

**MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 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
	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 D Readhead	Elected Verderer
	Mrs D Westerhoff	Natural England Appointed Verderer
APOLOGIES:	Mr A H Pasmore	Elected Verderer
IN ATTENDANCE:	Miss S Westwood	Clerk to the Verderers
	Mr J R Gerrelli	Head Agister

**IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

2018/10020 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

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

2018/10021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

From now on, all declarations of interest can be found on the Verderers' website – [www.verderers.org.uk](http://www.verderers.org.uk) Action Clerk

2018/10022 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister reported that overall, stock is looking really good. There are always a few animals whose condition is such that the Agisters ask for them to be removed and a few mares with foals have fallen into that category. The drifts are now well under way and most have been successful although on one or two, there was a shortage of help.

The cattle have had a good summer on the Forest with some looking better than those in fields. There are a lot of cattle still out despite the acorns beginning to fall. Some trees have a lot of large acorns on them, others have very few. One animal suffering from colic and humanely despatched was found to be full of green acorns. Some rain would be welcome now to bring on the autumn flush of grass.

Some pigs have been marked but several commoners who usually turn out pigs, are not doing so this year. The Agisters are expecting to mark more pigs.

The Clerk was asked to set a date for the Welfare Tour. Action Clerk

2018/10023 REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR RESUME

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Forest Ponies	4833	4728
Forest Cattle	4541	4868
Forest Donkeys	124	108
Forest Pigs	0	0

Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	9498	9707
Common Ponies	753	813
Common Cattle	1595	1231
Common Donkeys	122	124
Common Pigs	24	57
Common Sheep	213	244
Total Common Stock	2707	2469
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	9498	9704
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	2470	2168
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	11968	11872
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	12205	12173

The Head Agister remarked that cattle are still being marked for 2018.

2018/10024 ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS

RESUME

The Announcements and Decisions were approved.

2018/10025 POLICY ON FILMING

DISCHARGE

The policy of not permitting commercial filming on the drifts remains.

**OPEN COURT – 10.00 a.m.**

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Mike Graham, Assistant Land Agent  
Mr Simon Smith, Head of Land Management

APOLOGIES : 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**

2018/10026 EDWARD HERON

We are pleased to announce that Cllr Edward Heron's term of office as the New Forest National Park's Appointed Verderer, has been extended for a further year.

2018/10027 APPLES & OTHER WINDFALL FRUITS

The Verderers regularly draw attention to the problems that result from the public feeding ponies on the Forest. At this time of year, there is often a glut of apples. I would like to draw people's attention to the particular dangers associated with dumping apples on the Forest. Apples in quantity, such as a bag of windfalls, can cause colic in horses. A whole apple can cause choking. Leaving apples close to the roadside attracts animals onto the public highway and into danger from passing vehicles.

2018/10028 GARDEN WASTE

Dumping garden waste on the Open Forest also presents a hazard to stock as many garden plants are toxic. In addition, it constitutes fly tipping. We ask residents and those undertaking gardening and landscaping to please dispose of their waste responsibly – at the local tip please, not the Forest.

## 2018/10029 VERDERERS' ELECTION

The Election of two Verderers will be held on Friday, 30th November, when the terms of office of Dionis Macnair and David Readhead come to an end.

The deadline for registering to vote at our election was Monday, the day before yesterday. However, as we want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to vote, registration forms will continue to be accepted until this Friday 21st September. The Draft Electoral Register has to be finalised in time for it to be sent out to the public offices for public viewing from Monday 1st October. The fact that you may have been registered for previous elections does not count, and therefore, to be able to vote this year, you must register now. There are some spare registration forms on the table at the front of the Court.

I hope we will see a strong turnout at the election and I ask all those present to help spread the word so that as many people as possible are able to vote. I very much hope the press will also help by giving publicity to this important event.

For anyone wishing to stand for election, the deadline for the delivery of nomination papers is Noon on Tuesday 6th November and I will issue a reminder at the October Court. Anyone requiring further information should contact the Verderers' Office, or the Office of the Returning Officer, Mrs Rachel Brooks at the Under Sheriff's Office in Romsey.

