

**Minutes of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 9.30 a.m.
in the Library, the King's House, Lyndhurst**

PRESENT	Mr E Heron	Official Verderer
	Mr R Deakin	Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman
	Mr A H Pasmore	Senior Elected Verderer
	Mr R Stride	Elected Verderer
	Miss A Tilbury	Elected Verderer
	Miss K Harrison	Elected Verderer
	Mr M Gammon	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
	Miss A Sevier MBE	National Park Appointed Verderer
	Mr R Manley	DEFRA Appointed Verderer
	Mr C Chatters	Natural England Appointed Verderer
IN ATTENDANCE	Miss J Bayley	Assistant to the Clerk
	Mr J Gerrelli	Head Agister

APOLOGIES

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

2025/13972 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The minutes of the last Court, held on Wednesday 19th February 2025 were approved, and signed by the Official Verderer.

2025/13973 NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

There were no new declarations of interest.

2025/13974 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister said the sun is a welcome change to the recent wet weather but said it is still cold. This is the time of year when there is a lack of grass, the Forest looks tired, but having said that, the majority of the animals are in really good condition. The ponies are now browsing the gorse. The Agisters are continuing to remove the ponies that are not doing so well and will continue to do so for at least another month. This is a usual winter and there is nothing exceptional to report.

The Head Agister asked the Court to pass on his thanks to the Forestry England burning teams who he said have done a sterling job in difficult conditions.

The Official Verderer said he has been shown photographs of donkeys with unacceptably long hooves. The Head Agister said this is an ongoing issue that the Agisters were trying to get on top of. It was discussed that some Commoners simply do not manage their donkeys properly. Mr Gammon said allowing a donkey to suffer is a potential criminal offence under the Animal Welfare Act and that commoners could also face cross compliance issues. The Head Agister and the Assistant Clerk were asked to draft a letter to be sent to all donkey owning commoners.

Action Asst
Clerk

2025/13975 BOVINE TB

RESUME

Mr Deakin said he and Agister Robert Maton have met with APHA Vet Kate Welsh to discuss the Verderers TB Plan including the communication issues regarding TB Breakdowns and Radial Testing. It is hoped that a formal Information Sharing Agreement can be put in place between our organisations.

2025/13976 STRANGLES

DISCHARGE

There have been no new cases of strangles seen in the Forest.

2025/13977 BLUE TONGUE

DISCHARGE

Salisbury Livestock Market remains inside the restriction zone which has resolved the testing issues.

2025/13978 FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN GERMANY

DISCHARGE

There is no update available on the Foot and Mouth situation in Germany. A new case has been confirmed in Hungary. Import restrictions are still in place.

2025/13979 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

RESUME

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Forest Ponies	1031	407
Forest Cattle	308	194
Forest Donkeys	5	3
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	1344	604
Common Ponies	167	9
Common Cattle	15	0
Common Donkeys	12	0
Common Pigs	1	0
Common Sheep	0	0
Total Common Stock	195	9
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	1344	604
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	194	9
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	1538	613
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	1539	613

The Head Agister left the meeting

2025/13980 BREACHES OF THE BYELAWS

RESUME

One commoner has received a verbal and written warning regarding eight cattle on the Forest which are in poor condition. This commoner will receive formal warnings of prosecution in the Magistrates Court for breaches of the Verderers' Bylaws if they do not remove their animals from the Forest as instructed. It is hoped this will not be necessary.

OPEN COURT

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Craig Harrison, Deputy Surveyor
Mrs Joan Clark Land Agent, South East England

The Head Agister opened the Court with the usual proclamation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS

2025/13981 AGISTER VEHICLES

We are pleased to announce that the Court will be taking ownership of 5 KGM Musso pickups from Balmer Lawn Garage at the end of this month. While this represents a significant financial outlay for the Court, it is anticipated that this will deliver a savings of over £50,000 over the next 5 years against the continued cost of hiring.

We would like to thank Bill Whetren and family from WTW Truck Hire in Nursling for their help and support in hiring us vehicles for the past two and a half years.

2025/13982 REMOVAL OF THE LITTER BIN AT PICKET POST CAR PARK

The Court shares Mr Curtis's concern regarding the removal of the litter bin and regret that Forest England did not consult with the Court ahead of this decision. While the Court is unable to require that FE reinstate the bin, we have reminded them of their legal responsibility under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to ensure that the land is kept clear of litter and refuse.

