

**MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 15TH May 2019 at
9.30 a.m. in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.**

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

APOLOGIES:	Mr D Readhead	Elected Verderer
------------	---------------	------------------

IN ATTENDANCE:	Miss S Westwood	Clerk to the Verderers
	Mr J R Gerrelli	Head Agister

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

2019/10479	RE- APPOINTMENT OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION'S APPOINTED VERDERER	DISCHARGE
------------	---	-----------

The Official Verderer was pleased to announce that Mr Barry Dowsett has been re-appointed by the Forestry Commission.

2019/10480	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	RESUME
------------	-----------------------------	--------

The Minutes of Court held on Wednesday, 17th April 2019 were approved and signed.

2019/10481	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	RESUME October 2019
------------	--------------------------	---------------------------

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

2019/10482	CONDITION OF STOCK	RESUME
------------	--------------------	--------

The Welfare Tour - The weather was nice on the day of the Tour. A lot of stock was found and inspected. Those present on the Tour were generally happy with the condition of stock.

The Agisters are still removing ponies and there are quite a few which look scruffy and are not picking up after the winter. The grass has yet to start growing properly on the Forest. The weather has been quite cold and dry. Commoners are struggling with diminishing stocks of fodder and so are keen to turn their animals out, particularly cattle, so as to avoid a knock-on effect with the fodder harvest this year.

The Agisters are still marking a lot of cattle.

2019/10483 ANIMALS REMOVED LISTS

More animals have been removed than in recent years. The condition of stock in January and February has been more akin to what would be expected in March and April. A lot of young ponies have been taken off. Despite that, there still seem to be a lot left, despite commoners complaining that not enough foals have been born.

2019/10484 BOVINE TB

RESUME

There are ongoing TB issues. TB breakdowns have been identified recently in cattle in two locations around the Forest. One was at Marchwood and the other at Woodgreen. APHA said it was going to impose radial testing on any cattle within 3km of the breakdowns. However, APHA was very slow in sending out the letters and a number of commoners whose animals are in the affected areas did not receive a letter. In at least one case, the commoner has still not received a letter. In addition, the test dates have been staggered. At this time of year, when cattle are being turned out, they move away from the holdings and disperse quite widely, mixing with other depastured stock. APHA's delays is putting the whole Forest herd at risk.

Cllr Heron suggested the time has come to write to the Forest MPs, particularly Dr Julian Lewis, expressing the Court's concern and enclosing a briefing note, explaining what is happening. A letter to the relevant Government Agency or Department from an MP is guaranteed to be received by the relevant Minister.

It was agreed that Mr Greenwood should draft a suitable briefing note/letter. A copy will be sent to Cllr Heron. Concerns that non-commoning herds may also put the Forest herd at risk will be included.

Action
JG/Clerk

2019/10485 REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

RESUME

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Forest Ponies	4873	4684
Forest Cattle	3123	2942
Forest Donkeys	116	111
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	8112	7737
Common Ponies	750	599
Common Cattle	1431	1263
Common Donkeys	136	64
Common Pigs	41	21
Common Sheep	211	89
Total Common Stock	2569	2036
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	8112	7737
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	2317	1926
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	10429	9663
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	10681	9773

2019/10486 ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS

RESUME

The Announcements and Decisions 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

2019/10487 FORESTRY COMMISSION APPOINTED VERDERER

I am happy to report that the Forestry Commission has re-appointed Barry Dowsett as its nominated Verderer on the Court. Barry's term of office will now expire in June 2021.

2019/10488 DEFRA APPOINTED VERDERER

This is just to remind potential applicants for this post that the deadline for applications to be received by Defra is 31st May.

2019/10489 REPLACEMENT BRIDGE A35 HOLMSLEY

We have considered the presentment made at our March Court by Hampshire County Council's solicitor seeking our consent under section 17 of the New Forest Act 1949, to an additional area of land within the New Forest being used as a highway.

We also considered carefully, the presentment at our April Court by Mr Kevin Whittle objecting to the closing of laybys on the A35 in exchange for the land to make way for the new bridge.

