

**Minutes of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 16th July 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
	Mrs 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	Clerk to the Verderers
	Mr J Gerrelli	Head Agister
APOLOGIES	None	

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

2025/14173	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	RESUME
	The minutes of the last Court, held on Wednesday 18 th June 2025 were approved, and signed by the Official Verderer.	
2025/14174	NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	RESUME
	There were no new declarations of interest.	
2025/14175	CONDITION OF STOCK	RESUME
	The Head Agister said that the recent hot dry weather has left the Forest looking extremely dry and yellow. The majority of ponies are still looking well. There is still plenty of water on the Forest for the livestock and the ponies are making good use of the bogs and mires.	
2025/14176	STRANGLES	RESUME
	The Head Agister said there have been two confirmed cases of strangles in the Bartley area. One in a pony caught at Dunces Arch last week and the other is a young pony from Cadnam Cricket Pitch that tested positive following a vet visit. The Agisters will monitor the situation.	
2025/14177	STALLIONS	RESUME
	Mr Deakin and the Head Agister gave the Court a report from their recent meeting with the National Trust at Mottisfont to discuss ongoing grazing for the stallions.	
2025/14178	BOVINE TB	RESUME
	No new cases or updates to report this month.	

2025/14179 WHEELIE BINS AND FOOD WASTE BINS

RESUME

The Official Verderer asked the Head Agister if wheelie bins and food waste bins have been rolled out in his patch yet and if in his opinion the food waste bins provided by NFDC are pig proof. The Head Agister replied that they haven't and that in his opinion they are not pig proof.

2025/14180 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

RESUME

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Forest Ponies	4829	4824
Forest Cattle	2371	1962
Forest Donkeys	115	118
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	7315	6904
Common Ponies	552	564
Common Cattle	247	456
Common Donkeys	97	93
Common Pigs	14	17
Common Sheep	14	121
Total Common Stock	926	1251
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	7315	3904
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	896	1113
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	8211	8017
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	8241	8155

The Head Agister left the meeting

2025/14181 BREACHES OF THE BYELAWS

RESUME

Mr Deakin and Miss Harrison said there have been reports of insufficiently rung pigs on the Northern Commons.

OPEN COURT

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Craig Harrison, Deputy Surveyor
Mrs Tessa Cook, Land Agent

The Head Agister opened the Court with the usual proclamation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS

2025/14182 FUTURE AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEME

The Court is grateful for Andrew Parry-Norton's presentment on behalf of the CDA and agree that with BPS phasing out in 2027 and the end of the HLS agreement in 2028, the need to agree, and implement, a new agri-environment scheme for the Forest to support the vital work that is undertaken to conserve and enhance the Forest, including the vital support for Commoning is both critical and urgent. The Verderers will continue to actively engage, as members of the Forest Farming

Group, to ensure that the Forest is in the best position possible when the next Landscape Recovery window opens for applications. In the meantime, the Court will continue to highlight the vital role the Commoning plays in maintaining the New Forest as what is arguably one of the most important lowland habitats in Western Europe with local and national decision makers.

2025/14183 DEADWOOD AND FALLEN TIMBER IN THE ANCIENT WOODLANDS

The Court thanks Lucie Rowe for her presentment. Forestry England is required to manage fallen deadwood within the Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands and on the Forest Lawns in accordance with their policy, which was originally adopted in 2006, replacing previous guidelines, and was last reviewed in 2014.

While the policy articulates a minimum volume of deadwood, 40 cubic metres per hectare, for the Ancient Woodlands, it does not specify a maximum, other than allowing for key access tracks to be cleared, a programme for which is agreed through the Open Forest Advisory Committee.

The policy is overdue for review, and the Court will engage with Forestry England when this process commences.

2025/14184 WATER ON THE FOREST

We would remind Forest residents and visitors that, even in prolonged dry periods, there is sufficient access to water on the open Forest for stock, either from natural sources or installed water troughs. Therefore, we ask that they do not place water buckets on the Forest.

2025/14185 NEW FOREST SHOW

The Court will again have a stand at the New Forest Show this year and we hope as many people as possible will visit our stand over the three days.

THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2025/14186 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2025

The Agisters attended 8 accidents in June, compared with 3 in June last year.

3 ponies were injured and had to be humanely destroyed, two ponies were injured, a cow involved in an accident escaped injury and in 2 instances the animals reportedly involved in an accident could not be found.

