

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

2026/14835 THANK YOU DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer passed on his thanks to Mr Deakin for covering Court matters while he was on leave.

2026/14836 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

Mr Gammon proposed an amendment to Minute number 2026/14817, this was seconded by Mr Manley.

This change and the remainder of minutes of the last Court, held on Wednesday 17th June 2026 were approved, and signed by the Official Verderer.

2026/14837 NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

Miss Sevier said she is a Member of the NPA Planning Committee.

2026/14838 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister said overall the ponies are in very good condition. The streams and ponds are drying up but there are no current issues with stock finding water. The cattle are looking well and there is plenty of food on the Forest.

Several cattle have died at Stoney Cross after developing Red Water, a disease caused by ticks. The Agisters have assisted the cattle owner to catch and treat his animals.

2026/14839 EQUINE FLU RESUME

Equine Flu is rapidly spreading south through the Forest Herd. New cases have been seen at Balmer Lawn and Ashurst this week. Pockets of re-infection are also appearing in the north of the Forest.

The Agisters are monitoring the ponies closely and veterinary advise is to leave the affected animals where they are to avoid stressing them and potentially making them sicker.

The Head Agister said the current strain of flu originated on America and has spread to the UK from Europe. The Agisters are taking nasal swabs from ponies believed to have died from the flu to assist with veterinary research into the virus.

2026/14840 STALLIONS

RESUME

Five stallions remain in the north of the Forest, all of them are affected by the flu. The Stallion Committee and the Agister team are making a plan for their removal.

The Head Agister said the National Trust have given us the use of the water meadows at Mottisfont again this year.

2026/14841 BOVINE TB

RESUME

No new cases to report this month.

2026/14842 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

RESUME

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Forest Ponies	5076	4829
Forest Cattle	2035	2371
Forest Donkeys	154	115
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	7265	7315
Common Ponies	284	552
Common Cattle	25	247
Common Donkeys	70	97
Common Pigs	18	16
Common Sheep	6	14
Total Common Stock	403	926
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	7265	7315
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	379	896
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	7644	8211
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	7668	8241

2026/14843 MARKING FEES

DISCHARGE

The Court discussed the reduction in cattle numbers. The Clerk said she has chased the Agister team for some outstanding marking fee receipts for cattle commoners.

The Official Verderer said that he recently met with the National Trust and understands that they are working towards a Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier Scheme application, so as to be ready should it become possible for an application covering Common Land. However, based on the current marking fee data, it may be

challenging for them to demonstrate they are meeting likely grazing requirements.

The Head Agister left the meeting

2026/14844 **BREACHES OF THE BYELAWS**

RESUME

Mr Deakin said a commoner has two unmarked cattle and an overage bull calf on the Forest at Wootton.

Mr Deakin said a commoner has branded several fillies and donkeys on the wrong side as his crush doesn't allow him to brand on the nearside. The animals are not marked to the satisfaction of the Verderers as stated in the Code of Practice for Hot Branding and need to be re-branded.

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

2026/14845 **EQUINE FLU AND THE PONY DRIFTS**

Equine flu continues to spread through the New Forest herd, and cases have now been seen in ponies in the Ashurst, Brockenhurst and Burley areas. Some affected ponies may have a heavy nasal discharge and a dry cough. Regrettably to date approx. 35 equines have died.

The Verderers are following veterinary advice, which is to leave the affected ponies where they are to avoid causing them unnecessary distress and potentially spreading the virus further.

Although the virus is mostly airborne, it can also spread through contact with an affected animal. Horse riders and walkers are advised to give the ponies as wide a berth as possible, and not to allow ridden horses to eat on the Forest or drink from communal water troughs.

We have taken the decision to postpone the start of the 2026 drifts. No drifts will be held in August. Drifts from September onwards will be subject to ongoing review, depending on the status of the infection.