We have decided that Hampshire County Council's proposals are acceptable and accordingly have given our consent.

2019/10490 ASHURST HOSPITAL

We have now written twice to the National Park Authority objecting to proposals for residential development on the redundant part of the Hospital site. We have also made clear, our view that under the terms of the 1836 Grant, under which the land was taken from the Forest, the land should now revert to Open Forest so that the commoners can graze their animals there, as they did before 1836. We will also be writing to NHS Properties, the owners of the site, making it clear that we consider they are legally obliged to return the redundant part of the site to the Forest.

2019/10491 NEW FOREST WETLANDS RESTORATION SCHEME - PRESTIGIOUS 2019 UK RIVER PRIZE

We are very proud to announce that the winning entry for the prestigious 2019 UK River Prize, an award which recognises and celebrates the achievements of individuals and organisations committed to improving the UK's rivers and catchments, is the 'New Forest Wetlands'.

This year's impressive level of entries were judged by a panel of industry experts, including Martin Janes (The River Restoration Centre), Oliver Lowe (Natural Resources Wales), Pam Nolan (Environment Agency), Ann Skinner (Independent) and Christopher Spray (University of Dundee).

Against stiff competition, the overall winner was announced as the 'New Forest Wetlands' partnership project for its restoration of 60 stream and mire sites within Sites of Special Scientific Interest, across the New Forest area. Fiona Bowles (The River Restoration Centre Chairman) presented Forestry England and the project partners with the Nigel Holmes Trophy.

Commenting on the winners' achievement, Martin Janes, Managing Director of The River Restoration Centre said: "It was impossible to ignore the huge amount of work that this partnership has undertaken over the past nine years, leading to the improvement and protection of rare wetland habitat. Visually, the finished work demonstrates incredible attention to detail, often restoring the stream component to its old course and floodplain with remarkably few visible scars to the landscape, as if it had been there for centuries.

I would like to pay tribute to all those who have worked so hard over the last nine years to turn these projects into reality, often in the face of criticism. I believe future generations will look back at these projects with the pride and admiration they deserve.

2019/10492 HLS 2019 CELEBRATION EVENING

This is just a short reminder that we are holding the Annual General Meeting of the HLS on Wednesday 22nd May at 6 pm at Minstead Village Hall. The evening will celebrate the work that has taken place to protect and enhance the internationally important habitats of The New Forest. Refreshments will be provided! The river restoration prize that has recently been awarded to the Forest will be on display together with a celebration cake.

I regret that at the time of making this announcement I have no further news about any extension or replacement of this immensely valuable scheme.

2019/10493 CUT FENCES

Bramshaw Golf Club has reported that some fencing on its Forest course have been cut. The fencing had been erected in accordance with its management plan to provide temporary protection to its greens and tees.

There have also been recent incidences of fences being cut at Holidays Hill Inclosure.

Cutting fences amounts to criminal damage. It is unhelpful and unacceptable. The perpetrators are unknown.

2019/10494 GELDINGS

At our April Court, Mr Hockley from the New Forest Commoners' Defence Association, welcomed the arrangements for depasturing stallions this year. At the same time, he encouraged commoners to take geldings off the Forest whilst the stallions are out and he asked for our support.

Some problems with geldings interfering with the work of the stallions occur every year. This is why two-year-old colts, which have passed the spring inspection, are no longer turned out. We request commoners who own geldings which run out on the Forest, to consider temporarily removing any gelding which is seen to be interfering with the work of the stallions.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2019/10495 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR APRIL 2019

The Agisters attended 5 accidents. This compares with 6 in the same month last year.

1 pony was killed. 2 ponies and 1 donkey were injured. 1 animal was not found. The pony which was killed, was hit at 10.00 p.m. in Hatchet Lane, Beaulieu. She was wearing a reflective collar.

1 accident occurred in daylight, and the other 4 occurred in the dark.

All the accidents were reported by the driver involved.

1 motorist is known to have been local.

The total killed and injured so far in 2019 is 33 compared with 22 in the same period last year.