5 of the accidents happened in daylight, 2 at twilight and 1 in the dark.

2 drivers have failed to report having been involved in a collision with a Forest animal.

The total number of commoners' animals killed and injured this year is 21 compared with 9 in the same period last year.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR

2025/14187 PANNAGE 2025

"In accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of the New Forest Act 1964, the Verderers have been consulted on the dates of the pannage season. I notify the

Court that the 2025 season will commence on Monday 15th September and end on Friday 28th November, both dates inclusive.

May I remind Commoners who hold the right of Common of Mast that:-

1. Pigs turned out must be levant and couchant in and upon the land from which the right is derived.
2. Pigs may not be turned out until they have been inspected by an Agister, effectively ringed, marked and the appropriate fee paid. This must take place during normal working hours. 48 hours notice must be given and the time and place where the pigs are to be inspected and marked must be agreed.
3. Pigs must be marked before they are put onto the Forest.
4. Pigs may not be turned out into the Inclosures.
5. Breeding sows, that is female pigs in-pig, may be allowed the privilege of remaining on the Open Forest after the end of the pannage season if so authorised in writing by the Deputy Surveyor for the period specified in the consent.
6. Any breeding sow that is granted the specific written consent of exercising the privilege must be inspected, ringed, marked and paid for during the pannage season.
7. Any breeding sow exercising this privilege must return to the holding at night.
8. Apart from the aforementioned privilege of turning out breeding sows with proper authorisation onto the Open Forest beyond the pannage season, no pig will be allowed to remain on the Forest after the end of the season.
9. No period of grace is allowed for the removal of such unauthorised pigs.
10. Any consent granted for the exercise of the privilege is limited to the period following this particular pannage season and cannot be presumed to apply for future years, for which a separate application must be made.
11. Any unmarked animal running on the Forest does so in contravention of the Verderers' Byelaws and the owner is liable to a fine of up to £200.00.
12. Property owners of land adjacent to the Forest are reminded that it is their responsibility to fence out Forest animals from their land."

2025/14188 WILDFIRES

"I'm sure you will be aware of several wildfires across the Forest recently, it's been a particularly long period of hazardous conditions with dry vegetation and sustained high temperatures which I hope will ease this week. I'd like to thank the Fire and Rescue Service for their hard work tackling wildfires, to minimise the impact on valuable wildlife, timber crops as well as the risk to public safety and livestock.

Thank you also to the New Forest community for their vigilance and acting as the eyes and ears across the Forest when wildfires occur; our team cannot be everywhere all of the time so the reporting of wildfires (or any other anti-social activity) as soon as possible to minimise their impact is greatly appreciated."

PRESENTMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

2025/14189 DEADWOOD AND FALLEN TIMBER

Presentment by Andrew Parry-Norton, Chair of the Forest Farming Group and the Commoners Defence Association

"In this court, last month, we heard a presentment made by a Commoner requesting that fallen timber should be cleared from the Forest's woodland, the CDA supports that view. To get a better understanding of the amount of fallen timber that is present, the CDA is undertaking a survey to quantify its volume.

The CDA acknowledges that a certain amount of timber should be left for the benefit of the ecology, but we now feel this policy has been taken to the extreme. Access for stock welfare has become difficult and dangerous.

We ask the Verderers to support the CDA in our survey and enter into discussions with Forestry England on reducing the amount of fallen wood."

2025/14190 FOOD WASTE BINS

Presentment by Andrew Parry-Norton, Chair of the Forest Farming Group and the Commoners Defence Association

"As was predicted by the CDA, the roll out of the waste food bins has not gone well. Numerous pictures and personal accounts of donkeys opening the bins and consuming the food within have been all over social media and in the press.

We now have a problem that needs a very fast solution; soon the Pannage season will start, and the pigs will be even quicker in opening the bins than the donkeys. Urgent discussions need to take place involving all interested parties, maybe suspending the separation of the waste food from general waste until this problem is solved. As we mentioned in our previous presentment, since the introduction of the Animal by-products order of 1999, it is illegal to feed kitchen waste to pigs.

We would ask the Verderers to clarify who has potentially broken the law, the householder who has put the food bins out with the knowledge that pigs could break into the caddy or New Forest District Council who supplied the bins and given out the incorrect advice that they are stock proof."

