

**Minutes of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 15th April 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

2026/14632	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	RESUME
	The minutes of the last Court, held on Wednesday 18 th March 2026 were approved, and signed by the Official Verderer.	
2026/14633	NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	RESUME
	Mr Chatters declared he has been engaged by Kairos to carry out a survey of the roadside verges in the New Forest.	
2026/14634	CONDITION OF STOCK	RESUME
	The Head Agister said many ponies are starting to look scruffy in their winter coats. The weather is improving and it is a difficult time of year for the Agisters to decide whether to remove ponies from the Forest knowing the grass will soon arrive. He said the mares without foals are looking great and the younger ponies look better than expected for the time of year.	
	The Agisters have been busy marking cattle; most are looking well but the Agisters have refused to mark a few based on condition.	
	Sadly, two of the three sick donkeys from Beaulieu have died. It is thought this may be from them eating plastic waste. The Official Verderer will write to NFDC. The Clerk is asked to share the link to report incidents with livestock and rubbish to all Verderers and the Agisters.	
		Action OV
2026/14635	STALLIONS	RESUME
	The Head Agister said the stallion inspection had been held on the 4 th April, and some very nice colts were put forward for the Verderers Stallion Scheme.	
	The Stallion Committee have agreed that 25 stallions will be turned out from Monday 11 th May for a period of 6 weeks.	

The stallions are all happy at Mottisfont. The fields have stood up well over the winter and we have not had to supplement their feed.

2026/14636 BOVINE TB

RESUME

No new cases to report this month.

Mr Deakin and the Head Agister updated the Court following the recent meeting with Cattle Commoners and the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

2026/14637 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

RESUME

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Forest Ponies	4178	4172
Forest Cattle	912	972
Forest Donkeys	102	87
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	5192	5231
Common Ponies	270	495
Common Cattle	61	79
Common Donkeys	19	69
Common Pigs	0	10
Common Sheep	0	0
Total Common Stock	357	0
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	5192	5231
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	350	643
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	5542	5874
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	5549	5884

The Head Agister left the meeting

2026/14638 BREACHES OF THE BYELAWS

RESUME

Mr Deakin said a commoner has allowed cattle to remain at large on the Forest despite having missed their TB Test. The same commoner also missed their test last year. The matter will be dealt with by the VGS Committee.

OPEN COURT

**IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Craig Harrison, Deputy Surveyor
Mr Ollie Adderley, Land Agent, South West England**

The Head Agister opened the Court with the usual proclamation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS

2026/14639 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Court notes the Government's decision on Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire and the Solent. The Government has confirmed that the existing two-tier system will be replaced by new single-tier unitary authorities, and that the

area currently covered by New Forest District Council will be split between two new authorities.

The Court has previously considered Local Government Reorganisation and has made clear its strong view that, for the benefit of commoning, the New Forest District should be treated as a single, coherent area. The Court is therefore disappointed by the Government's decision to proceed with arrangements that divide the existing District area and is concerned about the implications this may have for commoning.

In particular, the Court is concerned about the potential impact on the protection of land that supports commoning, including the safeguarding of back-up grazing. Back-up grazing land is vital to the continuation of commoning, including for overwintering, animal welfare, and the ability to remove stock from the Forest at short notice in the event of disease controls or other emergencies.

The Court's statutory functions, powers and responsibilities in relation to the New Forest remain unchanged. The Court will continue to engage with relevant authorities and partners as the reorganisation process progresses, to safeguard the interests of commoning and the long-term protection of the Forest.

2026/14640 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES

Following consideration of Forestry England's request, the Court has granted consent for a further two-year extension to the operation of mobile refreshment concessions at Blackwater and Bolderwood car parks. In reaching this decision, the Court was advised by Forestry England that, over the previous two-year period, no interactions between depastured livestock and members of the public had been reported at these locations. The Court also had regard to the management measures described by Forestry England in relation to litter control and the reduction of environmental impacts. Consent is subject to the Court receiving plans for the precise siting of the units within three months of the date of consent.

The Court did not reach a decision on Forestry England's request relating to mobile refreshment concessions at Boltons Bench and Wilverley car parks. Consideration of these locations will be resumed at a future Court, pending the provision of further information, including location plans and additional information relating to public safety, in particular how the concessions may be managed in a way that minimises the risk of interactions between depastured livestock and members of the public. In discussion, the Court indicated that it would wish to see concessions sited within fenced areas where possible.