PRESENTMENTS

2019/10496 NEW FOREST CROWN FREEHOLD PROPERTIES

Presentment by Dr Tony Hockley, Chairman, New Forest Commoners' Defence Association

'I would like to begin with a quotation from the only person I have yet encountered with 100% confidence in their own knowledge of this landscape:

"It is not the flowers, not the birds or the deer or the badgers or the butterflies that are in most urgent need of conservation here but the people, the real people of this place" .

Chris Packham's wise words are deeply relevant to what I have to say.

It is now more than two years after I succeeded Dr Ferris as Chair of the CDA. Since then nothing has caused me greater and more consistent concern than the challenge of ensuring that there will be affordable land and homes available for the next generation of commoners - in Britain's least affordable National Park.

We are fortunate that we have a keen and active young commoners' group in the CDA. Young people who are willing to commit their lives to sustaining the grazing of the New Forest – An incredible vocational commitment, amongst all the other pressures of modern life, upon which everything that is so special about this landscape depends.

In 1991, after a thorough review of the challenges and all options to sustain grazing, the Secretary of State determined that the 65 Crown holdings should be prioritised for those who would commit to New Forest grazing, and that they should be kept truly affordable to them. Since the time of the Illingworth Report these holdings have enabled families with a long history of commoning to maintain the practice, from one generation to the next. We all benefit from their love of the New Forest, their deep knowledge of the livestock and the landscape, and their lifelong commitment to commoning. The Crown holdings have been crucial in this.

In 2016 all that changed - on a whim. The Forestry Commission simply decided that market rents would help fill the coffers: To cash in on property values in Britain's most expensive and least affordable National Park. In 2017 Sir Desmond Swayne prompted ministers to remind the Commission that such a change of policy would require a formal and inclusive review, and a decision by ministers. Since then we have caught the Commission advertising cottages to the highest bidder, with no mention of grazing, and allocating them to its own managers however it sees fit.

Forestry England is now attempting to entrap this Court in its disgraceful strategy of privatisation by stealth. By selecting just one small part of the Government policy, for one cottage at New Park; this is the involvement of Verderers in tenant selection. Clearly, it hopes that the Court will not notice:

1. Every other holding has been auctioned or allocated to staff. With no consultation with this Court: Powdermill, Kings Hat, Longbeech, Springfield.
2. The rent for Little New Park has been fixed at more than 100% of many young commoners' household income. Not the 15% stipulated by Government. With no consultation with this Court.
3. An arbitrary qualification has been set, that at least 10 ponies will be turned out from Little New Park's 1.3 acres of back-up land. With no consultation with this Court.
4. It has separated the barn from the property: Again with no consultation with this Court.
5. For Little New Park it is demanding income statements from anyone interested, to check they can afford £18,000 a year in rent alone and to deter all those commoners who cannot.

Tenant selection is, therefore, just a trap that the Court would be wise to avoid. This is simply a diversion along the route to effective privatisation of the Crown freeholds; removing them from support for commoning.

This open defiance of government policy for Crown property is shameful from a public body. It not only defies policies that have worked well to sustain Forest grazing over a quarter century. It also defies the Ministers Mandate to the Commission; that it should put the Forest first, ahead of its corporate financial interests. And it defies the 2018 Accord with National Parks England. I am very sorry to say that we no longer have confidence in the Deputy Surveyor to put the Forest first in this regard.

This is a matter of the utmost gravity for the future of commoning in the New Forest. We have tried for three years to work with the Forestry Commission – willing to discuss update the Illingworth policies, but their ears are deaf to the voice of the Forest. They will push on regardless of all due process. Standing idly by whilst Forestry England misappropriates these Crown properties, so that tenancy is a matter of income rather than the good of the Forest, will have lasting consequences for the conservation of this precious landscape. We are very grateful to the Friends of the New Forest for their support.

I have written to the Secretary of State to ask him to put a stop to this disgraceful episode. I would urge the Court and the National Park Authority to do likewise.'

