

**Minutes of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 17th December 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
IN ATTENDANCE	Miss J Bayley	Clerk to the Verderers
APOLOGIES	Mr C Chatters	Natural England Appointed Verderer

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

2025/14411 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

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

2025/14412 NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

There are no new declarations of interest.

2025/14413 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

Mr Deakin said the ponies are looking well going into winter. There are a few exceptions including mares with foals still at foot which the Agisters are catching and removing as required. The condition of many ponies has improved since the long dry summer.

The Welfare Tour was held last week, initially the weather was not conducive to ponies being out of shelter and in the open, but the tour was successful.

Mr Deakin said there have been issues with donkeys raiding recycling bins in Wootton. The incidents have been reported to NFDC via their website

The Official Verderer said NFDC has said food waste bins will be collected from inside of properties within the perambulation of the New Forest. The Court welcomes this decision and hopes that a similar provision will apply to wheelie bins in the future.

2025/14414 STALLIONS RESUME

Mr Deakin said the stallions have now been moved off the water meadows and are back in the usual grazing.

The National Trust are happy with how the meadows have been grazed and it is hoped that we may have use of the water meadows again in the future.

2025/14415 BOVINE TB

RESUME

No new cases or updates to report this month.

Mr Deakin said he is hoping to arrange a Cattle Commoners meeting with APHA in the spring.

2025/14416 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

RESUME

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Forest Ponies	4932	4938
Forest Cattle	2594	2671
Forest Donkeys	120	123
Forest Pigs	534	395
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	8180	8127
Common Ponies	563	585
Common Cattle	250	411
Common Donkeys	99	95
Common Pigs	109	110
Common Sheep	93	121
Total Common Stock	1114	1322
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	7646	7732
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	912	1091
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	8558	8823
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	9294	9449

2025/14417 BREACHES OF THE BYELAWS

RESUME

There are no new byelaw breaches.

The Deputy Surveyor and Mr Ollie Adderley, Land Agent, South West England joined the meeting

NEW SUBMISSIONS BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/14418 NEW ELECTRICITY HOOK UPS AT HOLMSLEY CAMPSITE AMENDED PROPOSAL

DISCHARGE

The revised proposal was approved with no objections subject to CNF providing the Court with a detailed topographical plan of the campsite within three months of the works being completed. Along with the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing etc.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/14419 BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB

RESUME

Mr Adderley said he has met with the club who are currently operating without a Management Plan. He is meeting with the club again and will provide an update at the January Court.

2025/14420 RAILWAY FENCING

RESUME

The Official Verderer has emailed Network Rail regarding the misunderstanding relating to legal action and is awaiting a response.

Mr Deakin said there is no update on the commoners claim for the loss of a steer on the railway line.

2025/14421 CAMPING ADVISORY GROUP

RESUME

The Court thanked Mr Chatters for all the work he has put in on the Camping Advisory Group and for the detailed report he circulated prior to the meeting.

Concerns were discussed regarding the amount of camping furniture that has not been removed from the campsites now they are closed. Not all areas have been thrown open to stock as required. The Clerk is asked to email CNF asking them to clear the campsites including the wardens areas of furniture and to lock open all areas that should currently be open to livestock.

Action Clerk

DE-MINIMUS PROPOSALS

2025/14422 DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS - UTILITY PROPOSALS AGREED BY THE DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE

RESUME

DM0236 Nov 25, SSE, 11 Pole replacements at three sites around Burley at Coach Hill Lane Castle Hill, Crow Hill and Harvestslade Bottom

DM0237 Nov 25, SGN, Gas main replacement, above ground scanning and 6 trial holes to be dug into grass verge around Oberfield Road, Brockenhurst

DM0238 Nov 25, Southern Water, Replacement frame and cover on water meter chamber on grass verge at Roughdown Lane, Blackfield

DM0239 Dec 25, FE, Dragons teeth and barrier installation Cotts Lane, Burley. Different to the proposal originally submitted to Court in Jan 25

EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES

2025/14423 EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES

RESUME

EM0015 Nov 25 Bournemouth Water, water leak, Meadow View, Dilton, Brockenhurst

EM0016 Nov 25 Southern Water, leaking stop cock replacement, Heath End, Rhinefield Road, Brockenhurst

EM0017 Nov 25, Oracle Environmental, Sewage Leak from the Rhinefield House Hotel, Brockenhurst

EM0018 Nov 25 Southern Water, high volume water leak on a stop tap, Harmony, Rhinefield Road, Brockenhurst

Mr Deakin said the excavation pit has been left open following a emergency water leak repair outside the Pig Hotel in Brockenhurst back in September. It has heras fencing around it, but he thinks it may have been forgotten.

Action OA

Heras fencing has also been left for a long time following water main works along the A337, directly opposite the main entrance to New Park.

