

**Minutes of the Court of Verderers held on 21st June 2023 at 9.30 a.m.
in the Verderers Hall, the King's House, Lyndhurst**

PRESENT	Mr E Heron	Official Verderer
	Mr R Deakin	Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman
	Dr G Ferris	Co-opted Elected Verderer
	Mr R Manley	DEFRA Appointed Verderer
	Mr A H Pasmore	Senior Elected Verderer
	Mr D Readhead	Elected Verderer
	Mr R Stride	Elected Verderer
	Mr C Chatters	Natural England Appointed Verderer
	Mr M Gammon	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer

APOLOGIES Miss A Sevier MBE NFNPA Appointed Verderer

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

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

2023/12917 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The minutes of the last Court held on Wednesday 17th May 2023 were approved and signed by the Official Verderer.

2023/12918 NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

None.

2023/12919 CONDITION OF STOCK – REPORT BY THE HEAD AGISTER RESUME

A warm dry spell resulted in many commoners and farmers being able to make sizeable hay crops. The subsequent rain has freshened things up on the Forest and the grass is growing well.

In some places, there are a lot of nice foals. Many animals are looking well but a few young ponies have been slow to pick up in condition after the winter.

Quite a lot of cattle have been turned out and there are some more still to go out.

The Official Verderer commented that the stock in the south of the Forest generally look better than those in the north. In response, the Head Agister said that is normal.

2023/12920 STALLIONS DISCHARGE

Cameron Luck of the Irish has been removed from his range in the area around Leaden Hall as several colt foals sired by him have been found to have hernias. The stallion has been put in the grazing at Cadland Manor, pending investigations by vets and the New Forest Pony Breeding & Cattle Society. Once those investigations are complete, a decision will be made by the NFPN&CS as to whether to rescind the stallion's licence. Obviously if that happens, he will no longer be eligible to run the Forest as a stallion.

Action
NFPB&CS

Another Stallion, Bull Hill Major suffered serious injury after being stuck over a fallen tree. He was found several days later in a bad way. He was an inpatient in a local veterinary practice and is now making progress at home under the care of his owners. This incident will be mentioned again later in the meeting when FE is present.

A third stallion, Wallhampton Scholars Farewell had to be removed from the Forest because he has an abscess in his foot. That has now resolved and he is back out.

2023/12921 STEERS ON CADNAM COMMON DISCHARGE

Three steers were turned out on the common which it was discovered later had not been properly castrated. They were removed from the common promptly and correctly castrated by a veterinary surgeon. The owner of the steers is said to be very embarrassed and apologetic. However, despite being told by the vet to wait two weeks before turning the animals back out and being told by the Agister to wait for him to inspect the animals before returning them to the Common, the animals were turned back out.

It was agreed that the owner of cattle running in the area could reasonably request the owner of the steers to pay for pregnancy testing of his heifers which were turned out in the same area.

It is felt that the owner of the steers was somewhat naive and his actions were not deliberate. However, the Court felt the owner should receive a letter saying that he should have waited for the Agister to inspect his steers before returning them to the Forest.

Action Clerk

The Head Agister left the meeting

MARKING FEES

2023/12922 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR RESUME

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Forest Ponies	4706	4611
Forest Cattle	2429	2183
Forest Donkeys	85	122
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	7220	6916
Common Ponies	449	619
Common Cattle	1103	814
Common Donkeys	50	107
Common Pigs	18	14
Common Sheep	139	162
Total Common Stock	1759	1716
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	7220	6916
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	1602	1540
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	8822	8456
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	8979	8632

2023/12923 BREACHES OF THE BYELAWS

RESUME

The cattle which got away whilst being moved from one field to another across the Open Forest have been caught and returned home.

The cow that jumped out of a field at Roughdown is still at large but its condition has improved. The owner and Agister will get it marked at the earliest opportunity. In the meantime, it is technically illegally depastured.

Action cattle owner/Agister

One or two small commoners have yet to pay their marking fees. Letters have been sent but there are special circumstances which means no further action will be taken at present.

An old pony in poor condition which was found wandering in the east of the Forest and whose owner could not be identified was euthanised in order to avoid any unnecessary suffering.

The pigs which were abandoned and impounded were not claimed and they have been disposed of.

