



Common Donkeys	124	124
Common Pigs	128	143
Common Sheep	213	244
Total Common Stock	3144	2832
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	10082	9936
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	2803	2445
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	12885	12381
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	13511	13165

2019/10244 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT

RESUME

Mr Deakin advised the Court that some sheep have escaped onto the Forest several times due to poor fencing. The facts are being collated with a view to issuing a formal order advising the owner that she is liable to prosecution if she does not effectively prevent her sheep from entering the Forest.

2019/10245 MEETING WITH DEFRA TO DISCUSS THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW LIVESTOCK INFORMATION PROGRAMME (LIP) DISCHARGE

A useful meeting took place which was basically a fact-finding mission by Defra. They wished to learn how the system of depasturing stock onto the New Forest works. They were interested in the TB control plan and explained they are trying to develop a system that is workable on the Forest which is unique in common land systems.

Effectively, cattle movements will be reported prior to movement rather than afterwards. In time sheep, pigs, goats, alpacas and horses will also be covered by the new system which, in respect of cattle, will be rolled out next year.

Defra seemed impressed with the Forest's system of marking and recording animals which are turned out onto the common land. They are happy that there is a central place where information can be obtained should there be an outbreak of disease.

More information will be forthcoming. Meanwhile, Defra is invited to make contact via the Clerk if they have further questions or concerns.

2019/10246 IDENTIFICATION OF EQUINES – MICROCHIPPING

DISCHARGE

Mr Readhead said he has recently received a paper which seems to imply a slight relaxation of the rules regarding microchipping for foals. Difficulties still exist as respects older animals, especially any born after 2009. Mr Readhead said a further letter may need to be sent. He will report developments as and when information becomes available.

2019/10247 ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS

The Announcements and Decisions were approved.

**OPEN COURT – 10.00 a.m.**

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor  
Mr Paul Grugeon, Land Agent (New Forest)

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER**

**2019/10248 NATIONAL GRID'S PROPOSALS FOR UNDERGROUNDING THE HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES IN THE NORTH OF THE FOREST**

At our November court Peter Gear raised the issue of the possible undergrounding of the electricity cables which cross Hale Purlieu. Ms Gaby Lucas Chairman of Hale Parish Council also made a presentment on the same topic.

Mr Gear eloquently sought to persuade us to object to the proposed undergrounding now. The Court's position, however, remains as previously stated. It will make its decision if and when a formal and detailed application for consent is received.

In her presentment, Ms Lucas referred to concerns expressed by commoners about the effect of the proposed works on the welfare and safety of the livestock. This is, of course, a very important consideration. In that connection, some weeks prior to the November Court, representatives of the Verderers, including the Head Agister, together with representatives of the Commoners' Defence Association, attended a meeting with National Grid. In that meeting, National Grid sought our input into the arrangements for fencing the proposed works. I am happy to report that all our recommendations have been taken on board by National Grid. The Court will, of course, be vigilant to ensure that all those recommendations are followed through if the works go ahead.

Ms Lucas raised the possibility of tunnelling as opposed to trenching. I raised this possibility with National Grid and I understand that as trenching is the viable option, it should be pursued as the preferred option, as its cost would be significantly less than a tunnel and would therefore offer better value for money for electricity consumers in line with Visual Impact Project's fifth principle that each project should be economic and efficient.

I also understand that National Grid is in discussions with the RSPB in order to try to address the concerns that they have expressed.

**2019/10249 NEW FOREST ANIMAL EMERGENCY HOTLINE CARDS**

In our November Court, Ms Nicola Dennes asked for the wording on the emergency hotline cards to be altered, in order to strengthen the message that, in order to avoid unnecessary suffering, any driver involved in a road traffic accident with a Forest animal should report it immediately. We agree with this suggestion and members of the Animal Accident Reduction Group, which designed the card, are working on how the text can be amended for the next print run.

The cards are primarily produced to inform the public how to get in touch with the necessary authority if an animal is found to be sick or injured. However, consideration will also be given to the wording about not feeding the animals, and how this is best accommodated in the space available.