2025/14191 FOOD WASTE BINS

Presentment by Sarah Nield, Chair of the New Forest Association

"Official Verderer and Verderers and the members of public attending court today, I am Sarah Nield, Chair of the New Forest Association. I am giving this presentment on behalf of the association to join the chorus of criticism of the New Forest District Council's (NFDC) waste bin policy in the Forest.

I do not need to tell this court or members of the public here today of the dangers to stock posed by the food waste bins. I have no doubt that the Commoners Defence Association and the Verderers have made those dangers very clear to NFDC. I wish to emphasise the contradictory and unacceptable attitude of NFDC. The association will also be making a presentment to the next public meeting of NFDC.

In the past NFDC as part of The Shared Forest project agreed with the Verderers and the CDA that waste bags should be placed inside the gate or cattle grid of Forest properties. They produced a clear poster to that effect. The change in receptacle is no reason to change this sensible guidance when the so-called locks on the food waste bins have proved totally inadequate.

Indeed, the NFDC guidance is inconsistent. The website says one thing and leaflets distributed to residents says another. The latter says bins "should be placed at your property boundary" – that could mean, and this is how I have interpreted it, within

my gate. However, online guidance says it should be beyond the gate. Inconsistency is evident also in NFDC's PSPO against feeding stock and their own actions which do just that.

NFDC say they are monitoring the situation and that only a few problems can be reported. It was carnage on Sway Road, Brockenhurst on the first collection day. One incident is one too many given the risks to stock and the public that can so easily be avoided. We ask the Verderers to continue to send the clear message that food waste bins must be inside gates, so NFDC get the message loud and clear before any further roll out of this £5.6 million scheme."

2025/14192 NFDC PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS SURVEY
Presentment by Brian Tarnoff, Trustee & Council Member New Forest Association

"Good morning, first I'm speaking to merely reiterate the New Forest Association's continuing support for both the two extant PSPOs focussed on the Crown Lands, aimed at preventing wildfires, and banning the inappropriate feeding and petting of Forest Livestock. We believe their implementation has led to more positive engagement between rangers and the public and has raised the awareness of these issues and may continue to change attitudes.

We would like to see two improvements made:

The NFDC PSPO 1 which explicitly bans barbecues should include restrictions on fireworks and sky lanterns which are in all other extant PSPOs targeting wildfires on moorlands, coastal and heathland habitat (Including the Dorset Open Land PSPO and others).

The NFDC PSPO 2 which explicitly bans feeding or petting pony, horse, mule or donkey should more generically refer to Livestock to include cattle, pigs and sheep.

In both these instances we believe that NFDC have been unhelpfully pedantic in their approach to required evidence. In the instance of fires, a simple risk assessment is more important than establishing a history of unfortunate incidents.

I've spoken to the Hampshire Fire Service who said they would support making this PSPO consistent with others. Common sense should already dictate that public interaction with any livestock on the Forest carries the same risks and liabilities. It is terrible that we have had incidents with cattle and pigs, and it should not require a pattern or severity for NFDC to sensibly include. (Of course, by ignoring the issues around the new bins, NFDC are in breach of their own PSPO as they feed the donkeys).

We hope that the Verderers will agree and factor this into their response to the NFDC Survey which closes August 10th."

2025/14193 DOG CONTROL PSPO
Presentment by Brian Tarnoff, Wildlife and Conservation representative New Forest Local Access Forum

"Due to NFDC launching their survey this week, I felt that this would be another opportunity to raise the issue of Dog Control PSPO but could not achieve a consensus with the NFA about this timing, although we've collectively raised this previously. So, this is necessarily my personal view (with some reference to another of the hats I wear).

Dog Control PSPOs are the most common type of PSPO across the country. One for the New Forest could address:

- Dog fouling.
- Create seasonal zones requiring leads to be mandatory.
- Leads upon request by authorised persons
- Out of control dogs worrying, chasing or attacking livestock.

One of the issues raised in my brief search for consensus was that of the cost of another PSPO. (Putting aside the purely pragmatic fact that going through consultation and implementation alongside the other PSPO's would be less costly. PSPO's are not finite, do not cancel each other out, nor do they need to be put forward at the same time.) However, let's look at the possible benefits:

- What would be the benefit to human and livestock health of reduced dog fouling, dog poo being a vector for various parasites and disease?
- What is the benefit of reduced risk of injury to livestock from dog attacks, and risk of injury to humans and damage to property from livestock spooked or chased by dogs?
- What is the benefit to the purposes of the National Park its enjoyment by the public less disturbed by uncontrolled off lead dogs?

