

**Minutes of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 18th March 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

2026/14573 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The minutes of the last Court, held on Wednesday 18th February 2026 were approved, and signed by the Official Verderer.

2026/14574 NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

There are no new declarations of interest.

2026/14575 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister said the stock is looking better than he had expected following the prolonged wet weather. The Agisters are continuing to catch and remove the ponies that are not doing as well as required.

The Head Agister said three donkeys had become sick after eating something in Beaulieu. The Official Verderer said he had received several reports of donkeys raiding recycling bins in Brockenhurst. Miss Sevier said there is also an issue with donkeys raiding recycling bins in Woodgreen.

The Official Verderer requested that all incidents involving livestock and wheelie bins be reported via the NFDC website so they can get an idea of how widespread the issue is in the Forest.

2026/14576 STALLIONS RESUME

The Head Agister said the stallions are all happy at Mottisfont. The fields have stood up well to the recent wet weather. The young colts have been moved from New Park back to Cadland.

The Stallion Inspection is on Saturday 4th April, stallions aged 5 and under and any new colts being put forward for the scheme will need to be brought to the grading.

2026/14577 BOVINE TB RESUME

No new cases to report this month

2026/14578 BAY MARE FOUND STRAYING AT WITHYBEDS DISCHARGE

The mare has been sold and will be collected by the purchaser as soon as possible.

2026/14579 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR RESUME

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Forest Ponies	820	1031
Forest Cattle	161	308
Forest Donkeys	15	5
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	996	1344
Common Ponies	11	167
Common Cattle	0	15
Common Donkeys	10	15
Common Pigs	0	1
Common Sheep	0	0
Total Common Stock	21	0
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	996	1344
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	21	194
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	1017	1538
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	1017	1539

The Head Agister left the meeting

2026/14580 BREACHES OF THE BYELAWS RESUME

There are no new byelaw breaches

2026/14581 CONDUCT EXPECTED OF VERDERERS RESUME

The Official Verderer reminded the Verderers of the expectations placed on them as they hold a place in Public Office. He circulated the Nolan Principles ahead of the meeting along with a draft resolution which he intends to put before the Court for consideration at the April meeting.

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

2026/14582 MARKING FEES

Marking fees are now due. Under our Byelaws, the deadline for payment of all marking fees for continuously depastured animals is 31st March. Please be aware that due to banking restrictions this is the last year the Agisters will be able to accept payment of marking fees by cash and cheque. Commoners who are unable to make payment by any other means will be invited into the office, on a specified date, to make their payment.

2026/14583 BROOMY INCLOSURE

The Court is grateful to Ms Sue Boyle for bringing her concerns regarding recent forestry operations in Broomy Inclosure to our attention. Forestry England has already halted works in the inclosure, and some members of the Court have visited the site to inspect any damage that may have been caused. The Court notes Forestry England's acknowledgement of the issues and the explanation provided regarding operational constraints, ground conditions, and the reinstatement measures now planned. The matter will be discussed further with Forestry England so that the Court may fully consider the situation and the steps proposed to address it.

2026/14584 ROAD SAFETY SUMMIT

The Police and Crime Commissioner recently invited the Clerk and the Head Agister to attend the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Road Safety Summit. Both found the day to be very informative and welcomed the opportunity to meet the officers involved in keeping motorists and animals safe on the Forest Roads.

THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2026/14585 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026

The Agisters attended 5 accidents in February compared with 8 in February last year.

2 Ponies were injured and had to be humanely destroyed by the Agister, 1 Cow was injured, a pony escaped injury and in 1 instance the pony reportedly involved in an accident could not be found.

2 accidents happened in daylight and 3 in the dark.

The total number of Commoners' animals killed and injured this year is 6 compared with 10 in the same period last year.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

2026/14586 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES Presentment by Andrew Parry-Norton, Chairman of the New Forest Commoners Defence Association

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

The Commoners Defence Association opposed the issuing of licences for food/drink vans in the car parks, our stance has not changed, we are still against this policy.