## 2018/10030 CHANGES TO CURRENT VGS RATES 2019

The VGS Committee & the Court of Verderers have agreed to amend the Verderers Grazing Scheme Livestock Unit rates payable in December 2019. As the 2018 application forms have already been returned for payments due this December, these changes cannot be implemented until 2019. Application forms will be sent out next February. The Court felt it is important to let VGS members know of these changes before the coming winter as it may impact on their stocking level decisions.

The change to Livestock Unit (LU) rates allows the VGS to increase the incentive for Registered New Forest Mares and reduce the incentive for large numbers of cattle and non-registered equines. The overall pot of money remains the same and the result will be that more members will gain than lose.

The following changes are to apply:

Registered New Forest Mare or Stallion from 0.8 to 1 LU (livestock unit)

No Marking Fee return for any other female equines (including donkeys). Geldings are already excluded.

Cattle to remain at 1 LU but a payment limit introduced of 40 head of cattle per individual commoner

Copies of the amended VGS terms and conditions are available on the table at the front of the Court.

## ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

### 2018/10031 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR JULY & AUGUST 2018

The Agisters attended 27 accidents in July and August. This is a disappointing increase from 17 accidents in the same period last year.

4 ponies, 2 cattle and 2 donkeys died. 3 ponies, 1 cow and 1 donkey were injured. 5 ponies were uninjured and 10 animals reported to have been involved in accidents could not be found.

For those of you good at mental arithmetic, you will note that 28 animals were reported to be involved in 27 accidents. This is because in one accident, a Jenny donkey and her foal were both hit. The Jenny was injured but her foal died.

13 accidents occurred in daylight, 2 at twilight and 12 in the dark.

7 of the motorists were local.

8 accidents were not reported by the driver involved.

The total number of commoners' animals killed and injured so far in 2018 is 49 compared with 39 in the same period last year.

## PRESENTMENTS

### 2018/10032 NIGHT TIME CYCLING

Presentment by Mrs Alison Tilbury, Vice Chairman of Denny Lodge Parish Council

'I am here this morning representing the Parish. We wish to ask whether the Verderers can initiate some control over the increasing numbers of night time cyclists that are riding over the Open Forest in groups. Most of these cyclists wear a very bright headlight which, although may be effective for their riding, causes disturbance to Forest stock and wildlife.

With the clocks going back in October, we feel now is the time that education is put in place to put a stop to this night time activity. This would ensure that the Forest has a time to rest and recover from the increasing pressures of all the daytime activities that take place.'

### 2018/10033 VISITORS AND PONIES

Presentment by Mrs Susan Johnson

'I am fully aware of the reluctance to put more signs on the Forest and the reasons given. However, this year has convinced me, more than ever, that there is an urgent need for new signs at entrances to the Forest stating:

**PLEASE DO NOT FEED, TOUCH OR COAX PONIES TO THE ROADSIDE**

The information notices in the car parks and leaflets at various venues are not sufficiently effective. Many people do not bother to read them. They are not seen by the large number of visitors passing through, who stop on the verges and in laybys to look at the ponies and encourage them over to their cars to photograph, touch and feed them. I frequently encounter this behaviour as I drive across the Forest – in particular on the B3055 Sway to Brockenhurst Road on which I drive twice a day, every day. It is getting worse every year as visitor numbers increase. This year has been particularly bad.

On advising them, politely, that what they are doing is not a good idea and why, I receive mixed responses but invariably I am told that they did not know that it was wrong and

asked where are the signs to tell them this? With appropriate, instructional signs at Forest entrances they would have no excuse for their ignorance and could not justifiably claim that they "did not know".

It may be mainly locals who kill the ponies but it is certainly, without doubt, visitors who entice them to the roads.

In conclusion, in my opinion such signs are vital and there is no valid reason for refusal to erect them. Without them livestock is being put at increased risk, which I find inexcusable! Please, let common sense prevail.

I don't have time to keep stopping and talking to these people.'

*This presentment was followed by loud applause.*

2018/10034 NATIONAL GRID PROPOSALS FOR UNDERGROUNDING THE HIGH VOLTAGE LINES IN THE NORTH OF THE FOREST

Presentment by Mr Peter Gear, resident of the village of Hale and member of the Protect Hale Purlieu Movement.