2026/14846 **WATER ON THE FOREST**

We would remind Forest residents and visitors that, even in prolonged dry periods, there is sufficient access to water on the open Forest for stock, either from natural sources or installed water troughs. Therefore, we ask that people do not place water buckets on the Forest, especially during the current flu outbreak.

2026/14847 **OLD HAY**

The National Trust has again reported a large quantity of hay being fly-tipped on the Bramshaw Commons. This is often done by horse owners when hay becomes

mouldy or dusty and is no longer suitable for their own animals. Feeding it to Forest livestock puts the animals' health at risk and encourages aggressive behaviour.

Members of the public, including residents, should never feed the Forest animals or put out anything on the Forest that the stock may eat. The animals have all they need on the Forest. Animals that lose condition are taken home by their owners and provided with supplementary feed.

2026/14848 BBQ'S AND FIRES

Given the recent hot weather and exceptionally dry conditions no one should be lighting any fires or BBQ's on the Forest. I hope this is an unnecessary announcement.

2026/14849 NEW FOREST SHOW

The Court will again be attending the New Forest Show this year, and I encourage you to visit our Verderers' stand in the Heart of the Forest area. This year, we will be joined by members of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary's Road Policing Unit and one of their speed camera vans.

THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2026/14850 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2026

The Agisters attended 3 accidents in June compared with 8 in June last year.

1 pony was killed, 1 pony escaped injury and another pony reported to be involved in an accident could not be found.

All the accidents happened in the dark.

The total number of Commoners' animals killed and injured this year is 12 compared with 21 in the same period last year.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR

2026/14851 PANNAGE 2026

"In accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of the New Forest Act 1964, the Verderers have been consulted on the dates of the pannage season. I notify the Court that the 2026 season will commence on Monday 14th September and end on Sunday 29th November, both dates inclusive.

May I remind Commoners who hold the right of Common of Mast that:-

1. Pigs turned out must be levant and couchant in and upon the land from which the right is derived.
2. Pigs may not be turned out until they have been inspected by an Agister, effectively ringed, marked and the appropriate fee paid. This must take place during normal working hours. 48 hours notice must be given and the time and place where the pigs are to be inspected and marked must be agreed.
3. Pigs must be marked before they are put onto the Forest.
4. Pigs may not be turned out into the Inclosures.

5. Breeding sows, that is female pigs in-pig, may be allowed the privilege of remaining on the Open Forest after the end of the pannage season if so authorised in writing by the Deputy Surveyor for the period specified in the consent.
6. Any breeding sow that is granted the specific written consent of exercising the privilege must be inspected, ringed, marked and paid for during the pannage season.
7. Any breeding sow exercising this privilege must return to the holding at night.
8. Apart from the aforementioned privilege of turning out breeding sows with proper authorisation onto the Open Forest beyond the pannage season, no pig will be allowed to remain on the Forest after the end of the season.
9. No period of grace is allowed for the removal of such unauthorised pigs.
10. Any consent granted for the exercise of the privilege is limited to the period following this particular pannage season and cannot be presumed to apply for future years, for which a separate application must be made.
11. Any unmarked animal running on the Forest does so in contravention of the Verderers' Byelaws and the owner is liable to a fine of up to £200.00.
12. Property owners of land adjacent to the Forest are reminded that it is their responsibility to fence out Forest animals from their land."

PRESENTMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

2026/14852 CADNAM CRICKET CLUB Presentment by Andrew Parry-Norton, Chairman of the New Forest Commoners Defence Association

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

There have been several issues caused by the new chairman of Cadnam Cricket. Myself, representing the CDA , and Forestry England have met with him on a number of occasions to try and make sure the Club has an understanding of their responsibilities to the Forest. This was met with little success. What was once a small village forest club now seems to have much larger ambitions.

On match or training days the lawns around the enclosed pitch is covered with over 40 cars, the car park which is 50 yards away remains completely empty. Forestry England has waived car parking charges for the club, but they persist in damaging the grazing and creating severe compaction of the surrounding crown lands.

