

**Minutes of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 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**

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |        |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 2026/14767 | MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | RESUME |
|            | The minutes of the last Court, held on Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 were approved, and signed by the Official Verderer.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |        |
| 2026/14768 | NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | RESUME |
|            | There are no new declarations of interest.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |        |
| 2026/14769 | CONDITION OF STOCK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | RESUME |
|            | <p>The Head Agister said the Forest is looking very green and there is lots of grass growing. The majority of ponies are looking really well but there are a few older mares that have not picked up as quickly as the rest. The Agisters continue to assess and remove these ponies as necessary.</p> <p>The Agisters are reaching the end of cattle marking and many herds have been turned out. The cattle are doing well and there is plenty for them to eat.</p> <p>Mr Deakin and the Head Agister are attending a World Horse Welfare conference for Common Land in Somerset where they will be giving presentation on how the New Forest livestock is managed. Mr Manley will also be in attendance.</p> |        |
| 2026/14770 | EQUINE FLU                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | RESUME |
|            | Following the first confirmed case of Equine Flu in Woodgreen three weeks ago the virus has rapidly spread through the ponies in the north of the Forest. It has now spread south to Minstead and Emery Down.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |        |
| 2026/14771 | STALLIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | RESUME |
|            | The stallions turned out in the south of the Forest, in areas not affected by Equine Flu were removed early and quarantined as a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |        |

precaution. None of them have shown any signs of sickness and they will return to the usual grazing at Mottisfont soon. They have all been vaccinated for Equine Flu.

Seven stallions remain in the north of the Forest, two are showing signs of flu.

2026/14772 BOVINE TB

RESUME

No new cases to report this month.

2026/14773 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

RESUME

|                                         | <u>2026</u> | <u>2025</u> |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Forest Ponies                           | 5057        | 4740        |
| Forest Cattle                           | 1549        | 1470        |
| Forest Donkeys                          | 154         | 99          |
| Forest Pigs                             | 0           | 0           |
| Forest Sheep                            | 0           | 0           |
| Total Forest Stock                      | 6760        | 6309        |
| Common Ponies                           | 283         | 536         |
| Common Cattle                           | 25          | 238         |
| Common Donkeys                          | 68          | 97          |
| Common Pigs                             | 18          | 14          |
| Common Sheep                            | 6           | 6           |
| Total Common Stock                      | 400         | 891         |
| Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest  | 6760        | 6309        |
| Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons | 376         | 871         |
| Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys          | 7136        | 7180        |
| Total Stock – Forest & Commons          | 7160        | 7200        |

### The Head Agister left the meeting

2026/14774 BREACHES OF THE BYELAWS

RESUME

Mr Deakin said a gelding has been permanently ordered off the Forest from the Pilley area for interfering with the stallion.

### OPEN COURT

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr Ollie Adderley, Land Agent, South West England

The Head Agister opened the Court with the usual proclamation.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS

2026/14775 EQUINE FLU

The Court is keeping the current outbreak of Equine Flu under close review.

There is currently no evidence that the disease has spread south of the A35. However, as a precautionary measure, stallions from that area have now been removed from the Forest.

The Court is following the veterinary advice it has received on managing Equine Flu in Forest ponies and donkeys: namely, that the disease should be allowed to run its course, and that affected animals should not be disturbed unnecessarily, as disturbance or attempts to bring them in may aggravate their condition.

Members of the public are therefore asked to give ponies and donkeys extra space and not to disturb them. Concerns about individual animals can be reported to the Court in the usual way, but in many cases the most appropriate course will be simply to monitor the animal.

2026/14776 DEREK INGRAM

The Court is sorry to hear of the death of Derek Ingram, known as "Buck", who passed away on 18th May 2026, aged 83.

Derek was a forester, having worked for Forestry England and the Beaulieu Estate, and was a lifelong New Forest commoner from Furzey Lodge. He was actively involved in the Forest, riding on drifts and the Forest point-to-points, and running a small herd bearing the Hawkhill prefix.