2019/10497 CUT FENCES

Presentment by Mrs Mary Gray, Commoner from Bramshaw

Mrs Gray informed the Court that a calf belonging to her family was found trapped in the wire at the 4th hole of the Forest Course. In order to release the calf, it was necessary to cut the wire. Mrs Gray said if this is the wire cutting incident that is being referred to, it was the practical thing to do in the interests of animal welfare.

PRESENTATION

2019/10498 PRESENTATION OF THE ROWL KITCHER CUP

In 2007, we resurrected the annual award of the Rowl Kitcher Cup which was kindly donated some years ago by Mr Rowl Kitcher's family. The Cup is awarded each year to the owner of the highest scoring 2 or 3 year old colt at the stallion inspections held in the spring and to qualify for the cup the colt has to be selected for inclusion in the Verderers' Stallion Scheme.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to present the Cup in November last year and so we are very pleased to be able to do it now.

I am very pleased to announce that in 2018, the Rowl Kitcher Cup was won by Knavesash Polaris who was the highest scoring young colt presented to the Verderers last year for selection as a potential stallion for Forest.

Knavesash Polaris is owned by Kate Robb from Thorney Hill and she is here today to receive the Rowl Kitcher cup, which will be presented by Elected Verderer and Chairman of the Verderers' Stallion Sub-Committee, Mr Richard Deakin.

The Head Agister closed the Court

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

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

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2019/10499 NEW FOREST CROWN FREEHOLD PROPERTIES

RESUME

The Official Verderer commenced the discussion by saying that the Court needs to be clear about its role in this. It is probably limited although it should support the CDAs position. This was agreed.

The Official Verderer went on to say that the Illingworth Report recommends that two Verderers are appointed to the panel which selects tenants to Crown properties when it is proposed that a practising commoner takes up the tenancy.

The Verderers have statutory responsibilities in respect of the animals and the grazing, they must therefore have an interest in things which help to protect the future of commoning.

The CDA believes the Forestry Commission is required to do what the Illingworth Report recommends and that is to let its freehold properties to commoners on the basis set out in that report.

Clr Heron said the Verderers are an interested party. Forestry England is trying to maximise its income as far as it is permitted to do. It is frequently asked why it isn't doing this. If we say FE should be letting its properties to commoners at less than market rent, we should at the same time make representations that FE should be adequately funded to undertake the tasks it is required to do.

Mr Mills asked whether FE acknowledges the problem and what steps can it take to achieve its aim and put a red line round the dwellings.

In response, the Deputy Surveyor said that as Dr Hockley has written to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Michael Gove, he is limited in what he can say today. However, he does not agree that FE is trying to maximise its income from its properties; FE's interest is to be able to maintain the properties, support commoning and FE staff in what is a very expensive part of the Country. He supports the plea that FE has adequate funds; other income generated from outside the Forest supports the running of the Forest.

The Official Verderer said that the Court supports Illingworth and therefore, when property is let to commoners, it should be involved in the selection process. Mr Deakin, however, felt that participating in the selection process now will be seen as supporting un-affordably high rent which many commoners cannot afford.

Mr Grugeon said the rent has been reduced significantly from what would be a commercial level and FE is trying to ascertain what commoners are prepared to pay.

Cllr Heron suggested this matter should be resumed because FE will not be able to let the property in New Park until it has responded to the Secretary of State. The Deputy Surveyor responded by saying that FE will continue with the open day but won't proceed with an actual letting for the time being.

The Official Verderer has two main reasons for disagreeing with the CDA's and Mr Deakin's view that the Verderers should not be involved in the selection process. Firstly, if the Verderers are supporting Illingworth they cannot then refuse to join in. Secondly, the time to claim the selection process is a farce is after participating in the selection process when the Verderers will have a better idea whether the exercise is bona fide. The Verderers may in due course condemn the selection process. Some commoners may be able to afford the asking rent although those who can't are probably those who most need support. To take account of BPS payments is a red herring as when it has gone, commoners may well then not be able to afford a high rent.

The Deputy Surveyor said he hopes that by June, he will have an agreed position in order that he can respond to Dr Hockley's presentment.

