

**MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 9.30 a.m. in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.**

PRESENT:	Lord Manners	Official Verderer
	Mr R Deakin	Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman
	Mr A B Dowsett	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
	Mr J Greenwood	Elected Verderer
	Miss D Macnair MBE	Senior Elected Verderer
	Mr R Manley	DEFRA Appointed Verderer
	Mr A H Pasmore	Elected Verderer
	Mr D Readhead	Elected Verderer
	Mrs D Westerhoff	Natural England Appointed Verderer
APOLOGIES:	Cllr Edward Heron	National Park Appointed Verderer
IN ATTENDANCE:	Miss S Westwood	Clerk to the Verderers
	Mr J R Gerrelli	Head Agister

**IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

- 2019/10598 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME
- The Minutes of Court held on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were approved and signed.
- 2019/10599 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME  
October  
2019
- Declarations of interest can be found on the Verderers' website – [www.verderers.org.uk](http://www.verderers.org.uk). The Declarations of Interest will be reviewed in October 2019.
- 2019/10600 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME
- The Head Agister reported that the drifts are going fairly well. The majority of the ponies look really well but mares with foals are quite easy to pick out and some are not looking as well as they could. Their foals, however, are looking very good. The dry weather is now having an impact on the Forest with little grass growth. At the moment, there is no sign of a late summer / early autumn flush of grass and some of the ditches and streams have dried up.
- The pigs are starting to go out. There are a lot of acorns, but so far they are coming down steadily, which is a blessing.
- There are a lot of cattle on the Forest still and many are looking well. The cattle are feeding in the bogs.
- The situation is not too bad but the Forest is desperate for some rain.
- 2019/10601 REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR RESUME

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Forest Ponies	4979	4918
Forest Cattle	5243	4771
Forest Donkeys	132	124
Forest Pigs	15	183
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	10369	9996

Common Ponies	758	761
Common Cattle	1810	1660
Common Donkeys	136	124
Common Pigs	79	76
Common Sheep	212	213
Total Common Stock	2995	2834
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	10354	9813
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	2704	2545
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	13058	12358
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	13364	12830

2019/10602 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT DISCHARGE

The commoner who had not paid her marking fees has now paid. No further breaches of the byelaws have been identified.

2019/10603 ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS RESUME

The Announcements and Decisions were approved.

2019/10604 NEW FOREST SHOW DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer thanked the office staff, saying they worked very hard to design and organise the Show stand. Suggestions for next year's stand will be very welcome. A wash-up meeting is being organised by the Show Society which the Official Verderer and the Clerk's Assistant, Miss Justine Bayley, will attend. The Clerk asked the Court to agree a budget for the 2020 show stand as soon as possible.

2019/10605 BOVINE TB DISCHARGE

The TB Plan for the New Forest has been updated and will be circulated soon. There are several changes. Firstly, the period during which Forest cattle must have their TB test has been extended and now runs from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 28<sup>th</sup> February. Secondly, there is a change to the management of animals which return an inconclusive TB test result, Thirdly, commoners who purchase animals from market are reminded that they must always isolate them for 60 days before allowing them to join the Forest herd. This applies even if they were Forest cattle being sold by a practising commoner. Animals traded direct between commoners do not require isolating, providing they adhere to the TB Plan.

2019/10606 HIT & RUN REWARD SCHEME RESUME

The purpose of the scheme is to encourage people to report hit and run accidents. In the case currently under discussion, the driver may not be sent to Court. The Clerk will find out the exact position. The Court confirmed it is keen to make a proportional payment to the witness in respect of this incident. Having obtained the details from the Police, the Clerk will seek the views of the Court's partners in the Hit & Run Reward Scheme, namely the New Forest Commoners' Defence Association and the New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society.

Action Clerk

**OPEN COURT – 10.00 a.m.**

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

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER**

2019/10607 WINDBLOWN/FALLEN APPLES

There is a glut of apples and other fruits this year. Several loads have been fly tipped already this year including one beside the B3078 which is the worst road in the Forest for animal accidents. The Speed Watch volunteers found those apples and removed them.

Depositing fruit or anything else by the roadside that may be eaten by Forest animals is extremely dangerous and inconsiderate. It encourages the animals to the roadside and puts them at greater risk of being involved in road traffic accidents.

Depositing anything anywhere, for the Forest animals to eat creates a potential risk. Consuming too many apples may give a pony or donkey fatal colic. It also leads to aggression and injury as animals compete for the food.

2019/10608 PANNAGE

The Pannage Season has now commenced. Please may we remind property owners and occupiers that it is their responsibility to ensure their boundaries are pig proof.

2019/10609 NEW FOREST SHOW

Thank you to all of those who helped with our stand at the New Forest Show.

The photo Mosaic, which is on display here in the Hall this morning, was a new departure for us and a great success.

**ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT**

2019/10610 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR JULY & AUGUST 2019

The Agisters attended 31 accidents in July and August this year. This compares with 28 in the same period last year.