Derek had an exceptional knowledge of the Forest and, even after he had ceased riding, continued to support the work of the Agisters, including transporting the portable pound and assisting whenever required. He will be greatly missed.

2026/14777 FORESTRY ENGLAND'S CAR PARKING CHARGES

The Court thanks Ms Rowe for her presentment regarding the introduction of car parking charges in the New Forest, and in particular for the concerns she has raised in relation to the period during which parking is permitted.

The Court shares her concern that the charging period currently advised by Forestry England extends beyond the hours set out in the Forestry Commission Byelaws. It considers this to be a significant matter, particularly given the longstanding restrictions on vehicular presence on the Forest between sunset and sunrise.

The Court has previously raised these concerns directly with Forestry England and has requested further information on how the extension of the hours during which parking is permitted, and the resulting increase in recreational pressure, have been assessed under the Habitats Regulations.

This is of particular concern given that evidence gathered by local planning authorities, in order to undertake their own Habitats Regulation Assessments of development that may increase recreational pressure on the Forest, has demonstrated the need for them to identify how the adverse impact identified can be mitigated. In those circumstances, any proposal by Forestry England that may increase the duration of disturbance on the Forest is also likely to require mitigation.

The Court will consider the response and the requested information once it has been received from Forestry England.

2026/14778 TARMACKED CAR PARK ENTRANCES

The Court thanks Mrs Nield for her presentment regarding the tarmacking of entrances to Forest car parks.

The Court is advised by Forestry England that the works currently being undertaken are limited to the re-tarmacking of existing surfaces and do not involve the creation

of new areas of tarmac. Forestry England has further advised that these works are consistent with previous consents given by the Court.

Court records show that proposals to surface car park entrances with tarmac were considered in July 2004 and February 2005, when consent was given in respect of Roundhill at Brook, Deerleap, and Hatchet Pond, subject to limitations on the extent of the surfacing.

While works at these locations were approved, the Court has not, at this stage, identified records confirming that consent was given for further locations.

The matter is therefore under further investigation, and the Court will consider its position again once all relevant information has been obtained.

**2026/14779 NEW FOREST RESEARCH**

The Court thanks Mr Theodorou for his presentment regarding his research into the ecological, social, and cultural dimensions of large herbivores in the New Forest.

The Court recognises the importance of research in improving understanding of the Forest and the management of its habitats and livestock, and it welcomes the opportunity for those with knowledge and experience of the Forest to contribute to this work.

Members of the Court have indicated their willingness to engage with Mr Theodorou and to assist with his research where appropriate.

**2026/14780 THE NEW FOREST AND HORSE RIDERS**

The Court thanks Mrs Smith for her presentment on behalf of the New Forest Equestrian Association.

The Court has been advised that revenue raised from car parking charges will be retained within the New Forest. It also notes the advice given that the size of Forest car parks has not been reduced, with the gravelled areas remaining unchanged.

The Court further notes the advice given that Forest bridges have never conformed to modern specifications for use by ridden horses, and that this is not the result of any recent action by Forestry England.

**THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT**

**2026/14781 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR MAY 2026**

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

1 pony was injured and had to be humanely dispatched by the Agister and another pony reported to be involved in an accident could not be found.

Both accidents happened in the dark.

The total number of Commoners' animals killed and injured this year is 11 compared with 16 in the same period last year.

## PRESENTMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

2026/14782 HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM! Presentment by Dr Gale Pettifer, Practicing New Forest Commoner and Vice Chair of the New Forest Association

"Good morning, Official Verderers, Verderers; and assembled Ladies and Gentlemen.

In the immortal words of Jack Swigert, Apollo 13 astronaut reporting to Mission Control Centre on Earth, "Houston. We have a problem!"