2019/10250 RAILWAY EMBANKMENT REINFORCEMENT WORKS AT NEW COPSE - FEBRUARY / MARCH 2019

The railway embankment at New Copse is subsiding which has resulted in the need for intervention in the form of sheet piling to prevent further slippage.

This work, which is likely to take place during February and March, will cause significant unavoidable disturbance. A temporary road will be constructed across the adjacent lawn. This will be removed and the ground reinstated at the end of the work.

Network Rail is working closely with the Verderers, Forestry Commission and Natural England to ensure that the Forest is protected as far as possible whilst the work is undertaken.

Any concerns are to be addressed to Network Rail. A contact number will be available on site.

### **ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT**

2019/10251 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR 2018

The Agisters attended 154 accidents in 2018. This compares with 134 accidents in 2017.

38 ponies, 12 cattle, 5 donkeys, 5 pigs and 3 sheep died.

11 ponies, 8 cattle, 6 donkeys and 1 pig were injured.

17 animals were uninjured and 48 animals reported to have been involved in accidents were not located.

41 accidents occurred in daylight, 17 at twilight and 96 in the dark.

41 motorists were known to be local.

1 accident involved a motorcycle and 1 involved a bicycle!

30 accidents were recorded as hit and runs as they were not reported by the driver involved.

The total number of commoners' animals killed and injured in 2018 was 89 compared with 78 the year before.

### **PRESENTMENTS**

2019/10252 HOME FARM ASHURST - HILL FORT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AND TEMPORARY FENCING

Presentment by Mr Brian Ingram – Commoner and former Head Agister

Mr Ingram referred to the recent archaeological work which has been carried out behind Home Farm. He said that the trench which has been excavated was correctly fenced off using heras panels but during the Christmas break, the panels fell over, leaving the dig site at risk of damage by livestock, and stock at risk of injury by accessing the recently dug ground.

Mr Ingram also complained at the damage that he felt had been caused by the archaeologists' vehicles and questioned why the works needed to be carried out when the weather was wet.

2019/10253 DAMAGE TO HEDGES AND POOR PONIES AT BANK

Presentment by Mr Jeremy Evans on behalf of himself and Kate Evans, residents of Bank

'We represent a group of Bank residents who are concerned about the destructive feeding activity of a group of ponies put out in the village shortly before Christmas 2018. We think there were a total of five, three piebald and two grey. During their time in the village we believe they behaved quite uncharacteristically, seeming not knowing how to forage. They ate by pulling frantically at a number of residents' holly hedges, leaving them at the end of the period – they were taken off the Forest on 13 January – almost threadbare and in a condition from which it will take a long time to recover. It was clear that the animals, branded F8, were unusually thin and were feeding throughout the night, exacerbated by being let out in a new environment at the most inclement time of the year.

We residents fully understand the fact that ponies will search every avenue to find adequate sources of food in the Winter months and that it is our responsibility to see that our properties are adequately protected. Nevertheless it was surely also reasonable to assume that the protection already in place was, indeed, adequate, since it had sufficed perfectly satisfactorily for many years, when Bank's regular group of ponies had always been in evidence night and day and had never caused even the slightest damage. Notwithstanding these facts, the residents have now, at considerable expense, shored up their holly hedges still further.

We are grateful to Mr? for removing the ponies in response to our concerns, but if he plans to put them back on the Forest in due course, may we respectfully suggest that it is at another venue, as otherwise the animals are more than likely to try to resume their feeding on hedges to which they have become accustomed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.'

2019/10254 VERGE PROTECTION WORKS

Presentment by Mrs Lyndsey Stride

'Thank you to the Verderers and Forestry Commission for their efforts to protect the verges of the New Forest Crown Lands. I know that dragons teeth have been a very positive management tool over many years around car parks in the New Forest.

Can you reassure us that plans and funds are in place for the long-term management of the dragons teeth and verges? And that where you displace parked cars you have considered and mitigated for the impact on the flow of traffic and identified alternative parking particularly when it is linked to housing or pubs? And that you are in consultation with the Highways Authorities and Emergency Services before you implement your plans?