2025/13983 ANIMAL ACCIDENTS – LIAISON WITH HAMPSHIRE POLICE

It was announced in February that the Court has extended invitation to the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable for them to visit the Forest. We are pleased to advise that a positive response has been received and this is now being arranged.

THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2025/13984 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR FEBUARY 2025

The Agisters attended 7 accidents in February compared with 5 in February last year.

3 Ponies and 1 cow were killed, 1 Cow escaped injury and in 2 instances the animals reportedly involved in an accident could not be found.

1 accident happened in daylight and 6 in the dark.

All drivers reported having been involved in an accident.

The total number of Commoners' animals killed and injured this year is 10.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

2025/13985 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S PROPOSED CAR PARKING CHARGES Presentment by Andrew Parry-Norton Chair of the Commoners Defence Association

'Good morning, Official Verderer, Verderers, and members of the Court.

Andrew Parry-Norton CDA Chairman.

Over the last year there have been decisions taken that have had large impacts on the Forest, these decisions will have a lasting legacy on our unique landscape.

Car parking charges are the next instalment in the Forests history, possibly coming into force within the next 12 months. As every Forest organization struggles with underfunding, ever-increasing numbers of visitors seem the obvious target to develop a revenue stream.

We, as Commoners, are often on the front line in dealing with these visitors; we explain why you should not feed our ponies or try and sit your young child on the back of a Shetland, maybe attend a vehicle collision late at night with one of our stock. These situations are becoming more frequent as visitors' numbers increase and decisions are made that could potentially impact Commoners and their stock.

Commoners are and always will be, an important part of the Forest's future so shouldn't we be included in discussions that have an impact on the Forest and Commoning?

Instead of having surprises thrown at us with little time to respond, engage with us, involve us in talks at an early stage. The CDA is not here to be disruptive, a compromise is often the best way forward, but it requires openness and round table talks.

So, we ask that we be invited to engage in the car parking charging process, let's work together to produce a satisfactory result for everyone and most importantly the Forest's future.'

2025/13986 PEGGY TILLYER

Presentment by Gilly Jones, Commoner, Lead on the New Forest Roads Awareness and Chair of the Animal Accident Reduction Group

'I would like to open my Presentment with recognition of someone who is missing today. I would like to acknowledge the passing of Peggy Tillyer, A lady who I have worked with for many years, her dedication to Forest ways and educating people and visitors has encouraged me hugely. Peggy was one of the few people brave enough to put me in my place. Peggy, thank you and we will miss you.'

2025/13987 ANIMAL ACCIDENTS

Presentment by Gilly Jones, Commoner, Lead on the New Forest Roads Awareness and Chair of the Animal Accident Reduction Group

'The first of two topics I want to cover today is the catastrophic rise in livestock incidents this year. After 2024 having the lowest number of accidents in history, 2025 hasn't started in the way I hoped. To date there have been 24 collisions with livestock already this year. Why this has happened I'm not sure. Many of them have happened in the south of the Forest, with the B3054 still being, in my mind the highest risk route now.

With my work on social media, there has been an increase in the use of the 'F' word. Fencing, for some a quick and easy fix, to mean they can drive at sixty MPH and not have to deal with livestock, but I doubt much thought has gone into this. The fencing cost, the underpasses that would have to be built, the cattlegrids that would have to be put into place, the loss of grazing and the complete change in how the villages etc would interact with visitors. The cost would be eye watering, and I can't see any Councillor giving the go ahead to save a few ponies. So again, I plead with you all to work with us. Talk to your family, friends, customers and staff

and remind them that the livestock are on the road's day and night. Pass them slow and wide, and it's better to be late than have a pony through your windscreen.'

2025/13988 DOG INTERACTION WITH COMMONERS' LIVESTOCK

Presentment by Gilly Jones, Commoner, Lead on the New Forest Roads Awareness and Chair of the Animal Accident Reduction Group

'My second point is dog walkers and their pet's interaction with livestock. Sabine and Jerry Coombes had been made aware of a video of a child petting one of their Shetlands at Boltons Bench, I'm not going to say anything about that now, as they dealt with it themselves. The video carried on to show a German Shepard chase one of the Shetlands and bite it on the back leg. The pony is now healed, but that's not the point, a few days later a photographer took pictures of another dog chasing another one of their ponies. This is not unique to the bench area as we all know. One of the fatal animal accidents may have been caused by a dog chasing a calf into the path of a passing car. A Commoner spoke to me the other day about dog walkers getting too close to his cattle, when he shouted a warning, he realised the owner had headphones in and wasn't aware of what was happening around them.