2023/12924 LYNDHURST GOLF CLUB ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS

DISCHARGE

Whilst the Court is supportive of schemes to protect and improve the environment, the concern with this application is that other sports facilities and the campsites will request charging points. Light pollution could well be a big issue. The charging points in the Kings House car park were cited as an example. The bright blue lights on each one would be seriously detrimental on the Forest.

The Court feels strongly that only essential infrastructure has a place on the Forest and this application is therefore refused.

OPEN COURT

**IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Craig Harrison, Deputy Surveyor
Mr Paul Gurgeon, Land Agent**

The Head Agister opened the Court with the usual proclamation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS

2023/12925 OFFICIAL VERDERER

I am very pleased to be able to announce that I have received confirmation of my appointment as Official Verderer of the New Forest, with effect from 15th May 2023.

2023/12926 FINANCIAL EQUALITY FOR COMMONERS

In our May Court, Mr Parry-Norton made a presentment which the Court assumed referred to the Verderers' Grazing Scheme and the National Trust.

The Court will continue to ask all landowners to assist in ensuring support is equitable for all commoners across the whole Forest. A constructive meeting has been held with the National Trust, who have agreed in principle to provide £90,000 over 2 years to support commoners who depasture stock on its commons.

2023/12927 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS

On the 1st July two Public Space Protection Orders will come into effect, these are in respect of the lighting of fires and BBQs and the feeding and petting of ponies, donkeys and mules.

While the Court is one of the organisations, the others being Forestry England and the National Park Authority, that have agreed that some of their staff will be authorised to undertake enforcement of the PSPOs, this cannot be a priority for the Agisters, whose primary responsibility must remain the management and welfare of stock.

For clarity and the avoidance of any doubt or misunderstanding, Agisters will not respond to public reports of alleged breaches of the PSPOs and I ask that Commoners and the public do not contact the Verderers Office to report such activities as these will not be actioned.

The position, agreed by the Court, is to ensure that public calls for enforcement do not detract from the vital role that the Agister are already fully engaged with, and upon which the welfare of depastured stock depends.

It is also important to note that in order for an authorised person to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice under a PSPO, they must themselves witness the prescribed activity, it is not sufficient for them to rely on a statement of a person reporting that such an activity has taken place.

Should an Agister witness a prescribed activity during the course of his normal duties, and should circumstances be appropriate, he will have the discretion and ability to engage with the person or persons undertaking the prescribed activity, following the engagement and education guidance set out by the District Council, with enforcement only as a last resort. I reiterate, any decision as to whether to engage, or not, will be for the Agister.

2023/12928 DEER

In April, Mrs Charlotte Lines made a presentment concerning deer management on the Crown Lands. In Committee, the Deputy Surveyor said that he has provided answers to Mrs Lines; in summary, a record number of deer have been culled this year. He confirmed that in the north of the Forest (including land outside the perambulation) a drone survey has been undertaken to complement the Keepers' annual surveys. It shows that deer numbers remain high in that area despite the significant increase in culling.

It was suggested a similar drone survey could be undertaken – subject to funding - in the south of the Forest where deer numbers are also very high.

Deer on private land are of course a matter for landowners and some are more willing/able than others to cull. For deer population impact management to be effective, landowners and managers need to collaborate at landscape scale

2023/12929 GARDEN WASTE

The Court has received reports of garden waste sacks being left outside property gates. With foals on the Forest at this time of year, it is even more important than usual for residents with direct access from the Forest to leave their garden waste sacks inside their property gate or grid, for the District Council to collect. We ask residents with electric gates to leave putting out your sacks until the morning of collection and not to put them out the night before. That may mean getting up a little earlier than usual but surely, if it means the life of a foal is saved, it is worth the effort.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2023/12930 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR MAY 2023

The Agisters attended 3 accidents in May this year compared with 1 in May last year.

2 Ponies were injured.

A donkey, reportedly involved in an accident, could not be found.

1 accident happened in daylight, the other 2 in the dark.

All 3 drivers reported having collided with a commoners' animal and all are local.

The total number of animals killed and injured in the year to date is 13, compared with 16 in the same period last year.

PRESENTMENT BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR

2023/12931 WELCOME TO THE NEW OFFICIAL VERDERER

On behalf of everyone in Forestry England I would like to welcome and congratulate Edward on his appointment as Official Verderer for the New Forest.