The licences are due for renewal, but consideration must be given to Forestry England's pledge to move, where appropriate, the vans into the inclosures, fencing the remaining off from the stock.

This undertaking by Forestry England has not happened. We therefore request that the Verderers withhold their consent, if it is going to be given, until these conditions are met.”

- 2026/14587 LIVING HERITAGE – UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION (UNESCO) Presentment by Andrew Parry Norton, Chairman of the New Forest Commoners Defence Association

“We, the CDA, urge all commoners to complete the Inventory of Living Heritage survey. Although officially being listed under UNESCO convention will bring no funds directly to the commoners it will mean more consideration will be given in any future housing developments or grant applications. The Survey has been sent out via the CDA and the commoners email addresses. It is simple and quick to do but it will help support future generations of commoners”

- 2026/14588 LANDSCAPE RECOVERY SCHEME Presentment by Andrew Parry-Norton, Chairman of the New Forest Commoners Defence Association

Mr Parry-Norton made a request for all Forest Organisations to work together as equal partners in the delivery of the Landscape Recovery Scheme. He asked for collaborated input as a united group to benefit the Forest as a whole.

- 2026/14589 VOLUME OF AND SPEED OF TRAFFIC IN MINSTEAD Presentment by Cllr Harriet Standeven, Minstead Parish Council

“Dear Verderers, I am here to represent Minstead Parish Council.

Several residents of Minstead made a representation at the Parishioners' AGM on 11 March 2026, as they are getting increasingly concerned about the volume and speed of traffic being directed onto the village's small roads.

Problems mainly occur when there is congestion on the A31 westbound, as Sat Navs re-route traffic through Minstead (often only to save minutes on a journey as they simply re-join the A31 a mile or so further along). The traffic is diverting off the A31 on a more regular basis, which brings increased risk of road traffic accidents involving commoners' livestock, cyclists, and pedestrians, along with the harmful impact on the natural environment and significant disruption to daily life.

Minstead's single-track roads with free roaming livestock are unsuitable for such a heavy volume of traffic, with serious negative impacts. Issues raised by parishioners include:

Serious and irreparable damage to the verges, which have been destroyed following the very wet winter: many are SSSIs that need protecting. The verge destruction has also seen a significant loss of grazing.

Large volumes of speeding traffic endangering livestock, cyclists, pedestrians, and horse riders.

Increased damage to the roads in the form of potholes and erosion at the edges
Serious concerns if emergency vehicles were to require access to the village at these times, as it would be impossible for a large vehicle to get past the constant flow of traffic on the single-track roads.

Making life difficult for residents as it is virtually impossible to drive down into the village against the flow of traffic.

I am aware that as a parish we are not alone in this problem, and we feel there needs to be collaboration with as many people, landowners, parishes, and statutory bodies across the New Forest as possible, to explore ways in which the traffic situation can be improved for everyone. This might include reclassification of roads

(e.g. speed limits, single track roads) to prevent Sat Nav algorithms re-routing traffic for little gain; requesting some Forest roads are removed completely from map services to protect the environment; blocking access to certain roads.

We believe that a Forest-wide approach would result in the greatest chance of success, rather than individual people and parishes trying to effect change in localised areas. As the Verderers have responsibility for the care and conservation of the Forest, I would like to ask the following:

Can the Verderers confirm if they are aware of any initiatives / projects already underway that Minstead PC could be represented at?

What, if anything, are the Verderers already doing to protect the verges on the Forest, and minimize the risk of road traffic accidents for livestock, not just at recognised hot spots?

Are Verderers already engaged with National Highways and Hampshire County Council with regards to traffic flow, roads, and how our concerns can be escalated to ensure action? If not, can this be initiated.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response."

2026/14590 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES Presentment by Jo Cowley, Owner of Greenwood Tree Café in Lyndhurst.

"Good morning, I appreciate the opportunity to address you today regarding the proposed licence for a new food vending truck at Boltons Bench. I speak not only on my own behalf but also the Lyndhurst Chamber or Trade and Businesses who have expressed their concerns about this application.