I can only see this getting worse for Commoners, it will be our animals ordered off if they kick and kill someone's precious pooch.

Some members of the public are brave enough to step in in incidents like this, but as I sadly know from experience, it normally ends with threats and abuse by Forest users.

We are a few weeks away from Easter and I can only see this problem getting worse.

I hope that all Forest venues will get on board with the idea of telling their customers how they should behave and not try to cover themselves after something has happened.'

2025/13989 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S PROPOSED CAR PARKING CHARGES

Presentment by Sarah Nield, Chair of the New Forest Association (NFA)

'Official Verderer, Verderers and the members of public attending court today, I am Sarah Nield, Chair of the New Forest Association (NFA). I am giving this presentment on behalf of the association following the Deputy Surveyor's briefing to the Consultative Panel on proposed car parking charges.

The car parks have played an important part in conserving the Forest by preventing the unrestricted and widespread car access that blighted the Forest prior to their introduction in the sixties. Since then, millions of visitors have benefited from free car parking. We recognise that times have changed. Many Forest organisations, including Forestry England (FE), are under financial pressure. Their government funding is inadequate to fulfil all their statutory obligations to the Forest. Meanwhile, visitor numbers have grown encouraged perhaps by free parking that is out of step with many other national parks and recreational areas. Thus, we understand the reasons why the Forestry England (FE) has brought forward these proposals. Full details are awaited but we wish to outline some essential issues if parking charges are to have the beneficial effect intended rather than be outweighed by damaging circumstances.

First and foremost, everything must be done to avoid the inevitable risk of displacement parking whether on the Forest verges, in Forest villages, inclosure

entrances or indeed anywhere where cars may stray. To this end any charges must be extended to all Forest car parking areas, both formal and informal, within the perambulation not just those managed by FE. Just as the fencing of the Forest required the incorporation of the outer commons, there must be a Forest wide approach. We thus welcome reports that FE is talking to the National Trust and call for all affected landowners to be brought within the scheme.

Robust measures must also be in place before the start of any scheme to stop verge and other displacement parking. The fundamental purpose of Forest car parks will otherwise be undermined. FE is mindful of this danger, but full details are awaited. There is a challenging balance to be struck with preventative measures that are sufficiently robust and comprehensive to meet their purpose whilst at the same time minimising damage to fragile but nature rich Forest verges and other areas. For example, serious concerns have been raised about the ditches recently dug by the Matley to Lyndhurst road.

To reduce the temptation of displacement parking any charges need to be workable, reasonable and make provision for discounted charges for Forest residents, low income and vulnerable groups whilst also exempting commoners and those who play a part in maintaining and conserving the Forest. FE has such concessions in mind. These need to be below the parking and membership charges at the other forests FE manages. An enforcement team is also proposed, and they should be adequately resourced to be effective and backed up by a Traffic Regulation Order to tackle verge parking.

There must be transparent accounting of any proceeds which should be ringfenced for the benefit of the Forest. Care also needs to be taken that these charges do not reduce or adversely affect funding from government or other sources. Proceeds should be in addition not instead of such funding. The financial purpose of parking charges for the Forest will otherwise be undermined.

Lastly, we would like to know how the introduction of these charges fits with the much-mooted spatial plan which looks to rationalise the number and location of the car parks as part of the Recreational Management Strategy. Time and again we see piecemeal initiatives that fail to consider the Forest as a whole. There also really seem little point in installing expensive and intrusive charging machines etc if a car park is moved or closed.

In short this is a scheme that must be carefully planned, introduced and managed going forward if it is to achieve its object and avoid the key pitfall of displacement parking.'

2025/13990 DAMAGE TO BEECH TREES AND PONY WELFARE IN THE BURLEY AREA
Presentment by Anna Lawrence, Burley Resident

Prior to her presentment Dr Lawrence circulated photographs.

'My name is Anna Lawrence; I live in Burley. Thank you for hearing my presentment today.

Please look at the photos taken recently in the area around Burley.