I know that your knowledge, experience, and passion for the New Forest will stand you in good stead. Your senior leadership experience will be valued when considering strategic matters of pan Forest relevance; your understanding of the complex history and interactions within the Forest; and also your strong network of working relationships with Forest partners and stakeholders.

We look forward to working with you and the Verderers to support the commoning community, facilitate grazing rights for the benefit of the Forest and help protect and enhance the special values that the Forest provides.

PRESENTMENT BY THE PUBLIC

2023/12932 CONTROL OF DOGS

Presentment by Mr Andrew Parry-Norton - Chairman of the New Forest Commoners' Defence Association

'Over the last few years our members have taken more steps to ensure the general public's safety. We have de-horned cattle, kept in young calves and designed and erected signs to educate the public. We feel it's time the public also takes responsibility for their actions across the Forest.

Every year our members report increasing numbers of dog attacks on their stock, this is now reaching unacceptable levels.

The number of commercial dog walkers, completely unregulated, adds to this problem. Individuals arrive in a van, often letting out 10 dogs or more.

Ground nesting birds have little chance to breed and are now in serious decline.

A lot of our members are dog owners, and are certainly not anti-dog but the situation needs controlling.

We ask the Verderers to support and impose the following legislation:

1. To keep dogs on leads during the spring, an important time for wildlife, but also for our foals and calves.
2. To licence the activities of commercial dog walkers, imposing limits on the number of dogs exercised at any one time.

We feel that unless appropriate action is taken, a serious incident with an out of control dog will occur in the near future. Not just to our stock or wildlife but possibly to a child, family or commoner.'

2023/12933 ENCROACHMENTS

Presentment by Mr Andrew Parry-Norton - Chairman of the New Forest Commoners' Defence Association

'The Forest is suffering from a gradual erosion of its acreage; I would not be exaggerating to suggest this could possibly be several acres a year or more. Every meeting our members report repositioning of fences. A situation that is now widespread.

To a property owner it might seem that moving a fence 6 inches has little effect on the Forest but it's cumulative. Often the owner is misinformed, their deeds state they own up to a ditch, bank or verge but unaware they cannot fence it. The effect on the Forest is that grazing is shrinking on a yearly basis, an unacceptable situation.

The CDA has worked tirelessly against these encroachments; our team led by James Young and Mike Eccles has a never-ending list to deal with.

We cannot sustain this amount of work unilaterally.

We request that the Verderers take a much stronger approach to this problem, coordinating with other Forest organisations to deal more robustly with encroachments, large and small.

As a preventative measure we ask the Verderers to advise prospective property owners of the boundary rules, either directly through estate agents or via land searches that are requested from the land registrars.

The Forest has many pressures place on it but let's keep it intact. Thank you.'

2023/12934 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)
Presentment by Mr Brian Ingram, Commoner

'After the presentment at the last Court about the PSPO's in the Forest, I have given it a lot of thought about the position the Verderers have put their Agisters in. I am in favour of the scheme in principle but this is not the job of an Agister.

This is a position for fully trained people to deal with the public to take this forward.

On apprehending people, some will accept it whilst others will probably tell them to get lost. I understand at a recent training meeting they were told if they met an abusive person they would have to walk away. Back to square one. Where do you go now?

I ask the Verderers to look at the Agisters' position again.'

2023/12935 VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME ENHANCED PAYMENTS
Presentment by Mr Adam Coutts, Commoner

'Myself and other commoners of the additional lands around the Forest do not think that it is fair that a further supplement payment has been made to Crown land cattle keepers only.

I know of two herds next door to each other and the cattle run and graze together. If they come out of their respective holdings and turn left, they will go to graze National Trust commons. If they come out of their respective holdings and turn right, they go to graze Crown lands. These cattle run and graze the same herbage yet one receives a payment because they pay Forest rate and the other doesn't because they pay commons rate. All cattle have the same expenses and need the same management so why should this differ depending on the grazing land?

The VGS grazing scheme restricted cattle commoners' numbers to forty head for payment whether a common or Forest marking fee was paid. I believe all cattle numbers are used to quantify stocking densities yet commons cattle are excluded from this supplement.