Please present me with a spreadsheet that weighs all of that against the cost someone in the council doing the paperwork and running a consultation for the PSPO, or how enforcement would in any way increase cost beyond that required by the existing PSPOs.

Within my remit as the Wildlife and Conservation representative on the Local Access Forum, I must admit that, in terms of the narrow requirements of PSPO's which focus almost exclusively on how infractions affect the Public's use and enjoyment of open space, Conservation benefits are not considered. However, I would want those benefits, which include:

- less disturbed wildlife,
- the nutrient soil mix of the habitat unaltered by dog poo,
- inappropriate growth of predator populations which subsist on dog poo

Surely, in the protected landscape of a National Park, these matter. When I tried to advance Dog Control PSPO's to NFDC in the run up to their consultation in 2022, I was told in their Cabinet meeting that the Council lacked the evidence. This was despite the fact that we were a minutes' walk from Bolton's Bench where abundant evidence of fouling could be surveyed, and their own evidence documents, cited to support the feeding ponies PSPO, detailing incidents in 2018, showed "Dogs worrying livestock" made up 33% of incidents reported to the Verderers.

A Dog Control PSPO can appropriately augment the National Park's Dog Walking Code which Forest stakeholders including NFDOG have agreed. As a dog owner/walker, I'd welcome measures that make the experience of the Forest better for all users. PSPOs are helping some behave more responsibly, that should include my fellow dog owners."

2025/14194 ANIMAL ACCIDENT FIGURES AND OPERATION MOUNTIE
Presentment by Gilly Jones, New Forest Roads Awareness and Chair of the Animal Accident Reduction Group

"Good morning, Official Verderer, Verderers and members of the public,

Being me, I not happy about the accident numbers the Clerk has just read out.

Following the Official Verderer's meeting with the PCC at the beginning of June, where I commented that we are lacking in officers to help with Operation Mountie, we have just an hour ago, completed an Op Mountie with two units from the Roads Policing Unit.

We covered three areas, Hawkhill, Matley and Kings Hat.

24 drivers were pulled in, with 8 being given tickets. The top speed was 67 mph. The rest who fell into the window of 46 to 49 mph received education.

My takeaway from this morning was that only 3 of the drivers spoken to know who to call if they were involved in an accident with a Forest animal.

We have to work harder on this, and in my role as Chair of the AARG I will be asking HCC if we can use the back of infrastructure that is already in place to display signage with information on. I am asking the Verderers to support me on this."

2025/14195 DAMAGE TO BEECH TREES AND PONY WELFARE IN THE BURLEY AREA
Presentment by Anna Lawrence, Burley Resident

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

In March I made a presentment about barking of veteran beech trees in Undersley Wood and along the Lyndhurst Road. This particularly egregious damage was coincidental with other notable damage in areas of the southern Forest.

In May the Court stated that it shared my concerns, but that it did not agree that there was any link between bark-biting and the condition of the stock. Rather, the Court stated, bark-biting is aberrant behaviour of individual animals, each of whom must be identified before being removed.

However, new damage has occurred in Undersley Wood. This time it is not to the ancient trees, but to younger trees in a small spinney, one or two of which might eventually have lived to the sort of age of the veterans which have been damaged this spring.

It was suggested by Mr Parry-Norton at the April Court that some salt licks be provided in the areas affected by bark-biting. While such a provision would surely be welcomed (not least by the stock who can occasionally be found opening Hampshire Highways grit bins), I note that

1. no salt licks have yet appeared
2. it is arguable that if the licks are put in the bark-bitten areas, this may in itself attract stock to places where they then damage trees
3. given the widespread nature of barking damage throughout New Forest woods, the CDA or Verderers may find themselves providing a lot of licks

Whether or not barking is linked to condition, I note that I am still reporting poor ponies. The most recent was a bay mare with a foal at foot, first reported in May but on the Forest until last week. Is there really no link between numbers of hungry herbivores and the widespread damage to vegetation, to the extent that ASNW woodland has no regeneration in it, and my local woods seem to be without trees of young age?