The photographs of the veteran beech trees were taken this month in Undersley Wood, an ASNW on Lyndhurst Road. This damage started in January: on the

morning of the Verderers Court, I noticed damage to the root branches of a veteran beech which stands on the edge of Lucy Hill Inclosure.

I wrote in January, to Justine Bayley and received the usual prompt and courteous reply. The Agister and the FE Ecologist and your good selves were all made aware. However, in the following weeks many more trees have been similarly damaged in the area and all along the Lyndhurst Road out of Burley. In Undersley Wood alone of the 112 large beech trees, some of them veterans, 55 – nearly half- have been damaged. Of the 55, 36 have serious wounds with, on some veterans, areas of gnawing larger than me.

The photos of the ponies have been taken recently too, in December, January and March. Ponies in poor condition are far from rare on the Forest around Burley.

I hope the link between the situations these pictures illustrate is clear. Damage to the woodland habitat of the SAC tends to occur in winter; it is particularly evident now when the stock, which are always numerous, are very hungry. It is proof (if proof were needed), that the number of animals out on the Forest is far beyond its carrying capacity in the winter and this results in significant environmental damage. That same situation also results in poor welfare of the animals themselves; they are left out on the Forest to suffer though many are a source of income for their owners.

Further, I would like to point out to the Court that these trees are old: some have perhaps survived for three centuries. Until this episode they were healthy and undamaged. Significant damage to these beautiful veteran trees has not occurred in the last 300 years. But it has occurred now, on your watch.

The damage to the woodland habitats and the common welfare problems associated with malnourishment of owned domestic stock, is occurring now in your jurisdiction. I informed you in January. People did communicate and did do their jobs and did go to look. But beyond that nothing was done. Nothing continues to be done. More damage has occurred. Some of it slowly lethal.

My question to the Court today is plain: what do you plan to do to halt then reverse this situation?

Thank you for your attention'

2025/13991 THE AGISTER TEAM
Presentment by Mark Ferrett, Commoner

'Good morning Verderers and Members of the Court.

Mark Ferrett, Practicing New Forest Commoner.

The daffodils are out, and we await the cuckoo to arrive, as another long winter draws to a close.

I have taken the opportunity through the drift season of last year to attend as many of the round ups as possible, as we know the north of the Forest suffered badly from strangles in the pony herds, so drifts were cancelled and our Agisters monitored the situation.

Since the passing of Christmas, the Agisters have organised mini round ups and daily catching of the ponies which still had yearlings with them.

I would like to pay tribute to our five Agisters who worked tirelessly throughout another hard winter.

I can honestly say as a man who has farmed all his life that we have five superb stockmen working for the Verderers.

So I take this opportunity Official Verderer to say from my family a huge thank you to the five men who you employ.

Thank you'

2025/13992 DOG INTERACTION WITH COMMONERS' LIVESTOCK
Presentment by Brian Tarnoff, New Forest Resident

Mr Tarnoff said that dog control is the most common Public Space Protection Order implemented across the country. He said at the time when New Forest District Council were implementing the current two New Forest PSPO's there was insufficient evidence to include a dog control order, but he now hopes that there is enough evidence and urged the Verderers to push NFDC into implementing a new PSPO to include the control of dogs in the Forest.

2025/13993 PARKING SPATIAL PLAN AND CYCLING
Presentment by Brian Tarnoff, Wildlife and Conservation Representative, New Forest Local Access Forum

'Good morning, sadly I'm here again, partially in my remit as the Wildlife and Conservation representative on the Local Access Forum, to ask the Verderers to remind Forestry England of the responsibilities in law and policy to both conservation and recreation amenity; the nearly co-equal standing of both (excepting Sandford) in the National Park Purposes and the Minister's Mandate.

Last month's NFA presentment called upon the Deputy Surveyor to implement supplementary measures to improve the use of the existing Cycle network (introduction of the cycling code, the correction of inaccurate map data, improved signage and maps of the existing network, cycling ambassadors and a widespread education campaign). These had oddly been bundled along with the proposal to expand the cycle network in the DS presentment last Autumn. Making sure that waymarkers, signage, and maps are useable, and engaging positively with recreation users through rangers, ambassadors and codes of conduct is already Forestry England's responsibility, not some new initiative.

With upcoming proposals to implement car parking charges, Forestry England again are trying to move forward with major changes to the recreational infrastructure of the Forest without a clear spatial strategy for that management. Parking displacement alone will affect other landowners, managers, local residents, and will predictably lead to verge parking that is a conservation, encroachment and public safety concern.

