

**MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 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 R Manley	DEFRA Appointed Verderer
	Mr A H Pasmore	Elected Verderer
	Mr D Readhead	Elected Verderer
Mrs D Westerhoff	Natural England Appointed Verderer	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Miss S Westwood	Clerk to the Verderers
	Mr J R Gerrelli	Head Agister

**IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

2019/10763 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The Minutes of Court held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were approved and signed.

2019/10764 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

Declarations of interest can be found on the Verderers' website – [www.verderers.org.uk](http://www.verderers.org.uk). The Declarations of Interest were reviewed today.

2019/10765 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister reported that he is relatively pleased with the current condition of stock on the Forest. Many animals are looking very well going into the winter.

The drifts have finished. The Agisters are arranging a few 'clear up' days to catch foals that were missed. In addition, the Agisters and some commoners have also caught a few other animals which are wanted but which did not come in on the drifts.

There are still quite a number of cattle on the Forest. Commoners are well into the TB testing window. Some cattle have been in for their tests and having gone clear, have been marked for next year and turned back out. These are mostly animals which either go home each day to be fed or their owners have approved feeding areas.

A number of ponies and cattle have been lost to acorn poisoning this year and that can go on until after Christmas.

2019/10766 DUMPED AND ABANDONED ANIMALS DISCHARGE

A number of animals have been dumped or abandoned already this winter. The animals have been reported to the Police and where appropriate, have been advertised as 'found'. It should be noted that over the years, whilst some equines have been found to be microchipped, in no instances has it been possible to identify the owner.

2019/10767 WORMING

DISCHARGE

The Head Agister confirmed that some commoners worm their animals on the drifts but they are told they must only use non ivermectin based wormers unless the animals are removed immediately and kept off the Forest for 14 days. Commoners who are members of the VGS sign a declaration confirming they will not use ivermectin on stock which is running on the Forest.

2019/10768 COW INCIDENT

DISCHARGE

Mr Dowsett asked if the Office is aware of an incident at Woodgreen in which a lady was reportedly injured by a cow. The information is third hand. The Head Agister said he too had heard a rumour but the incident has not been formally reported. The Clerk asked Mr Dowsett to provide what information he can in order that the incident can be recorded.

Action BD

2019/10769 INCIDENTS INVOLVING COMMONERS' STOCK

DISCHARGE

A number of incidents have reportedly occurred where dogs have chased or attacked stock in different parts of the Forest but few have been reported directly to the Verderers' office.

Two sheep have been killed at Bramshaw but their deaths are not dog related. The police have been informed.

The Head Agister said that on a recent visit to the Cotswolds, he learned that commercial dog walkers using Cleve Hill, are required to apply for a licence. Forestry England will be asked to give further consideration to licencing commercial dog walkers operating in the Forest.

**The Head Agister left the meeting.**

2019/10770 REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

RESUME

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Forest Ponies	5036	4941
Forest Cattle	5520	5015
Forest Donkeys	132	124
Forest Pigs	402	274
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	11090	10354
Common Ponies	792	776
Common Cattle	2025	1903
Common Donkeys	136	124
Common Pigs	196	128
Common Sheep	212	213
Total Common Stock	3361	3144
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	10688	10080
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	2953	2803
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	13641	12883
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	14451	13498

2019/10771 MARKING FEE REVIEW DISCHARGE

It was agreed Marking fees should not be increased. The Official Verderer will announce in Open Court that marking fees remain unchanged in 2020.

2019/10772 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT RESUME

No byelaw breaches have been identified.

2019/10773 ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS RESUME

The Announcements and Decisions were approved.

**OPEN COURT – 10.00 a.m.**

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

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER**

2019/10774 INCIDENT ON IBSLEY COMMON

At our September Court Mrs Fiona Gover made a presentment in which she drew the Court's attention to an incident she had witnessed on Ibsley Common.

A group of adults, escorting some children from Blunts Barn Activity Centre, attempted to drive a herd of cattle away from the pond where they were attempting to drink.

Mrs Gover quite rightly intervened to stop this behaviour and after some delay the cattle were permitted to drink.

Attempts have been made to contact Blunts Barn Activity Centre both by the Verderers and by the National Trust to explain why preventing animals from drinking is unacceptable and could be dangerous.

Regrettably no response has been received from the Activity Centre but it is to be hoped that the combination of Mrs Gover's presentment and this announcement will ensure that this type of behaviour is not repeated.