The Objections to the food truck at licence at Boltons Bench are for the following reasons:

Environmental impact. The truck will produce increased packaging and food waste. This will need to be managed to ensure that it is properly disposed of and these facilities are not available at Boltons Bench. This has the potential to impact both the environment and animals with increased litter. Secondly the van will need to be powered in some way, assumably by a generator which will pump out fumes for 8 to 10 hours a day. This alongside an existing ice cream van already doing the same.

Commercial impact on the High Street. Over the past few years there has already been a considerable increase in the number of outlets serving food and drink in the High Street. We have already seen the detrimental effect on the other venues with the likes of Costa and Mettricks closing. Adding a further outlet could cause continued degradation of trade, at an especially vulnerable time for small businesses suffering the impacts of higher wages, taxes, rates and increased employment legislation.

It is not yet known what, if any, detrimental impact the new parking charges will have on the footfall in the village. This is not just about the trade lost from one food truck, if people do not need to go into the High Street to get food then they will also not visit the other shops on the High Street. Losing the independence of Lyndhurst High Street would be devastating for the village and would also be detrimental to the income from the parking charges if people have no reason to visit Lyndhurst.

Local businesses pay significant rates and taxes, contributing to the upkeep and improvement of our community facilities. By comparison, a food truck will pay

minimal fees yet benefit from the same public amenities. This undermines the investment our brick-and-mortar businesses have made and threatens their livelihoods. We should be supporting businesses that are deeply embedded in our community, not introducing competition that does not share the same commitment. Existing businesses, many of which are locally owned and have served us for years, may find it difficult to compete with an outside operator who does not contribute in the same way to our local economy.

In 2020 you asked for community support regarding the sale of portable barbeques, to make a community effort to prevent fires and work together to protect the Forest. We would like to ask for that support from you today. We are already having to deal with the impact of parking charges, please work with us today by not granting a licence to a food truck."

2026/14591 BROOMY AND DAMES SLOUGH INCLOSURES Presentment by Ailsa Farrand, New Forest Commoner

"Official Verderer, Verderers, ladies and gentlemen

I am Ailsa Farrand, a commoner

Just a quick comment on the devastation in Broomy Inclosure this is not a one-off, following the outcry work moved onto Dames Slough which now resembles the Somme. Surely the timing is the critical factor for any works, while maintenance obviously has to be carried out - surely following a drought in the summer when the forest was bone dry the work could have been started in September instead it was not commenced until the near the end of the wettest Winter in memory and while various reptiles, invertebrates and amphibians are still hibernating. What was the timing schedule? Why was work allowed to take place under such extreme conditions?

On the subject of damage done to the habitat and bluebells of Broomy, I'm sure we will be told "It will recover or be repaired", both the National Park and Woodland Trust websites have extensive information on bluebell woods, they explain at some length how highly protected, fragile and precious our native bluebells are and that they will be damaged if you even just walk through them, In Broomy they have been driven over by large machinery leaving deep ruts and tracks and are left covered in brash.

What cannot ever recover is the archaeological damage, which yet again has occurred in both Broomy and is even worse in Dames Slough.

I ask the verderers to do their best to ensure that proper care is taken consulting with the wealth of independent expertise available particularly within the local associations before embarking on any projects.

Thank you"

2026/14592 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES Presentment by Tim Laine, Proprietor of Forest Glade Ice Cream in Lyndhurst.

"I am Tim Laine and own Forest Galde Ice Cream with my son, Simon.

We are Rate payers and members of the High Street Chamber of Commerce.

Along with the CDA and the Greenwood Tree Cafe, I am here to protest against the granting of a Licence for food and ice cream sales in the Bolton's Bench Car Park.

We have complied with Forestry England to not sell BBQs and their requests to put up posters regarding fires in the New Forest, yet Forestry England are content to put vehicles, giving out exhaust fumes, for 10 hours a day in a car park. They haven't got sufficient litter collection provision for what they sell, so there is bound to be food waste and litter in the Forest, as a result of these sales.

