

**Minutes of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 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

**IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

2026/14507 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The minutes of the last Court, held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 were approved, and signed by the Official Verderer.

2026/14508 NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

There are no new declarations of interest.

2026/14509 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister said that overall, the stock is looking really well for the time of year. The recent cold and wet weather is affecting some animals and the Agisters are catching and removing them as required. Spring is still a long way off but the Agisters are on top of the situation.

2026/14510 STALLIONS RESUME

The Head Agister said the stallions are all fat and happy at Mottisfont. The fields are standing up well to the continued wet weather.

2026/14511 BOVINE TB RESUME

A hire bull involved in a TB breakdown in Minstead was found to have no lesions at slaughter. The Court is waiting for advice from APHA regarding radial testing.

Mr Deakin updated the Court following the meeting with APHA Vets to discuss the Verderers TB Plan. The TB map has been improved and is being updated by APHA more frequently.

## 2026/14512 TWO-YEAR-OLD COLTS

DISCHARGED  
TO STAFF  
LIAISON  
COMMITTEE

Mr Manley asked if all 2-year-old colts have been removed from the Forest. The Head Agister replied that there is possibly one at large at Broomy but so far no one has been able to locate it.

Mr Stride said the Agisters have caught and impounded an unbranded mare and two-year-old colt at Withybeds. No one has come forward to claim the animals and they have been advertised as per the Verderers procedure for abandoned animals.

## 2026/14513 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

RESUME

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Forest Ponies	531	445
Forest Cattle	93	151
Forest Donkeys	12	0
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	636	596
Common Ponies	10	31
Common Cattle	0	0
Common Donkeys	0	5
Common Pigs	0	0
Common Sheep	0	0
Total Common Stock	10	0
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	636	596
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	10	36
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	646	632
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	646	632

**The Head Agister left the meeting**

## 2026/14514 BREACHES OF THE BYELAWS

RESUME

There are no new byelaw breaches

**OPEN COURT**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr Richard Burke, District Recreation Manager  
Mr Ollie Adderley, Land Agent, South West England

**The Head Agister opened the Court with the usual proclamation.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS**

## 2026/14515 TB REVIEW

The Verderers and the APHA invite all cattle commoners to an evening meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm at the Lyndhurst Community Centre to discuss the recent review of the New Forest TB plan and give an update of the TB picture in the county. We encourage all Cattle commoners to attend this important meeting to ensure the New Forest TB plan is understood and adhered to.

2026/14516 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES

At the March Verderers Court we will be considering a request from Forestry England to extend consent for food concession sales at four Forest car parks for a further two years.

2026/14517 PHOTOGRAPHING NEW FOREST STOCK

It has become very popular on social media for people to post images of the New Forest Stock. Please can we remind those taking the photographs to respect the animals and keep a safe distance away by using their Zoom facility and stating it was used on the media post to educate other visitors to the Forest.

## THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2026/14518 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026

The Agisters attended 6 accidents in January compared with 13 in January last year.

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

1 accident happened in daylight, 1 at twilight and 4 in the dark.

The total number of Commoners' animals killed and injured this year is 3 compared with 6 in the same period last year.

## PRESENTMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

2026/14519 LIVING HERITAGE – UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION (UNESCO) Presentment by Mike Eccles, New Forest Commoners Defence Association

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

In 2024, the UK joined many countries in supporting the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Convention looks at 'Living Heritage' (as it is called in the UK) - the traditions, skills and knowledge that communities share and pass on. Unlike monuments and buildings, it is about cultural communities, the core of our cultural identity.

Commoning in the New Forest is a unique part of England's living heritage, and we need to ensure that it is protected in as many ways as possible. Being listed under the UNESCO Convention is the first step to being officially recognised as a minority Cultural Group.

While being listed doesn't provide any direct grant money, it may help with applications for funding. Also, developers will have to include commoning in their Impact Assessment and legislators will be obliged to consider commoning under the Precautionary Principle.

With the NFDC local plan now proposing 10,000 extra houses, many of them on greenfield sites that may presently be used for back-up land, we need to ensure that we make use of all the protection available to us.

So, we are asking the Verderers and Commoners to respond positively to the request they will shortly receive to support the inclusion of Commoning in the inventory.”