3 ponies, 4 cattle and 2 donkeys were injured and had to be destroyed. 2 ponies, 1 pig, 3 cattle and 3 donkeys suffered non-fatal injuries.

17 accidents occurred in daylight, and 14 in the dark.

9 drivers failed to report having been involved in an accident with a commoner's animal.

The total killed and injured so far in 2019 is 58 compared with 49 in the same period last year.

## PRESENTMENTS

### 2019/10611 TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST ON HYDE COMMON

Presentment by Mr James Young on behalf of the New Forest Commoners' Defence Association

'My presentment this morning is about a serious and particularly worrying encroachment at Hyde Common.

Due to the loss of a site on private land, a mobile telephone mast, generator and steel enclosure has been placed on the SSSI grazing land at Hyde Common. It appears to the CDA that the mere assertion by the phone operator that the mast is needed for the emergency services has meant that the landowner Hampshire County Council and the Verderers felt compelled to give their consent. We have seen no evidence to suggest that the assertion of the emergency service needs has been verified.

Not only has there been no negotiation with the CDA on the loss of commoners' grazing rights, but it now appears that the company, EE, has gone ahead without the required consent from Natural England. We are, frankly, amazed that Natural England appears to have so far failed to pass any public comment on this blatant abuse of the New Forest.

We regard this as a matter of very great concern for the Forest. Not only does it show complete disregard for grazing rights and the SSSI, but it also sets a very dangerous precedent that phone companies will face no real resistance in our protected landscape. At a time when the Government is set to authorise larger masts across the country and to roll out 5G systems with their need for more such masts, we really cannot afford to be so compliant.'

### 2019/10612 REPAIR OF THE TRACK FROM CRAB HAT TO THE NOADS

Presentment by Mr Brian Ingram, Commoner

Mr Ingram thanked the Forestry Commission for reinstating the track. He said the rare plants had presumably disappeared!

### 2019/10613 DISTURBANCE TO STOCK AT THE POND AT IBSLEY

Presentment by Mrs Fiona Gover

'My name is Fiona Gover and I live on Ibsley Common, an area that has been the scene of untypical, anti-social animal behaviour in the past couple of years.

Recently I rode across Ibsley Common to Rockford Common. I passed a group of about 30 animals, cows and ponies, shading by the waterhole in the old gravel pit on Ibsley (for the last two summers this has become a habitual shading spot for Forest stock).

As I rode back across Ibsley at 11.45am, I could see a small group of dexter cows and calves running down from Whitefield plantation in the direction of the gravel pit pond (the only water available on this Common). Suddenly I heard a huge commotion, clapping and shouting - sufficient to startle my riding pony. When I came passed the gorse that was obscuring my view of the gravel pit pond, I saw below me 6+ adults lined up, clapping and actively preventing the cows from accessing the pond. I shouted (since I was at a distance) telling them to stop and allow the cows to drink. I rode down to them and repeated my request also saying that I would remain there until the cows had drunk.

A man called Chris came over and said that they only needed 20 minutes and that the cows could wait "We have done it before". I explained that the cows had priority and that the lead cow had brought her herd down to drink. He countered that the children had already released their plastic boats on to the water and there was no way of retrieving them so the cows would have to wait! I pointed out that he was wearing waders. There was further discussion during which Chris said that they taught the children to respect the Forest and

livestock and that the Common was there to be shared by everyone. I repeated that I would remain until the cows had drunk. While we were talking the cows and calves filed down for a drink and Chris reluctantly waded in and collected up the small boats. He then took his waders off and put them away in a plastic carrier bag and the whole group moved off. There were approximately 12 adults wearing yellow t-shirts and about 30 children. The children were lined up on the opposite side of the pond and at no time did the cows go near them or pose any threat to them. The cows having drunk moved off and I rode home.

The behaviour of this group towards the Forest livestock was totally unacceptable. Could be described as livestock worrying or animal abuse (actively preventing access to water, one of the 5 freedoms). By their own admission it has happened before. Chris said "we have done it before, they can wait 20 minutes, they usually go and stand and wait until we have finished". He had also come prepared with waders in a carrier bag indicating it was a regular occurrence.

The last two summers have been hot and dry - blocking access to water and driving animals away is guaranteed to provoke a hostile response at some point. Doubtless this could be a major contributory factor in the unusual behaviour displayed by cattle on Ibsley in the last 2 years which has resulted in two separate herds being removed and sent to slaughter.

Chris was oblivious to the fact that they had also driven the other group of animals off shade. He thought they were stood waiting to drink - he had no comprehension that left undisturbed they would have stood quietly by the pond all day.

It is fundamental to the Forest that animals have right of way. Rather than noisily driving the animals away from their waterhole a better lesson for the children would have been - stand back children, give the cows room and respect, when they have had their drink we can continue playing.

The reason why I am here today is because in spite of every effort, the National Trust has been unable to engage with this user group. And clearly, all the recent publicity surrounding animal attacks and the huge campaign to persuade people 'to keep their distance' has fallen well below the radar of this local, business, user group.