2019/10775 MARKING FEES 2020

Marking fees have remained at the same level since 2011 and I am pleased to announce that there will be no increase next year.

Marking fees for 2020 are therefore the same as this year:

Ponies & Donkeys on the Forest £24.00 per head  
Ponies & Donkeys on the Commons £12.00 being ½ of the Forest marking fee  
Cattle on the Forest £24.00  
Cattle on the Commons £3.00 being 1/8 of the Forest marking fee  
Sheep on the Forest £8.00  
Sheep on the Commons £4.00  
Pigs on the Forest £4.00  
Pigs on the Commons £2.00 per head

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

#### 2019/10776 ROAD SAFETY WEEK 2019

This is Road Safety Week. It runs from November 18th to November 24th. This week, organised by 'Brake', the road safety charity, is an annual event and the biggest road safety awareness event in the UK.

This seems a timely opportunity for us to remind motorists to take extra care on the Forest's roads now that it is dark at commuter times.

In addition, with winter approaching, salt will soon be spread on roads in the Forest and that always attracts the stock. Please be extra vigilant in frosty weather.

### ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

#### 2019/10777 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2019

The Agisters attended 19 accidents in October. This is the same as in October last year.

1 pony, 1 cow and 1 donkey were killed outright and 2 ponies were injured and had to be humanely destroyed. In addition, 1 pony was injured.

4 accidents occurred in daylight, 3 at twilight and 12 in the dark.

1 accident was not reported by the driver involved.

The total killed and injured so far in 2019 is 74 compared with 73 in the same period last year.

### PRESENTMENT BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR

#### 2019/10778 BROOMY WOOD - RESPONSE TO PRESENTMENT MADE BY MRS BERYL BULL AT OCTOBER COURT 2019

'At the October Court Mrs Beryl Bull raised her concern about the woodland management work in Broomy Inclosure and its potential impact on the bluebells which flower throughout this area.

The operations are a regular cycle of activity which occurs within each Inclosure every 5 years or so. As a woodland grows it is good practice to thin out some of the trees. This provides room for the trees that remain to develop and maintains adequate amounts of light to reach the forest floor. The quality and beauty of the woodlands in Broomy Inclosure is indicative of this regular management over many years. Without management the woodlands can become very shaded and this poses a real risk to sustaining the spring flowers we all enjoy. Latest statistics show that over 40% of our woodlands across England are not in active management and this is one of the greatest threats to the quality of our native woodlands, its plants and its wildlife - all features which are irreplaceable.

Woodlands can look raw during work and, because it does not occur every year, people do not see activity in their local woods very often. We are familiar with a farmer working his fields every season, but a forester works his woodland once every 5 to 10 years. We start planning our work up to 2 years in advance, deciding what needs to be done at the next

visit, what constraints may exist on the site and when best to do the work. We can't work in the early spring when the flowers are blooming or during the bird nesting season. We prefer to avoid the wetter winter months as well when the risk of ground damage is higher. This leaves only a short period in late summer and early autumn when management can take place, so a lot of change can be seen in a short time.

Throughout the forestry industry there are best practice guidelines on how to manage our native and ancient woodlands. It is good practice to leave the branch-wood on the forest floor to rot down and feed the soil. It also advises that the branch-wood should be spread across the site and not allowed to accumulate in larger piles to prevent shading of spring flowers. What Mrs Bull observed was a site in progress and the second phase of work will be starting shortly including removal of all the remaining large logs leaving only the branch wood. The logs stacked at trackside will be despatched to sawmills over the winter, so the woodland will be ready and well prepared for the bluebell spectacle next spring.'

## PRESENTMENTS

2019/10779 FENCE AT CANTERTON LANE  
Presentment by Mrs Mary Gray, commoner

Mrs Gray reported that the fence has still not been repaired. She added it now looks like Forest stock is gaining access to the private land through what is a very dangerous fence.

2019/10780 BRAMSHAW GOLF COURSE  
Presentment by Mrs Mary Gray, commoner

Mrs Gray reported that a chain harrow has been left on the course at the 16<sup>th</sup> Tee. Mrs Gray says she has had a couple of lame cows recently and she wondered whether they have trodden on, or become entangled in the harrow.

Additionally, Mrs Gray said she has noticed a roller has also been left out on open Forest opposite the cricket pitch.