2026/14520 NEW CATTLE GRID INSTALLATION THE DOWER HOUSE, CHAPEL LANE, BURLEY Presentment by Mike Eccles, New Forest Commoners Defence Association

"Last month a presentment was made in court regarding a request for permission to install a cattle grid at Dower House, Burley.

The potential grid, walls and gate would be located on a track that is owned by the resident but has been open continuously to our stock and therefore subject to Common rights. The nearby wall offers the ponies an area for shading and will continue to do so even with a grid installed. The perceived problem of stock blocking the gateway will not be resolved but possibly made worse by ponies standing in the road.

We acknowledge there is little grazing lost as this is a track but agreeing to this would set an example to other potential encroachments that it's acceptable to enclose Forest ground if it's not grazed.

We suggest to the resident that they construct this large entrance and grid within the fenced curtilage of their property.

Everyone that moves into and lives in the Forest has to accept that the ponies and cattle are a huge part of the Forest; they are not to be seen as an inconvenience. Encroachments to the Forest in any form will be strongly contested by the Commoners Defence Association. We will strongly oppose the permission allowing this grid, gates and walls to be installed.

We recommend to the Verderers to refuse their consent."

On a personal note, I would like to say what a pity it is to be seeing an increase of shiny black tarmac and block paving driveways and terram mats being laid in the Forest. It can only be described as urbanisation by stealth.

2026/14521 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S PROPOSED CAR PARKING CHARGES 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 (NFA).

It is less than 2 months until car park charging comes to the New Forest. Habitat Regulation Assessments have been done, mitigation measures agreed by Natural England, the signs are going up, the ditches are being dug, dragon's teeth positioned, car park rangers are being employed. Yet vital issues are still unclear. Let's look at the most important.

First – the money. Support for these charges is largely based upon assurances that the money will go to the Forest. For example, this Court's September minutes record assurances that "the money would be reinvested in the Forest."

Subsequently, assurances have been less clear cut. For example, in correspondence with the NFA, FE could only say that "the revenue from Forestry England memberships purchased by regular visitors to the New Forest will come directly to this district." What about other charges and is it the New Forest or the southern district that benefits? In our meetings with FE assurances also have failed to reassure and we note that FOIs seeking financial information from concerned individuals have been sidestepped.

We have asked for the money to be ring fenced to ensure it stays in the Forest. Failing that, we call for clear undertakings that "the money [will] be reinvested in the Forest" backed up by financial accountability. The published FE accounts fall short. They relate only to the national finances; they do not show Forest related income or expenditure. Thus, unless there is transparency showing the Forest car park

income and expenditure, it will be impossible to check that the money will stay and be spent in the Forest.

Secondly, communications is a required mitigation measure. To be fair FE have attended many meetings, including one for NFA and NFDOG members, and their website provides basic details but where is the wider public messaging particularly "to encourage compliance." What about highlighting the value of the verges to dissuade those who care about the Forest from verge parking AND warnings of the consequences for those who don't care and verge park?

Lastly and most importantly what about future monitoring to ensure that any damage to protected Forest verges is minimised and where possible remedied? Parking rangers may record the FACT of verge parking but what about monitoring the EFFECT or IMPACT of displacement parking on Forest verges including those on the adjacent commons? To do so requires baseline data of the present ecological condition of these verges AND future periodic surveys by qualified experts to determine any deterioration. The monitoring of ditching and dragon's teeth work envisages periodic surveys but relates to the recovery of ditched areas so only a small proportion of verges and even then, lacks detail. All in all, we hope for the best but fear the worse and so urge the Verderers, and other statutory bodies, to secure clarity on these issues."

2026/14522 PHOTOGRAPHING NEW FOREST STOCK Presentment by Brian Tarnoff, Local Resident

In response to the Official Verderers Announcement regarding photographing livestock from a distance Mr Tarnoff suggested the Wildlife Photography Code of Conduct could be promoted by the Court.

2026/14523 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES Presentment by Brian Tarnoff, Local Resident

"In March 2024 the Verderers gave conditional consent to Forestry England's licensing of food vans in their car parks for two years. Conditions included monitoring of key performance indicators and a habitats regulation assessment. I ask the Verderers to strongly consider whether these conditions have been met, and whether any significant measures have been employed to mitigate the impact on habitat and the increased risk to commoning and commoner's livestock. I further ask that Forestry England make their report to the Verderers publicly available.