'Good morning. My name is Peter Gear, resident of the village of Hale and member of the protect Hale Purlieu Movement. I am making a further presentment to you today on the subject of national Grid's Visual Impact Provision Project across Hale Purlieu.

In July we heard from National Grid that they had accepted Natural England's arguments against Route C and that the route had now been abandoned.

Subsequently, as you are aware, National Grid has announced a fifth option, Route E. This route has increased concern for commoners, a number of whom have already said that they will be forced to remove their animals from the Purlieu for the duration of the construction work. This is primarily due to the dangers of the required fencing, which will also impact the wild animal population.

This new route has also considerably increased the impact on Parishioners, as it is now 20% longer and passes close to over 60 homes in the Parish.

Other concerns regarding the environment, hydrology and habitat remain as strong as they were for Route C and we will therefore continue to oppose this project vehemently.

Your response to my previous Presentment stated that you were concerned about the details of the proposal and as you have now had time to consider all the available evidence, including the fact that Natural England accept that there is an 'adverse effect' and that IROPI (Imperative reasons of overriding public interest) should be invoked to overcome obstacles to planning approval, we ask that you condemn these plans in advance of a planning application. As you are a major Stakeholder, this will help to reassure both Commoners and Parishioners indicating that this damaging project cannot proceed.

I look forward to your response at the October Open Court.'

**The Head Agister closed the Court**

### IN COMMITTEE in the Library

#### CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2018/10035 NIGHT TIME CYCLISTS

DISCHARGE

The Court feels strongly that night time cycling should be banned and stated that in its response to the recent Recreation Management Strategy consultation.

Complaints about night time cyclists have been heard by the Court before and the Forestry Commission has been asked to take action to prevent it.

Mr Smith said that the guidelines for cyclists recommend no cycling at night but that the wording is no stronger than that. He added that he is unsure of the legal position. Whilst it is an offence to intentionally disturb any of the species listed in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Environmental Protection Act 1990, during the breeding season, it is necessary to prove 'wilful disturbance' and that can be difficult.

The Court pointed out that the cyclists are not on the waymarked cycle track and asked the Forestry Commission to enforce its byelaws.

Mr Deakin commented that night time cycling has to be bad for the environment. The Official Verderer said he will do his best to ensure action is taken as part of the RMS.

Action  
SS/DS

Mr Mills suggested employing thermal cameras would assist in identifying cyclists who are off-track.

Mr Deakin commented that the Keepers rarely challenge cyclists because they do not feel they will be supported.

Mr Smith remarked that night time cycling seems popular at the moment and the Forestry Commission does try to direct people to Moors Valley where at all possible.

The Official Verderer added that he understands that the section in the question on enforcement received very strong support in the RMS consultation. He said he will continue to press for appropriate enforcement to be included as one of the outcomes of the RMS process.

Action OV

2018/10036 VISITORS AND PONIES

RESUME

The potential for conflicts between the public and stock has reached a point where the Court feels that additional signage to inform the public has become essential.

The Official Verderer will write to the Deputy Surveyor expressing the Court's view that more effective signage is needed in car parks and on the campsites.

The Clerk suggested that as respects gateway signage, the Animal Accident Reduction Group meeting in October would be the place to discuss how to take this forward as representatives from the various bodies whose agreement is needed all sit on the group.

Action Clerk

Mr Dowsett suggested more use could be made of the ladder board signs and he referred to the very effective Fire Risk Warning signs that appeared this summer. Action Clerk

Mr Mills suggested some mobile luminous/reflective electronic signs could be employed. Mr Dowsett felt that electronic messaging signs that can be rapidly altered and sited at major Forest gateways, could be very valuable in communicating Forest related messages to drivers entering the Forest. In response to the Clerk's comment that signs on the highway are not cheap, the Court agreed it would be prepared to make a financial contribution. The Clerk asked Mr Smith to enquire whether the Forestry Commission is also be in a position to help. Action SS

2018/10037 NATIONAL GRID PROPOSALS FOR UNDERGROUNDING THE HIGH VOLTAGE LINES IN THE NORTH OF THE FOREST DISCHARGE

In response to Mr Gear's presentment, the Court has not changed its stance which is that once a detailed planning application has been submitted, it will consider the proposals. The planning application is now expected to be submitted in the Spring of 2019 with a consultation period of at least 13 weeks. The Official Verderer will respond to Mr Gear at the October Court. Action OV

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

2018/10038 LYNDHURST CRICKET CLUB SOAKAWAY, GRASS MOWINGS AND RAILINGS DISCHARGE

The proposals for the soakaway at Lyndhurst Cricket Club were approved subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing. However the Court asked for a more appropriate means of making safe the end of what looks like a vent pipe. At present it is covered by two house bricks.