NEW SUBMISSIONS

2019/10500 THE PIG, BROCKENHURST – NEW SEWER

DISCHARGE

The proposal which involves burying the pipe in the front drive/access track was approved, subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing.

The Court, however, insisted the property draws up an emergency action plan to deal with any failures of the sewage system, similar to that held by Rhinefield House and Lime Wood. Mr Grugeon will ensure this is done.

Action PG

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

2019/10501	OPEN FOREST ADVISORY GROUP (OFAC)	DISCHARGE
	<p>Mr Deakin said he attended the last OFAC meeting. Previous concerns that some attendees views were being ignored appeared to be unfounded. In Mr Deakin's view, there is a right level of consultation and he is content with the manner in which the group is run. Mrs Westerhoff and Mr Dowsett also attended. Mr Deakin added that he intends to attend future meetings.</p>	
2019/10502	RECREATIONAL PRESSURES / SIGNAGE IN CAR PARKS	DISCHARGE
	<p>It is felt that in some car parks, signage is needed to let the public know what is acceptable and what isn't.</p> <p>At Linford Car Park, someone drove over the ditch, parked near the stream, erected a pagoda and lit a barbecue. It is evident that the Forest is thought by some, to be a theme park where you can do whatever you like. Mr Deakin remarked that there has been and unfortunately seems to remain, a strong initiative by some people and organisations to 'sell the New Forest' for tourism and recreation. 'Go New Forest' continues to strongly advertise the Forest. Another initiative has been added to the Go New Forest website recently including a video. The website also shows mountain bikes being ridden on what looks to be heathland, rather than the waymarked cycle route where they should be. Mr Greenwood said he will speak to Mr Climpson about it.</p>	Action JG
2019/10503	VEGETATION SURVEY	RESUME
	<p>The Deputy Surveyor said he is looking to agree the methodology for collecting data and assessing the state of the Forest vegetation. Ms Leanne Sergeant is drafting a brief and the Official Verderer and Mr Robert Dean, the Consultant retained by the Future Forest Group to write a paper on Natural Capital are considering suitable consultants/academics to undertake the work. It was agreed that Members of the Court see the brief before it is sent out.</p> <p>It is hoped the survey can be funded initially by the HLS. If not, it will be a joint project between Forestry England, the National Park Authority and the Verderers. The proposal is to take a long-term view. Mrs Westerhoff said she has some historical information and Mr Pasmore's scheme involving photographic evidence will be included.</p>	Action DS/OV
2019/10504	COMMERCIAL DOG WALKERS CHARTER, THE CONTROL OF DOGS & RECREATIONAL PRESSURE	RESUME July
	<p>Cllr Heron said that because of the recent local elections, he has not been able to write the letter to the relevant Minister urging that Forestry England be given the necessary resources and tools to manage the increasing pressure from visitor numbers.</p>	Action EH

- 2019/10505 SSE REPLACEMENT POLES – BANK / ALUM GREEN / HOLIDAYS HILL RESUME
- Several meetings have been held but no conclusions have been drawn. It was agreed this item should be discharged for the time being. Natural England and SSE will be meeting at some point. Mr Dowsett has asked for Forestry England and the Court to be advised.
- 2019/10506 CATTLE GRID AT CASTLE MALWOOD RESUME
- No progress has been made with Highways England and the grid remains in a dangerous state. The Clerk will ask for a progress report. Action Clerk
- 2019/10507 VERDERERS' INCLOSURES DISCHARGE
- The Deputy Surveyor replied to Mr Pasmore's queries regarding screening. As respects the remaining line of conifers at Markway, the Deputy Surveyor said they are due to be removed and he felt that the vegetation along the road provides sufficient screening. Mr Pasmore disagreed and said he would prefer the trees are left in place.
- 2019/10508 WINDBLOWN TREES POLICY RESUME
- The policy could do with being more specific in some areas and further consideration is to be given to what can be done. It was agreed a sub committee consisting of Mrs Westerhoff, Mr Deakin and Mr Dowsett should meet. Action DW/RD/BD
- 2019/10509 GOLF CLUBS & PESTICIDES RESUME July
- Bramshaw's plan has been completed and will be the basis for the plans for the other two clubs. Mr Grugeon will produce them as soon as possible. Action PG
- 2019/10510 INCLOSURE FENCES RESUME
- The maps included in the 2007 Forest Design Plan need to be refreshed. Agreement still needs to be reached as to which organisation will take responsibility for which fences. Pound Hill is an example. The Deputy Surveyor will talk to his staff and bring back some proposals. Action DS