I hope it should be unnecessary remind both the Verderers and FE of the fundamental disconnect between enforcing the PSPO against livestock feeding and actively putting food in the hands of the public in proximity to commoner's animals.

Two years ago, when the expansion of the food offering was being debated, I stood here to suggest that the funding model, running the New Forest as a business, was at odds with law and policy, including habitat regulations, the National Park purposes, and specifically at odds with Forestry England's pledges to manage the Crown Lands as a National Nature Reserve, where it would be unlikely to site honeypot food van pitches or campsites. The Minister's Mandate, FE's license to manage the Crown Lands explicitly prioritizes conservation of habitat and heritage, then provision of amenity access over timber production. Fulfilling obligations to maintain a priceless national asset is minimal compliance, not a trivial "cost" to this publicly owned business. Damaging activities should not be encouraged just because they are tied to a "revenue" component, and if they cannot be shown to be mitigated, stopped."

2026/14524 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S PROPOSED CAR PARKING CHARGES Presentment by Brian Tarnoff, Local Resident

"If Forestry England must run a business here, they should appropriately invest the expected revenue in making their product fit for purpose. We've all been very concerned about addressing expected displacement parking putting verges at risk and inconveniencing local residents. The presumption is that many will be unwilling to pay for what they previously enjoyed. However, some may be more likely to pay for car parks if decently maintained from day one, but not, to paraphrase one social media post, "the experience of driving on the surface of the moon".

At the very least, Forestry England should seriously consider holding off on charging until they can launch a flawless product. An announcement of such an undertaking from FE might help smooth over the rough, and so far, pot holed, public relations ride.

I appreciate that's optimistic. Let's call it a "Moon Shot."

2026/14525 COUNTY PARISH HOLDING (CPH) NUMBERS Presentment by Immy Bickford-Smith, Local Resident and Farmer

"Good morning. My name is Immy Bickford-Smith. I am a farmer with rights to turn out stock onto not only the Crown Lands of the New Forest but also onto the Adjacent Commons of Ibsley, Rockford and Gorley.

At the November 2025 meeting of the Court I gave a presentment about County Parish Holding (CPH) numbers – numbers required by government bodies to locate and track stock for disease control purposes.

I explained that concerns had been raised in the National farming press about bovine TB cases that exposed flaws in the RPA's cattle tracing system.

It is essential to have not only accurate but also *adequate* information about where animals are kept and grazed - and especially important where multiple large herds of cattle mix together on common land.

As errors in the Parish section of some New Forest CPH numbers have been found the Verderers were asked if they hold CPH and TLA (Temporary Land Association) information for all active common land graziers and has the accuracy of the 'Parish' section of the CPH numbers been verified?

Your response was: "*The Court is happy that they have accurate information to manage the disease control plan in the Forest.*"

With respect – that does not provide answers to the questions asked.

Do the Verderers hold CPH numbers for all active common land graziers? Do the Verderers hold TLA information for all active common land graziers? and Has the accuracy of the Parish section of the CPH numbers been verified?

This could be a simple yes or no."

2026/14526 LANDSCAPE RECOVERY PLAN Presentment by Lyndsey Stride, New Forest Commoner and Training and Knowledge Exchange Coordinator for the Foundation of Common Land

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

The Recent PA2 study clearly showed that grazing is necessary for the delivery of the Key Features of the New Forest, this is supported by Natural England's SAC Plan. Many of the 20,000 species of flora and fauna found in the New Forest are dependent on grazing and the habitats that commoners' animals shape. In order to maintain this we need an equitable and transparent scheme to support responsible commoning and for this we require a grazing management plan as recommended in the PA2.

The Foundation for Common Land is currently in active dialogue with the RPA and Defra about the urgent need to make both Countryside Stewardship, SFI and Landscape Recovery available to commons off-line.

Landscape Recovery is very competitive with a 3-4 year lead in period. Meanwhile the New Forest is losing out compared with other commons who have already transitioned to higher paying CS schemes. 56 schemes have entered Landscape Recovery Pilot Rounds 1 and 2, of which 2 have been "offboarded" and only 3 have been successfully "onboarded". 22 Round 1 projects were started in 2022. Several schemes, including one common land scheme have completed the development phase but are stuck in the Assurance Pipeline.