I quote from the Verderers TB Control plan, Management of Holdings:-

"Although individual cattle are unlikely to graze all areas of the Forest, and mix with cattle from other holdings, there are no reliable physical boundaries, or other practical ways of limiting their movements under normal conditions. Therefore, it is pragmatic to assume that the New Forest operates as one freely-mixing common grazing area."

I don't believe that the Verderers can put that in their TB policy but expect to pay a supplement on one and not the other. In my eyes it is double standards, splitting cattle and commoners.'

The Head Agister closed the Court

IN COMMITTEE (in the Library)

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2023/12936 COMMERCIAL DOG WALKERS

RESUME

Once again, a long discussion took place on out of control dogs. It is a very serious issue but one that is very difficult to resolve.

FE was asked to look at the benefits, feasibility and potential of introducing a licencing system for commercial dog walkers who want to run their businesses using the Forest. It was felt licencing would give support to private dog walkers, some of whom are concerned at large numbers (sometimes up to 10) of dogs being let loose from vehicles when it is clear that the person with them is not able to control them properly.

Action FE

Mr Manley suggested the CDA should be invited to send a member along to join the NF Dog group that he currently sits on.

Action RM

2023/12937 ENCROACHMENTS

RESUME

Mr Grugeon said FE used to have a helpful leaflet which it used to give to occupiers of property in the Forest when they were in contact with them. Amy Howells, FE's Estates Officer is currently looking at rewriting the leaflet. However, in a lot of cases, the land on which an encroachment has been discovered, is not in the ownership of the Crown.

Action
PG/AH

In the past, NFDC used to issue a welcome pack to new residents but that has ceased. NFDC will be approached to see if information could be provided to Solicitors/Conveyancers when responding to Local Land Charge searches. It is thought that residents often act in ignorance.

Action
OV/Clerk

The Clerk explained that when responding to requests for information on Forest Rights from solicitors dealing with purchases of property, a paragraph is included explaining the position of land outside a boundary which is grazed by commoners' animals. The paragraph includes a request for the solicitor to pass on the information to his or her client.

2023/12938 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPOs)

DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer and Mr Deakin met with the Agisters on Monday 15th June. Four of the Agister team are content with what they have been asked to do. One has declined.

The OV felt the office will come under significant pressure. A request has been made for a webform to be created and hosted by NFDC for people to report incidences of feeding/petting. The information will be needed in order to monitor the effectiveness of the PSPOs. The office will direct the public to the webform once available.

2023/12939 VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME ENHANCED PAYMENTS DISCHARGE

HLS money can only be spent on things related to the Crown Lands and which are within the Verderers' HLS.

Prior to being paid, commoners had to sign a declaration that their cattle had run out on the Forest for the time period stipulated in their VGS agreement. In any event, that is, of course, also a condition of entering the VGS scheme. The cattle supplement is for cattle which qualified to enter the scheme last year.

It was suggested that if the commons' cattle were counted towards the minimum 25% of each species (ponies and cattle) needed for the VGS to run, they should qualify for the payment.

MATTERS ARISING

2023/12940 COMMUNICATION MASTS RESUME

A meeting of all interested parties, including the network planners is being arranged. It is hoped it will take place in July. The OV and Mr Pasmore are likely to represent the Verderers.

2023/12941 TEMPORARY FENCING OF SSSI SITES AT NORTH SLUFTERS & LONGBEECH. DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor confirmed FE's request for consent covers these sites only. The Court approved the request.

2023/12942 DRAGONS TEETH ON THE ROAD TO BOLDERWOOD, CLOSE TO THE NEW FOREST INN RESUME

The DS said this issue is under consideration.

UTILITY PROPOSALS FALLING OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE

2023/12943 LYNDHURST GOLF CLUB ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS DISCHARGE

FE was advised of the earlier discussion which took place in the pre-Open Court Committee.

2023/12944 SSE UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE EXCAVATIONS AT IPLEY PRIOR TO THE REPLACEMENT OF 11Kv POLES ON LAND TO THE EAST OF IPLEY MANOR – HANGER CORNER DISCHARGE

These proposals were approved subject to the three usual conditions. In addition, all brash must be removed.

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2023/12945 THE REPAIR & MAINTENANCE/ENHANCEMENT LIST RESUME

The list was noted. A lot of outstanding works are now being completed.