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

- 2019/10511 REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE LIST RESUME
- An updated SSSI Repair and Maintenance List was circulated.

ACTION LIST

- 2019/10512 ACTION LIST RESUME
- An updated Action List was provided. Action DS

2019/10513 VERGE PARKING AT FRITHAM RESUME

The problem of verge parking in the vicinity of the Royal Oak Public House at Bank has still not been resolved. It was agreed over a year ago that a site meeting would be arranged but nothing has happened. The Court is keen that the parking issues in the area are resolved as it is felt they cannot go on indefinitely. Some agreement with the pub has been reached but the Deputy Surveyor was asked to make the work a priority. A solution is needed that won't adversely affect the pub's future.

Action DS

NEW ENCROACHMENTS INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2019/10514 ENCROACHMENT AT PIPERS WAIT DISCHARGE

A very large area of gravel has appeared adjacent to Pipers Wait reservoir. There are also a number of old steel and concrete manhole covers, around which the ground has been eroded and needs to be properly reinstated. It was explained that the gravel was laid following excavations carried out by the water company to find and repair an extensive water leak. Mr Sean Marsh (FE Estates Officer) has visited the site and will be making a further visit to resolve the issue of the gravel which is a new encroachment on the grazing.

Action SM
(FE)

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2019/10515 EAST BOLDRE VILLAGE SHOP RESUME

Further discussions took place regarding a possible land swap which would permit a shop to operate from the Village Hall, but several issues remain which must be resolved. Mr Grugeon will go back to the Solicitors to clarify the legal position. A definite proposal is then required for the Court to consider.

Action PG

The Deputy Surveyor and Mr Grugeon left the meeting.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING

2019/10516 ENCROACHMENT AT PICKET HILL RESUME

Natural England is endeavouring to ensure the encroachment is abated although it appears that further work may have been carried out on the SSSI. The Clerk has also written to the owner of the land.

2019/10517 FEEDING OF STOCK BY THE PUBLIC DISCHARGE

It was agreed this should be discharged for the time being, pending further consideration of the byelaws and other potential enforcement.

2019/10518 LAND & PROPERTY AT LYNDHURST ROAD (ASHURST) RAILWAY STATION RESUME
July

The Clerk is still pursuing this matter with the Crown Estate.

Action Clerk

2019/10519 VERDERERS' POLICY LEAFLET – PRECIOUS WILDERNESS OR SUBURBAN PARK RESUME

Mrs Westerhoff, Mr Dowsett and Mr Pasmore will meet. Comments from other members of the Court need to be submitted as soon as possible as the leaflet is to be finalised and reprinted in time for the Show. Action DW/BD/AHP

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME & VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME

There was nothing to report at this meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

2019/10520 VERDERERS REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS RESUME September

The table setting out who sits on the various external committees and working groups is in need up updating. It was agreed this may be best left until after Mr Mill's replacement is in post. In the meantime, Mr Dowsett asked if the Joint Litter Working Group could be added. Mr Mills commented that there is a group which considers the Water catchment in his area and he felt a representative of the Court could usefully sit on that group. This will be investigated. Action HM/Clerk

2019/10521 LEADERSHIP GROUP DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer sits on this group which is responsible for producing the NPA'S new partnership (management) plan. A Primer Pitch Document is to be produced as part of a public consultation process

2019/10522 JOINT LITTER WORKING GROUP DISCHARGE

Mr Dowsett reported that real progress is being made with respect to fly tipping in the Forest, mainly as a result of work being undertaken by NFDC and HCC. Roadside checks on vehicles carried out by Police, Trading Standards and DVLA resulted in the identification of a number of vehicles transporting waste without the necessary licence. Untaxed vehicles were identified together with some instances of the illegal use of red diesel. Some vehicles were impounded. Word appears to have got out that these checks are being carried out and it seems to have had a positive effect. In 2017, approximately 620 fly tips on the Crown Lands were dealt with. In 2018 the number was half that.