Whilst we wait for the next round of Landscape Recovery to open and for CSHT to become available to commons there is an opportunity to prepare. Those who are shovel ready will be successful. The Foundation for Common Land advises that preparations are scheme neutral and that applications for both CSHT and LRS are developed in tandem.

With the removal of BPS the New Forest economy has lost £2.6 million each year. Many New Forest commoning businesses are now operating at either break even or at a loss. For the first time since the end of WW2 there is no universal farming offer. Smaller farmers and commoners are missing out and this is having economic and environmental ramifications for the New Forest.

The Verderers play an essential role in bringing together Forestry England and other landowners with the 700 active commoners and the needs of our many visitors. Collaborative scheme design is critical and is required for successful landscape scale schemes. Both commoners' holdings and the Open Forest offer huge potential in addressing the climate and nature crisis and meeting the governments targets for the environment.

Successful delivery of environmental improvements on common land starts with social engagement. Without thriving businesses environmental aims cannot be achieved.

The funding cliff is crumbling. The HLS Scheme was designed in tandem with the BPS scheme which has been removed by the government without a replacement. HLS expires in 2028. Are we really expecting commoners to self-fund the delivery of public goods in the New Forest?

Would you ask a FE Keeper, Forestry Contractor or NPA Ranger to self-fund their role in order to deliver the public goods required for the management of the New Forest? These are important questions as we look to future funding models for the New Forest.

The PA2 recommended the creation of a Grazing Management Plan which would apply across the whole of the New Forest area of common land. Would this be a good place to start the conversation in preparation for CSHT or LRS?"

2026/14527 NEW CATTLE GRID INSTALLATION THE DOWER HOUSE, CHAPEL LANE,  
BURLEY Presentment by Melanie Allen, Local Resident

Mrs Allen thanked the Court for the opportunity to respond regarding her request for a cattle grid. She said she needs a safe way to enter and exit her property via her only access, which at the moment is unmanageable due to the congregating animals. When the gates open the ponies shoot out into the road at speed and Mrs Allen is concerned there will be a road traffic accident or a pedestrian will be hurt. There is no grazing in the property bell mouth and Mrs Allen said there is no reason for the animals to be there.

Mrs Allen has noted the Verderers concerns with the design of the cattle grid and said that she does not consider the animals to be an inconvenience. After sympathetically restoring her 200-year-old property she has no plans to tarmac, or block pave her driveway but would like a cattle grid like the rest of Burley.

2026/14528 BROOMY INCLOSURE Presentment by Sue Boyle, Local Resident

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

My name is Sue Boyle. I grew up in Emery Down, where my mother remained for nearly 50 years, and I now live in the north of the Forest.

I am extremely concerned about the appalling damage that has been caused in Broomy Inclosure by Forestry England contractors during felling work which was carried out in January, after prolonged rain. The heavy machinery has caused extensive damage. Tyre ruts up to 3 feet deep everywhere they have been, including through the well-known bluebell wood. Destruction of parts of the trackside ditches which were used by spawning newts - these are now just muddy puddles, with leaked oil draining off the tracks into them. By removing the surrounding trees, individual trees containing goshawk nests have been left exposed and vulnerable to wind and rain, not just the nests but the trees themselves. Despite being clearly marked, heavy vehicles have been driven right next to them, in at least one case exposing and damaging one of the main roots, which has already visibly lifted, I doubt the tree will survive many more storms. Ancient archaeological sites have sustained damage. The tracks, including an approved cycle route, are almost impassable in places, and extremely difficult for anyone with reduced mobility, or children in pushchairs or on bikes to negotiate, and what used to be a truly beautiful area now resembles a war zone.

Despite its SSSI status, it appears little or no effort was made to identify the special ecological and historic features beforehand, and absolutely no care was taken during operations, with the resulting damage being hugely increased because the ground was waterlogged. If an individual was to cause damage of this level to private land within a SSSI they would be prosecuted, I am sure. I am horrified such harm has been caused by the very organisation which is supposed to protect and look after the Forest.