Like many things in the Forest there are a lot of moving parts. Forestry England must put forward a practical proposal that encompasses the whole of the Forest, working with their many partners and neighbours. Any rush to merely roll out another revenue generating scheme based on central directives just to put an evaporating drop in the underfunded bucket to pay for the legally (and to my mind morally) required maintenance and upkeep the Forest must be resisted. I hope the Verderers will agree.'

2025/13994 PEDESTRIAN GATE AT BOLTONS BENCH AND VOLUNTEERING
Presentment by Melanie Wathen, Parish Clerk Lyndhurst

Ms Wathen raised concerns regarding the pedestrian gate at Boltons Bench being left open allowing donkeys to escape onto the verge outside the fire station.

Ms Wathen said that several Lyndhurst residents have expressed an interest in becoming "Volunteer Wardens" to engage with and educate the visitors to Lyndhurst and the surrounding Forest area and asked if the Court would consider setting up a scheme.

The Head Agister closed the Court

IN COMMITTEE (in the Library)

In Attendance: Mr Denis Dooley, Mr Duncan Copeland and Mr Ryk Becker from Camping in the New Forest joined the meeting for Minute Numbers 14002 to 14005

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2025/13995 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S PROPOSED CAR PARKING CHARGES RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England are already aware of and are considering the issues raised in both the CDA and NFA's presentments. He said Forestry England continue to welcome feedback saying it is helping decide what to do next as part of a stake holder liaison.

Mr Manley asked if FE were consulting with other Forest landowners, the Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England is working through its communications plans for the project, starting with statutory bodies and then with others including Consultative Panel, Quadrant meetings and specific organisations including other landowners in the National Park.

Mr Pasmore raised his concerns that Forestry England have not fully considered the high number of common land owners within the Forest, and said that support should be offered to the smaller land owners, some of whom own the verges in New Forest villages which are likely to incur damage if parking charges are introduced.

2025/13996 ANIMAL ACCIDENTS RESUME

The Official Verderer said he has invited Gilly, as Chair of the Animal Accident Reduction Group, to join the visit of the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable for Hampshire where he hopes the increase in animal accidents will be discussed.

2025/13997 DOG INTERACTION WITH COMMONERS' LIVESTOCK RESUME

The Official Verderer said a review of the existing Public Space Protection Orders is due and that he will ask again about a control of dogs PSPO. The Deputy Surveyor said he will look into the number of complaints received by Forestry England.

The Official Verderer asked the Deputy Surveyor to again consider requiring the licencing of commercial dog walkers operating on the Crown lands restricting the number of dogs that can be walked by them at one time.

2025/13998 THE AGISTER TEAM DISCHARGE

The Court welcomed Mr Ferrett's comments regarding the Agister team, saying the praise was justified. Mr Manley said the Agisters do

a great job in sometimes difficult circumstances and reiterated his thanks to the team.

2025/13999 RECREATION PROPOSALS, SPATIAL PLAN AND PURPOSE DISCHARGE

Mr Tarnoff's presentment will be taken into consideration when the Verderers are ready to make their decision on Forestry England's cycling network proposals.

2025/14000 PEDESTRIAN GATE AT BOLTONS BENCH AND VOLUNTEERING RESUME

The Official Verderer requested that the local Agister inspect the gate to see if a spring would solve the issue of the gate being left open. If not, he suggested Hampshire Highways be asked if the area was suitable for the installation of a pedestrian box gate.

Action Asst
Clerk

The Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England still run the Volunteer Ranger scheme, and more volunteers are always very welcome.

2025/14001 DAMAGE TO BEECH TREES AND PONY WELFARE IN THE BURLEY AREA RESUME

The Official Verderer asked that the FE Ecologist visits the areas of concern and assess the situation of any damaged beech trees. Mr Stride said some trees have also been barked in Bolderwood, Oakley and Mark Ash Wood. It was agreed that the Agisters should be instructed to investigate and identify the animals causing this damage.

The Court discussed that the New Forest ponies are semi feral, and as such normally put on condition through the spring and summer in readiness for the more difficult conditions in winter when some body weight may be lost. Condition is monitored by the owners and the Agisters, who intervene and remove animals when condition is considered unacceptable. Members of the public, including Anna Lawrence, often report animals which they feel may need help, such reports are always followed up by an Agister who will assess the pony condition and act accordingly. Their assessment may not correspond with that reported, but the Agister opinion has the support of the Court. The majority of ponies look well coming out of the winter which would not support a suggestion that the forest is overgrazed.