It was reported that piles of manure have been found behind the Pavilion. It should be spread, not left in piles. Action MG

The Court also asked for the galvanised railings surrounding the pitch to now be painted matt black. It had been agreed last year that the railings should be allowed to 'weather' before being painted. Action MG

2018/10039 HOME FARM HILL FORT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AND TEMPORARY FENCING DISCHARGE

The proposals for this site were approved subject to the three usual conditions and also that the works are not undertaken until after the pony drift on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

2018/10040 NEW FOREST SMOOTH SNAKE SURVEY RESUME

The request to continue the survey for a further year was agreed. The Court requested a report on what has been found so far and a request was made for information as to how much longer it is proposed the survey will continue. Action MG

2018/10041 SWAN GREEN PAVILION RESUME

The cost of dismantling the Swan Green Pavilion is felt to be excessive. The Clerk was asked to check the Minutes to confirm the contribution offered by the Court towards the removal of the Pavilion.

Action Clerk

2018/10042 DE MINIMIS CONSENTS DISCHARGE

The Clerk listed the latest de-minimis consents and approvals:

- DM0016 SW Water connection in Canada Road, West Wellow
- DM0017 BT Openreach new duct to Minstead Training Trust Ltd
- DM0018 SSE new connection to pole in property at South Weirs
- DM0019 SW Water new connection to Toms Lane Corner, Minstead
- DM0020 SW Water new connection to Deers Leap, Linwood
- DM0021 SSE move pole outside Field House, Football Green, Minstead
- DM0022 SW Water new connection to The Annexe, Cobblers Corner, Coxhill, Lymington
- DM0023 SW Water new connection adjacent Chaparral, Main Road, East Boldre

#### SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2018/10043 REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE LIST RESUME

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

2018/10044 WOOTTON STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT DISCHARGE

Mr Smith explained that work was carried out to repair clay holes and positive feedback from the public resulted. The area will be monitored and further action taken as necessary. A response to the presentment which was received will be made at the October Open Court.

Action DS

2018/10045 PITTS WOOD MIRE DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin reported that following a site visit, he sent a report to the Forestry Commission suggesting some conditions but he has not received a response. Mr Smith said he will chase it up.

Action SS

2018/10046 NEW FOREST WETLAND HABITATS STRATEGY DISCHARGE

A second workshop has been arranged for the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Additional Verderers' representatives were requested. The Official Verderer, Mrs Westerhoff, Mr Deakin and Mr Dowsett all expressed a wish to attend.

Action SS

#### ENCROACHMENTS INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2018/10047 ENCROACHMENT LIST RESUME

A progress report on the encroachment list was provided.



2018/10048 PAGES LANE DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin raised concern about a new fence which has been erected at Pages Lane which he considers is an encroachment. The Forestry Commission has indicated the land abutting the property is not Crown Land. Mr Deakin will discuss the matter further with Mr Sean Marsh. Action RD

2018/10049 CDA ENCROACHMENTS COMMITTEE DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer updated the Court on the questionnaire he has produced which aims to ensure that in the case of a suspected encroachment the correct information is obtained prior to any action being taken. Action OV

#### ACTION LIST

2018/10050 ACTION LIST RESUME

An updated Action List was provided.

2018/10051 VERGE DAMAGE AT FRITHAM DISCHARGE

The Court remarked that verge parking at Fritham has been on the list for years and it is hoped some action will be taken soon. Mr Smith confirmed that the matter is progressing and verge protection works will start soon.