Whilst I am pleased to see that the work seems to have been halted for now, there is timber that still needs to be excavated, and I presume more is destined to be felled. As part of your role is conservation and preserving the natural beauty of the Forest, I ask you to do everything you can to encourage FE to carry out their work with greater sensitivity to the environment and regard for the ground conditions at the time, to prevent further damage to this site, and ensure this is not repeated at other sites in the future"

**The Head Agister closed the Court**

**IN COMMITTEE (in the Library)****CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS**

2026/14529	LIVING HERITAGE – UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION (UNESCO)	DISCHARGE
	The Court are happy to support the CDA in their submission of an application to include Commoning in the New Forest as a listing on the UNESCO Convention.	
2026/14530	PHOTOGRAPHING NEW FOREST STOCK	DISCHARGE
	The Official Verderer said he would look at the code of conduct suggested by Mr Tarnoff.	Action OV
2026/14531	MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES	RESUME
	Mr Burke said the Court has been provided with a summary of the Key Performance Indicator monitoring. There have been no reported interactions between the public and livestock at any of the mobile food and drink sites. Mr Chatters asked Mr Burke for a copy of the raw data. Mr Burke said some of the KPI monitoring falls outside of the Verderers remit but he would provide the relevant raw data as requested.	Action RB
2026/14532	COUNTY PARISH HOLDING (CPH) NUMBERS	DISCHARGE
	The Official Verderer proposed, and it was agreed, that the Court provide a written response to Ms Bickford-Smith's further Presentment on this matter.	Action OV/RM
2026/14533	BROOMY INCLOSURE	RESUME
	The Official Verderer invited members of the Court to look at the damage in the inclosure ahead of it being added to the March Court agenda for discussion, when Forestry England will have an opportunity to respond Ms. Boyle's presentment.	
	Mr Burke said the Deputy Surveyor is aware of the damage and works have been halted in the inclosure. Mr Pasmore said the damage is appalling, the worst he has seen since Rushpole wood in the 70's.	

**NEW SUBMISSIONS BY FORESTRY ENGLAND**

2026/14534	WESSEX INTERNET LYNDHURST MS5	DISCHARGE
	Mr Deakin said the plans provided by Wessex Internet were difficult to interpret.	
	The Lyndhurst MS5 Proposal is approved subject to the following conditions: -	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other appropriate consents or assents must be in place</li> </ul>	

- Risk Assessments must be carried out
- Safe storage of materials in agreed locations
- The safety of livestock must be prioritised
- The usual three conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing etc.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO FORESTRY ENGLAND**

2026/14535 NEW CATTLE GRID INSTALLATION THE DOWER HOUSE, DISCHARGE  
CHAPEL LANE, BURLEY

Mr Deakin said he had surveyed properties in Burley and numerous properties are without a grid.

Mr Pasmore said the Court has no powers to refuse the installation of the grid as it will not constitute an encroachment. The Court may, however, advise on the design of the grid for animal safety reasons.

The homeowner must also be aware that they may be liable to claims from commoners whose animals are injured by the grid.

The animals will continue to shade outside the Dower House and Miss Sevier raised concerns about vehicles turning into the property pushing animals into the grid.

Mr Deakin said the grid design is not animal safe but some of the concerns may be resolved by moving the pedestrian access to the left-hand side.

The Court is not happy with the proposed design and placement of the grid as it poses a risk to livestock. The CDA are likely to challenge the installation over prescriptive rights as the bell mouth has been open to stock since the 1970's.

The Official Verderer and Clerk will write to Mrs Allen.

Action  
Clerk/OV

2026/14536 SIGNAGE

RESUME

The matter is resumed until the March Court.

2026/14537 BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB

RESUME

Mr Adderley said the club are still waiting to hear back from Natural England regarding the Management Plan. He is now working with the FE Senior Ecologist to try and get things moving.

Mr Manley said he and Mr Adderley are meeting with the club on Friday to discuss fencing concerns and damage caused to the Forest floor by vehicle movements in very wet conditions. Mr Stride said a lot of damaged has been caused during the repair of a bridge on the golf course. He will also attend the site visit.

2026/14538 CAMPING ADVISORY GROUP

RESUME

Mr Chatters said CNF will organise the requested walk around of all sites with the Court before the start of the camping season.

Mr Gammon asked Mr Burke if Forestry England have received the legal advice regarding the legal status of the Forest campsites.