2026/14641 FUTURE AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEME FOR THE NEW FOREST

The Court thanks Mr Parry-Norton for his presentment on behalf of the Commoners Defence Association regarding the future of agri-environment funding for the New Forest.

The Court recognises the urgency of securing a viable successor to the current Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, which is due to end in 2028, and notes with serious concern that the New Forest is not currently able to apply for a replacement agri-environment scheme until at least 2027.

This position arises because the Rural Payments Agency computer system is not currently capable of accommodating applications for large, complex common land schemes, and DEFRA has given no commitment that these system issues will be resolved either this year or next.

The Court is therefore concerned that this timing makes it highly unlikely that a Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier scheme could be agreed and in place before the end of the current HLS, creating a significant risk of a funding gap for commoning and for the continued delivery of public goods across the New Forest.

The Court further notes that there is no certainty as to when the next application window for a Landscape Recovery Scheme may open, and that while successful projects enter into an agreement, this initially funds a development phase focused on evidence-gathering, scheme design and governance. The Court is concerned that this development phase does not provide substantive funding to support commoning, and that meaningful delivery funding would be unlikely to be available until at least 2029, beyond the end of the current Higher Level Stewardship scheme.

The Verderers will therefore continue to work proactively and urgently with the Commoners Defence Association, Forestry England, and all relevant partners to seek early and meaningful engagement with Government, to press for solutions that recognise the particular circumstances of common land and avoid a damaging interruption to support for commoning in the New Forest.

2026/14642 STALLION TURN OUT 2026

25 stallions will be turned out this year from Monday 11th May for a period of six weeks. They will begin to be taken home from Monday 15th June and must be removed from the Forest no later than Monday 22nd June.

The breeding herd of pure-bred New Forest ponies is reducing year on year, and the breed is on the Rare Breeds Survival Trust's Watch List as a breed considered to be at risk.

The areas in which the stallions run are carefully decided in order to avoid inbreeding, and the list will be made available on our website shortly. However, stallions do not always remain in the areas in which they are first turned out, and it is therefore wise to be particularly aware of the behaviour of ponies at this time of year.

Members of the public are reminded that they should always keep away from the ponies, and that this is particularly important during the stallion season.

2026/14643 TURNING OUT CATTLE

Spring is almost here and the weather has improved, so it is quite understandable that commoners will be tempted to turn their cattle out after having them home for the winter. However, we would like to remind all cattle owners that there is very limited feed on the Forest at the moment, and that the Forest is always the last place that the spring grass grows. Cattle turned out too early will wander looking for feed, lose condition and are more likely to test boundary fences. Please think carefully before turning any stock out too early, and wait for the grass to come, to avoid any unnecessary problems.

2026/14644 GARDEN WASTE

We are approaching the time of year when we will all be cutting our lawns and tidying our gardens after the winter. Please may we remind residents that lawn mowings are very dangerous to ponies and donkeys and they must not be left where the animals can get to them. Tipping your grass cuttings over the fence or emptying a bag on the Open Forest may be a cheap and easy way of disposing of your garden waste, but it can result in a very sick or dead pony.

Mown grass left in a heap heats up and when eaten, the resulting gases that accumulate in the stomach of a pony or donkey can result in a very painful death for the unfortunate animal. Many garden plants and shrubs are toxic and can also cause illness or the death of any animal which eats them. Please dispose of your garden waste responsibly. Compost it on your property or take it to the tip. Please remember if you live in an area accessible to Forest stock always keep the waste sacks inside your boundary for collection.

2026/14645 FOALS ON THE FOREST ROADS

Foals will soon be born on the Forest. Like all young animals, foals love to play. However, they have no road sense and may run across the road without warning, so drivers are reminded to take extra care in the Forest. Please slow down, passing wide and slow.

2026/14646 NORLEYWOOD FENCE

The Court has approved Forestry England's request to amend the fenceline at Norley Inclosure in order to allow grazing access to an area of mire habitat where restoration work has already been undertaken, including the removal of trees and scrub. Grazing is required to support the ongoing management and restoration of the mire.