2018/10052 CROSSING ON MILL LAWN DISCHARGE

Miss Macnair expressed concern that holes have appeared on each side of the crossing which are dangerous. Further work is required. Action SS

2018/10053 RED RISE DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin reported that the track is now extremely narrow. As a result riders are making new ways round which is creating further erosion. Work to widen the track was refused by the ecologist, however, Mr Deakin suggested that if the access was widened just a little, the problem would be resolved. He felt that repairing the nick point where the track is collapsing into the bog is a minor job which should not be a problem

Mrs Westerhoff asked if Ms Sarah Oakley could reconvene the earlier meeting which was abandoned.

Mr Smith will take this back to the HLS ecologists for further discussion. Action SS

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2018/10054 DANGEROUS TREES INCLUDING FALLEN TIMBER IN PENERLEY WOOD DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said that he thought there was a commitment by the Forestry Commission to knock down the heads of fallen trees in order to prevent animals becoming trapped. He asked that the commitment be honoured and several Verderers said they have lost ponies which walked in amongst the branches of fallen trees, only to be unable to get out.

There is a huge amount of fallen timber in Pennerley Wood, which in addition to being a hazard to stock as described above, is now impacting on the drifts and resulting in a significant loss of grazing. The Forestry Commission is asked to look at what can be done to reduce the quantity of wood on the ground.

Action  
SS/DS

2018/10055 DENNY LODGE BARRIER

DISCHARGE

The Clerk advised the Court that there is some discontent amongst members of the public who have become used to parking along the track to the Denny Lodge properties and who have now been prevented from doing so by the newly erected barrier. At least one person has written to their MP. The barrier was erected to prevent damage to the Forest by frequent verge parking. It has also provided added security to the properties at the end of the track and the campsite as it also appears to be discouraging night-time forays by members of the public who have no legitimate reason to be there.

2018/10056 CONFLICTS BETWEEN STOCK AND THE PUBLIC – POSSIBLE FENCING OF CAMPSITES AND HONEYPOT SITES

RESUME

This year has been the worse so far for conflicts between stock and members of the public. The Court is of the view that more radical solutions are now needed which could result in action being taken to separate the people from the animals in some locations.

Deerleap car park is very heavily used by dog walkers. It is one that could, by way of example, easily be fenced in order that the public could access the inclosure without coming into contact with stock. Hollands Wood and Ashurst campsites are also examples which could be relatively easily fenced during the camping season and thrown open in winter.

Cllr Heron expressed the view that while the recent incidents with stock had been well publicised, both in traditional ways and on social media, the likely underlying causes, increased visitor disturbance often from dogs, is not well understood by the public.

The Clerk said she will go back through her records and ensure the Forestry Commission has received a note of all the incidents that have been reported to the Verderers' Office in order that all available data has been collated.

Action Clerk

The campsites are considered to be one of the biggest problems, where there is often a concentration of people, dogs and stock. The Forestry Commission was asked to give serious consideration to the suggestion that some sites could be fenced. Holmsley was cited as an example where the system works very well.

There are areas where additional signage is definitely needed, despite the reluctance to increase signs in the Forest for aesthetic reasons. Effective gateway signage at some cattle grids leading into the Forest is felt to be something that definitely warrants further consideration. The Clerk suggested she could ask the Animal Accident Reduction Group to consider this, as there has been a significant increase this year in incidents where the public are feeding ponies and donkeys from their cars or depositing carrots and other material on the verges. Animals are attracted to the roadside where they are at a high risk of becoming victims

of road traffic accidents.

It was pointed out that another major problem is that there is insufficient acknowledgement of the effects ever increasing recreation has on the stock.

The Official Verderer said he will meet with the Deputy Surveyor to discuss the issues further and hopefully start to formulate practical solutions.

Action  
OV/DS

2018/10057 DRIFTS – HELP FROM RANGERS

DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin thanked the FC for the very helpful contribution to the drifts made by the FC Rangers. He added he has received some very positive feedback.

2018/10058 EAST BOLDRE FOOTBALL CLUB FOOTBALL PITCH

DISCHARGE

The wire is loose and dangerous. The Court feels it needs to be removed urgently. It was agreed the posts can remain but everything else must be taken away.

Action MG

2018/10059 PONIES IN RHINEFIELD AND THE ARBORETUM

DISCHARGE

Ponies are accessing parts of Rhinefield where they are not supposed to be. Several have also gained access to the arboretum. The Forestry Commission was asked to inspect and repair its fences.