My understanding of the license is that they are only allowed access across the crown land for maintenance etc , this is not being enforced. The Club continually breaches a number of the terms of the agreement, bringing in topsoil, refusing to open the gates to our stock and asking contractors for quotations to dig up, drain and level the pitch.

We, the CDA, ask the Verderers to take a much stronger stance with the Cadnam Cricket Club, to insure they comply with the terms of their license. If the Club persists in damaging the Forest then they should be made aware their license will be withdrawn."

2026/14853 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK Presentment by Sarah Nield, Chair of the New Forest Association (NFA)

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

The National Planning Policy Framework doesn't sound as though it is something to trouble the Forest but believe me it does. It has led to increased housing targets in the local planning authorities surrounding the Forest. For example, NFDC is facing a call to increase house building by 101% from 700 homes to 1501 every year, Test Valley Borough Council faces a 75% increase and Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole an 88% increase. This all adds up to a lot of houses!

The NFA supports affordable, preferably social, houses but in the right place and as far as is compatible with the protecting and sustaining the Forest. So, what are the threats these increase housing numbers present? Let me give you two. First as Jo Ivey's Report for the NFA demonstrates there is a severe shortage of back-up grazing and commoners are forced to look further, and further, away to secure suitable land. The competition for suitable back-up grazing is only going to grow if more land surrounding the Forest is earmarked for development. We see this already happening with the planning approval to build 200 homes on back-up grazing land at Rolleston Road, Holbury.

Secondly, recreational pressure is only going to increase. Yet measures that might help to manage that pressure have stalled. The NFA have been calling for the creation of a recreational mitigation partnership which could bring £22 million over 10 years to fund recreational management within the National Park. These funds are likely to only grow with increased housing targets and visitor numbers. We have also been pressing for the creation of alternative recreation areas, for instance country parks, which can draw visitors away from the Forest. The value of these measures stem from expert reports dating from 2020 and 2023 yet we are still waiting.

The NFA has also been pressing for action on the recreational management strategy that has stalled for almost 18 months. We are told that the National Park's Partnership Plan in 2027 will kick start action, but time has been wasted and the mythical spatial plan to help manage recreation has still not seen the light of day. One would hope that the implementation of increased in housing targets would be managed in a controlled way through updating local plans – local plans set out land allocation and earmark suitable development sites. Indeed, some local authorities are in the process of updating their local plans. BUT and this is a BIG BUT this is going to take time – there are proposals, consultations, enquiries, inspections. For instance, BCP local plan has been rejected by the planning inspector, Wiltshire's too has been withdrawn because rejection by the inspector was expected. NFDC have started the process but, if their plan proposals are not approved by the end of the 2026 and it is feared they will not be, the process will have to start again – there would be another 2-3 years gone. And that is without the impact of Local Government Reorganisation.

In the meantime, developers will take advantage and bring forward speculative sites for development which planning committees will find difficult to resist. We see that with the Rolleston Road approval and the proposals for 1000 homes between Eling and Marchwood. It has been described as a "planning wild west."

So, what can be done? The NFA planning experts are working hard to build the Forest's case. We need all the support we can get – these issues are complex and the pressure to build intense. So, a co-ordinated effort is needed. We call upon the Verderers, and other Forest organisations, to add their voice and weight too.

Developments may be beyond the National Park but its impact on the Forest will be considerable and must be addressed."

The Head Agister closed the Court

IN COMMITTEE (in the Library)

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2026/14854 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

DISCHARGE

The Court agrees with Ms. Nield's presentment and will continue to respond to planning consultations as and when they arrive. The Official Verderer said the NFA are best placed for lobbying, and the Court does not have the capacity to do a lot more at this stage.

The Regulation 19 Consultation closes in September. The matter will be discussed in the Verderers Workshop on Wednesday 2nd September. The Official Verderer will draft an announcement for the September Court.