In granting its approval, the Court noted concerns regarding the potential emergence of livestock onto the adjacent road and therefore resolved that the amendment is subject to agreement of appropriate sight-line fencing requirements, including the location, length and ongoing management of such fencing, to ensure the safety of road users and livestock.

THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2026/14647 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR MARCH 2026

The Agisters attended 2 accidents in March compared with 4 in March last year.

A pony was injured and a donkey had to be humanely destroyed by the Agister.

Both accidents happened in the dark.

The total number of Commoners' animals killed and injured this year is 8 compared with 12 in the same period last year.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

2026/14648 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S BURNING PROGRAMME

Presentment by Andrew Parry-Norton, Chairman of the New Forest Commoners Defence Association

"This year the weather conditions have proved difficult to complete the burning program, but we acknowledge that FE have done a very good job. We, the CDA, would like to thank the Forestry England team and the head ecologist for completing as much as they did. As always, it's very much appreciated."

2026/14649 PERAMBULATION FENCING

Presentment by Andrew Parry Norton, Chairman of the New Forest Commoners Defence Association

"This is not a new subject, but the serious problem still exists with very little, or no progress ever made. The perambulation fencing in certain areas is in a very poor and dangerous condition. Stock and pigs easily walk through woefully inadequate fencing, a constant worry for Commoners.

This situation is not only a nuisance to other landowners but could have serious consequences for the stock and the public, especially gaining access near to busy roads.

We the CDA ask the Verderers again to contact all landowners responsible and remind them of their legal liability and to persist if no remedial action is taken."

2026/14650 LANDSCAPE RECOVERY SCHEME

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

"Official Verderer and Verderers and the members of public attending court today, I am Sarah Nield, Chair of the New Forest Association.

I would like to reiterate the devastating news that DEFRA announced at the end of March, that CSHT and SFI applications for common land cannot be processed this year and possibly not next year. The problem is that the computer application system cannot cope with commons. Commons are in the 'too difficult' pile. Yet common land comprises 21% of all land in England that is designated for nature (our SSSIs) and 82% of all common land is in National Parks and National Landscapes. The vast majority allow for public access as well as supporting almost 4,000 farming businesses.

Fifteen organisations, including the Foundation for Common Land, the Campaign for National Parks, our own National Park Authority, the National Trust, RSPB, the Wildlife Trusts, have written immediately to the Secretary of State for DEFRA to ask for a paper application process. The New Forest Association are doing so too along with writing to our local MPs. We urge the Verderers to write and apply maximum pressure.

It has never been so important for the Forest to secure continued and adequate funding. The message that needs to be heard by the people that have made this shortsighted decision is commons matter. They are vital for nature, wellbeing and the rural economy."

2026/14651 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S PROPOSED CAR PARK CHARGES

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

"When are car parking charges to be introduced? FE's website says vaguely end of April and the rumour is that means 20th April. That is less than a week away yet there is no clear and widespread public announcement."

2026/14652 DENNY WOOD CAMPSITE

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

"Why is Denny Wood campsite reopening after it closed last season? This campsite is within ancient and ornamental pasture woodland, and its closure has been required on environmental grounds by SAC management plans going back 20 years. It also provides yet one more hotspot for potentially dangerous stock: visitor interaction. Are Forestry England serious about complying with their environmental obligations? As a public authority they should be setting an example."

2026/14653 COUNTY PARISH HOLDING (CPH) NUMBERS

Presentment by Dr Fiona MacDonald, Veterinary Surgeon and New Forest Resident

"I was following the Court minutes with respect to the County Parish Holding numbers and their allocation by the Rural Payments Agency. As a Veterinary Surgeon I am interested in the contingency plans for the New Forest, for example in the event of an outbreak of a Notifiable Disease, such as Foot and Mouth, Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) or indeed Blue Tongue, which got very close to the Eastern borders of the Forest last year. Indeed there were Blue Tongue cases recorded in Hampshire last month.

I understand from 2 presentments, one in November 2025 and one in February this year, highlighting inaccuracies in the Parish section of the CPH numbers and their attached TLA's, that there have been issues with these.

Obviously, it is critical to the control and containment of disease to have accurate information on the ownership and location of vulnerable stock, and correct CPH numbers are a crucial factor in this.