According to data from Scientific American (January 21, 2025) 'more than 700 people have flown past the 50-mile-high mark that was considered the boundary of space when spaceflight first got started'. While *Who is in Space.com* report that as of April 2026, a total of 781 humans have flown to space. They should know because they charted each and every one. The figures include astronauts, cosmonauts, taikonauts, and private astronauts, commercial astronauts, or spaceflight participants (space tourists to you and me). What has this to do with the New Forest you ask? Well, I'll tell you.

Years ago, I made a predication. I said that by the end of the decade there would be more people who had travelled into space than there were practising commoners in the New Forest. I didn't realise it wouldn't even take that long!

In 2025, a report from the Forest Farming Group recorded that there were 640 practising commoners in the New Forest. At first glance, it sounds absurd that more than 700 people have travelled into space while only around 640 people actively practise commoning in the New Forest.

Spaceflight is often portrayed as one of humanity's most exclusive achievements, requiring advanced technology, enormous expense, and years of specialist training. Commoning, by contrast, is an ancient rural tradition involving the grazing of livestock and the exercise of historic rights on common land. Yet the comparison reveals something interesting about how rarity works in the modern world.

So I would like it noted in the records that becoming a practising New Forest commoner is, in some respects, more exclusive than becoming an astronaut. The comparison also highlights a broader cultural point. Modern society often celebrates technological achievements while overlooking traditional practices.

Thousands of news stories are written about rockets, satellites, and missions to the Moon and Mars. Far fewer people know about commoning, despite its importance in shaping one of Britain's most distinctive landscapes. The New Forest exists in its current form largely because generations of commoners have maintained grazing practices that support its habitats and biodiversity.

So, while travelling into space may seem extraordinary, the fact that practising New Forest commoners are even rarer than astronauts reminds us that some of humanity's most remarkable achievements are not futuristic at all. Sometimes the rarest traditions are those that have survived - let's see if like commoning, space travel last longer than a thousand years."

2026/14783 PENNY MOOR Presentment by Andrew Parry-Norton, Chairman of the New Forest Commoners Defence Association

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

In life you can do hundred things well and one thing wrong. It is thing you do wrong that everyone talks about.

Forestry England has carried out many successful restoration projects but the one we are still talking about is Penny Moor.

The project has not gone well; we made a presentment last year about a number of issues that needed correcting. Some remedial work has been carried out but a major problem still persists.

Due to large areas being unintentionally flooded and deep impassable mud, access to the ford is nearly impossible.

The public, as well as our stock still try to cross this area making the conditions even worse.

Our concern is there is no way sick animals can be removed, even a member of the public could not be easily evacuated in an emergency.

This situation needs to be immediately rectified, we request the Verderers' enter into discussions with the FE to construct a causeway to allow safe access. This needs to be done this year before the onset of poor weather.

I really hope this will end the long running story of Penny Moor and we wish the FE many more successful restoration works in the future."

2026/14784 PENNY MOOR Presentment by Brian Ingram, Practicing Commoner

Mr Ingram thanked the Court for the kind words about his brother Derek.

Mr Ingram then said he supported the CDA's presentment about Penny Moor, he said that he wouldn't like to say how much money had been spent on the scheme but that it was still not right. He urged the Verderers to step in and push Forestry England to resolve the issues at Penny Moor once and for all.

**The Head Agister closed the Court**

**IN COMMITTEE (in the Library)**

**CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS**

2026/14785 HOUSTON WE HAVE A PROBLEM!

DISCHARGE

The Court thanked Dr Pettifer for her presentment and said it was an interesting way of highlighting the issue.

2026/14786 PENNY MOOR

RESUME

The Court agreed that the Penny Moor restoration has not been successful. Mr Deakin said sick or injured animals cannot be recovered from the area and that the Court had requested a causeway be installed as vehicle access is required year-round. He said the last ecological report from Forestry England stated they will leave the area for a year and reassess.