2023/12946 AVON WATER AT WOOTTON DISCHARGE

Some remedial work is planned at the Avon Water, Wootton, to correct restoration project omissions. The extensive Inclosure drainage system needs effective side drain connection to the main stream, to prevent the area between the Inclosure and the stream becoming too wet and preventing access for stock management.

ENCROACHMENTS

2023/12947 ENCROACHMENTS LIST RESUME

The list was noted.

Action FE

2023/12948 FENCELINE BETWEEN IRONGATE (WOOTTON) & THE A35 DISCHARGE

Two new gates have been put into this fence line by Meyrick Estate. There remains some doubt as to how many gates there were originally.

2023/12949 PEA SHINGLE AT LINWOOD DISCHARGE

It is thought the pea shingle has still not been removed, despite a request having been made by Mr Sean Marsh some time ago. FE was asked to investigate and see what can be done.

Action FE

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2023/12950 ACTION LIST DISCHARGE

The DS apologised that the list had not been provided.

2023/12951 DISUSED RAILWAY LINE BRIDGES AT LONGSLADE DISCHARGE

The redesign of these bridges resulted in several unprotected sheer drops. A meeting has been held between members of FE staff and the Agisters and works to make the bridges safe will be undertaken as soon as possible.

Action FE

2023/12952 TURF HILL – DAMAGE CAUSED BY FE TIMBER EXTRACTION RESUME

The restoration carried out by FE to date is considered to be unacceptable. An inspection will be carried out and a report prepared for the DS.

Action
AHP/RD

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2023/12953 BURNING PROGRAMME DISCHARGE

Mr Chatters prepared a short paper explaining the reasons for and the benefits of burning. A few amendments were requested.

Additionally, Mr Chatters will discuss his paper with Leanne Sargeant, FE's Senior Ecologist, prior to a final version being circulated and published on the Verderers' website.

Action CC

2023/12954 AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS DISCHARGE

The circulated 'Roger Penny Way Stakeholder Update – May 2023' was considered. This states that the Joint Operations Unit for Roads Policing (JOU) does not support the introduction of average speed cameras on the B3078 Roger Penny Way, concluding "In summary, the JOU position is that a fixed speed camera scheme is not a proportionate solution at this time." Without the support of the Police it is not possible to progress the scheme at this time. The OV to write to Donna Jones, Police & Crime Commissioner to express the Court's disappointment at the position taken by the JOU.

2023/12955 VERDERER REPRESENTATION ON SSSI RESTORATION SITE VISITS INCLUDING LOST LAWNS DISCHARGE

The recent request that Verderer representation on the Lost Lawns Project site visit be limited to just two people was discussed. It was pointed out that some of these proposals contain a lot of detail that can be difficult to assimilate fully without attending a site visit. It was agreed to limit numbers as far as possible but there will be occasions when more than two Verderers will want to attend.

2023/12956 FALLEN TIMBER DISCHARGE

Whilst a recent incident when a Forest stallion became trapped, on a fallen tree trunk is regarded as a freak accident, unlikely to occur again very soon, it has highlighted the need for FE to increase efforts to cut up fallen trees, particularly the heads of trees in which ponies do sometimes become trapped and die. The DS said FE work is done in accordance with the Natural England agreed deadwood policy.

Action FE

2023/12957 DEER CONTROL DISCHARGE

Mr Readhead thanked FE for its efforts to reduce the deer population. He said he hoped similar culls will take place over the next two or three years.

2023/12958 STEPS DOWN FROM THE OFFICES TO THE CAR PARK AT KINGS HOUSE DISCHARGE

Mr Readhead recounted an incident recently when he fell down the steps leading from Kings House to the car park. He repeated Miss Sevier's request for a handrail to be constructed to improve safety, particularly in winter.

The DS said he will see what can be done.

Action DS

The Deputy Surveyor and the Land Agent left the meeting

ENCROACHMENTS NOT INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2023/12959 SHOBLEY FOREST OAKS RESUME

This case is continuing. The Court believes the claimants have a strong case.

MATTERS ARISING

2023/12960 COMMONERS' DWELLING SCHEME RESUME

The next meeting is in July.

Action OV

2023/12961 STALLION GRAZING DISCHARGE

Consideration is being given to an offer of grazing on an estate which is very local to the Forest. In addition, discussions are taking place in respect of another parcel of land which is further away but could still be an option.