It has been asserted in this Court that stock lose condition in winter to re-gain it over summer. When other variables have not reached their limit, this is true and in

general, tolerable. However, I suspect that modern commoning, which lacks the regulation of heyning, fence months, levancy and couchancy, which is practised in the context of climate collapse, with multiple financial supports of great bureaucratic uncertainty, when the Forest is under huge pressures from the exploding human populations around it, is now outside these limits. Further, it is difficult logically to hold that stock lose condition over winter and re-gain in the summer, without also admitting that animals are hungry over winter or that their numbers are beyond the carrying capacity of the Forest in that season.

Though it denies a link between barking and the condition of the animals, the Court does agree that there is a link between stock (aberrant or otherwise) and damage to trees. The teeth marks are those of domestic animals, not (for instance) humans with knives. Had similar damage been done by humans, those bipeds roaming the Forest would at the very least found themselves on the wrong side of the Forest Keepers, not to mention the law.

But the damage continues. My question which I posed with my March presentment, remains. What do the Verderers and the other bodies in authority over the Forest, plan to do to halt and repair the damage which is occurring to individual veteran trees and to the woodland habitats of our beautiful New Forest?"

2025/14196 PANNAGE
Presentment by Jim Greenwood Commoner

Mr Greenwood said that he feels the pannage start date of the 15th of September is too late. He said this year's acorn crop is the largest he has ever seen and combined with the current lack of grass he believes the dates should be reconsidered.

The Head Agister closed the Court

IN COMMITTEE (in the Library)

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2025/14197 DEADWOOD AND FALLEN TIMBER RESUME

The Court welcomes the survey to be undertaken by the CDA and look forward to receiving the results. The Court expressed its willingness to help the CDA if required.

2025/14198 NFDC PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS SURVEY RESUME

The Court is happy to support Mr Tarnoff's suggestions that the PSPO 1 be extended to include fireworks and sky lanterns and the PSPO 2 be extended to cover the feeding of all livestock.

A response will be drafted and submitted to NFDC.

Action Clerk

2025/14199 DOG CONTROL PSPO DISCHARGE

The Court discussed Mr Tarnoff's presentment. As there is existing legislation that already covers out of control dogs and livestock worrying, including Forestry England's Byelaws it is not felt that NFDC will consider a PSPO for dog control in the Forest.

2025/14200 ANIMAL ACCIDENT FIGURES AND OPERATION MOUNTIE DISCHARGE

It is agreed that the animal accident figures this year are very disappointing. The Court is pleased to hear about the additional police resources attending Operation Mountie. The Court supports the need for more information for drivers and suggested it could be added as a key message to Forestry England's signage review.

2025/14201 DAMAGE TO BEECH TREES AND PONY WELFARE IN THE BURLEY AREA RESUME

Mr Pasmore said that there had not earlier this year been any recent damage caused to young beech trees in Undersley Wood. The Official Verderer asked Mr Pasmore to investigate the extent of the damage caused to the young trees.

Action AHP

2025/14202 PANNAGE DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore said that this year's acorn crop was one of the largest he has seen. Mr Stride said that he did not believe that the acorns will drop until the later part of September. If the pigs go out too early before the acorns drop the lack of grass may mean they have nothing to eat. The Court will monitor the situation.

NEW SUBMISSIONS BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/14203 BURLEY GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT PLAN DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said he was the only Verderer who attended the site visit at Burley Golf Course and that from the proposal it looked like they have taken on board all the suggestions that were made to them.

The Site Management Plan is approved with no objections subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing etc.

The Court would, however, like confirmation of the working methods for the installation of the new irrigation system.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/14204 FOOD WASTE BINS RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England shares the Courts concern regarding the roll out of wheelie bins and food waste bins in the Forest. He said consent has not been sought by NFDC for bins to be placed on Crown Land and that concerns have been raised about bins being left on Forestry England's land permanently.

The Official Verderer said there is no doubt that the bins are being accessed by livestock and that if this is not remedied, it is inevitable that that animals will die as a result. There is plenty of photographic evidence of this including a photo of a compostable food waste bin liner that has passed through a donkey's digestive system. He said the situation is not acceptable for both animal health and the prevention of disease and cannot continue as it is.