I think that basically covers my points and in saying this, I think I have spoken four times in the last six years on this very subject and am asking, please, can something be done.

Thank you very much"

2026/14593 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES Presentment by Melanie Wathen, Clerk to the Council, Lyndhurst Parish Council.

"Lyndhurst Parish Council respectfully submits this formal objection to the application for an extension of the license permitting the operation of a food van at Boltons Bench.

The Council's position is based on environmental, public safety, amenity, and community considerations relevant to the responsible management of this sensitive local area.

Grounds for Objection:

Environmental Impact: Litter and Waste. Operation of a food van is likely to generate additional food waste and packaging litter in the car park and surrounding green space. Such waste increases the likelihood of environmental harm and requires management measures that may not be consistently achievable in this setting.

Attraction of Wildlife and Associated Safety Risks. Food waste and odours naturally attract local wildlife into the car park area. This heightens the risk of human–animal conflict, posing safety concerns for residents and visitors.

Parking Capacity and Verge Damage. The food van occupies valuable parking space in a location where capacity is already limited. Loss of formal parking often leads to verge parking, which damages the surrounding landscape and creates safety issues. With the introduction of parking charges from mis April this will become more of a problem and may even affect local residential streets as people try to find somewhere free to park.

Impact on Local High Street Businesses. A commercial food outlet operating at Boltons Bench would divert trade away from established High Street businesses. The Parish Council considers it important to support the long term sustainability of local shops and hospitality venues.

Existing Mobile Trader Provision. An ice cream van is already licensed to operate within the car park. Introducing an additional mobile vendor is unnecessary and risks oversaturation.

Previous Failure of a Comparable Food Van. A similar food van previously attempted to operate at this site but ceased trading after only a few weeks, indicating that the location may be unsuitable for such commercial use.

Conclusion. For the reasons set out above — relating to environmental protection, public safety, amenity impact, and the wellbeing of the local business community —

the Parish Council submits that the proposed extension of the food van license at Boltons Bench should be refused.”

The Head Agister closed the Court

IN COMMITTEE (in the Library)

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2026/14594 VOLUME OF AND SPEED OF TRAFFIC IN MINSTEAD DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer declared an interest as County Councillor for Minstead.

The Court agreed that increased traffic is becoming an issue in many villages including Minstead and there have been a few recent speed related animal accidents between the A31 and Robins Bush.

Lyndhurst and Emery Down villages both have active traffic groups. Mr Burke said Hampshire County Council have an integrated transport strategy looking at downgrading roads and reducing speed limits. The Animal Accident Reduction Group continue to look at ways to improve road safety for livestock.

The Clerk is asked to email a copy of the Parish Council's presentment to Hampshire Highways and invite any comments.

Action Clerk

The Court will actively work, so far as its remit allows, with partners to seek to reduce and mitigate the impact of traffic speed and volumes on unfenced Forest roads. The Parish Council is encouraged to raise their concerns through the New Forest Consultative Panel to interact with wider groups.

NEW SUBMISSIONS BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2026/14595 NORLEY INCLOSURE FENCELINE AMENDMENT DISCHARGE

Mr Burke said Forestry England wish to move the inclosure fenceline as the mire is deteriorating due to not being grazed.

Mr Deakin raised concerns regarding the emergence of animals onto the road in front of oncoming traffic. He said the proposed sightline fencing needs to be long enough and must be kept free of vegetation to prevent accidents. Mr Burke suggested a site meeting should be held to discuss the required location and length of the sightline fencing.

The change to the fenceline is approved with no objections subject to the agreement of sightline fencing requirements.

2026/14596 REGULARISING CAR PARKING AT CANADIAN CROSS, DUNCES ARCH AND NOMANSLAND GREEN DISCHARGE

Mr Burke said Forestry England have been removing informal parking areas as they are able, but these larger areas require different management as they are likely to be affected by displacement parking.