Access SS

2018/10060 BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB

DISCHARGE

Mr Readhead complimented the Forestry Commission on the work it has done. However, he asked the FC to remind the Golf Club that the barrier on the car park adjacent to Lush's Farm should be kept locked shut. Recently it has been found to be left open.

Action MG

2018/10061 BRAMSHAW CRICKET CLUB

DISCHARGE

The Forestry Commission was asked to remind the Cricket Club that their roller should not be parked on Open Forest. Mrs Westerhoff undertook to forward a photograph she had taken as evidence.

Action MG

**Mr Smith and Mr Graham left the meeting.**

**MATTERS ARISING (NOT INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION)**

2018/10062 NEW FOREST SHOW REVIEW

DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer thanked Assistant Clerk, Justine Bayley, and VGS Administrator, Tina Woodley for their hard work in designing and setting up the stand. The new display panels are felt to be excellent. The Court was pleased to see the Forestry Commission's Estates Officer, Sean Marsh and the Verge Restoration Officer, Mrs Jayne Albery, on the stand.

2018/10063 ROCKFORD FARM COMMONERS' DWELLINGS PLANNING DISCHARGE  
APPLICATION

The application to construct two commoners' dwellings at Rockford Farm Barns has been refused. Verderers who attended the planning hearing were concerned at the apparent lack of knowledge some members of the National Park Authority's Planning Committee had on the workings of the Forest. It was suggested that some information sessions should be offered. Cllr Heron felt that some NFDC Councillors would also welcome the opportunity to attend and it was agreed the Official Verderer and the Clerk should discuss how this can be arranged.

Action  
OV/Clerk

2018/10064 VERDERERS' WEBSITE DISCHARGE

A quote for updating the Verderers' website has been received. The historical / academic aspect will of course be retained but more emphasis will be put on educating the general public and current matters. The Court approved the expenditure of £10,000 for this work.

2018/10065 FAWLEY WATERSIDE DEVELOPMENT RESUME

Mr Aldred Drummond from the Cadland Estate has offered to come and talk to the Court about the proposed housing development. The Court is keen to hear what the Estate is proposing to offer in respect of mitigating the impact of the additional recreational demand that could affect the Forest and also whether there is an opportunity for the provision of commoners' dwellings.

The Official Verderer was asked to send an invitation to Mr Drummond to attend a fact finding meeting. It is envisaged the meeting will be quite separate from the normal monthly meeting of the Court.

Action OV

2018/10066 AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS DISCHARGE

Cllr Heron reported that Hampshire County Council has been reviewing the information the CDA has been able to collect. There is insufficient detail to allow the County to progress the matter at present but it does support a pilot scheme on the B3078/Roger Penny Way and would be willing to commission a feasibility study based on a full cost recovery arrangement. The likely cost of a study into power, visual impact etc., is likely to be in the region of £30,000. Cllr Heron suggested this could be progressed via the Animal Accident Reduction Group (AARG).

Action  
EH/Clerk

#### OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

2018/10067 CATTLE WITH CALVES AND HORNED CATTLE RESUME

A discussion took place regarding the recent incidents between cattle and the public and what action, if any, should now be taken.

As respects cattle with calves, it is felt it is not reasonable to suggest that all cows should calve on the holding. As regards de-horning, there are differing opinions as to whether cattle are safer without horns. Another problem is that certain breeds are incompatible with de-horning. Highland Cattle and Long Horns are good examples where their horns are a distinct characteristic of the breed and few people would accept that insisting on dehorning such animals is acceptable.

At present, the Court does not have the legal power to insist commoners de-horn their cattle. However, it was decided that Mr Deakin as Head of the Staff Committee, together with Mr Greenwood, should prepare a note on how de-horning might work. This would include a list of breeds where de-horning may be felt undesirable. Consideration will be given to Agister as well as public safety and the feasibility of seeking a byelaw. Mr Mills will be consulted and asked to assist in the preparation of a paper listing the pros and cons of de-horning.