Our experience in Emery Down shows that dragons teeth are both a benefit and a curse.

The dragon's teeth put in on the Bolderwood Road in 2018 have pushed parked cars onto the opposite soft verge causing significant damage.

The displaced traffic park alongside the new dragons teeth preventing large vehicles such as fire engines and tractors with trailers from accessing the road at all and forcing traffic to drive on the opposite side of the road towards a blind bend.

Other vehicles park between the brow of the hill at Northerwood Gatehouse, past the Church to the New Forest Inn. This makes it very dangerous to pass with a car let alone a truck and horsebox or on a bicycle. I recently witnessed a family group attempting to cycle up the hill while a Tesco delivery van drove straight towards them, having committed to the manoeuvre whilst unable to see round the bend. At times 20 or more cars are tightly parked with no passing places.

Along Mill Lane, dragons teeth and passing places initially protected the verge and for perhaps five years it seemed as though it was working. However, recent years have shown that dragons teeth are not the answer. Either for traffic management or verge protection.

The bramble has taken over resulting in a loss of grazing and the traditional verge flora and fauna.

Animals and pedestrians are pushed onto the single-track road as the scrub has encroached.

Many dragons teeth have been driven into and are now gone, resulting in alternative passing places being created and the verge destroyed. The hedges have been pushed back and destroyed to allow cars to pass one another on the single-track road.

It is very difficult to manage hedges beyond the dragons teeth and as a result they are in places encroaching onto the verge itself.

In summer we are unable to access the farm during peak hours and have to move animals and hay and silage early in the morning or late at night.

These are my own views. I ask again. Have you considered and mitigated for the long-term impact of the very significant number of roadside dragons teeth which you are installing as part of the HLS Scheme?

**The Head Agister closed the Court**

**IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest  
Mr Paul Grugeon, Land Agent (New Forest)

**CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS**

2019/10255 HOME FARM ASHURST - HILL FORT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AND TEMPORARY FENCING RESUME

The general view is that the damage has been caused by a combination of access to the archaeological dig but also the feeding of cattle in the area. The commoner has moved his feeding area to a drier place.

Securing Heras fencing on a slope is always difficult and generally it doesn't work particularly well on anything other than level ground.

If it is deemed necessary for the fencing to stay in place to allow proper reinstatement, the Verderers' view is that post and rail is required. The Court asked if it is possible to fence a slightly smaller area.

Some Silver Birch was cut as part of the work and the arisings have been left lying around. They should have been removed as they are now strewn about all over the site.

The Deputy Surveyor agreed to ask a member of staff to inspect the site and see what can be done. He will report back to the next Court.

Action  
DS

2019/10256 DAMAGE TO HEDGES AND POOR PONIES AT BANK DISCHARGE

Eating holly is a natural behaviour for ponies.

Animals eating hedges is not a reason to ask for their removal. The Clerk reported that the Agister for the area felt that whilst the ponies were certainly not fat, they were not thin enough to insist on their removal. However, following a conversation with the Clerk, the owner removed his animals voluntarily. The problem is therefore resolved.

2019/10257 VERGE PROTECTION WORKS RESUME

The works on the Bolderwood Road were not carried out under HLS. The dragons teeth were installed at the request of the local Beat Keeper.

The works on Mill Lane are on Manor Waste, not Crown Land. The traffic management carried out there was a Hampshire County Council initiative, undertaken some years ago. Action Clerk

The Deputy Surveyor said he feels ditching and dragons teeth generally work very well although they will inevitably create problems if displaced vehicles are parked elsewhere and not in proper car parks. In some areas of the Forest dragons teeth work extremely well and it is a shame to tar all such works with the same brush.

Future maintenance does always need consideration.