Mr Pasmore said that in effect this is an application for new car parks, except for Nomansland Green. He would like to see plans showing the extent of the proposed parking areas and details of the protection measures Forestry England are going to put in place.

Miss Harrison asked about parking for Nomansland Garage. Mr Stride said it is becoming a problem and access into Bramshaw Wood Inclosure is regularly blocked by cars from the garage. Mr Adderley will check the garages license.

Action OA

The request for the three additional parking areas is approved with no objections subject to the following conditions:

- The Court must receive proper measured surveys of the car park areas and any other required infrastructure within three months of the date of consent.
- A sunset clause is included linked to the Secretary of State licence for all Forest car parks which expires in November 2031
- Any signage erected at the Canadian Memorial must be sympathetic and not detract from the memorial itself.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO FORESTRY ENGLAND

2026/14597 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES

RESUME

Forestry England are requesting Verderers Consent to extend the license for mobile refreshment sales at Bolderwood and Blackwater car parks. They also wish to re-tender the sites at Boltons Bench and Wilverley.

The presentments from the CDA, Lyndhurst Parish Council, Jo Cowley & Tim Laine were discussed. While the Court is sympathetic to businesses struggling with increasing costs the interference with other local businesses is a matter outside of the Courts remit and cannot influence the Courts decision regarding food sales at Boltons Bench.

Mr Pasmore said Boltons Bench is an iconic Forest location and he is not happy to see the Forest used as a commercial resource.

Mrs Tilbury asked Mr Burke for the report on interactions with livestock at the food vans. Mr Burke said he had only received the report yesterday but will share with the Court. He said that there have been no issues with livestock at any of the food vans, there is a decrease in litter at the sites as the traders' litter pick daily. Reduced packaging is used at all locations including recyclable cups with no plastic lids. Mr Burke said the vans are mostly powered by electric or solar energy and not diesel generators.

The Official Verderer said the Courts key concerns had been regarding interactions between the public and livestock, but that over the past two years there have been no issues brought to the Courts attention.

Mr Deakin said his objections were related to the increasing risk of interactions between the public and livestock and said he was

concerned for commoners that may find themselves at the wrong end of a claim for damages. He said he needs to be confident that FE are doing all they can to reduce the risk of incidents happening.

Mr Deakin said it is his opinion that Boltons Bench is the wrong location for a food van, the area fenced off for the current ice cream van is far too small, people need space to leave the retail unit before they meet animals.

The matter will be resumed later in the meeting.

2026/14598 BROOMY INCLOSURE

RESUME

A letter from the Deputy Surveyor has been circulated prior to the Court. Mr Burke said he was happy that that the operation was stopped before more damage occurred. He confirmed that restoration works will be carried out when conditions allow.

Mr Pasmore raised his concerns regarding archaeological damaged caused in the inclosure and asked if the purchaser of standing timber has to get relevant consents prior to commencing extraction. Mr Burke said the details are covered in Forestry England's agreement with the purchaser and if they stray into mapped off areas they will be in breach of their contract. Forestry England are waiting for reports on any potential archaeological damage.

2026/14599 DAMES SLOUGH INCLOSURE

RESUME

Mr Deakin said the extraction works ongoing in Dames Slough were of potential risk to livestock. He said deep tyre ruts have been filled with brush and wood and there is potential for and animal to get a leg trapped.

The extraction route from Dames Slough runs parallel with the road, the Official Verderer asked FE to look at the route urgently and ask if they need an Agister or Verderer to attend for livestock safety advice.

Mr Adderley raised health and safety concerns at Dames Slough and asked that FE be notified if access is required to the site while the timber extraction is ongoing. Mr Burke said that works can be paused for the duration of the required visit.

2026/14600 SIGNAGE

RESUME

The matter is resumed until the April Court.

2026/14601 BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB

RESUME

Mr Adderley said he is meeting with the club on Monday to discuss the management plan. In the meantime, they have been instructed not to take any vehicles on to the site.