Action OA

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2025/14424 SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

RESUME

The Summer restoration works are all complete and works are being planned for 2026.

ENCROACHMENTS ON FORESTRY ENGLAND LAND INCLUDING THE ENCROACHMENTS LIST

2025/14425 ENCROACHMENTS LIST

RESUME

Nothing new has been added to the Encroachments List.

2025/14426 TRACK FROM THRIFTY GATE TO THRIFTY BEECHES

RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor said he believes the Estates Officer has written to occupier and said the matter has been raised with the National Park Authority.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/14427 ACTION LIST

RESUME

Nothing new has been added to the Action List.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/14428 CADNAM CRICKET CLUB

RESUME

Miss Sevier asked Mr Adderley how things were progressing with Cadnam Cricket Club. Mr Adderley said that due to a work backlog at Natural England the club are drafting their own management plan based on the one they hold at Minstead. He hopes to have received a copy of this by the end of the week and will update the Court in January.

Mr Deakin said that Cadnam was the scruffiest club in the Forest with stuff piled high all around their pavilion. The pile of spoil has not been removed from the grazing close to the gate. Pigs and ponies are running through and stepping over the dangerous wicket square fencing at Football Green.

The Official Verderer suggested that Forestry England put in more conditions regarding fencing in the club licence renewals and include photos of best practice.

2025/14429	NFDC PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER CONSULTATION	DISCHARGE
	Mr Gammon raised concerns regarding recent outbreaks of African Swine Fever on the continent with the latest being in Spain. He suggested that the PSPO on the feeding and petting of animals should be extended to all commonable livestock, equine, bovine and porcine. He will respond to the consultation on behalf of the Court.	Action MG
2025/14430	GAS MAIN WORKS ON RHINEFIELD ROAD, BROCKENHURST	RESUME
	The Court have been contacted by the North Weirs Residents Association raising concerns about the track being used as a rat run if Rhinefield Road is closed to traffic.	
	The Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England are aware and share the residents' concerns and are working to see what they can do as owner of the track to mitigate any damage. The Deputy Surveyor is meeting with Brockenhurst Parish Council following the Court to discuss the matter further.	
	Mr Deakin said he had attended a site meeting, but Verderers Consent has only been obtained for overground surveying and for two trial holes to be dug to locate the gas main. The Clerk is asked to contact Assetsphere to see if they are aware of the works starting in January.	Action Clerk
2025/14431	FOREST BRIDGES	RESUME
	Mr Stride said that concern has been raised by the Commoners Defence Association that several Forest bridges are unsafe. He will draw up a list for the Deputy Surveyor.	Action RS
2025/14432	AFFORDABLE RENT FOR FORESTRY ENGLAND EMPLOYEES	DISCHARGE
	Mr Stride commented on the monthly rent of a property recently advertised to Forestry England employees, saying it was way over the affordable level for agricultural workers. Mr Adderley said Forestry England have to let the properties at the market rate less 20%.	
	Mrs Tilbury asked if Forestry England would consider an agreement with a commoning family to carry out repair works to properties in lieu of rent instead of leaving the properties empty. The Deputy Surveyor said it would depend on the property and the works required but it may be something that FE could consider.	
2025/14433	MOONHILLS GREEN	DISCHARGE
	Mrs Tilbury said Nicholas de Rothschild has asked her about the gorse clearance on Moonhills Green. Mr Stride said that it had been discussed at the OFAC and some clearance was being carried out in the local area. The Court does not consider the gorse growth at Moonhills to be excessive.	
2025/14434	FOOTBRIDGE AT WOODFORD BOTTOM	DISCHARGE
	Mr Pasmore reported that the Horse/Footbridge at Woodford Bottom is unsafe. Mr Stride said he has reported it to Forestry England and	

will add it to the list of bridge issues he is compiling for the Deputy Surveyor.

2025/14435 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S PROPOSED CAR PARKING CHARGES DISCHARGE

Miss Harrison said the sub-committee has not had an update from Mr Burke regarding the Parking Green List, the Deputy Surveyor said it is being worked on and is a priority.

Miss Harrison raised her concerns regarding displacement parking on the commons especially after hearing that Natural England currently have a work backlog.

2025/14436 NEW FOREST CRICKET CLUBS RESUME

Mr Deakin said he would like to know what the agreements between Forestry England and the Forest Cricket Clubs say about the permitted size of the wicket square. He said Cadnam has an area fenced off that is double the size of the other clubs he has visited. He also raised concern about the wicket covers being stored next to the wicket square, necessitating the extra-large fenced area.

Action OA

Mr Deakin said that most of the clubs he visited were tidy apart from Cadnam and Ellingham where there was a lot of rubbish dumped behind the gates.