Action  
RD/JG/HM

**Cllr Heron gave his apologies and left the meeting during the discussion at Minute 10067**

2018/10068 MEDIA TRAINING

RESUME

The following Verderers agreed to undertake media training in order that they can effectively represent the Court when required:-

The Official Verderer	Mr Readhead
Mr Dowsett	Miss Macnair
Mr Deakin	Mr Mills

In addition, Agisters Robert Maton and Peter Rix will be asked to take part.

The Official Verderer will make the necessary arrangements.

Action OV

2018/10069 APPLICATION TO DEPASTURE PIGS UNDER LICENCE

DISCHARGE

After careful consideration, Mr Dominic May of Hatchet Mill was granted permission to depasture pigs under licence. He will be required to pay the standard marking fee and must re-apply each year.

**HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME**

2018/10070 COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP

DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer said he has asked for a presentation to be made by Natural England at the next HLS Board Meeting on what Countryside Stewardship could mean for the New Forest.

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

2018/10071 LOST LAWNS PROJECT

DISCHARGE

Mrs Westerhoff reported she, Miss Macnair and Mr Dowsett recently attended a site visit to Elkhams Grave (Wootton) where it is proposed to clear birch and bramble which has encroached onto the lawn.

2018/10072 FORESTRY COMMISSION PROPERTIES

DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin reported that he recently attended a meeting with the Forestry Commission's Land Agent, as a representative of the New Forest Commoners' Defence Association. The marketing of available FC properties was discussed. The CDA is adamant that the FC should follow the recommendations of the Illingworth Report which stipulates that after the needs of FC employees have been satisfied, commoners should be allowed to rent any available FC properties at affordable rents.

Mr Deakin went on to ask whether he should be representing the Court as well as the CDA.

The Official Verderer expressed the view that decisions on the levels of rent are outside the remit of the Court although it does very much support Illingworth's conclusions and recommendations.

Mr Deakin will report back to the CDA.

Action RD

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

2018/10073 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR JULY & AUGUST 2018

DISCHARGE

The Financial Statements were noted.

The Clerk reported that as agreed, the sum of £300,000 has been placed in a 32 day notice account in order to obtain some interest. The Railway Fund has also been placed in a 32 day notice account.

## STAFF MATTERS / HEALTH & SAFETY

2018/10074 AGISTERS' HORSE EXPENSES

RESUME

The issue of Agisters' Horse Expenses is being raised with HMRC. The Official Verderer will report at the next Court.

Action OV

2018/10075 REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

RESUME

The Court agreed the Remuneration Committee should review staff salaries with authority to decide on the level of staff remuneration from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

Action  
OV/RD/HM

2018/10076 AGGRESSIVE ANIMALS

DISCHARGE

The Court agreed that other than in exceptional circumstances, animals proved to be responsible for causing actual bodily harm to a person must be permanently removed from the Forest.

The risk posed by leaving such animals on the Forest is considered to be too great.

2018/10077 INCIDENTS ON DRIFTS

DISCHARGE

There have regrettably been a few incidents this year requiring entry into the Accident Book, but thankfully no serious injuries.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2018/10078 COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF GRAZING

RESUME  
November

The Official Verderer has had an initial meeting with the Forestry Commission's Land Agent.

Action OV

2018/10079 DEATH IN SERVICE BENEFIT FOR STAFF DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer said a quotation has been received for Death in Service Benefits of 2 x salary at a cost to the Court of £1,200 per annum. This will help alleviate hardship by providing quick and easy access to financial support for a beneficiary in the unfortunate event that an employee dies whilst in the Court's service. Mr Deakin said he fully supports the proposal and it was agreed it should be implemented. The benefit will be discretionary and not contractual.

Action OV

2018/10080 TB – CATTLE MOVEMENT RULES DISCHARGE

The Court reiterated that the Agisters must report promptly, any breaches of the TB Plan that come to their attention. Mr Deakin will remind the Agisters of their duty in this respect.

Action RD

It was also agreed that the Official Verderer should make an announcement in the October Court, reminding commoners of the importance of adhering to the TB plan.

2018/10081 HLS WETLAND RESTORATION MONITORING OFFICER DISCHARGE

Emma Tomlin has been appointed HLS Wetland Restoration Monitoring Officer. She has been in post for 10 days and will be invited to today's buffet lunch.

Action OV

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 14.20 hrs

*Ann Mannell*  
17 October 2018