The poor fencing around the greens which poses a risk to livestock will also be discussed at the meeting.

Mr Manley thanked Mr Adderley for a positive site meeting and walk round with the club. Mr Chatters confirmed that the local team at Natural England were now engaging with the club.

2026/14602 CAMPING ADVISORY GROUP

RESUME

Mr Chatters said CNF have organised a walk around on the 25th March at 10am although the invitation had not been circulated to the Court. He said it is not exactly what the Court has asked for but is a start. The Official Verderer asked as many Verderers to attend as possible.

Mr Deakin said he thought CNF had committed to having an annual meeting with the Court but this has not happened.

Mrs Tilbury said she has recently visited Holmsley campsite and was surprised to see three large flag poles at the campsite entrance and two vehicle charging points, all erected on the grazing. Court consent has not been applied for or given for either of these structures.

Mr Burke said the base maps are underway starting with Hollands Wood. The plans will show the boundaries of the campsites and all existing infrastructures.

Mr Chatters said that at the last Camping Advisory Group meeting CNF aired their plans to permanently exclude stock from compounds on some of the campsites. As this will constitute an encroachment onto common land and no consent has been sought or given to do so, they are asked to provide their plans to the Court immediately.

Action OA

2026/14603 CADNAM CRICKET CLUB

RESUME

Mr Adderley said he is engaging with Chris Elliott and the points lacking in the club's management plan were being addressed. He hopes to have a plan to share with the Court in April.

2026/14604 HATCHET POND CIVIL WORKS ON CAUSEWAY/DAM

DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin thanked Mr Adderley for responding to the Courts concerns and for providing the requested plans.

The top of the dam still needs to be fenced off to protect livestock from the four-foot drop.

Action OA

Retrospective consent for the works is granted with no objections.

2026/14605 EAST BOLDRE VILLAGE HALL

DISCHARGE

Mr Adderley explained the fenced off area around the hall had to be increased due to health and safety compliance linked to the erection of scaffolding. The area will be reduced to the agreed size once the scaffolding is in place.

Mr Deakin said it shouldn't have been done without obtaining consent no matter of the reasons or length of time. The Official

Action OA

Verderer asked Mr Adderley to remind the village hall to inform the Court of any changes to the agreed works in the future.

2026/14606 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S PROPOSED CAR PARKING CHARGES

RESUME

A letter from the Deputy Surveyor had been circulated prior to the Court.

The Official Verderer raised concerns regarding the short life of Temporary Traffic Regulation Order due to start on the 1st April. Mr Burke said the TTRO can be extended for a period of up to 18 months, but the intention is to use it for a temporary period to establish what controls may be required longer term. The Official Verderer said that lining and signs will have an urbanising effect on the Forest Roads. Mr Burke replied that the TTRO will be targeted at road safety and road obstruction only.

The Official Verderer asked for further written reassurance from Forestry England that they accept responsibility to resolve any damage or issues caused by displacement parking i.e. any new damage to verges regardless of who the landowner is. Mr Burke said he will share confirmation later today.

Mr Deakin raised issues the Agisters have faced removing deadstock from the highway in areas with long stretches of ditching or dragons' teeth. Mr Burke said the issue has been raised with Adam Harrington who is looking at putting in strategic gaps to assist the Agisters. The Official Verderer said the issue needs to be resolved as a priority.

Miss Harrison raised concerns regarding access to commoners' holdings and fields due to dragons' teeth being installed close to entrances. She said modern tractors and trailers require more room to manoeuvre. She also said that maintain boundary hedges would be difficult with ditching and dragons' teeth outside holdings. The Official Verderer said unforeseen issues will arise and we will have to work to address them as they appear.

Mr Manley raised concerns for displacement parking on National Trust land on Blackhills Road. Mr Burke said the FE parking rangers will be patrolling the area and are currently carrying out surveys of all locations as part of the HRA requirements.

Mr Chatters said the risk map he has received is incomplete and only covers the north of the Forest. He said the SSSI assent table is a large spreadsheet with no methodology, he asked if there is a better document FE can share with the court. He also asked for baseline and monitoring information to be shared.