NEW SUBMISSIONS BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2026/14855 NATIONAL HIGHWAYS A31 OCKNELL CULVERT

DISCHARGE

Mr Chatters said the environmental reports submitted by National Highways were vague and unhelpfully refer to badgers, bats and birds.

Mr Pasmore raised concerns regarding potential damage to the old concrete road which is the planned route from the compound to the work site. He said if conditions remain dry there will be no issues but the road will begin to disintegrate in wet conditions.

The proposal is approved with no objections subject to the following conditions: -

- The gate on to the A31 must always be manned. Someone must be there when the gate is open or it should be locked to prevent stock straying onto the highway
- Forestry England are asked to confirm they will carry out regular inspections to ensure compliance
- Forestry England are asked to record the condition of the access track before and after work commences
- The working area must be always maintained in a stock proof condition
- three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing etc.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO FORESTRY ENGLAND

2026/14856 LEGAL STATUS OF CAMPSITES

DISCHARGE

The matter is resumed from November 2025. The Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England are still looking into how to manage the situation when the Secretary of State consent for campsites ceases after 60 years.

The Official Verderer told the Deputy Surveyor that the Court has raised this issue with him early and will not be minded to rush a decision because the requested information has not been provided by Forestry England.

The current consent for camp sites and Car parks ceases in 2032. The Deputy Surveyor said he would like to remind the Court that consent was given for camp sites and car parks to protect the Forest.

2026/14857 PENNY MOOR

RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor said the temporary fencing is being removed, and it is hoped work will be carried out on the railway culvert. Mr Deakin said that is goods news but will not benefit stock access to the area. Mrs Tilbury said a causeway is required.

The Official Verderer asked the Deputy Surveyor to arrange a site visit before the September Court. All interested Verderers are asked to attend.

Action DS

2026/14858 TARMACKED CAR PARK ENTRANCES

RESUME

Mr Adderley said he is collating photographs from Google Maps showing the tarmacked car park entrances. The Deputy Surveyor asked if it is necessary for him to continue given his current workload as the only Land Agent in the Southern District.

The Official Verderer said the Court requires Forestry England to provide details of when consent was obtained from the Court or provide photographic evidence of pre-existing tarmacked areas. He again suggested a gis system with a layer linked to consent would be helpful in the future.

Mr Pasmore said the Court Minutes from February 2000 clearly state that all surfacing proposals were to be considered on an individual basis and that if tarmac is involved a presentment must be made to the Court.

2026/14859 SIGNAGE

RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor said he will share the notes from the last meeting with the Court and will arrange a second meeting with the other Forest Agencies.

Action DS

The Official Verderer said the Foresters public house at Frogham have erected a large board featuring the New Forest Code in their

car park to try and stop people petting and feeding the donkeys, which is to be welcomed.

2026/14860 CADNAM CRICKET CLUB

RESUME

Mr Adderley said he has issued the club an ultimatum regarding the continued illegal parking on the Crown Land. He proposes that if problems continue the clubs' licence be withdrawn.

The club are in breach of the terms of their license and Mr Adderley is still waiting for them to provide him with the management plan.

The Court advised Forestry England that they will withdraw consent for the club's license and the area will need to be re-instated to forest, including the dismantling and removal of the pavilion and fencing, at the cricket clubs' cost, should the club continue to breach the terms of the Verderer's consent.

2026/14861 PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSENTS RELATING TO FOREST CAMPSITES

RESUME

The Official Verderer said he will meet with Mr Adderley to discuss and agree a protocol for the campsites.

Action OV/OA

2026/14862 BROCKENHURST VILLAGE SIGNAGE

RESUME

Mrs Tilbury and Miss Harrison will meet with Hampshire County Council and Brockenhurst Parish Council next week to discuss the signage proposals.