The Official Verderer requested a site visit be arranged by Forestry England. Mr Chatters will raise with Natural England as a priority.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO FORESTRY ENGLAND****2026/14787 FORESTRY ENGLAND CAR PARK CHARGES****RESUME  
SEPTEMBER**

An email from the Deputy Surveyor has been circulated prior to the Court. The Official Verderer said there seems to be some confusion in Forestry England as to when the requirements of the Habitats Regulation Assessments kick in.

Mr Adderley said there has been some displacement parking but not as much as expected. The Parking Wardens are enforcing where they can. Mr Pasmore said displacement parking is causing problems on Tethering Drove in Hale and along Hale Purlieu.

Mr Gammon said large logs have been installed to prevent parking on Woodlands Road. Mr Deakin said the logs have blocked access to the livestock pound. Mr Adderley said a double barrier is due to be installed at the roadside but that pre-works checks had discovered utilities in the area.

The Matter is resumed to the September Court where Forestry England are requested to provide details of where reactive measures have been carried out.

**2026/14788 TARMACKED CAR PARK ENTRANCES****RESUME**

The Official Verderer has requested via email that the Deputy Surveyor provides details of the Courts consent to tarmac the car park entrances or photographs of the old tarmac prior to being renewed.

Mr Adderley said the tarmacked entrances were visible on Google Map images going back to 2008. The Official Verderer requested images are provided as a document to attach the Court Minutes.

**2026/14789 DAMES SLOUGH INCLOSURE****DISCHARGE**

Mr Deakin and Mr Stride provided an update following the recent site visit to Dames Slough. Forestry England have agreed to carry out works recommended by the Court to make the area safer for livestock. Mr Adderley said works have been instructed to be carried out immediately.

**2026/14790 COUNTY PARISH HOLDING (CPH) NUMBERS****RESUME  
SEPTEMBER**

Mr Deakin said commoners do not currently need to inform the Court if they are using TLA's. It is not an unreasonable request for the Court to be informed but the requirement will need to be written into the New Forest TB Plan by APHA.

**2026/14791 SIGNAGE****RESUME**

Mr Adderley is asked to request the Deputy Surveyor holds another meeting of the interaction group before the July Court.

**Action OA**

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |              |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2026/14792 | CAMPING ADVISORY GROUP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | RESUME       |
|            | Mr Chatters said Camping New Forest have not met and there is no meeting scheduled at this time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |              |
| 2026/14793 | CADNAM CRICKET CLUB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | RESUME       |
|            | Mr Adderley said he has only just heard from Natural England regarding the club's management plan and will provide an update at the next Court.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |              |
|            | The club are still parking multiple vehicles on the grazing despite the car park being empty. Mr Adderley will speak to them.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Action OA    |
|            | Mr Chatters said he is disappointed with the wording of the club's licence regarding the exclusion of livestock as it does not identify the area as commonable land. The Official Verderer said it would be useful if all the club licenses have the same wording and suggested a sub-group meet with Forestry England to agree a new model licence for sports grounds in the New Forest. |              |
| 2026/14794 | PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSENTS RELATING TO FOREST CAMPSITES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | RESUME       |
|            | The Official Verderers said Forestry England is responsible for what the campsites do on the Forest.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |              |
|            | Mr Adderley is asked to provide details of what Forestry England are happy for Camping New Forest to submit to the Court directly.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Action OA    |
| 2026/14795 | BROCKENHURST VILLAGE SIGNAGE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | RESUME       |
|            | The Official Verderer said the National Park Authority has taken the view that the proposed signage falls outside of its planning requirements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |              |
|            | Consent is not given for the new post to be installed on the Rhinefield Road at Whitefield Moor. The Court feels the location is too far out of the village. Concern is raised that the larger signage will push ponies into the road.                                                                                                                                                    |              |
|            | Consent will only be granted for signs on one side of the road entering the village. A representative from the Court is happy to meet with a representative from Brockenhurst Parish Council and Hampshire County Council to discuss the signage.                                                                                                                                         |              |
|            | No consent for any new signage is given, Hampshire County Council are asked to come back with a new proposal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Action Clerk |
| 2026/14796 | TEMPORARY FENCING FOLLOWING A WATER LEAK AT RUSHY FLATS B3080                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | DISCHARGE    |
|            | The collapsed fencing has been removed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |              |
| 2026/14797 | BARRIER TO BLACKGUTTER CAR PARK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | DISCHARGE    |
|            | Mr Adderley advised that the requested works have been instructed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |              |

2026/14798 EAST BOLDRE VILLAGE HALL

RESUME

Mr Deakin said more unauthorised works have been carried out at the village hall and supplied photos showing damage to the SSSI to Forestry England.