Mr Dowsett said he is also due to attend a meeting on the *psychology of littering* from vehicles.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2019/10523 FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement was noted.

STAFF MATTERS / HEALTH & SAFETY

2019/10524 HAMPSHIRE HIGHWAYS ROADSIDE FENCES RESUME

The Staff Committee minutes record serious concerns regarding the condition of the fenced roads which transverse the Forest. In some places the fences are in an appalling condition. Cllr Heron said he has written to Mr Tim Lawton, Assistant Director (Highways, Traffic and Engineering) on the subject. Mr Lawton has suggested a review should be undertaken a couple of times a year. Meanwhile, the Clerk has sent HCC the list of current defects.

Action
EH/Clerk

2019/10525 AGISTERS HELP FOR THE COMMONERS DISCHARGE

A complaint has been received from a commoner that he is not receiving sufficient help from the Agisters.

The Court was disappointed to hear this complaint. Help is offered at the goodwill and discretion of the Court. The general feeling is that in fact the commoners receive an exceptional level of help from such a small organisation. Assistance should be regarded as a privilege. Mr Deakin and the Clerk will write a suitable response to the commoner concerned.

Action
RD/Clerk

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2019/10526 PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST ON HYDE COMMON RESUME

The Clerk reported that she has received an email advising that EE/3 is proposing to erect a temporary telecommunications mast on Hyde Common. It appears that the present mast which is on private property has to be removed following a dispute with the landowner. The matter went to Court and the land owner won. As a result, EE/3 needs a replacement mast by the end of May.

The Clerk was asked to write in the strongest possible terms expressing the Court's concern and objection to the proposal.

Action
Clerk

2019/10527 D DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE AND REDEDICATION SERVICE AT THE CANADIAN MEMORIAL DISCHARGE

A service is being held on Wednesday 5th June at 11.00 a.m. to mark the 75th anniversary of D Day. Miss Macnair and Mr Dowsett will attend. The Clerk thinks Agister Peter Rix may also wish to attend.

2019/10528 FRESHWATER AND WETLAND RESTORATION FORUM MEETING ON FRIDAY 28TH JUNE 2019 DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer, Mrs Westerhoff, Mr Deakin and Mr Dowsett expressed a wish to attend this forum.

Action
Clerk

2019/10529 ILLEGAL PARKING / VERGE PARKING / PARKWISE SCHEME DISCHARGE

Mr Dowsett reported that an initiative similar to the Parkwise Scheme is being introduced and new stickers will soon be issued to Forestry England staff. This prompted the suggestion that the Verderers should have stickers on their cars indicating they are Verderers going about their legitimate business. The Clerk pointed out that the Forestry Commission permit stickers work very well for this purpose but it is thought they may not longer be available. The Clerk will investigate.

Action
Clerk

2019/10530 BROOMY PLAIN ROAD

DISCHARGE

Work will continue now that the safety audit has been completed. Some additional signage will be necessary but will be kept to the minimum. Reflectors will be fitted to alternate posts only.

2019/10531 VERDERERS RECORDS

DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore reported that Mrs Shireen Caals has undertaken the archiving work as agreed. This has included looking through the small library of books held in the Verderers' Office. There are three categories;

1. Books and publications which the Clerk wishes to retain;
2. Books which are valuable but need to be repaired/restored and which may be safer if they are held by the Christopher Tower Library on loan;
3. Some less valuable commonly available books which could be sold at the CTL to help pay for the restoration of those in category 2.

The Court approved these proposals.

The Clerk will contact Hampshire Records Office with a view to sending the archived papers there for safekeeping.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.24 p.m.

J. Wanne
19 June 2019