2026/14863 EAST BOLDRE VILLAGE HALL

RESUME

Mr Deakin said he is disappointed in the lack of monitoring carried out by Forestry England, especially after he had raised concerns regarding the standard of works and other issues in Court.

Mr Adderley said the new manhole covers were replacements for existing ones. Mr Deakin said the village hall did not have consent to carry out the sewage works, and that they were not carried out subject to Natural England's working methods. He said the area will recover but will take longer than if the correct working practices had been followed. Mr Chatters said the village hall have an obligation to monitor the recovery of the area of SSSI they have damaged and that they should employ a specialist for a period of at least 18 months.

2026/14864 QUAD BIKES ON THE OPEN FOREST

DISCHARGE

Mr Adderley said the matter is being dealt with by Country Watch and the Forestry England Keepers. He does not have an update at this time.

2026/14865 INFECTIOUS DISEASES CONTINGENCY PLAN

DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin has spoken to Mike Pittock of Forestry England to arrange a meeting to discuss the plan.

2026/14866 CAMERAS TO MONITOR MINERAL LICKS

DISCHARGE

Mr Chatters said Wild New Forest have agreed to loan the Court some of their trail cameras to monitor the use of mineral licks this autumn.

He has also successfully applied to the New Forest Trust for the funding of the monitoring and report writing.

The Court passes on its thanks to both Russell Wynn of Wild New Forest and William Ziegler of the New Forest Trust.

DE-MINIMIS PROPOSALS

2026/14867 DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS - UTILITY PROPOSALS AGREED BY THE DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE

RESUME

DM0247 Jun 26 FE/Southern Water, Beaulieu River, Water Quality Monitoring

EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES

2026/14868 EMERGENCY WORKS CARRIED OUT BY UTILITY COMPANIES

RESUME

EM0034 Jun 26 BT Openreach, Wilverley Rd Burley, reinstatement of fibre network allegedly damaged by Wessex Internet

EM0035 Jul 26 South West Water, Leak on Water Main, Little Orchard, Telegraph Hill

EM0036 Jul 26 South West Water, Leak on Water Main, Pipers Wait, running of approx. 180m of overland pipe to reservoir

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

Suzannah Egleston Forestry England's HLS Project Manager joined the meeting for Minute Number 14869

2026/14869 MILLERSFORD WETLAND RESTORATION

DISCHARGE

Miss Egleston provided a report following the site visit to Millersford held on Monday. She hopes to submit the proposal to planning at the end of August/beginning of September.

The Official Verderer requested that a presentment be made to the Court prior to the planning application being submitted.

The Official Verderer explained the importance of the Courts Regulations and said that more proposals should be made via presentment to the Court especially all wetland restoration works that require planning consent.

The Court thanked Miss Egleston for her time.

ENCROACHMENTS ON FORESTRY ENGLAND LAND INCLUDING THE ENCROACHMENTS LIST

2026/14870 ENCROACHMENTS LIST RESUME

Nothing has been added to the Encroachments List this month.

2026/14871 CHILLY HILL DISCHARGE

Miss Sevier said the encroachment at Chilly Hill has gone and the area is pristine.

The Court thanked Forestry England for responding and acting so quickly.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2026/14872 ACTION LIST RESUME

The Action List was noted.

2026/14873 ADVERTISING SIGN AT LONCROSS B3078 DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore said the large advertising sign has appeared at Longcross on the B3078 again. He asked Forestry England to arrange for its removal and to ask whoever keeps putting it there to stop.

Action OA

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2026/14874 TRACY COOPERS DRIVE 8TH & 9TH AUGUST 2026 RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor said a permit has not been issued for this event this year. Concerns were raised by the Court given the current equine flu outbreak and the additional stress this event will cause the already sick animals.

The Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England have engaged with the NFDC Safety Advisory Group and protective measures to be erected on the Forest have been agreed.

2026/14875 DAMES SLOUGH INCLOSURE DISCHARGE

Mrs Tilbury asked the Deputy Surveyor if there is an update on the agreed works at Dames Slough. The Deputy Surveyor said works have started this week.