2019/10781 RAILWAY RAILS ON OPEN FOREST  
Presentment by Mr Mike Eccles, commoner

Mr Eccles advised the Court that some railway line rails are being stored on grazing adjacent to the Drift Hotel at Beaulieu Road Station.

2019/10782 LONGDOWN FENCE  
Presentment by Mr Mike Eccles, commoner

Mr Eccles said the sub-standard fence adjacent to Longdown Cattle Grid has been repaired. He said it is a job well done.

2019/10783 HOT BRANDING TRAINING  
Presentment by Mr Mike Eccles, commoner

Mr Eccles said the hot branding training session carried out recently was well conducted and appeared to be very successful. He added that one or two commoners realised hot branding is not as easy as it looks. He felt the training is an excellent idea which will help keep hot branding alive.

2019/10784 ACORNS – THE NEW SUPERFOOD  
Presentment by Mr Eccles, commoner

A recent article in the press promotes acorns as the new superfood! Mr Eccles expressed concern that the claims that acorns are good to eat may encourage hordes more people to the Forest and he enquired whether a further extension to the pannage season will be called for!

2019/10785 DENNY CAMPSITE SHIPPING CONTAINER  
Presentment by Mrs Alison Tilbury

Mrs Tilbury reported that there is a shipping container in Denny Wood. She questioned whether it should be in an ancient and ornamental wood and requested the Court ensure it is removed.

**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**

2019/10786 FENCE AT CANTERTON LANE DISCHARGE

The Clerk reported that she ascertained the fence belongs to Birchenwood Farm and the property owner has promised to repair it.

2019/10787 BRAMSHAW GOLF COURSE – HARROW AND ROLLER DISCHARGE

Mr Grugeon said he will pursue the Golf Club again and ensure these items are removed from the Open Forest. Action PG

2019/10788 RAILWAY RAILS ON OPEN FOREST DISCHARGE

Mr Grugeon said that the railway station car park has recently been resurfaced and whilst the work was undertaken rails were temporarily laid on the grazing. He added that Network Rail's contractors are due to undertake some further tidying up at New Copse and he will ask them to remove the rails from Beaulieu Road at the same time. Action PG

2019/10789 CONTAINER AT DENNY WOOD DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor said he is meeting with Camping in the Forest in early December and he will ask why the container is there and ask for it to be removed. Action DS

**NEW SUBMISSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY FORESTRY ENGLAND**

2019/10790 STUMP CUTTING PROGRAMME RESUME  
April 2020

The forthcoming programme was noted. It was questioned whether levelling ridge and furrow is included in the work and the Deputy Surveyor said he will find out. It was queried why Dur Hill is not on the list. It has been partially cleared, but some stumps remain. The works will be inspected at the end of the winter. Action DS

2019/10791 SGN PROPOSAL FOR 151 METRES OF GAS MAIN IN PRIVATE & PUBLIC HIGHWAY AT OAKHURST, LINFORD ROAD, SHOBLEY RESUME

The proposal is acceptable in principle but the submission lacks detail. Natural England's Method Statement is not included. There is no mention of Forest stock and how the animals will be protected. It is also not clear where the new main will run, whether it will be in the verge or under the road and where it will terminate. Mr Grugeon will obtain answers to these questions and advise the Clerk.

Action PG

2019/10792 SGN AERIAL MARKER POST INSTALLATION/REPLACEMENT FOR HP PIPELINE – OCKNELL TO BIGNALL WOOD (NORTH OF A31) RESUME

The proposed new tall marker posts are not acceptable as they will be very intrusive in the landscape. A significantly less prominent design is required, more suited to protected landscapes such as the Forest. Mr Grugeon will go back to SGN and ask for further consideration to be given to the need for the posts and if they are essential, to offer a better design.

Action PG

2019/10793 UTILITY SUBMISSIONS DISCHARGE

The submissions received by the Court vary considerably. Many lack detail and/or are based on technical drawings which can be difficult to understand. Mr Pasmore offered to prepare an example of the type of plan and detail that the Court would like to see. The Clerk will then pass it to Mr Grugeon, FE's Consultant Land Agent and utility companies as and when applications are made.