A sewer type pipe has been laid around the hall. The works have been carried out to a very poor standard and two manhole covers have been installed resulting in a permanent loss of grazing.

The Portaloo's have now been removed but there has been permanent damage caused to the grazing due to the length of time they were in situ.

### DE-MINIMIS PROPOSALS

2026/14799 DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS - UTILITY PROPOSALS AGREED BY THE DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE

RESUME

None this month.

### EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES

2026/14800 EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES

RESUME

EM0031 May 26 South West Water, Leak on Water Main Oakfield Stoney Cross

EM0032 May 26 South West Water, Leak on Water Main, Havana Pitmore Lane, Sway

EM0033 May 26 South West Water, Leak on Water Main, Irongates, Holmsley Road

### SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2026/14801 BUCKHEARD BOTTOM

DISCHARGE

Mr Stride gave a report to the Court following the site visit to discuss the pine removal at Buckheard Bottom.

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

2026/14802 MILLERSFORD WETLAND RESTORATION

RESUME

Mr Pasmore raised concerns for the proposed five hour site visit to Millersford and Turf Hill. He said given the age and mobility issues of some of the attendees, trying to fit an area as large as Turf Hill and Millersford into one visit is problematic. He asked if the visit could be split over two dates or transport be provided.

Action OA

**ENCROACHMENTS ON FORESTRY ENGLAND LAND INCLUDING THE ENCROACHMENTS LIST**

2026/14803 ENCROACHMENTS LIST RESUME

The Encroachments List was noted.

2026/14804 FOREST GLADE BROCKISHILL ROAD BARTLEY DISCHARGE

Mr Adderley provided a report from the recent court case regarding the extension built on Forestry England land at Forest Glade, Bartley.

**ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION BY FORESTRY ENGLAND**

2026/14805 ACTION LIST RESUME

The Action List was noted.

2026/14806 ALDER HILL INCLOSURE FENCING DISCHARGE

The fencing at the western end of Alder Hill Inclosure is in terrible condition and is a risk to livestock. Forestry England is asked to repair it as soon as possible.

Action OA

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND**

2026/14807 QUAD BIKES ON THE OPEN FOREST RESUME

The Court asked to be kept updated on the action being taken to stop the damage being caused by a group "extreme" quad biking in the Forest. The Clerk has been told the matter is being dealt with by Forestry England Keepers and Country Watch.

Action OA

2026/14808 INFECTIOUS DISEASES CONTINGENCY PLAN RESUME

Mr Deakin said that the recent outbreak of Equine Flu has resulted in the Agisters inspecting the underpass gates and have found some to be broken or not functioning as required by the plan. He requested a meeting with whomever is managing the IDCP in Forestry England now.

Action OA

2026/14809 RAGWORT DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said the ragwort is flowering early this year and may have already gone to seed if Forestry England stick to their usual removal timings. Mr Adderley will speak to Phillip Stride and Dave Morris.

Action OA

2026/14810 ILLINGWORTH PANEL DISCHARGE

Mr Adderley said the Housing Panel met last week to decide tenants for Godshill Wood Cottage and 2 Great Linford Cottages. There were several good applications submitted and the successful candidates are delighted to have been selected.

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

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

2026/14811 HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENTS

RESUME

The Official Verderer raised concerns about how Forestry England are undertaking Habitat Regulation Assessments. He said the ecologists are looking closely at key matters on the ground but are not considering widely enough the effects of proposals and actions.