It was agreed that the Official Verderer, the Clerk and the HLS Verge Restoration Officer should discuss the questions raised by Mrs Stride. The Deputy Surveyor will assist in drafting a suitable response. Action OV/Clerk/JA

The Bolderwood Road dragons teeth will also be considered. Action DS

**DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS – ITEMS APPROVED AND TO BE RECORDED**

2019/10258 DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS RECORDED AT THIS COURT DISCHARGE

The following works were approved under the de-minimis system:-

DM0029 Cabling for broadband cabinets in Rhinefield Road, Brockenhurst

DM0030 Broadband cabinet opposite The Beeches, Burley Street

DM0031 Broadband cabinets in Beaulieu – opposite Three Dials, in Palace Lane and by the side of the Royal Oak PH, Hilltop

DM0032 Bournemouth Water Connection to Cove Copse Farm, Penn Common

Mr Grugeon thanked the Clerk for her assistance in dealing with such matters where they concern the Forestry Commission.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2019/10259 GATEWAY SIGNAGE

RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor, Mrs Alison Barnes (CE NFNPA) and the Official Verderer have discussed signage. The Forestry Commission's ladderboard signs will be changing to reflect the FCs new identity – Forestry England. The Deputy Surveyor said if the Court would like a facility for changing messages to be incorporated, it would be helpful if the Court can be specific about what it feels is required.

Action All

Mr Pasmore suggested something similar to the former large County Council signs which said 'NEW FOREST Animals on Road' should be considered. The wording must be minimal and to the point.

Mr Mills suggested a survey of existing signs should be undertaken and mapped. The Clerk reported that one of the commoners, Mrs Gilly Jones, has already undertaken a similar task and in response, Hampshire County Council is ensuring that the nationally understood running pony sign is displayed at all cattle grids. Roads entering the Forest need different signage, depending upon the level of traffic they carry.

Mr Mills also repeated his suggestion that moveable electronic signs would be useful. They could potentially be used for a variety of messages.

The OV stressed that this is an opportunity to achieve some suitable changes to signage. Specific suggestions as to what signs we would like to see should be provided to the Clerk. The Clerk and the OV will then produce a coherent list of what the Court considers is required.

2019/10260 THE POSSIBLE USE OF PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPOs) IN THE FOREST

RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor provided the following information:-

Introduced within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, PSPOs are "intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life by imposing conditions on the use of that area".

PSPOs may be issued by a Local Authority or a body designated by the Secretary of State in respect of land that is has the power to regulate by virtue of an enactment. For example, powers to make byelaws in relation to that land.

In introducing an Order, the issuing body has to be satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that the activities have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those living in the locality and that the activities are of a persistent and continuing nature.

Orders have to be published in accordance with regulations and consultations undertaken with Chief of Police, Police & Crime Commissioner and local community groups.

The validity of an Order can be challenged in Court but only by those affected.



Orders can only be made for 3 years, but can be extended if the issuing body is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that it is necessary to prevent further occurrence of the activity. There is no limit on the number of extensions.

A breach of an Order is a criminal offence and is punishable by a fine of up to £1,000. In addition, there is an option to serve a fixed penalty notice of up to £100.

It is possible that the Forestry Commission could be a designated body under the Act for the Crown Lands. The designation process by the Secretary of State needs further investigation.

We have to understand the "quality of life" test, how that can be proven and how to ensure it is robust in the case of any challenge.

We need to understand legally how to advertise the Order on site and how to ensure people know what the Order is and where it applies. Would signage at boundary entry points be sufficient?

We would also need to investigate what level of evidence is required to enforce the Order in the case of any breach and the administration processes of fixed penalty notices.

The Forestry Commission will feed this information into the working group investigating enforcement options.

Action DS

Mr Mills stated that the Police now have some drones at their disposal and there may be opportunities for the FC to test their use in monitoring illegal activities on the Forest, including at night and subject to any sensitivities around disturbance to horses and wildlife.

2019/10261 CONTROL OF DOGS – COMMERCIAL DOG WALKERS

RESUME

Mr Readhead reported that three vans belonging to commercial dog walkers turn up at regular intervals during the day in Moonhills Car Park and questioned again why they are permitted to use the Forest for their business when commercial activity on the Forest is not generally permitted. Mr Grugeon replied the difficulty is that the actual monetary transactions between the dog owners and the walkers do not take place on the Forest.