NEW SUBMISSIONS BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/14002 NEW ELECTRICITY HOOK UPS AT HOLMSLEY CAMPSITE DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer expressed his disappointment that the Camping Advisory Group had failed to meet prior to the start of the camping season. Mr Dooley said Camping New Forest were not prepared to hold the meeting until the ecology reports had been received.

Mr Dooley said that due to a lack of investment from the previous campsite operator new electric hook ups were desperately needed at Holmsley Campsite. Mr Becker explained that some of the existing underground cables are faulty, and they do not know

where they run meaning that some may be under grazing rather than the gravel areas of the site. Many of the existing boxes are in an inconvenient place and need to be moved. The proposed boxes will be mounted on wooden stakes to reduce their footprint.

The Court welcomed CNF's attendance at the meeting and the opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposals. Mr Chatters is the dedicated Court Liaison for CNF.

The Official Verderer explained that all new submissions to the Court need to come via Forestry England. The submissions must be detailed to the extent that someone can pick up the proposal in years to come and know exactly what was requested and what was agreed by the Court. Any consent for proposals will be communicated to Forestry England.

2025/14003 REQUEST TO IMPROVE AND BUILD DEDICATED WASTE BIN AREAS ON ALL NEW FOREST CAMPSITES RESUME

To comply with new legislation regarding waste & recycling separation CNF would like to install bespoke bin areas on all of the campsites they manage. They are happy to work with Forestry England and the Court to agree the design and location of the areas.

The Court noted the information provided by CNF but cannot give consent until a detailed proposal is received.

2025/14004 ROUNDHILLS CAMPSITE DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said that although CNF offer an improved experience as the campsite operator he is really disappointed in two incidents that happened at Roundhill campsite recently.

The first was when a commoner and a Verderer had to intervene to prevent gravel being laid in a non-permitted area of the site. Mr Dooley apologised and said that they did not know that the area was not a designated gravel track. The Official Verderer asked the Deputy Surveyor to ensure CNF are provided with detailed plans of the campsites so they can identify what is track and what is grazing.

Action DS

CNF have gone against the law and have excavated an area without permission to expose a sewer pipe. The spoil has not been excavated in accordance with Natural England rules and has been stored on top of turf not the required membrane. Mr Deakin said that regardless of whether the works were emergency or not consent should have been sought before digging commenced, and in exceptional circumstances, FE notified as soon as is practicable.

2025/14005 DENNY WOOD CAMPSITE DISCHARGE

Mr Chatters said he has heard that Denny Wood Campsite is being left fallow this camping season. Mr Dooley said the reception area will be used for campers at Matley Campsite but the remainder of the site will be closed. Mr Dooley said this shows CNF's commitment to the environment. The site will be monitored during

the season and Mr Chatters said he was interested in receiving the report later in the year.

The Official Verderer thanked Mr Dooley, Mr Becker & Mr Copeland for attending the meeting.

Mr Denis Dooley, Mr Duncan Copeland and Mr Ryk Becker left the meeting

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/14006 CYCLING PROPOSALS RESUME

The Official Verderer said he had some initial thoughts to share with the Deputy Surveyor following a cycling workshop held by the Court. He will communicate these to the Deputy Surveyor via email.

The Official Verderer said existing cycling network does not have Verderers consent. He told the Deputy Surveyor the Court is seeking legal advice to better understand what it needs to do to be able to give its consent to Forestry England.

2025/14007 HCC CYCLE ROUTES INCLUDED IN THE LCWHIP RESUME

The cycling routes included in the LCWHIP which cross the Open Forest were discussed.

As a member of Hampshire County Council, the Official Verderer declared his interest and did not join in the discussion.

2025/14008 CAMPING ADVISORY GROUP RESUME

The meeting will be held at some point in April.

2025/14009 BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB RESUME

Mrs Clark said the Club is reviewing its existing management plan which ends in June. The club has new operators who have not been through the process before and have asked for an extension on the existing plan to enable them to carry out ecology reports.