In addition to the Verderers' Stallion Scheme, it is hoped that grazing can be found for the Futurity Scheme and a new Bloodlines Scheme.

It was agreed that if the rent is within the budget for the Stallion Scheme, the Stallion Sub-Committee can make a decision without referring back to the whole Court.

2023/12962 NEOSPORA DISCHARGE

There is nothing further to report.

2023/12963 NEW FOREST DOG DISCHARGE

Veterinary Surgeon Alex Crook has agreed to join the group working with NF Dog.

Action RM

2023/12964 FUTURE FUNDING FOR THE FOREST DISCHARGE

The feasibility study is proceeding.

2023/12965 VERDERERS OF THE NEW FOREST WEBSITE DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer reported that hosting and support for the website is being moved to a local provider. The service from the new company will be improved and more competitive.

Action Clerk

2023/12966 VERDERERS' REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS RESUME

The list is being updated. Representation was agreed for all groups with the exception of the Freshwater & Wetland Restoration Forum. Mr Deakin sits on this group but a second attendee is required.

Action OV

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

2023/12967 POSTS FOR RADAR SIGNS (SPEED MONITORING DEVICES – SLR's AT HALE DISCHARGE

The Court approved two new sleeves, each with a lid which can be secured, to be used for the post on which the Parish Council wishes to attach its SLR.

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME & THE VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME

2023/12968 VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME ENHANCED PAYMENTS RESUME

At the last Court, subject to the approval of the VGS Committee, it was agreed a supplement would be paid to cattle commoners who turn out animals onto the Crown Lands using Crown Land Rights. This is provided the animals are turned out in accordance with the byelaws and the rules of the VGS.

Unfortunately, because the added areas, including the National Trust Commons, are not in the Verderers VGS, under the rules of the HLS/VGS, the supplement cannot be paid to the commoners who turn out onto those areas and pay marking fees at the commons rate.

STAFF MATTERS

2023/12969 STAFF COMMITTEE RESUME

The minutes of the last Staff Committee meeting had been circulated.

2023/12970 ANIMALS STRAYING ONTO FENCED ROADS RESUME

Mr Deakin said he does not believe HCC and National Highways take incidences of Forest stock escaping onto fenced roads seriously enough. He will draft a Risk Assessment for when Agisters are called to deal with animals which have escaped through fences onto the A roads in the Forest. When complete and approved, the RA will be sent to HCC and also National Highways.

Action RD

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2023/12971 FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement was noted.

TRAINING & HEALTH & SAFETY

2023/12972 HEALTH & SAFETY AUDIT RESUME

The health and safety audit is ongoing. Checks are being made to ensure that the Agisters riding helmets and body protectors are up to the current safety standards.

2023/12973 CYCLE ROUTES RESUME

Mr Deakin said an approach has been made regarding creating new formal cycle routes using some of the underpasses under the fenced roads. It has been made clear that from a safety point of view, this is not acceptable. Stock uses the underpasses to shade. There are times when stock is being driven through some underpasses to nearby pounds and on some drifts, the underpass may be used to help corral animals.

Maps showing proposed new cycle routes are apparently being prepared for consultation. Any amendments to the cycle routes will require the consent of the court and application for such permission needs to be made by presentment in accordance with the regulations.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2023/12974 UPGRADE OF THE A326

RESUME

It was agreed that a meeting should be requested with senior people at HCC to discuss the proposed upgrade of the A326 which will almost certainly affect the Open Forest in that area.

Action OV

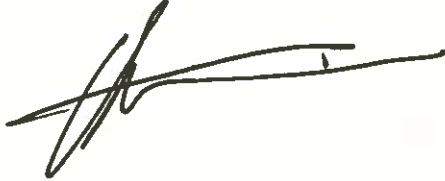
2023/12975 A31 FENCE AT OCKNELL ARCH

DISCHARGE

This fence has still not been properly repaired. Mr Stride checked a couple of days before this meeting and it is in the same condition as he left it, after he attempted some very temporary repairs. The Clerk will contact National Highways and ask again for the fence to be reinforced as a matter of urgency.

Action Clerk

The meeting ended at 13:32 hrs

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.