Mr Burke said the green list procedure has been agreed and that the Parking Managers are working with the Clerk. Mr Burke confirmed that Forestry England will recompense the Court for the time the Clerk spends working on the scheme.

Concerns were raised that some people may pay a marking fee but not turn out the animal. Mr Burke said there is a declaration on the application form stating that animals must be depastured to qualify

for the parking exemption. The Clerk will liaise with the Agisters to confirm animals are turned out.

The Official Verderer said no one should be verge parking if there is a car park close by. The CDA issue car stickers to identify commoners and the Clerk is making signs for Verderers to use in their vehicles.

The Official Verderer asked Mr Burke to speak to neighbouring landowners urgently requesting their secure their land to prevent people driving on to it to park, noting that Hampshire County Council's Hyde and Gorley Commons are not secure with barriers unlocked. They have a responsibility to protect the land from damage.

DE-MINIMUS PROPOSALS

2026/14607	DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS - UTILITY PROPOSALS AGREED BY THE DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE	RESUME
DM0244	Feb 26	FE/Soton Uni Tree Tags to monitor die back in canopy, Denny Wood

EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES

2026/14608	EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES	RESUME
EM0024	Feb 26	SGN, Gas Leak, Applemoor Hill Pylons
EM0025	Feb 26	Southern Water, Leaking Stop Cock Replacement, Thatched Cottage, Pinkney Lane, Bank
EM0026	Feb 26	South West Water, Leak on Stop Tap, 1 Parsonage Farm Cottages, Bramshaw

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2026/14609	FAWLEY RESTORATION PROPOSAL	DISCHARGE
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The Fawley restoration proposal is approved subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing etc. and the following condition.

- The bed level must not be raised too much and the area must be monitored for flooding to ensure the restoration works do not result in water pooling on the road or on the grazing.

2026/14610	FAWLEY POND CLAY PLUG PROPOSAL	RESUME
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Mr Pasmore said this proposal was not discussed at the site visit and he has concerns for the historical ponds linked to Beaulieu Abbey. He asked for the decision to be deferred until the April Court to enable him time to visit the site.

2026/14611 COPPICE OF LINWOOD/SALISBURY TRENCH RESTORATION PROPOSAL DISCHARGE

Mr Chatters said it had been a useful site visit, but it is regrettable that the restoration works are necessary due to the culverts not having been maintained.

The Salisbury Trench restoration proposal is approved subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing etc.

ENCROACHMENTS ON FORESTRY ENGLAND LAND INCLUDING THE ENCROACHMENTS LIST

2026/14612 ENCROACHMENTS LIST RESUME

Nothing new has been added to the Encroachments List.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2026/14613 ACTION LIST RESUME

The Court thanked Mr Aderley for keeping the Action List updated.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2026/14614 BRIDGE AT BUSKETTS DISCHARGE

Mr Stride said he had received a report from a commoner about the bridge in Busketts being closed. The Clerk said she has reported the bridge to the Civils Team who have confirmed it will be repaired once conditions allow. Mr Burke said high water flows had undermined the bridge which had to be closed for safety and confirmed that a repair is planned.

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

2026/14615 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES RESUME

Forestry England's request for a two-year extension on the enhanced mobile refreshment sales at Blackwater and Bolderwood car parks is approved by 9 votes and 1 abstention, subject to the Court receiving plans for the location of the vans within three months of this consent.

No decision is reached on Forestry England's request to re-tender for food concession vans at Boltens Bench and Wilverley car parks. The discussion will be resumed at the next Court pending location plans and additional information regarding public safety. The Court would like to see the vans sited inside fenced areas where appropriate.

Prior to issuing consent for the requested 4 year extension for ice cream van sales, the Court requests a list of the locations of all ice cream vans.

Mr Pasmore left the meeting.

