committee, consisting of representatives of the National Trust, the New Forest National Park Planning Dept., Natural England, the CDA and the New Forest Land Advice Service, plus the Official Verderer, has met. This Committee will endeavour to deal with encroachments where they fall outside the remit of the Forestry Commission and Verderers. Meanwhile, real progress has been made with the planning authority saying that ditch encroachments by householders constitute a change of use from grazing to garden and as such is liable to enforcement action if it does not have planning permission.

2018/9908 NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY LITTER WORKING DISCHARGE  
GROUP

Mr Dowsett explained hot spots have been identified around the Forest, where there are accumulations of fast food wrappers and coffee cups. These seem to be at a certain distance from local fast food outlets. The Forestry Commission would like to trial short-term, temporary signs at these locations to try to discourage littering.

Mr Pasmore suggested signs could also be erected at gates on cycle routes where cyclists, where a similar problem seems to have developed. Cyclists, having purchased food and drink generally consume them within a certain distance of the outlet and then discard them on the Forest. Queen Bower to Hurst Hill is one such location.

The Court approved the temporary signs on a trial basis.

Action  
PG

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

2018/9909 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR APRIL 2018

DISCHARGE

The Financial Statement for April was noted.

## STAFF MATTERS

2018/9910 AGISTERS HORSE EXPENSES

DISCHARGE

The Court agreed an increase to the Agisters' horse expenses should be discussed with HMRC.

Action  
Clerk

2018/9911 CONDITION OF STOCK

DISCHARGE

The animals removed lists were scrutinised. Interestingly, despite the difficult winter, the number of animals removed to date has not increased significantly from last year. It was agreed it is important to uphold the standards.

2018/9912 STALLIONS AND HEREDITARY CONDITIONS

DISCHARGE

Miss Macnair expressed concern at the New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society's policy on certain hereditary conditions including PSSM Type1 (Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy). Horses with this condition are prone to 'tying up' (muscle stiffness and damage, sweating and in severe cases are unwilling to move). However, not all animals who test positive for the condition actually exhibit symptoms. PSSM has been identified in certain bloodlines and all currently licenced stallions have been tested. Those found to be affected have had their licences rescinded, meaning that their progeny can no longer be registered. Miss Macnair felt such drastic action is not necessary and she added that it is as important to test the mares for such conditions as they too may pass them onto their offspring.

2018/9913 WEST NILE FEVER & AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

DISCHARGE

Miss Macnair expressed concern that too little is being done to prevent the importation of deadly diseases such as West Nile Fever and African Horse Sickness. An outbreak of either disease could wipe out the horse and pony population of the New Forest and beyond. In addition to putting pressure on Government to tighten up on border controls, Miss Macnair felt efforts should be made to collect and store semen from all registered New Forest colts and stallions.

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

2018/9914 ILLEGAL ADVERTISING

DISCHARGE

Mr Dowsett showed the Court a photograph of vehicle parked in a layby on the B3080 with its trailer at right angles to the road so as to advertise the name of the company shown on the trailer. The issue was dealt with very efficiently by the Forestry Commission's Estates Officer.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 16:15 hrs

*Jul Mannes*  
20 June 2018