Mr Chatters is asked to raise with Natural England, the Court may consider taking legal advice on the matter. Mr Chatters said that as a Section 28 Body Forestry England can assess themselves.

Action CC  
RESUME

2026/14812 EAST BOLDRE VILLAGE HALL

Mr Deakin said he feels that Forestry England are not taking their role as landowner seriously enough. He has raised the ongoing issues at East Boldre Village Hall at several Courts now, but it does not appear that anyone from Forestry England has gone to look at the problems he has reported.

**MATTERS ARISING**

2026/14813 RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE VERDERERS REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE THE NOLAN PRINCIPLES

RESUME  
SEPTEMBER

The matter will be resumed in September.

2026/14814 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1877 NEW FOREST ACT

RESUME  
SEPTEMBER

Miss Sevier provided an update following the meeting with the New Forest Show Society.

Miss Sevier will provide a detailed report at the September Court detailing who is doing what and their progress so far.

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

2026/14815 VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME

RESUME

The Official Verderer raised concerns about some cattle commoners not receiving VGS payments as they do not have Forest Rights and can only turn out onto the Commons. He asked if the Court would consider inviting these commoners to turn out onto the Crown Land under License.

He said he has had an informal chat with the National Trust about them working towards a Countryside Stewardship Scheme, but they do not appear to have considered Natural England's grazing requirements and the lack of marking fees paid for animals currently grazing their land.

2026/14816 FUTURE AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEME (LANDSCAPE RECOVERY/COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME)

RESUME

Mr Gammon circulated the Foundation for Common Land's contract papers to the Court ahead of the meeting. The Court

discussed the contract and highlighted some minor amendments that need to be made to the wording.

Mr Gammon said FfCL have asked for permission to advertise the facilitator position while the contract is being agreed and if we will share the job advert on our website and social media.

A meeting will be arranged with Mr Paul Walton, the NFNPA lead, Mr Andrew Parry-Norton the CDA Chairman and Mr Gammon will act as lead for the Court. The Court would like to see what evidence base has already been discovered by the groups involved before the facilitator is in post to ensure work is not duplicated.

Mr Gammon proposed that the Court proceeds with the contract once the wording has been amended and he will liaise with the other partners regarding governance. The Court has previously voted in favour of agreeing the proposal by email if necessary.

The Official Verderer thanked Mr Gammon for all the work he has put into the scheme.

#### 2026/14817 UPLIFT IN HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

RESUME

The money to be paid by RPA from 2025 rose from £2,030,000 to £4,300,000 – i.e. more than doubled. The court had not been informed of this by the HLS Board and only discovered this recently.

The Official Verderer said that members of the court should have checked the HLS Board's minutes and financial documents themselves, which was disputed by Mr Gammon. The Official Verderer agreed that in future the members of the court would receive copies of the minutes and financial papers.

The Official Verderer said that the grazing element of the HLS had not been uplifted and that Natural England had said the money should be used for other restoration works. Mr Gammon disputed this, saying that each of the Options uplifted had, as a first action, grazing by livestock. Therefore, money could be allocated to commoners

### REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

#### 2026/14818 ACCESS FORUM

DISCHARGE

Miss Sevier said at the last Access Forum a comment had been made that it was a pleasure that the Verderers are there to look after the Forest.

Mr Deakin asked Miss Sevier if a representative from the Access Forum would like to attend the site visit to Penny Moor.

#### 2026/14819 NEW FOREST DOG OWNERS GROUP

DISCHARGE

Mr Manley said that the Veterinary Society have put forward a proposal to ban some of the chemicals used in spot on flea and tick treatments following reports of the harm they cause being highlighted by the NFDOG Forum.

2026/14820 D-DAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE DISCHARGE

Mr Stride said he had attended the D-Day Remembrance Service at the Canadian Cross and asked that a better-quality wreath be sourced for the Remembrance Service in November.