Can the Court please confirm that these discrepancies have been fully addressed?"

2026/14654 ANIMAL ACCIDENTS AND KEEPING FOREST LIVESTOCK SAFE
Presentment by Gilly Jones, Commoner, New Forest Roads Awareness and chair of the Animal Accident Reduction Group.

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

You will have all just heard from the Clerk that the accident figures are slightly better so far this year from last. But I know from past experience, I often speak to soon.

We have, I have been told, not seen any myself, our next generation of livestock out on the Forest, and that means on our roads.

We own and breed them, and they deserve to live their best life out there in a safe environment. I am for one grateful that the Public Spaces Protection Orders have been extended for another 3 years.

My main concern is still just how few people know what to do if they witness or are involved in a collision with Livestock. On an Operation Mountie we ask as many as we can, some don't want to speak to us, mm I wonder why, if they know who to call. I will say on most ops one in 8 to 10 people asked know to phone the police. We are failing our animals, all of us, because it's a simple message and be you a visitor or a local you should do your homework and know this.

So again, I will ask everyone who has a concern to talk to their friends and families and give them the cards with the numbers on. Businesses large and small that put a picture of our livestock on their advertising should be doing the same. In my perfect world, every check in at a hotel, B and B, campsite and Airbnb should be given a card and a PSPO leaflet. Catering venues should have them readily available. But my world isn't perfect. Venues should be coming to us to ask for the information to give out, but that at the moment seems to be lacking.

I am really trying to do my bit; I have done over 200 miles in the last couple of weeks delivering leaflets etc. I have even ready made-up baskets for venues. The uptake on that again was depressing low.

We need to all push forward before the main summer season.

I will ask the Verderers to put some pressure on tourism group, including the cruise ship coaches to help up spread the word on how we can keep our important livestock safe."

2026/14655 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S PROPOSED CAR PARK CHARGES
Presentment by Brian Tarnoff, Local Resident

Mr Tarnoff said he was surprised to see the statement "This is Forestry England Land" on one of the unveiled car park charges signs. He said the Forest is not Forestry England Land but is managed by Forestry England under the Ministers Mandate.

He said the Ministers Mandate requires Forestry England to Conserve Habitat and Heritage in the Forest and to Manage Recreation as well as Timber Production. He would like to remind FE to deliver on all management priorities.

The Head Agister closed the Court

IN COMMITTEE (in the Library)

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2026/14656 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S BURNING PROGRAMME DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer thanked Forestry England for delivering a successful burning programme. The Deputy Surveyor said it has been a tough year. Mr Stride said a lot had been achieved in the last two to three weeks of the programme. Mr Deakin agreed saying being allowed to continue for longer has made a big difference.

The Official Verderer asked the Deputy Surveyor to ensure more information is shared on social media. An explanation of the detailed process, especially the involvement of FE's ecology team, will help the public understand why burning is carried out and will reduce concerns regarding bird nesting season.

2026/14657 PERAMBULATION FENCING RESUME

Defects in perambulation fencing falling under the responsibility of the Highways Authority should be reported to them online.

Where issues arise with privately owned fencing inside the perambulation the Agisters and the Clerk do remind landowners of their responsibility to fence against Forest Livestock, however the Court has neither the resources nor the information required to write to all landowners as the CDA request.

2026/14658 LANDSCAPE RECOVERY SCHEME RESUME

The Official Verderer said he is planning to write to the government minister and suggested that Forestry England send a joint letter.

Action OV

The CDA will also be encouraged to write to the Minister.