DE-MINIMUS PROPOSALS

2025/14010 DE-MINIMIS-CONSENTS - UTILITY PROPOSALS AGREED BY THE DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE RESUME

Nothing to report this month

EMERGENCY WORKS

2025/14011 EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES RESUME

EM0001 3rd Feb 25 South West Water. Charford Firs, Forest Road, Hale, accessed via Turf Hill Car Park. Leak on 12" PVC Water Main (Hale Purlieu)

EM0002 11th Feb 25 SSE. Malwood Lodge Farm, Lyndhurst. High Voltage Fault

EM0003 23rd Feb 25 South West Water. Boundary Cottage, Telegraph Hill, Redlynch. Leak on 12" PVC Water Main

EM0004 25th Feb 25 South West Water. Canterton Lane, Brook. Leak on a 6" CL Water Main

EM0005 26th Feb 25 Southern Water. Forestside, Meerut Road, Brockenhurst. Back filling of excavation carried out by the property owner.

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2025/14012 SSSI REPAIR & MAINTENANCE/ENHANCEMENT LIST

RESUME

There are no new updates to add to the summer works programme.

ENCROACHMENTS

2025/14013 ENCROACHMENTS LIST

RESUME

The building materials that were being stored on the verge at Sky Lodge, Linwood have now been removed. Mr Stride said the builders' vehicles have caused a lot of damage to the verges outside the property which will need to be reinstated.

Action JC

2025/14014 FORESTRY ENGLAND ESTATES OFFICER

RESUME

Mrs Clark said Amy Howells the FE Estates Officer is due to go on maternity leave. The Official Verderer asked her to provide the Assistant Clerk with the contact details for Amy's temporary replacement.

Action JC

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/14015 ACTION LIST

RESUME

Nothing new has been added to the Action List.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/14016 GORSE BURNING, SWIPING AND ROADSIDE CLEARANCE

DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer passed on the Courts thanks to the Deputy Surveyor for the work his team has carried out with burning, gorse swiping and roadside clearance. He said they have done an excellent job considering the weather conditions.

There have been more comments on social media regarding the burning this year, probably not helped by the car parks being closed for ground nesting birds before the burning programme was completed. The burning programme had to be completed in two parts due to the adverse weather and the Official Verderer suggested a better communication strategy would be beneficial.

2025/14017 COMMERCIAL DOG WALKERS

DISCHARGE

Mr Manley urged the Deputy Surveyor to look again at controlling commercial dog walkers in the Forest. Commercial dog walkers are making money out of the Forest and putting very little back.

2025/14018 MRS JOAN CLARK

DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor said that this is Joan's last Court, Tess Cook has returned from maternity leave and will join the Court next month. Mrs Clark will return to her role as Land Agent for Forestry England's South East Area.

The Deputy Surveyor thanked Mrs Clark for the involvement and support she has given to the New Forest team during Tess's absence.

The Court passed on its thanks and wish Mrs Clark well for the future.

There being no other business involving Forestry England, the Deputy Surveyor and Land Agent left the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

2025/14019 NEW ELECTRICITY HOOK UPS AT HOLMSLEY CAMPSITE

DISCHARGE

The proposal for the new electrical hook-ups at Holmsley Campsite is approved with no objections subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing etc.

It was noted that the submitted request does not show the full extent of the cable runs at Holmsley Campsite. Through FE, Camping in the New Forest are requested to carry out proper, measured survey of the campsite and provide the Court with plans within 12 months. The Court will likely require similar measured surveys of other campsite when considering any future proposals.

Action DS

ENCROACHMENTS NOT INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/14020 ENCROACHMENT ON TETHERING DROVE, HALE, NEAR FORDINGBRIDGE

DISCHARGE

The Assistant Clerk said the National Trust had been in contact regarding an encroachment on Tethering Drove in Hale. A field to the north of Hale Purlieu has recently been sold. Large gates have been installed, and hardstanding has been put down on the grass verge damaging the SSSI. The CDA Encroachments team are aware.

MATTERS ARISING

2025/14021 REVIEW OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

DISCHARGE

Responses were submitted on behalf of the Verderers to both the New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority local development plans.

Miss Sevier thanked Mr Chatters and Mr Manley for their help in drafting the responses.

Mr Pasmore said he had raised the development plans at the recent consultative panel.

2025/14022 STURTMOOR POND DISCHARGE

Mr Chatters advised that no update was available at this time.