2026/14876 VERGE CUTTING WORKS DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin passed on thanks from the Staff Liaison Committee for the verge clearance works carried out by Forestry England, in particular at Brownhills where stock safety has been improved.

2026/14877 WILDFIRE PREVENTION MEASURES

DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer asked the Deputy Surveyor what fire prevention measures Forestry England were implementing, given the hotter dryer summers are expected to become the norm.

The Deputy Surveyor said the Southern District's Wildfire Policy had been reviewed 2 years ago. Firefighting goes above Forestry England's Health & Safety limitations, but the burning and mulching works and the cutting of fire breaks are all carried out as preventative measures.

2026/14878 FOOD CONCESSION VANS AT BOLTONS BENCH AND WILVERLEY

RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor said Gary North is trying to set up a meeting with two Verderers to discuss the re-tendering of the food concession vans at Boltons Bench and Wilverley. Mr Pasmore & Mrs Tilbury agreed to meet with him.

Action Clerk

2026/14879 VERGE PROTECTION WORKS: LAYBYS

RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor said that monitoring of car parking in informal layby's is ongoing and has identified a number of locations where dragon's teeth are proposed to prevent damage and enable the habitat / grazing to be restored. A paper copy of the 13 laybys were shared and will be shared digitally. The DS asked for feedback if any of the proposed work raised concerns.

Mr Pasmore asked if it is just Crown Land that is being monitored, the Deputy Surveyor said the monitoring of all areas of the Forest is ongoing.

Mr Chatters said he has noticed more cars parked in the informal areas; he presumes to avoid paying to park. The Official Verderer said the National Trust and Hampshire County Council owned Forest car parks were in his opinion no busier than before Forestry England introduced charges.

2026/14880 ASHURST CAMPSITE

DISCHARGE

Miss Harrison said there are several yurts on decking at Ashurst campsite. The decking extends further than the gravel areas and is encroaching on grazing. Mr Deakin said he raised the issue with Forestry England last year.

The Official Verderer requested that matter is added to the agenda for the end of season wash up meeting with Camping New Forest.

Action OA

2026/14881 END OF SEASON CAMPSITE WALK AROUND

DISCHARGE

Mr Adderley asked the Court to provisionally hold the date of Monday 2nd November for the end of season camp site walk around.

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

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

2026/14882 MILLERSFORD WETLAND RESTORATION PROPOSAL DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer asked if there were any concerns following the site visit on Monday.

Mr Pasmore said he believes the historic environment has not been properly considered and the reports obtained by FE in respect of historic environment in the past are appalling. He is also unclear of the HLS status of these works. Millersford Copse/Plantation is leased from the National Trust to Forestry England and Mr Pasmore wants to be satisfied that HLS money can be spent on these areas.

Mr Deakin said he is sympathetic to Mr Pasmore's views regarding the historic features, but he cannot think of a better project from a Verderer and commoning point of view. Mr Gammon agreed. Mr Deakin said he understood that the National Trust were obtaining funding for the restoration work on their land.

Mrs Woodley will be asked to add the matter to the HLS Board Meeting Agenda next week.

2026/14883	FOOD CONCESSION VANS AT BOLTONS BENCH AND WILVERLEY	RESUME
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Mr Deakin questioned if Forestry England can do enough for the Court to be comfortable enough to agree to a food concession van at Boltons Bench.

The Official Verderer said he has made it clear to Forestry England that the best that they can offer may not be enough to assuage the Court's concerns sufficiently for consent to be given, but that no decision can be made until they put forward their proposals.

MATTERS ARISING

2026/14884 HABITATS REGULATION ASSESSMENTS DISCHARGE

Mr Chatters said he has raised his concerns with Natural England who have confirmed that Forestry England have the ability to self-assess their own work.