2025/14437 MONITORING OF ISSUES ON CROWN LAND RESUME

Mr Deakin asked the Deputy Surveyor who from Forestry England is responsible for monitoring and resolving issues on the Crown Land e.g. dumped garden waste, property for sale boards, building materials on verges etc. He said that traditionally it would have been the Keepers, but now it seems to fall to whoever cares enough to act. The Deputy Surveyor replied that it is part of the Estates Officer's role.

The Official Verderer said that he hoped the new Forestry England parking team will be proactive in reporting issue they see during their working day. The Deputy Surveyor said some staff will be seasonal but there will be a core team that will have the capacity to take on some of the extra neighbouring work.

2025/14438 BURLEY CRICKET CLUB DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said part of Verderers Consent for the wheeled hurdles to be used by the club is that they were to be painted black. Mr Adderley will contact the club and ask that the hurdles are painted before the cricket season starts.

Action OA

2025/14439 LYNDHURST AND ASHURST CRICKET CLUB DISCHARGE

Mr Adderley said he has been contacted by the Chairman of the Lyndhurst and Ashurst Cricket Club. The Club has gone up a league and are now required to have sight screens in situ on match days. The screens will be on wheels and will be removed after each match.

The Court agreed to the club using the screens, but they must be removed after every match. Any structural elements must be dismantled and put away at the end of the season.

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

MATTERS ARISING

2025/14440	NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK LOCAL PLAN REVIEW	RESUME
	The Court welcomes and supports the plan. The Official Verderer will draft a response on behalf of the Court.	Action OV
	Mr Manley said he is looking into setting up a loan fund for Commoners dwellings and is hoping to set up a meeting to include the Official Verderer early next year.	Action RM
2025/14441	NEW FOREST DOG OWNERS GROUP	DISCHARGE
	Miss Sevier said she was unable to attend the meeting as she did not have the details. Mr Stride said there will be another meeting in the spring.	
2025/14442	150 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1877 NEW FOREST ACT	RESUME
	Miss Sevier updated the Court following the meeting of the sub-committee.	
	The celebrations will start at Court on the 21 st of July 2027 and run to the final day of the New Forest Show. Miss Sevier said she and Mr Gammon were contacting the other Forest organisations that would like to be involved.	Action AS/MG
2025/14443	NEWLANDS CROSSING	RESUME
	The Official Verderer said he has looked at the crossing and that it does need to be repaired. Mr Pasmore said the bridge and ford are ok but the exposed tree roots on the hillside are a danger to both walkers and horse riders. The Official Verderer asked the Clerk to report to Hampshire Rights of Way.	Action Clerk

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

2025/14444	LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN HAMPSHIRE	RESUME
	The Court strongly believes that for the benefit of Commoning the New Forest must be kept as a whole. To lose the Waterside would have a detrimental effect on Commoning and Commoners. The Clerk is asked to submit a response on behalf of the Court.	Action Clerk

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME & THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME

2025/14445	LANDSCAPE RECOVERY SCHEME	RESUME February
	Mr Stride said the Commoners Defence Association have requested to meet with Julia Aglionby, from the Foundation for Common Land, to discuss their concerns with the contents of the application.	

The Official Verderer said following the PA2 Feasibility Study we are as ready with the application as we can be, but it may be the structure and decision making that cause issues.

REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2025/14446 DRIFT REVIEW MEETING DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said the drift review meeting has been held. There are no major issues to report and any actions to be taken will be reported in the Staff Liaison Committee Minutes.

2025/14447 NEW FOREST DOG OWNERS GROUP DISCHARGE

Mr Manley provided a report to the Court following the recent meeting he attended.

2025/14448 WHITE TAILED EAGLE STEERING GROUP DISCHARGE

Mr Gammon said he was unable to attend the recent meeting but said there is an ongoing police investigation into the suspected illegal killing of three of the White-Tailed Eagles.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2025/14449 FINANCIAL MATTERS INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement was noted.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

2025/14450 POLICY ON ANIMAL AGGRESSION RESUME

An informal meeting will be held in February to discuss the policy on animal aggression and other matters.

Action Clerk

STAFF MATTERS

2025/14451 STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES RESUME

Mr Deakin said the December meeting was cancelled due to staff sickness and holidays.

2025/14452 AGISTERS VEHICLES RESUME

Agister Michael Maton's truck is still at Balmer Lawn Garage waiting for parts.

The company that services the Agisters trailers will be asked to look at the lighting issue on the Head Agister's livestock trailer.

2025/14453 TREE BARKING BY PONIES RESUME

Mr Stride said Mr Vanderhoek of the New Forest Commoners Defence Association will be meeting with Agister Rix to place the mineral licks in areas affected by tree barking after Christmas.


ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2025/14454 SALT LICKS FOR LIVESTOCK

DISCHARGE

Miss Sevier said she was pleased to only see one pony licking salt from the road on Roger Penny Way this morning and said the salt licks put out by the CDA were working.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 12:46 hrs

 21st January 2026