2026/14659	FORESTRY ENGLAND'S PROPOSED CAR PARKING CHARGES	RESUME
	<p>The Deputy Surveyor said parking charges go live from Monday 20th April.</p> <p>The Clerk has had lots of enquiries from Commoners who have applied to go on the parking exemption list but have not heard anything from Forestry England. The Deputy Surveyor said GDPR issues have meant that FE have been unable to reply to requests. He will ask someone from the parking team to speak to the Clerk to resolve the problem.</p>	
		Action DS
2026/14660	DENNY WOOD CAMPSITE	RESUME
	<p>The Deputy Surveyor said that following a fallow year, Denny Wood is opening for a limited period this year. He recognises that the site falls under the SAC Plan.</p> <p>The Official Verderer said Camping New Forest have submitted their strategic plan to Forestry England and asked when the Court is likely to see it.</p> <p>The Court is still waiting for the requested plans of all campsites from CNF.</p>	
2026/14661	COUNTY PARISH HOLDING (CPH) NUMBERS	DISCHARGE
	<p>Incorrect CPH Numbers are not a matter for the Court to resolve. The Court has clearly expressed that it holds the information required to manage the Infectious Diseases Contingency Plan.</p> <p>All enquiries regarding CPH Numbers should be addressed to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).</p>	
2026/14662	ANIMAL ACCIDENTS AND KEEPING FOREST LIVESTOCK SAFE	DISCHARGE
	<p>The Court thanks Ms Jones for her presentment and will continue to work with Forest Partners to find a solution for the issues she has raised.</p>	
2026/14663	FORESTRY ENGLAND'S PROPOSED CAR PARKING CHARGES	RESUME
	<p>In response to Mr Tarnoff's presentment the Deputy Surveyor said the Owner is the Crown (the State), Forestry England are the manager, and parking signage is worded to reflect the managing authority responsible for rules and enforcement – Forestry England.</p>	

NEW SUBMISSIONS BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2026/14664	WESSEX INTERNET BEAULIEU ROAD – REVISED PROPOSAL DUE TO ROADSIDE DITCHING WORKS	DISCHARGE
	<p>Wessex Internet's revised proposal for Beaulieu Road is approved with no objections subject to the usual three conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing etc.</p>	

No permission is granted for the installation of any new telegraph poles; all overhead stretches of cable must use existing poles.

2026/14665 WESSEX INTERNET UPPER CANTERTON DISCHARGE

Wessex Internet's proposal for Canterton is approved with no objections subject to the usual three conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing etc.

2026/14666 WESSEX INTERNET BURLEY DISCHARGE

Wessex Internet's proposal for Burley is approved with no objections subject to the usual three conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing etc.

2026/14667 WESSEX INTERNET MARGARETS BOTTOM DISCHARGE

Wessex Internet's proposal for Margarets Bottom is approved with no objections subject to 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

2026/14668 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor said stump clearance is underway at Bolderwood to create an area to house the refreshment van.

The Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England are keen to re-tender the food sales at Boltons Bench and Wilverley. Lucy Kennedy would like to arrange a site visit with Verderers to agree locations for the vans.

The Court raised concerns that Boltons Bench may not be a suitable location for mobile refreshment sales as it is already a difficult area to manage stock interactions with the public. Mr Deakin suggested the old BBQ area at Wilverley as a suitable off Forest location.

The Court will wait for a formal proposal from Forestry England for the two sites.

2026/14669 BROOMY INCLOSURE DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore expressed his annoyance that the archeological reports were either not given to or were ignored by the contractors. He said there are two bronze age sites in Broomy which are clearly marked on the conservation layer of the GIS.

The Deputy Surveyor said the site will be restored and assured the Court that lessons have been learnt. The matter is discharged from the minutes pending the results from Forestry England's review.

2026/14670	DAMES SLOUGH INCLOSURE	DISCHARGE
	<p>The Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England are happy to have a site meeting with the Verderers and Agisters to discuss concerns regarding livestock safety at Dames Slough following the timber extraction works.</p>	
2026/14671	SIGNAGE	RESUME
	<p>The Deputy Surveyor updated the Court following the recent multi-agency meeting and said he has received some interesting feedback regarding PSPO signage.</p> <p>The Official Verderer said discussions regarding signage were ongoing.</p>	
2026/14672	BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB	DISCHARGE
	<p>Mr Adderley said he and the Senior Ecologist met with the club at the end of March to discuss the new licence and management plan. A constructive discussion was held with the greensmen, and the club have agreed to employ a third party ecologist to assess and draft the management plan.</p> <p>The club are open to closing the course in the winter and are asked to ensure all course furniture is removed to stop people just turning up to play.</p> <p>The matter is discharged until the Management Plan is received from the club.</p>	
2026/14673	CAMPING ADVISORY GROUP	RESUME
	<p>Mr Chatters said he missed the site visit and that CNF have cancelled the next round table meeting.</p>	
2026/14674	CADNAM CRICKET CLUB	RESUME
	<p>Mr Adderley said he is still waiting for the management plan from the club. He said part of the delay seems to be with Natural England.</p> <p>Mr Deakin said the spoil heap has still not been moved despite conditions being dry enough to do so.</p>	
2026/14675	FORESTRY ENGLAND'S PROPOSED CAR PARKING CHARGES	RESUME
	<p>Concerns were raised regarding displacement parking in areas that are currently not charging for parking. Mr Pasmore said he had requested a map of areas that will be monitored for damage caused by displacement parking from Mr Burke at the last Court but they have not yet been provided.</p> <p>The Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England are as prepared as they can be ahead of the charges being introduced but that it is not known what behaviour may happen after Monday.</p>	
		Action Clerk