The Deputy Surveyor said the Forestry Commission is trying to tackle the issue in a different way. The New Forest National Park Authority met with some commercial dog walkers to raise awareness and agree a charter. The FC and the NPA are working together on this issue.

Action DS

Mr Readhead and Mr Pasmore felt that there should be a period when dogs are not allowed on the Forest off lead. Mr Mills felt there should be zones and times when different activities are permitted or restricted – i.e. times and areas where dogs are allowed off lead and times and areas where they are not. This would afford the same protection to the Forest as that which is enjoyed on other common land under the Crow Act.

2019/10262	<b>MEDIA TRAINING</b>	RESUME
	<p>The initial date for training clashes with a Staff Committee. The Official Verderer said he will therefore seek an alternative date. He suggested 6 to 8 members of the Court, made up of Verderers and Agisters should attend. The aim is to assist people to be more comfortable in front of a camera. The Deputy Surveyor said that some Forestry Commission staff have attended similar training.</p>	Action OV
2019/10263	<b>NEW FOREST GOLF CLUB (LYNDHURST) &amp; BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB (FOREST COURSE) USE OF PESTICIDES ON THE FOREST</b>	RESUME
	<p>Through Mr Greenwood's good offices, an agronomist has been identified who can advise the Golf Clubs and other sports clubs with grounds on the Open Forest on which pesticides etc., can legally be used. It is hoped the agronomist will be able to undertake a desktop study and provide an informed opinion. Dual use chemicals only will be permitted. i.e. those which are suitable for amenity and agricultural grassland.</p>	Action PG
2019/10264	<b>A31 CATTLE GRID AT CASTLE MALWOOD</b>	RESUME
	<p>As a result of our complaints about the cattle grid at Castle Malwood, Highways England is now querying its responsibilities as respects all the cattle grids on the approach roads and tracks to the A31. Mr Mike Graham at the Forestry Commission and the Clerk are providing such documentation as they have to hand in this respect. It is understood that the grid at Castle Malwood will, in any event, be rectified to ensure that it is stock proof.</p>	Action MG (FC) Clerk
2019/10265	<b>AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS</b>	RESUME
	<p>The Official Verderer reported he wrote to the Chief Constable and has received a prompt acknowledgement. Further correspondence is awaited.</p>	Action OV
2019/10266	<b>BRIDGE AT CUT WALK</b>	RESUME
	<p>The Deputy Surveyor thanked Mr Pasmore and Mr Richard Reeves for their help in providing historical information on the bridge. It is clear it has a lot of heritage value. Estimates for the repair are being obtained. The Forestry Commission is considering the long-term future of the bridge as respects use by vehicles. The Agisters and Keeper are keen that vehicular access is retained.</p>	Action DS
2019/10267	<b>VERDERERS' INCLOSURES RENT REVIEW</b>	RESUME
	<p>The Deputy Surveyor, Mr Grugeon and the Official Verderer are continuing to debate a way forward.</p>	Action DS/PG/OV
<b>SSSI RESTORATION WORKS</b>		
2019/10268	<b>REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE LIST</b>	RESUME
	<p>There are currently no issues on the SSSI Repair and Maintenance List</p>	

- 2019/10269 TREE ON PARKHILL LAWN RESUME
- The tree is obstructing the flow of water. The water level has risen and water is going around the tree. The Deputy Surveyor was asked to provide an update with a commitment to do the work as soon as possible. Action DS
- 2019/10270 DITCHEND BOTTOM DISCHARGE
- The stakes holding the heather bales are becoming exposed. Mrs Westerhoff will contact Mr Nick Wardlaw about getting the problem resolved. Action DW

#### **ACTION LIST**

- 2019/10271 ACTION LIST RESUME
- An updated Action List was provided.
- 2019/10272 ISLANDS THORNS DISCHARGE
- Mr Pasmore congratulated the Forestry Commission on a job well done as respects the repair of the bridge and the access to it. Unfortunately, however, it remains impassable to horse riders because there is so much fallen timber in the south part of Studley Wood. It was requested that the timber be cut up and removed. The Deputy Surveyor said he will forward this to Dave Morris. Action DS