- 2026/14616 FORESTRY ENGLAND PROPOSED CAR PARKING CHARGES RESUME
- Following further discussion the Court agreed that Forestry England has adequately met the conditions placed on the consent for additional signage and verge protection works.
- The issue of the removal of deadstock from the highway still needs to be resolved.
- Forestry England's request to move the location of the threshold sign to a more sympathetic location at Boltons Bench is approved.
- Forestry England's request to install a standard parking terms and conditions sign on the gravel in the cemetery at Boltons Bench approved.

MATTERS ARISING

- 2026/14617 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1877 NEW FOREST ACT RESUME
- Miss Sevier updated the Court following the recent meeting with representatives from the CDA and the New Forest Association.
- 2026/14618 UPLIFT IN HLS SCHEME RESUME
- Mr Manley said when Hampshire County Council received an uplift in their HLS the holding on the Forest was relatively small. No consultation happened with commoners, and he feels a meeting needs to be held to discuss the matter in more detail.
- Miss Sevier said there is very poor maintenance on the Hampshire County Council owned commons at Hyde and Gorley. A lot of scrub clearance is required as it is a fire risk as well as making the management of livestock difficult.
- 2026/14619 LOSS OF BANKING FACILITIES RESUME
- The Clerk recently met with the Courts Business Bank Manager, who said that the Totton branch closure may be delayed and that the Ringwood branch would remain open until a banking hub is available in the town.
- The Clerk is asked to set up the facility to take card payments in the office. Action Clerk
- 2026/14620 NFDC LOCAL PLAN REVIEW RESUME
- Miss Sevier will circulate her draft response by email following the Court and the OV will circulate the final letter following submission. It needs to be submitted by the end of the 20th March.
- 2026/14621 HAMPSHIRE HIGHWAYS A326 IMPROVEMENTS DISCHARGE
- Mr Gammon and Mrs Tilbury updated the Court following their recent meeting with HCC.

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME & THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME

2026/14622 FUTURE AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEME (LANDSCAPE RECOVERY/COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME) RESUME

Mr Gammon said that things have moved on twice since the Verderers meeting last week. We cannot apply for either Landscape Recovery or a Countryside Stewardship scheme at this stage as we are not ready. Defra have an issue with their computer system which will not recognise schemes for common land and have advised that this is unlikely to be resolved in the near future.

The Foundation for Common Land have recommended that a part time facilitator be appointed for a term of one calendar year to pull together applications ready for when the window opens. It is suggested that the costs be jointly shared between the Verderers, the CDA and the NFNPA..

The Official Verderer will arrange an informal catch up with the CDA to ensure that commoning interests are in the same place.

REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2026/14623 ACCESS FORUM DISCHARGE

Miss Sevier updated the Court following the recent meeting she attended.

2026/14624 NEW FOREST DOG OWNERS GROUP RESUME

Mr Manley said there is an important meeting being held by NFDog at Kings House on Monday. He will provide a report at the next Court.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2026/14625 FINANCIAL MATTERS INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement was noted.

2026/14626 DRAFT BUDGET RESUME

The Court is asked to look at the draft budget and email the Clerk with any queries. The budget for the financial year 2026/27 will be presented to the April Court for approval.

TRAINING

2026/14627 FIRST AID TRAINING DISCHARGE

Two Agisters have already attended First Aid Training, the others are booked on courses in April and May.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

2026/14628 LONE WORKER SAFETY DISCHARGE

The Court agreed to sign up to the Peoplesafe App for an initial period of 12 months. Action Clerk

STAFF MATTERS

2026/14629 STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESUME

The minutes were noted.

2026/14630 NEW FOREST CAMPSITES

DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said the Head Agister had raised his concerns for the safety of the public ahead of the start of the camping season and expressed his view that the campsites in the Forest should be fenced off from livestock or closed.


ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2026/14631 SPRING WELFARE TOUR

DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said the spring welfare tour will be held on Friday 15th May. He will not be able to attend so asked for another Verderer to host in his place.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 15:21 hrs



15th April 2026