DE-MINIMUS PROPOSALS

2026/14676 DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS - UTILITY PROPOSALS AGREED BY THE DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE RESUME

DM0245 Mar 26 BT Openreach new fibre installation Bramble Hill Hotel & Butchers Row cottages

EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES

2026/14677 EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES RESUME

None to report this month.

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2026/14678 FAWLEY POND CLAY PLUG PROPOSAL RESUME

Mr Deakin said Fawley Pond is already at a higher level than it has been historically due to the culvert being partly blocked, during heavy rain water runs across the track. He said the proposal does not state how big the plug will be but, in his opinion, more than a foot is too big as the area to the west if the pond is flat and already very wet.

Mr Chatters said that if the Court is not happy with the levels the plug can be easily removed.

The proposal is approved with no objections subject to the height of the clay plug.

ENCROACHMENTS ON FORESTRY ENGLAND LAND INCLUDING THE ENCROACHMENTS LIST

2026/14679 ENCROACHMENTS LIST RESUME

Nothing new has been added to the Encroachments List.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2026/14680 ACTION LIST RESUME

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

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2026/14681 CAMPING NEW FOREST CAMPSITE WALK AROUND RESUME

The recent walk around was considered helpful, Mr Adderley is asked to arrange another date for the end of the season.

Action OA

The Court agreed that an annual pre and post season walk around would be beneficial.

2026/14682	PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSENTS RELATING TO FOREST CAMPSITES	RESUME
	Mr Deakin said CNF are still doing things without Verderers consent and have blamed this on having to go through Forestry England.	
	If their request requires landlord consent the process is in place for Forestry England to bring the proposal to Court.	
	CNF must inform the Verderers Clerk of any emergency works carried out on the campsites as soon as possible.	
	Mr Deakin said CNF were disappointed that following early engagement with the Court the planning application for a new larger reception at Holmsley had been turned down. The Official Verderer said that CNF had failed to deliver information requested by the Court and he is confused as to why they would have proceeded with a costly planning application.	
	Mr Chatters welcomed a clear protocol and regulatory structure for CNF to follow and said we are not alone in regulating behaviour on campsites as they are on the SSSI.	
	The Deputy Surveyor supported the setting of boundaries and said he understands CNF's frustrations managing the sites.	
2026/14683	SIGN ERECTED ON THE GRAZING AT MOONHILLS	DISCHARGE
	Mr Adderley said the sign is an upgraded replacement of an existing sign and is at the same location and has the same footprint as the one it is replacing.	
	The Official Verderer said he felt the sign may have been able to have been moved to a different location with less of an impact on the grazing and asked that in future when signs are being replaced consideration be given to relocating them off grazing where possible.	
2026/14684	VEHICLES PARKED ON THE FOREST OUTSIDE NOMANSLAND GARAGE	DISCHARGE
	Miss Harrison asked for an update regarding vehicles parked on the Forest in Nomansland. Mr Adderley said the garage has permission for 5 car widths but regularly has more than 20 vehicles parked outside. He said the parking team will be enforcing the terms of their agreement with Forestry England.	
2026/14685	CAMERAS TO MONITOR MINERAL LICKS	RESUME
	Miss Harrison said the provision of mineral licks has meant there has been no significant beech barking by ponies. The Court is keen to keep the licks replenished and has asked the CDA to purchase more. Miss Harrison said it would be helpful to know which animals were using the licks, but that FE have so far been unable to lend the Court trail cameras. The Deputy Surveyor said he would ask the HLS team to contact the Clerk.	
		Action DS

2026/14686 FORESTRY ENGLAND OUT OF HOURS PARKING ENFORCEMENT DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer asked the Deputy Surveyor to provide reassurance that parking breaches would be monitored out of hours, as a lack of respite is a real issue for the Forest Livestock. The Deputy Surveyor said the parking team will be working to an early and late rosta and will be enforcing outside of standard working hours.