2025/14023 PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT LYNWOOD FARM, BLACKFIELD DISCHARGE

Miss Tilbury said the objection on behalf of the Verderers has been submitted to the Planning Authority.

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME & THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME

2025/14024 HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME RESUME

The Official Verderer said the government has announced it will be paying an uplift to HLS payments as there have been no inflation increases during the scheme. The Court will not automatically receive the uplift and therefore need to negotiate the amount it will receive.

The Official Verderer suggested that the Court employs Oliver Cook of New Park Consultancy to act on their behalf. The Court agreed to this along with an initial maximum budget of £2,200.00.

2025/14025 ROADSIDE DITCHING AT MATLEY AND LONGCROSS RESUME

Mr Deakin said he attended a site visit with Mr Stride, The FE Senior Ecologist and the HLS Verge Restoration Officer where a CORRECT specification for roadside ditching was agreed.

He is disappointed that the agreed specification has been ignored, and the ditching has continued to be cut too deep with not enough crossing places for livestock.

Mr Deakin and Mr Stride will email the HLS Verge Restoration Officer expressing their disappointment that the agreed specification has not been followed.

Action
RD/RS

REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2025/14026 NATIONAL HIGHWAYS A31 FENCE DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said he has now attended site visits at both the West and Eastbound carriageway. Works are scheduled to start in September.

2025/14027 FRESHWATER AND WETLAND RESTORATION FORUM DISCHARGE

Mr Chatters circulated a report from the Freshwater and Wetland Restoration Forum by email prior to the meeting.

Dave Rumble, a highly effective chair is standing down for personal reasons.

The main body of the meeting was to consider the future of the Forum now that the Restoration Plan is effectively complete. The consensus was the Forum should continue as a place to disseminate information and to maintain a strategic oversight of the delivery of the Restoration Plan.

The site visit was to Picket Mire (SU19120642). This is a high energy system disrupted by historical channel straightening and more recently as a recipient of roadwater discharge. The biological and geomorphological responses to intervention are positive but will need further work before the mire is stabilised. There were some expressions of concern relating to the aesthetics. The timetable to remove the fencing is currently open ended, to be determined by the condition of the restoration.

2025/14028 NEW FOREST DOG DISCHARGE

Mr Manley said the New Forest Dog campaign to raise awareness of Neospora and dog excrement was gaining traction. £1200.00 has been raised so far and Mr Manley asked the Verderers for £300. The funds will be used to purchase car stickers & biodegradable poo bags which will be handed out to dog walkers in the Forest car parks by New Forest Dog volunteers.

The Court expressed its support for the scheme and agreed to Mr Manley's request for £300.00 funding.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2025/14029 FINANCIAL MATTERS INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement was noted.

STAFF MATTERS

2025/14030 STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES DISCHARGE

The minutes were noted.

2025/14031 AGISTER VEHICLES RESUME

The Court will take delivery of 5 KGM Musso pickups on Friday 28th March 2025

2025/14032 NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR THE AGISTER TEAM RESUME

The Official Verderer, Mr Deakin and the Head Agister will meet to discuss the next steps for the electronic submission of the Agisters paperwork.

Action Asst
Clerk

2025/14033 SHARED DIARIES RESUME

The Official Verderer said the office staff are currently logging their time off and home working on a shared electronic diary. He would like the Agister team to start doing the same.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2025/14034 BURLEY GOLF COURSE

RESUME

Mr Deakin said Burley Golf Course's licence is up for renewal and an invitation has been extended to the Court to attend a visit to the course on the 10th April.

2025/14035 ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTIES OVER CROWN LAND

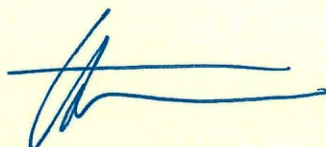
RESUME

Mr Deakin said he has recently visited two properties with the FE Estates Officer both who require new accesses across Crown Land.

The first is Sherfield Cottage in East Boldre which has new owners. It is obvious that the previous owners were parking on the Forest outside the property. The new owners have requested a new access to park within the property boundary, with the use of dragons teeth more grazing will be claimed back than lost.

The second property is at Furzey Lodge, the property has been unoccupied since it was built 25 years ago. It was once part of a family plot with shared access but has now been sold and has no private access. Mr Deakin said this site needs to be looked at for verge protection.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 13:36 hrs



16th April 2025