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION**

- 2019/10273 VEHICLE DAMAGE ON IPLEY FIELDS DISCHARGE
- Vehicles have been driven round the barrier onto Ipley Field and damage has been caused to the grazing. The Forestry Commission was asked to undertake some car free ditching works. Action DS
- 2019/10274 HOLLY CUTTING/POLLARDING DISCHARGE
- A list of the areas due to be cut/pollarded was requested. The Deputy Surveyor said he will ask Dave Morris to supply the list. Action DS
- 2019/10275 LYNDHURST ROAD (ASHURST) STATION DISCHARGE
- The Clerk reported she has recently received a letter from Savills who are acting for the Crown Estate. It is understood that Network Rail has confirmed the strip of land adjacent to the railway land and the Station cottage are no longer used for railway purposes. It is hoped, therefore, that Savills will soon be able to negotiate the return of the land and property to the Crown and a deal similar to that which was achieved at the Ashurst Railway Cottages can be secured. As these things take time, the Clerk will report back as and when progress has been made. Action Clerk
- Meanwhile, Mr Greenwood reported that NWR is carrying out re-fencing works in the area.

2019/10276	ENCROACHMENT AT PICKET HILL	RESUME
	<p>There is a suspected encroachment behind a property on Picket Hill. The Clerk reported the office has notified the National Park Authority and the Commoners' Defence Association. Natural England will also be advised.</p> <p>Mr Deakin remarked that there is still a lack of a coherent process for dealing with encroachments that are not a matter for the Forestry Commission. The Official Verderer said it is work in progress.</p>	Action Clerk Action OV
2019/10277	FAWLEY FOOTPATH NO. 26	RESUME
	<p>In 2008, a member of the public made an application to the County Council for a Definitive Map Modification Order to upgrade Fawley Footpath No. 26 to a bridleway. Due to a backlog of claims this application was not dealt with at the time but is now under consideration.</p> <p>The application, which must be considered and decided on the basis of evidence alone, is based on historic user evidence, which the applicant believes demonstrates that the public have acquired a right of way over this route. If, on a balance of probability, the evidence shows that public highway rights do exist, and providing that they have not subsequently been extinguished by legal order, then the County Council is obliged to record those rights on the definitive map. The evidence submitted in support of the application and further documents unearthed as a result of the investigation can be viewed upon request.</p> <p>Mr Grugeon is seeking further details and in the meantime he and Mr Readhead will meet onsite.</p>	Action RD/PG
2019/10278	FOUNTAIN COURT, BRAMSHAW	DISCHARGE
	<p>The owner of Fountain Court has requested a land swap. Natural England is concerned that such an exchange will alter the boundary of the designated area.</p> <p><b>The Deputy Surveyor and the Forestry Commission's Land Agent left the meeting.</b></p>	
<b>MATTERS ARISING (NOT INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION)</b>		
2019/10279	VERDERERS' INCLOSURES	DISCHARGE
	<p>Concern was expressed regarding reinstatement of thrown open inclosures. The list of inclosures involved will be circulated.</p> <p>The Official Verderer has discussed the indexing of the compensation paid for the Verderers' Inclosures with the Forestry Commission. Indexing the sum payable for those areas still used for commercial forestry is a possibility. However, the future of those areas, including their reinstatement, requires further discussion.</p>	Action OV
2019/10280	NETWORK RAIL EMBANKMENT REINSTATEMENT AT NEW COPSE	RESUME
	<p>This is a massive job resulting from the unstable embankment. At present trains are running at restricted speeds and Network Rail is obliged to pay fines to the train companies because of the resultant delays.</p>	

A temporary road will have to be laid and a large works compound created. If the situation deteriorates Network Rail has the power to undertake emergency works but they are trying to work with everyone affected to reduce as far as possible the damage that will inevitably be caused to what is a rich habitat. Mr Pasmore suggested that photographs of the area before the work starts would be helpful. This was agreed and the Forestry Commission will be asked for that to be done.

Action  
PG

2019/10281 FILM NEW FOREST – MEETING

DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin attended the meeting recently. There are two aims.