Grave concern was raised for pannage this year as despite NFDC's claims that the food waste bins are pig proof they clearly are not. It is illegal to feed food waste to pigs and any commoners whose animals access the food waste will have their animals quarantined and regularly inspected by APHA Vets. If too few pigs are turned out for pannage this year due to concerns over access to food waste, it will result in more pony and cattle deaths.

2025/14205 DEADWOOD AND FALLEN TIMBER IN THE ANCIENT WOODS RESUME

The Court discussed the stock management issues caused by the amount of deadwood on the Forest floor. Forestry England's Deadwood policy requires a minimum of 40 cubic metres of deadwood to be left per hectare, but there is no maximum guideline.

The Court welcomes the results of the CDA survey.

2025/14206 CNF BIN SOLUTIONS FOR CAMPSITES DISCHARGE

Mrs Tilbury said that CNF have now provided the What Three Words locations of the food waste bins in all campsites.

As the bins are already in use, the Court approves the locations for this season providing all the food waste bins are in the pony proof frames and that any on grazing are moved at least every 21 days.

Verderers will visit each campsite and inspect the bin facilities over the coming months, the bin locations will need to be reviewed again next year before the start of the camping season.

Action Clerk

2025/14207 CAMPING ADVISORY GROUP RESUME

Mr Chatters said the next meeting is on the 12th August, he will ensure that stock interactions, bins and slogans are discussed. He again asked the Court to provide him with any comments or points to raise before the 1st August.

The Official Verderer said he has received a note from CNF thanking the Verderers for the direct contact. He expressed the Courts frustration with CNF leaving issues to the last minute before trying to resolve them. All future engagement must come to the Court via Forestry England and not direct from CNF.

CNF's request to extend the 2026 opening season must be submitted as a proper proposal via Forestry England for the Court to be able to consider the request. It must include full details of all campsites that they are requesting earlier opening dates for.

Action TC

2025/14208 WESSEX INTERNET RESUME

Mr Deakin advised the Court that we are still waiting for further information from Wessex Internet regarding their working methods for the installation at Beaulieu Road.

2025/14209 VERDERERS HALL FIRE SAFETY/CAPACITY DISCHARGED
TO STAFF
LIAISON
COMMITTEE

Forestry England's Building Surveyor has suggested that the external Court doors be tied open and secured to the radiators

should the Court capacity exceed 60 persons. This raised concerns regarding road noise and traffic fumes, persons sitting at the back of the Verderers Hall already complain that they cannot hear.

The Agisters will be asked to stand and hold the external doors open in the event of the fire alarm sounding and will ensure that people leave the hall promptly.

Action RD

2025/14210 NEW PICNIC BENCHES AT KNIGHTWOOD OAK

RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor advised that the picnic benches at Knightwood Oak are replacements for existing benches that have been moved away from the ancient trees.

Mr Pasmore said that a lot of picnic benches and stools have appeared in Holidays Hill Inclosure close to the Portuguese Fireplace.

2025/14211 TREE BARKING BY PONIES

RESUME

Mr Deakin said a decision needs to be made regarding whether the Court is going to order off the ponies that have been identified as tree barking. He said the drifts are due to start soon and if any of these ponies come in the Agisters need to know whether to remove them or not. He also asked if the owners of the ponies will be compensated.

Mrs Cook said that Forestry England does not need Natural England's permission to put salt licks in the affected areas but that there is no evidence that licks will influence the ponies behaviour.

The Court agreed by a majority vote that action needs to be taken now. Mr Deakin is asked to put together a proposal with the Staff Liaison Committee to be agreed at the next Court.

Action RD

2025/14212 TURF HILL NATIONAL GRID PYLON REFURBISHMENT

DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said the proposal received from Fisher German is as discussed with himself and Mrs Tilbury on the site visit in June.

The work is approved with no objections subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing etc.

The Court is waiting to hear if scaffolding will be erected over the pound at Turf Hill.

DE-MINIMUS PROPOSALS

2025/14213 DE-MINIMIS-CONSENTS - UTILITY PROPOSALS AGREED BY THE DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE

RESUME

Nothing to report this month.

EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES

2025/14214 EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES RESUME

EM0008 June 25 SSE, fault located in the centre of Ashurst Campsite near the shower blocks. Emergency works required to reinstate customers supply who are currently running off generators.