Action  
AHP/Clerk

#### DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS RECORDED AT THIS COURT

2019/10794 DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS DISCHARGE

DM0069 South West Water – connection to site adjacent to Lees Nurseries, Bull Hill, Lyminster  
DM0070 SSEN Allum Green pole replacement / move pole to the other side of a ditch

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO FORESTRY ENGLAND

2019/10795 BURLEY FLAG POLE – REQUESTED AMENDMENT TO THE MINUTES RESUME

A communication has been received from Burley Parish Council, complaining that the July Court Minutes are inaccurate. The Parish Council says it did not ask for the flag pole be moved and it does not hold the Licence. Mr Grugeon, however, believes the discussions that initially took place did involve the Parish Council to a certain extent. Certainly, that was the Court's understanding.

Mr Grugeon confirmed the Licence is actually in the name of Major Carter, acting on behalf of the British Legion. The Licence stipulates that the pole must be removed when the flag is not flying. However, no 'appropriate occasions' when the flag will be flown were listed.

The Court asked to see the Licence. Mr Grugeon will provide a copy to the Clerk. Further discussion may be necessary and the outcome may inform the Court's attitude to renewing the licence in 5 years' time.

Action PG

2019/10796	INCIDENTS BETWEEN STOCK AND THE PUBLIC INCLUDING THE CDA'S PROPOSED SIGN	RESUME
	<p>The Court has obtained Counsel's Opinion on where liability might lay, in the event of member of the public being injured by a commoner's animal. The Opinion is subject to legal privilege and therefore must remain private. Actions have been recommended, which will need to be considered by various bodies and the commoners. The main elements of the advice can be discussed openly, but nothing in writing will be available outside the Court.</p> <p>Forestry England is considering its position.</p> <p>As respects the CDA's request to put up its own signs, warning the public to keep away from stock, Forestry England is considering whether to issue a consent. The signs, if approved, must be temporary, mounted on single wooden stakes and displayed in Forestry England Car Parks only, not on Open Forest. The Deputy Surveyor will go back to the CDA to discuss the proposal further.</p> <p>As respects erecting signs at cattle grids and/or other highway infrastructure, this is a matter for Hampshire County Council and Cllr Heron said that a proposal will need to be submitted to Ms Mandy Ware, Team Leader, Traffic and Safety. It was also suggested the signs could be displayed in HCC Commons and NFDC car parks. Cllr Heron will enquire whether that is likely to be acceptable.</p>	Action All
2019/10797	SNAKES IN THE HEATHER	RESUME
	<p>A presentation will be made to the Court, in committee, in December.</p>	
2019/10798	INCLOSURE FENCING	RESUME
	<p>Mr Deakin and the Head Agister studied the plans produced by Forestry England which show which fences the Forest Design Plan says will be removed. If the works are undertaken as planned, several pounds will be rendered useless. In addition, it is thought some of the fences may form part of disease control areas and some of the inclosures, which are identified in the plan as being due to be thrown open, may be useful in a future visitor/stock separation strategy. Mr Deakin said he will provide the Deputy Surveyor with details of his findings.</p> <p>A copy of the maps is requested for the Verderers' Office as Mrs Westerhoff and Mr Pasmore would also appreciate an opportunity to study them.</p>	Action RD Action DS
2019/10799	CROWN FREEHOLD PROPERTIES	RESUME
	<p>This will be resumed in December.</p>	
2019/10800	NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS MASTS	RESUME
	<p>Papers have been passed to Counsel. A telephone conference has been arranged. Mr Grugeon said he is awaiting advice from Forestry England's solicitors. It is understood that there could be applications for between 80 and 100 new masts in the Forest.</p>	Action OV/PG



2019/10801 CAMPSITE ISSUES RESUME

Forestry England staff are meeting with Camping in the Forest in early December. They will discuss the issues raised so far and asked to be advised of any further concerns. In response, Mr Deakin said that following his recent inspection of Roundhill Campsite, he has emailed Mr Grugeon with a list of items which should not be there. These including additional sheds, picnic tables, widened tracks and new gravelled areas. The wrong type of gravel has been used and there are concerns it will spread onto adjacent grazing, compromising animal welfare. In addition, an unauthorised shipping container and a shed were found in Denny Campsite. Action DS

2019/10802 PIPERS WAIT WATER LEAK RESUME

A meeting is still awaited and Mr Grugeon is requested to arrange it as soon as possible. Natural England should also attend. Action PG

### SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2019/10803 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE LIST RESUME

The current list was circulated.

### ENCROACHMENTS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2019/10804 ENCROACHMENTS LIST RESUME

No new encroachments have been reported.