1. Promote 'location filming' in the Forest in places such as Beaulieu Manor, Rhinefield, Limewood etc., not necessarily 'in' the Forest.
2. Filming 'the Forest'. It is about this that Mr Deakin expressed concerns.

There is a conflict between educating people and advertising the area and encouraging them to visit. There are also potential problems resulting from filming activities on private land which are not permitted in the Forest. A recent example was some advertising which included motorbikes crossing open ground which was not 'Forest' but looked liked it. People may believe that such activities are permitted on the Open Forest when clearly they are not.

Mr Deakin said that those present at the meeting were quite receptive when he expressed his concerns and reservations. As a result he will endeavour to attend their next meeting.

The New Forest area is set to benefit to the tune of £0.5M annually.

**HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME**

2019/10282 THE FUTURE OF THE HLS SCHEME

DISCHARGE

It is understood there is a limited rollover of one year for schemes expiring in 2019. It is believed a decision regarding schemes which are due to finish in 2020 will be made by August this year.

The possibility of securing Countryside Stewardship for the Forest is under consideration but such schemes require a massive amount of work and may not be appropriate for the Forest.

2019/10283 VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME

DISCHARGE

The VGS Administrator is doing her best to obtain the latest payment from the RPA. Commoners on the Added Areas have been paid.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS**

2019/10284 FOREST FARMING GROUP

DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer provided a brief report on the last meeting of the FFG.

2019/10285	NEW FOREST PONY BREEDING & CATTLE SOCIETY MEETING	DISCHARGE
	Miss Macnair expressed her dissatisfaction with the Pony Elite Scheme.	
<b>FINANCIAL MATTERS</b>		
2019/10286	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 2018	DISCHARGE
	The Financial Statement was noted.	
<b>STAFF MATTERS / HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</b>		
2019/10287	AGISTERS' HORSE EXPENSES	RESUME
	Nothing further has been heard from HMRC. Mr Deakin has proposed a method for the Agisters to claim expenses and this will be explored in more detail.	Action OV/RD
2019/10288	BIO-SECURITY	DISCHARGE
	The Staff Committee has agreed an improvement in bio-security is required. Supplies of disinfectant will be obtained in order for the Agisters to disinfect their boots and vehicles between visits to various commoners' holdings.	Action Staff Committee
2019/10289	DRIFT REVIEW	DISCHARGE
	The Drift Review will be on Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2019.	
<b>TRAINING</b>		
2019/10290	FIRST AID	DISCHARGE
	First Aid refresher courses have been arranged to run over two days, one in January and the other in February.	
<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>		
2019/10291	AGRICULTURAL BILL	DISCHARGE
	This Bill is coming up for its 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading. The National Park Authority wishes to make sure it includes a provision for financial support on the grounds of landscape. The Court agreed and the Official Verderer will write to the local MPs asking them to support an appropriate amendment.	Action OV
2019/10292	NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY – PARTNERSHIP PLAN	DISCHARGE
	Mrs Westerhoff agreed to attend the next meeting which is on Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2019.	Action DW
2019/10293	NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK LEADERSHIP PLAN	DISCHARGE
	Mr Mills will consult his diary but hopes to be able to attend the Leadership Group Meeting on Wednesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 2.00 p.m. in the Library. The Official Verderer apologised that he is unable to attend this meeting but he said he will attend future meetings.	Action HM

2019/10294 WINDBLOWN TREES

RESUME

Mr Deakin expressed the Staff Committee's frustration at the Forestry Commission's lack of action regarding windblown trees. Several have been on the list for action for years. Mr Readhead said that in Penerley Wood there are trees which are potentially dangerous to stock and which need the tops cut out. Various excuses for not undertaking the work have been given.

Members of the Court generally agreed that the amount of timber that is now left lying on the Forest is a disgrace. Rides are usually cleared, one wood at a time, but large individual trees are being ignored.

Mrs Westerhoff remarked that there is a protocol, agreed with Natural England, which says that if fallen trees are identified as likely to cause a problem, they can be removed.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 13:12 hrs

*Juanne S*  
*13/2/2019*