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2025/14215 SSSI REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE LIST RESUME

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

ENCROACHMENTS ON FORESTRY ENGLAND LAND INCLUDING THE ENCROACHMENTS LIST

2025/14216 ENCROACHMENTS LIST DISCHARGE

The Encroachment List was noted.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/14217 ACTION LIST RESUME

Nothing new has been added to the Action List.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/14218 SALE OF LEISURE PLOTS IN LINWOOD RESUME

Mr Pasmore said he has been informed that the selling agent specialises in the selling of leisure plots and has sold a lot of plots in the South Downs National Park.

The Official Verderer asked Mrs Cook to inform the selling agent that each purchaser will require an access licence from Forestry England.

Action TC

Mr Pasmore raised his concerns regarding the increased traffic along the access track which is in woodland. The Deputy Surveyor said he shares Mr Pasmore's concerns including the likelihood of more vehicles parking on the Forest.

Miss Sevier said she thinks planning permission is required for the change of use, she will raise it with the NFNPA.

Action AS

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

MATTERS ARISING

2025/14219 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION RESUME

The Official Verderer said there are three options for the New Forest District which NFDC are currently gathering the public's view on: -

1. A single new council serving residents and businesses of New Forest, Test Valley, Winchester and East Hampshire
2. A single new council serving residents of New Forest, Southampton and Eastleigh.
3. One new council serving residents of Southampton and Eastleigh along with some current New Forest areas (including Hardley, Holbury, Fawley, Calshot, Hythe, Marchwood, Eling and Totton).

The Court agree that it is important the New Forest remains whole and is not divided up between different councils.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

2025/14220 REQUEST TO DEPASTURE PIGS UNDER LICENCE DURING DISCHARGE
THE 2025 PANNAGE SEASON

A request to depasture sows from a practising commoner whose property benefits from the right of common of pasture over the Forest, but not the right of mast, was approved. The permission is for this year only. The Clerk will advise the commoner.

Action Clerk

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME & THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME

2025/14221 HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME RESUME

The Official Verderer updated the Court on the government uplift to HLS payments.

2025/14222 HLS BOARD MEETING DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer said the HLS Board Meeting will be held on Monday 21st July at 9.30.

REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2025/14223 HAMPSHIRE HIGHWAYS NEW FOREST GRIP 3 MEETING DISCHARGE

Miss Sevier updated the Court following her recent meeting with Hampshire County Council. If no pre-existing bank is present the excavated soil is to be laid alongside the grips to reduce the impact on habitat that is affected by the road.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2025/14224 FINANCIAL MATTERS INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement and Draft Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025 were noted.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

2025/14225 POLICY ON ANIMAL AGGRESSION

RESUME

The Court are waiting to hear from the New Forest Commoners Defence Association.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2025/14226 ALL PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION AND ACCESS TO NATURE

RESUME

Miss Sevier circulated a draft response to the All Parliamentary Group prior to the meeting. The Official Verderer asked that all comments be passed to Miss Sevier by the end of the following day. The Clerk will then submit the response on behalf of the Court.

Action Clerk

2025/14227 SUB-COMMITTEE TO LIAISE WITH FORESTRY ENGLAND REGARDING THEIR PROPOSED CAR PARK CHARGES

DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore, Miss Harrison and Mrs Tilbury were appointed to the Sub-Committee.

STAFF MATTERS

2025/14228 STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESUME

The minutes were noted.

2025/14229 AGISTERS VEHICLES

RESUME

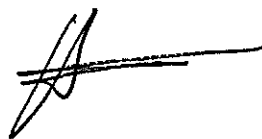
Mr Deakin said that the issues with the Agisters vehicles were still ongoing. The Head Agister's vehicle was worked on by a specialist auto-electrician at Balmer Lawn Garage but the lighting issues while towing have not been resolved.

Mr Deakin said he has tried to contact the owner of Balmer Lawn Garage but has not received the call back he was promised. Mr Manley said he has spoken to the Service Manager, the Head Agister will be contacted to arrange to take his vehicle in again.

The Official Verderer asked Mr Deakin and Mr Manley to try and work with the garage to find a resolution to the issues we are experiencing.

Mrs Tilbury asked about the current condition of the Agisters vehicles, Mr Deakin said all are in good order and are inspected monthly by the Staff Liaison Committee Verderers.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 14:30 hrs



17th September 2025