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME & THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME

2026/14885 VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME RESUME

The Official Verderer asked if the Court would consider inviting cattle commoners who do not have the Forest Right of Common of Pasture to turn out onto the Crown Land under License. He said this will only be a small number of commoners and while it would have some effect on the amount of money paid out most cattle commoners are already capped at the maximum payment.

Mr Deakin raised concerns about how this could possibly be interpreted by the commoning community. Miss Harrison said anyone can rent land to which the Right of Pasture attaches if they want to turn out on the Crown Land. Mr Manley said if the National Trust do not manage to obtain a CSHT Scheme he is concerned that the Court will have set a precedent for the future.

2026/14886 FUTURE AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEME (LANDSCAPE RECOVERY/COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME) RESUME

The minutes from the Landscape Recovery Scheme Working Group were circulated prior to the Court.

Mr Gammon has met with Paul Walton of the NPA and Andrew Parry-Norton of the NFCDA. Both are happy with the payment schedule suggested by the Foundation for Common Land regarding the Facilitator position.

Mr Gammon said the requested changes to the Facilitator Contract have been made and he is waiting to receive the amended copy. The position has been advertised and FfCL have received several expressions of interest.

Mr Stride said he and Miss Harrison attended the recent Future Forest Farming Group meeting. He is waiting to receive the minutes. In the meeting the CDA Chairman requested that the Verderers and the CDA work together on a dataset. The Official Verderer said that will be a job for the Facilitator.

2026/14887 UPLIFT IN HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME RESUME

Mr Gammon has drafted a budget request with Mrs Woodley, the VGS Administrator, for additional funding for the grazing element of the HLS.

The Official Verderer suggested Mr Gammon draft a letter to the HLS Board from the Court requesting the additional funding.

Action MG

Mrs Woodley will be asked to add the matter to the Agenda for the HLS Board Meeting next week.

Action Clerk

Mr Manley officially requested that all minutes are shared with the Court and that the Agenda and all documents are circulated to Members of the Court ahead of the HLS Board Meetings. The Official Verderer confirmed that he is happy for the Agenda and reports, excepting any confidential items, to be circulated.

Action Clerk

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2026/14888 BUDGET RESUME
OCTOBER

The Budget was noted.

2026/14889 DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2026 RESUME

The Draft Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026 were noted.

HEALTH & SAFETY

2026/14890 MAN KICKED BY PONY

DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said a man has been kicked by a pony at Roundhills Campsite. The pony kicked him in the stomach, and he fell and hit his head. He was taken to hospital but fortunately suffered no serious injuries. The pony has been permanently removed from the Forest.

STAFF MATTERS

2026/14891 STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESUME

The minutes were noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2026/14892 REQUEST TO DEPASTURE PIGS UNDER LICENCE DURING THE 2026 PANNAGE SEASON

DISCHARGE

A request to depasture sows from a practising commoner whose property benefits from the right of common of pasture over the Forest, but not the right of mast, was approved. The permission is for this year only. The Clerk will advise the commoner.

Action Clerk

2026/14893 ICE CREAM VAN AT MOYLES COURT

DISCHARGE

Mrs Tilbury raised concerns regarding the recent AI generated adverts on social media from Surrey Ices, portraying Rockford Sandpit as an amusement park.

The ice cream van is licenced by EHI Parish Council and the adverts have now been removed from the internet.

2026/14894 RAGWORT ON NATIONAL TRUST LAND

DISCHARGE

Mr Stride said there is a lot of ragwort on National Trust owned land at Rockford Pit and the surrounding areas. He has received complaints from both commoners and neighbouring landowners.

Action Clerk

2026/14895 IRON MAN EVENT FROM MOYLES COURT SCHOOL

DISCHARGE

Mr Stride said the marshals at a recent iron man event held at Moyles Court School had been very rude to local commoners. He said the organisers of the event had closed the road and local area without permission.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 13:24 hrs

16th September 2026.