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

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

2026/14687 DENNY WOOD CAMPSITE RESUME

Mr Gammon said he would like to see the legal advice obtained by Forestry England regarding campsites in the New Forest as well the results of any surveys carried out by Natural England on the effects of camping on the New Forest.

MATTERS ARISING

2026/14688 RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE VERDERERS REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE THE NOLAN PRINCIPLES RESUME

The Official Verderer said the Court needs a process for dealing with complaints and asked the Court to consider adopting the Nolan Principles of Public Life. He said the Appointed Verderers will have been asked to adhere to the Nolan Principles by their appointing bodies.

The Court agreed in principle to accept the Official Verderers recommendation. The wording of the resolution will be revisited at the next Court.

2026/14689 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1877 NEW FOREST ACT RESUME

Miss Sevier said the next meeting which will be with the New Forest Show Society is scheduled for Friday 22nd May.

2026/14690 UPLIFT IN HLS SCHEME RESUME

Mr Manley will write a letter to Hampshire County Council requesting a meeting to discuss the recent uplift in their HLS scheme.

Action RM

Mr Chatters said Natural England will be requesting HCC carry out a more robust cut and burn programme to manage their commons.

2026/14691 LOSS OF BANKING FACILITIES DISCHARGE

It is understood that the Ringwood branch of Lloyds Bank will now remain open until 2028.

The Clerk is asked to set up the facility to take card payments in the office.

Action Clerk

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME & THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME

2026/14692 FUTURE AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEME (LANDSCAPE RECOVERY/COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME) RESUME

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

The CDA and the NFNPA have both agreed to fund a third of the cost for the part time facilitator as suggested by the Foundation for Common Land.

The Court welcomed the proposal from FFCL but requires some additional wording in the draft agreement to ensure the proposal specifies defined outcomes of what the facilitator will achieve during the contract, including an oversight mechanism.

The Court agreed in principle to fund one third of the cost of the facilitator.

REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2026/14693 NEW FOREST DOG OWNERS GROUP DISCHARGE

Mr Manley updated the Court following the recent meeting of NFDog.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2026/14694 FINANCIAL MATTERS RESUME

The budget for the 2026/2027 financial year is approved by the Court. The Clerk will update the actual spend quarterly.

TRAINING

2026/14695 PSPO TRAINING DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer, the Clerk and the VGS Administrator will all attend training to become Authorised Officers. The Agisters are required to attend refresher training.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

2026/14696 GENTLEMAN KICKED BY A PONY AT STOCKLEY CAR PARK DISCHARGE

The Clerk received a report from a gentleman who had to have emergency surgery after receiving a nasty kick from a pony at Stockley. He had taken photos of the pony prior to being kicked but the Agisters have so far been unable to identify the animal involved and from the information provided it is unclear as to the events leading up to the incident that resulted in him being close enough to be kicked.

STAFF MATTERS

2026/14697 STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES RESUME

The minutes were noted.

2026/14698 COMMUNICATIONS POLICY RESUME

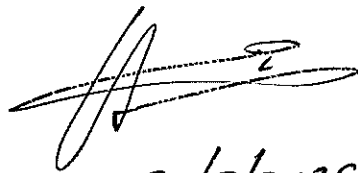
Mr Deakin said the Clerk is drafting a Communications Policy following complaints from Commoners regarding information posted on social media by the CDA, and receiving the same email multiple times from different organisations.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2026/14699 GARDEN WASTE DUMPED BY A PROPERTY ON BLACKHILLS ROAD DISCHARGE

Mr Manley said he has spoken to a resident who has dumped a lot of garden waste in an area accessed by livestock on Blackhills Road. The man has agreed to remove the waste. The Clerk will follow up with a letter.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 15:25 hrs



20/5/2026