Action Clerk

2026/14821 NEW FOREST LANDSCAPE RECOVERY PROGRAMME DISCHARGE

Mr Gammon and Mr Manley will attend the meeting with Mike Pittock of Forestry England on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

2026/14822 FOREST FARMING GROUP DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer asked for a representative to attend the Forest Farming Group Meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> June as he is on leave.

Mrs Woodley will be attending as an observer, the Clerk is asked to ensure she has received an invitation.

Action Clerk

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

2026/14823 BUDGET RESUME

The Budget was noted.

2026/14824 WORKPLACE PENSION RESUME

The Official Verderer said the Courts' Pension Advisors have reported that we are not getting the best return on our current scheme and have recommended that a market review is carried out to find a plan with a better return.

The Court agreed to the pension advisors carrying out a market review with no objections.

## TRAINING

2026/14825 VERDERER INDUCTION RESUME

The matter will be resumed before the next Verderers Election in November 2027.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

2026/14826 AGISTER LOVELL DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said Agister Lovell has requested to come back to work. He has been given the OK by the hospital following 6 weeks of rest since he broke his leg, but the fit note he obtained from his GP does not expire until the 24<sup>th</sup> June. The fit note states that the holder can return to work earlier than the expiry date with the employers' agreement. Mr Deakin said the Agister team are under pressure but he understands the Official Verderers concerns regarding insurance.

The Official Verderer said that the employment advice previously received from View HR is that only someone medically qualified

can determine if someone is fit to work and that an Occupational Health Assessment would be required.

Agister Lovell will be asked to return to work on the 24<sup>th</sup> June.

## STAFF MATTERS

2026/14827 STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES RESUME

The minutes were noted.

2026/14828 WASTE BINS ON THE A31 DISCHARGE

The Commoners Defence Association recently reported that the waste bins in the layby's on the A31 were overflowing. The Clerk has reported to New Forest District Council.

2026/14829 VGS PAYMENTS FOR OLDER MARES DISCHARGE

The Staff Liaison Committee has recommended that VGS Payments for Registered Mares cease when the mare reaches a certain age.

The Equine Welfare Scheme pays a fixed amount to commoners for removing ponies over the age of 18 but many commoners are keeping ponies for longer which is creating welfare concerns as the older ponies do not over-winter well or pick up quickly in the spring.

The Court agreed 22 years is a suitable age for payments to cease. The Official Verderer said the matter will be added to the VGS Committee Agenda in November.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2026/14830 COVER FOR THE OFFICIAL VERDERER WHILE ON LEAVE DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer asked for someone represent him while he is away for 16 days. Mr Deakin will act as cover in his absence.

2026/14831 TRIAL OFFICE CLOSURE ON THURSDAY'S RESUME  
JUNE 27

The Court agreed the closure of the office on Thursday's will continue where possible and will be reviewed in 12 months.

2026/14832 CAMERAS TO MONITOR MINERAL LICKS DISCHARGE

Mr Chatters said he had been tasked by the VGS Committee to investigate funding for cameras to monitor the use of the mineral licks.

Wild New Forest have been supplied with trail cameras which they are happy to loan to the Court and the New Forest Trust have said they could help with funding if the Court wishes to purchase cameras.

2026/14833 BOVINE TB VACCINATIONS

DISCHARGE

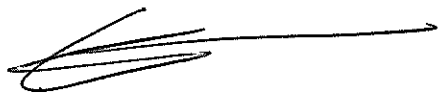
Miss Sevier said she has read in The Guardian newspaper about a vaccination for Bovine TB. Mr Manley said the ambition is a marker vaccine and that trials are currently in process.

2026/14834 PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT LYNWOOD FARM,  
BLACKFIELD

DISCHARGE

Mrs Tilbury attended the planning hearing and is disappointed that the proposed housing development has been approved. It is a loss of back up grazing currently used by a commoner and will put additional pressure on Blackwell Common which is already overused.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 14:55 hrs

 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026