Mrs Tilbury said a planning application has been submitted by CNF for a new reception building at Holmsley Campsite. The plans are much larger than the footprint of existing buildings and Verderers consent has not been requested. The Official Verderer asked Mr Adderley to contact CNF and remind them that that there is no certainty that they will receive Verderers consent for a larger building on the campsite.

Action OA

The Clerk is asked to circulate the planning application number to all Verderers.

Action Clerk

2026/14539 CADNAM CRICKET CLUB

RESUME

Mr Adderley said he has just received a second version of the club's Management Plan, but Forestry England is not happy with the content.

2026/14540 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S PROPOSED CAR PARKING CHARGES

RESUME

The presentments from Sarah Nield (NFA) and Brian Tarnoff were discussed. Mr Burke said that funding is in place to carry out repairs to the Forest car parks ahead of charging coming into force, but that the recent very wet weather has meant that works have been delayed. Mr Burke said that the income from the parking scheme will be used to bridge some of the gap in funding for managing the New Forest. The Official Verderer asked if the Deputy Surveyor could be asked to put something in writing as reassurance. He said he was of the understanding that part of the income would be used on new projects that will benefit commoning.

Action RB/DS

Mr Burke said that Natural England Assent is in place. The Official Verderer reminded Mr Burke that the Court's consent is for a period of 15 years after which it can be reviewed. He asked Mr Burke to provide the Court with the legal advice FE have received in regard to car park charging. Mr Burke said he and the Deputy Surveyor are drafting a paper to assure the Court that FE can legally do everything they are planning to regarding charging the public to park.

Action RB/DS

Mr Chatters said he is aware that HCC are willing to address verge parking in the Forest. The Official Verderer declared an interest as a member of HCC. He said that landowners in the Forest, including HCC, need to be encouraged to secure their land by making sure barriers are in place and locked to prevent any possible damage from displaced parking.

Mr Pasmore said the roadside ditching design and workmanship is good, but he raised concerns about the amount of standing water that is not draining from the ditches. Mr Burke explained that Natural England would not consent to culverts being installed at several locations due to possible contamination passing from the road to the Forest. He is keeping a log of issues which the Official Verderer asked him to share with the Court.

Action RB

Mr Deakin said the Agisters have highlighted an issue with removing deadstock from the highway following an RTC. Mr Burke said FE can address this issue starting with the longest stretches of ditching.

Mr Pasmore raised his concerns that local Parish Councils are not aware of the proposed parking charges. Mr Burke said that while he could not attend each individual Parish Council meeting, he has been engaging with them at the National Park Authority parish quadrant meetings

Mr Pasmore also raised concerns about possible damage to roadside verges in Minstead and Hale Purlieu where he said roadside parking is already an issue. Mr Burke said that he has spoken to the landowners, and the HRA requires FE to monitor and address issues as they arise. Mr Chatters asked for the baseline data to be shared with the Court before the scheme goes live.

Action RB

Action RB

Further work is required on the commoners parking exemption "green list" Mr Burke will circulate version 4 in due course.

#### 2026/14541 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES

RESUME

A two-year extension of Verderers consent for the 4 existing food concession vans will be considered at the March Court.

Mr Deakin asked Mr Burke to provide the Court with updated risk assessments. Mr Burke said that there have been no interactions between the public and livestock at any of the four sites. Mr Deakin said FE need to show they are safeguarding commoners by ensuring that the level of risk is as low as possible.

The Official Verderer said the Court needs a clear understanding of what Forestry England is requesting for each site and full details of any changes from two years ago.

### DE-MINIMUS PROPOSALS

#### 2026/14542 DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS - UTILITY PROPOSALS AGREED BY THE DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE

RESUME

DM0242 Jan 26 FE Installation of 25 dragons' teeth outside Stable Cottage, Pondhead following vehicle damage to a wet area of verge

DM0243 Jan 26 FE Russetts, Treetops & Veronica. Nomansland Installation of 25 dragons' teeth to prevent parking on the grazing outside the three properties.

### EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES

#### 2026/14543 EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES

RESUME

EM0022 Feb 26 Southern Water, Water Leak, Balmer Lawn Road SO42 7TS

EM0023 Feb 26 Southern Water, Burst water main in roadside verge, A337 Clay Hill

Mr Adderley reported a water leak from the water main at New Park, emergency excavation and repairs will be carried out imminently.

### SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2026/14544 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

2026/14545 ENCROACHMENTS LIST RESUME

Nothing new has been added to the Encroachments List.

### ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2026/14546 ACTION LIST RESUME

Mrs Tilbury reported plastic cones and fencing which have been left at the side of the B3055 between Hatchet and Hawkhill for months. Action OA

Mr Stride reported SSE contractors carry out scrub clearance under the power lines at Blackheath, Linwood and at Holmsley Lodge have left both areas in a mess. He said everything has been chopped off at 3 foot high. Mr Deakin said the contractor are required to remove the scrub from site but rarely do. Action OA

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2026/14547 HATCHET POND CIVIL WORKS ON CAUSEWAY/DAM RESUME

Mr Deakin said Verderers Consent has not been sought for the civil works currently being carried out at Hatchet Pond, despite having an impact on grazing and livestock.

Mr Adderley said the works were Environment Agency mandated. There has been some confusion with the Civils team thinking that the Ecology team would seek Verderers consent. Mr Adderley apologised that the process has not been followed correctly.

Mr Deakin said that an area of vegetation has been cut down which now allows livestock to access the verge on top of the dam from which there is a four-foot drop. He said the area needs to be fenced off for the safety of the animals.

The Official Verderer asked for a retrospective request for consent by email to include details of how FE are going to rectify damage at the site and the risk to livestock. Action OA

2026/14548 EAST BOLDRE VILLAGE HALL RESUME

Mr Deakin said the Court had approved internal changes and replacement windows at East Boldre Village Hall. As the Court had been told the window work would be carried out internally. He is surprised to see Heras fencing erected enclosing a large area. Action OA

around the outside of the hall. The Official Verderer asked for the matter to be added to the Action List.

**There being no other business involving Forestry England, Mr Burke and the Land Agent left the meeting.**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM EARLIER IN THE MEETING, REQUIRING FURTHER DISCUSSION BY THE VERDERERS**

2026/14549 CAMPING NEW FOREST PERMANENT EXCLUSION OF RESUME  
LIVESTOCK FROM COMPOUNDS

Mr Chatters said he has been told by CNF that they have no legal obligation to open fenced off compound areas on several campsites to stock.

The matter will be discussed at the March Court.

**MATTERS ARISING**

2026/14550 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1877 NEW FOREST ACT RESUME

Miss Sevier said a meeting is scheduled with the New Forest Association and the Commoners Defence Association on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

2026/14551 PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK ACT 2025 DISCHARGE

Mr Gammon said he has read through the changes of the two Protection of Livestock Acts, and the General Welfare Strategy. There are no changes to either Act that will affect how the livestock are managed on the New Forest.

2026/14552 REFLECTIVE COLLARS DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer said that while reflective collars do not solve all problems, they are a useful tool in reducing accidents on the Forest roads. He said it should be policy that all ponies brought in on drifts are fitted with a collar where it is safe to do so.

Mr Deakin said collars are not safe to fit to foals as they are more likely to get a leg caught in the collar. Some ponies are too wild to fit a collar to, even in the chute at a drift, and other ponies lose them very quickly.

The drift writers will be asked to ensure they record when a pony is fitted with a collar on their paperwork.

**OTHER AGENDA ITEMS**

2026/14553 LIVING HERITAGE – UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, DISCHARGE  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION (UNESCO)

The Court are happy to send an email to all commoners but do not have the resources to collate any responses. Mr Chatters wishes to amend the wording of the email before it is circulated.

Action  
CC/Clerk

2026/14554 LANDSCAPE RECOVERY PLAN RESUME

Mr Manley said six Verderers attended the recent meeting hosted by the CDA where future funding for the Forest was discussed. Mr Manley raised his concerns that the New Forest is going to miss out on funding and said that a project manager needs to be employed to lead on the application. Mr Gammon agreed saying that extra work needed to be put in to ensure we are ready when the application window opens.

The matter will be discussed further at the Verderers Workshop on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

2026/14555 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LAND OFF SNAILS LANE DISCHARGE  
BLASHFORD

There is no established reason for the Court to intervene on this planning matter.

### HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME & THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME

2026/14556 UPLIFT IN HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME RESUME

Mr Manley said that he believed other organisations in environmental schemes will have received uplifts to some options and therefore should increase their contribution to the bilateral grazing agreement.

### REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2026/14557 CAMPING ADVISORY GROUP DISCHARGE

Mrs Tilbury volunteered to be a substitute for Mr Chatters.

2026/14558 FRESHWATER RESTORATION FORUM DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin updated the Court following the recent meeting and said the forum had a new chair.

2026/14559 NEW FOREST DOG OWNERS GROUP DISCHARGE

Mr Stride said he and Mr Manley had attended the recent meeting. A dog in the north of the Forest has died from Neospora. Vet Alex Crook is working with the group.

### FINANCIAL MATTERS

2026/14560 FINANCIAL MATTERS INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement was noted.

### TRAINING

2026/14561 FIRST AID TRAINING RESUME

The Agisters First Aid Training is due to be renewed; the office is looking into local training venues. Action Clerk

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 2026/14562 LONE WORKER SAFETY RESUME
- Mr Deakin said he, the Head Agister and the Clerk had attended a webinar with PeopleSafe and it looks like the application will do what we need it to. The Clerk is asked to put together the proposed costs for the Court. Action Clerk
- Mr Deakin said a policy will need to be written to ensure the Agisters know when they should be using the app. Action RD/Clerk

**STAFF MATTERS**

- 2026/14563 STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES RESUME
- The minutes were noted.
- 2026/14564 BRAND APPLICATIONS DISCHARGE
- Mr Deakin said the Staff Liaison Committee considered nine brand applications at the February meeting. There is a possible link to the increase in brand applications and Forestry England's proposed car parking charges.
- 2026/14565 SOCIAL MEDIA DISCHARGE
- Mr Deakin said the office had received calls from all over the country following social media posts about a lame donkey in Brook.
- 2026/14566 STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE RESUME
- Mr Deakin said he is working with members to improve the effective working of the Staff Liaison Committee and that he will report progress to the Court.
- 2026/14567 TREE BARKING BY PONIES RESUME
- The Clerk said Forestry England have been unable to loan us trail cameras after several of theirs malfunctioned and had to be returned to the manufacturer. Miss Harrison said the licks are being used but it is important that we know if it is by the ponies or other Forest animals.
- No new tree barking has been seen by the Agisters.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 2026/14568 CDA ANNUAL REPORT DISCHARGE
- Mr Deakin said he has declined a recent request to write an article on behalf of the Verderers in the CDA Annual Report. Miss Sevier said she is happy to write something for them. Action AS
- 2026/14569 IDENTIFYING COMMONERS DISCHARGE
- The Official Verderer expressed concern that Commoners may not be easily identifiable by members of the public when handling their

livestock on the Forest. He said this poses a particular difficulty given the work that is being done to reduce the incidents of public interaction with stock, in particular the hoped for extension of the PSPO. Members of the public may witness Commoners interacting with their stock and not be aware that they are engaged in stock management.

Mr Deakin said commoners should not be petting or hand feeding ponies on the Forest. If they need to come in, they should be drawn home by a bucket or a small quantity of hay.

The Official Verderer asked the Verderers who are CDA Committee Members to raise the matter at the next meeting and ask if greater encouragement can be given to Commoners to clearly be identifiable, such as by wearing clothing or armbands that identify them as Commoners and give consideration to producing stickers for Commoners' vehicles.

2026/14570 LOSS OF BANKING FACILITIES

RESUME

The Official Verderer said Lloyds Bank have just announced the closures of the Ringwood, Lymington and Totton branches. Without a business banking hub, the Agisters will have to travel to Southampton or Bournemouth to pay in their marking fees.

The Court will investigate the possibility of moving banks and in the meantime the Agisters are encouraging as many commoners as possible to pay by bank transfer.

2026/14571 NFDC LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

RESUME

The Official Verderer is currently drafting a response to the review, to be approved at the March Court.

2026/14572 HAMPSHIRE HIGHWAYS – A326 IMPROVEMENTS

RESUME

Mr Chatters has been contacted by HCC requesting a meeting with the Verderers to discuss proposed improvements to the A326.

Action Clerk

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 15:30 hrs

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