2019/10805 KING'S COPSE ROAD DISCHARGE

A letter has been received from the owner of the property in King's Copse Road where the encroachment reported in the October Court has taken place. The writer objects to the minute. The Court, however, believes the minute accurately records the discussion which took place in committee and no amendment is necessary. The encroachment falls partly on private land and partly on Crown Land.

### ACTION LIST

2019/10806 ACTION LIST DISCHARGE

The Action List was circulated.

2019/10807 STUDLEY WOOD DISCHARGE

The approach to a bridge in Studley Wood, has still not been dealt with. The Court feels the clearance work can be done by hand. The Deputy Surveyor said he will see if he can get it done sooner than next year which is when the work is currently scheduled to take place. Action DS

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND**

2019/10808 COMMERCIAL DOG WALKERS RESUME

The Court asked the Deputy Surveyor to give further consideration to licensing commercial dog walkers. Cllr Heron said he recently witnessed one person with 12 dogs. The Court feels strongly that large numbers of dogs, often interacting with Forest stock, is contributing to the conflicts with people.

Licencing of commercial dog walkers works in other parts of the Country and the Court does not understand why it should not work here. In response, the Deputy Surveyor said that his team is looking at the options and is talking to other relevant organisations. Action DS

2019/10809 LYNDHURST CRICKET PITCH FENCING DISCHARGE

The galvanised fencing has yet to be painted in accordance with the Court's instructions and Mr Grugeon was asked to ensure that it is done as soon as possible.

2019/10810 LYNDHURST CRICKET PITCH – DUNG DISCHARGE

Dung cleared from the cricket pitch is being piled up behind the pavilion. This practise is not approved and Mr Grugeon was asked to talk to the Cricket Club about how it can manage dung clearance in a more acceptable manner. Action PG

2019/10811 EVENTS AT OCKNELL DISCHARGE

Recently, two very large recreational events were held at Ocknell on the same day. The Court feels this constitutes an unacceptable excessive use of one part of the Forest and asked Forestry England to ensure it does not happen again. Included at one event was a merchandise stand, lavatories and a burger van. The Deputy Surveyor said he will investigate. Action DS

2019/10812 RESTORATION OF THE VERDERERS' HALL DISCHARGE

The Christmas break will be used to finish the restoration of the Verderers' Hall. It is intended that the work will be completed prior to the Open Court in January.

2019/10813 DISCHARGE FROM CESSPIT AT PICKET POST DISCHARGE

The cesspit serving properties at Picket Post is reportedly discharging onto the Forest. Part of the drain is broken and there is a hole which is covered by a log. It constitutes a hazard to stock and the Court asked Mr Grugeon to ensure the problems are rectified as a matter of urgency. Action PG

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

## OTHER MATTERS ARISING

- 2019/10814 ENCROACHMENT AT PICKET HILL (SHOBLEY) RESUME  
January  
2020
- A letter from the CDA Encroachments Committee is being drafted and will be sent to the occupier in the near future.
- 2019/10815 LAND & PROPERTY AT LYNDHURST ROAD (ASHURST) RAILWAY STATION RESUME  
March 2020
- No progress has been made.
- 2019/10816 HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD FENCING REPAIRS RESUME  
January  
2020
- The Court has been invited to join a meeting with HCC, together with at least one Parish Council. However, with no disrespect meant to the Parish Council concerned, the Court would prefer to meet with HCC in private. Cllr Heron explained that HCC takes a risk-based approach to prioritising works on the public highway. Unfortunately, it is apparent that the Court's priorities do not always concur with those of the County.
- It was agreed, therefore, that the Official Verderer should write to Cllr Rob Humby, Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment, explaining that the Court regards roadside fencing as a high priority. The Court also suggested inviting Cllr Humby and Mr Tim Lawton to the Forest, with a view to touring the Forest with an Agister to inspect some fencing. Action OV
- The Clerk confirmed that fencing defects are reported via HCCs online reporting system. The system provides the opportunity to add comments and where a defect means the fence is no longer stock proof, that is made very clear and urgent repairs are requested.
- 2019/10817 TELECOMMUNICATION MAST ON HYDE COMMON RESUME
- A telephone conference with Counsel is scheduled. Action OV
- 2019/10818 BEAULIEU ROAD SALE YARD RESUME  
January
- Defra is in purdah because of the forthcoming General Election. Mr Manley said he will try to get an answer at the end of January as respects a more workable pony identification system for the Beaulieu Road Sales.

## OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

- 2019/10819 NEW FOREST SHOW RESUME  
February
- The Court's continued presence at the New Forest Show was discussed. Some concern was expressed at the cost. It was, however, agreed that providing the display includes a strong and effective educational element, it is an acceptable use of the Court's funds. The Official Verderer proposed a budget of £8,000 be agreed. Cllr Heron seconded the proposal. Mr Pasmore expressed his opposition but other Verderers supported the proposal and it was therefore carried. A meeting with the Show Society is due to take place shortly.

2019/10820 REGULATION OF DEPASTURED STOCK, QUEEN'S COUNSEL'S OPINION AND NEXT STEPS RESUME

Because the advice received from Counsel is subject to legal privilege, the details of the discussion were not minuted.

**Cllr Heron left the meeting.**

#### **HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME & VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME**

2019/10821 THE FUTURE OF THE HLS / VGS RESUME

Nothing further has been heard regarding the future of the HLS.

There is a VGS meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS**

2019/10822 SLAP BOTTOM CONSERVATION WORKS DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin attended a meeting arranged by Forestry England and attended by representatives of Burley Parish Council and local residents. The proposal is to cut Scots Pine and Birch and to return the area back to wet grassland. The meeting was prompted by the felling licence application. There is a certain amount of opposition to the proposals.

2019/10823 NEW FOREST PONY & CATTLE BREEDING SOCIETY DISCHARGE

Miss Macnair said she attended a recent committee meeting. Miss Macnair feels West Nile Fever or African Horse Sickness is of much greater concern than PSSM (tying up) and Strangles, both of which were discussed.

2019/10824 SPECIAL BY DESIGN DISCHARGE

Mr Dowsett reported on this meeting which was held at the New Forest National Park Offices and attended by himself, the Official Verderer and the Clerk. The consultants seem to have a good grasp of many of the Forest's problems. Their proposals are awaited with interest. A further meeting is due to take place shortly.

#### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

2019/10825 FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement was noted.

#### **STAFF MATTERS**

2019/10826 REMUNERATION COMMITTEE DISCHARGE

The Remuneration Committee met and awarded a salary increase of 2.5% across the board, with the exception of the (VGS) Administrator whose salary is increased by 5%. The Court ratified this recommendation.

2019/10827 INCIDENTS BETWEEN STOCK AND THE PUBLIC DISCHARGE

A further incident was reported which occurred in Tom's Lane. A lady was injured by a cow. The owner of the animal has volunteered to remove the animal from the Forest permanently.

2019/10828 CATTLE INCIDENTS AND DEFRA DISCHARGE

Mr Manley received a call from Defra offering assistance as respects incidents involving cattle. Dartmoor has reportedly expressed concern that the Court has asked for horns to be removed. Mr Manley advised Defra that at present the removal of horns is voluntary.

**HEALTH & SAFETY – Health and Safety is a permanent item on the Court's Agenda. There was nothing to report at this meeting.**

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2019/10829 THE OFFICIAL VERDERER'S TERM OF OFFICE DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer advised the Court that his current term of office expires in April next year. In accordance with the terms of his appointment, he has offered the position back but has indicated his willingness to serve a further term if requested. The Cabinet Office has not yet responded.

2019/10830 THE FUTURE OF MOBILE COMMUNICATION IN THE FOREST DISCHARGE

Mrs Westerhoff said she has met with Steve Avery, Head of Planning at the NFNPA to discuss 5G. Mr Avery has indicated he will be happy to try to arrange a meeting with the mobile phone providers in order to seek information on their likely future proposals.

2019/10831 THE COURT'S RESPONSE TO PLANNING CONSULTATIONS DISCHARGE

The Court was very pleased to hear that its responses to planning applications are welcomed by the NFNPA's Planning Committee and that the advice and observations offered are considered to be helpful to the decision-making process.

2019/10832 ACCESS FORUM DISCHARGE

The Court was pleased to hear that Mr Manley's application to join the Access Forum has been accepted.

2019/10833 CDA COMPLAINT DISCHARGE

At a recent CDA meeting, a request was made for the Court to revoke a commoner's feeding area.

In response, the Official Verderer said that the CDA must set out in writing, its reasons for requesting the feeding area be revoked. Proper consideration will then be given to the request.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.50 p.m.

  
18/12/2019