Our methods of communicating information are just not working. Simply banning animals is not going to remedy this situation, only postpone and possibly, exacerbate the problem. Perhaps it is time to return to signage (and plenty of it) in order to save the Forest.

Thank you for listening.'

**The Head Agister closed the Court**

#### **IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

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

#### **CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS**

2019/10614 TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST ON HYDE COMMON, APPLICATION FOR A TELECOMMUNICATION MAST TO BE ERECTED IN STOCKLEY INCLOSURE AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS RESUME

The Court did not give consent for the mast on Hyde Common and in fact objected strongly directly to Waldon Telecom Ltd. Unfortunately, the company ignored the objection. The mast is supposed to be an interim measure until a permanent site, off common land can be identified.

Different rules apply to Forestry England Inclosures and Mr Grugeon said that following the application to site a mast in Stockley Inclosure, FE's solicitors have been asked to check the position as respects the Telecoms Code, Crown Land and protected landscapes. The Clerk was asked to check the position regarding the planning application which has been submitted to the National Park Authority, as it was suggested it may have been withdrawn.

Action Clerk

As respects the consultation on proposed changes to Permitted Development Rights, Mrs Westerhoff and Mr Pasmore will consider the documents. The Clerk will email the link. Mrs Westerhoff said she will try to find out the latest information from the Department of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) Telecoms Branch.

Action  
DW/AHP  
Clerk  
DW

Mr Grugeon asked the Court to consider its position regarding new masts if they are well hidden in inclosures. He said that mobile communication is considered by many to be an essential part of life and more applications are expected. As an initial response, the Court felt that it may be possible to agree to well-designed masts in carefully selected locations. Mr Greenwood said he will ask for the subject to be added to the agenda of the Defra led National Common Land Stakeholder Group meeting which is to take place next Thursday, 3rd October, to try to find out if Defra has a policy on telecom masts on SSSIs.

Action  
AHP/Clerk

Mr Pasmore remarked that Dartmoor is under the same pressure and he has some information which he will email to the Clerk for circulation.

Action  
AHP

2019/10615 DISTURBANCE TO STOCK AT THE POND AT IBSLEY

RESUME

Upon learning of this incident from Mrs Gover, the Clerk wrote to Blunts Barn Activity Centre saying their behaviour is considered to be completely unacceptable. Disappointingly, no response has been received from the Centre.

Mr Lee Hulin, the National Trust's Lead Ranger, is understood to have also tried to get in touch with Blunts Barn but it is not known whether he has been successful. Mr Manley said he will investigate. A check will also be made to see whether the National Trust's byelaws are at all relevant in a situation such as this.

**DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS – ITEMS RECORDED AT THIS COURT**

2019/10616 DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS

DISCHARGE

The Clerk reported the following de-minimis consents had been granted:-

- DM0060 BT Openreach – 3m duct to Harwood Bentley Garage, Bramshaw
- DM0061 BT Openreach – FTTP outside Chestnut Cottage, Beaulieu
- DM0062 BT Openreach – FTTP o/s Windwhistle, Buddle Hill, Hyde
- DM0063 BT Openreach – FTTP o/s Gunville Cott, Buddle Hill, Hyde
- DM0064 BT Openreach – clear ducts Gorley Road, Ellingham Drive, Ellingham Drive – permission also given for minor excavation providing approved method used
- DM0065 BT Openreach – New duct from Brook from the Bell to the Village Store

DM0066 BT Openreach – East End 3 spine – new ducts (cabinet already approved)

DM0067 Stags Barn, Kings Copse – New water connection (private application)

2019/10617 APPLICATION FEE FOR VERDERERS' CONSENT

DISCHARGE

A significant amount of time is incurred in the office, dealing with requests for consent in respect of utility infrastructure, be that broadband cabinets, fibre to the premises, water and gas pipes and electricity connections. Verderers' consent is required for most and whilst Forestry England is able to claim its costs via the wayleave system, the Court is not. Where a development cannot take place without Verderers' consent (in accordance with the New Forest Acts) it is felt that an administration fee of £75 should be requested, payable in advance and whether or not the development is consented.

Action  
OV/Clerk

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

2019/10618 DRAGONS TEETH OUTSIDE NORTH LODGE, IPLEY & CONCRETE BLOCKS ALONG A TRACK AT HILL TOP DISCHARGE

A wasps' nest was encountered during the process of removing the dragons teeth. Work was therefore suspended, but will be resumed as soon as it is safe to do so.

Removal of the concrete blocks is also underway. Car free defences may be needed instead.

2019/10619 NEW FOREST CROWN FREEHOLD PROPERTIES

DISCHARGE

The first meeting of what has been called the 'Illingworth Group', has met to discuss the issues surrounding tenants and levels of rent for Forestry England properties in the New Forest. At the meeting, the Deputy Surveyor explained the tenant selection process.

The Group consists of representatives from the CDA and Forestry England with Mr Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre, the Chairman of the New Forest National Park Authority and former Official Verderer, in the chair. The Official Verderer and Cllr Edward Heron represent the Court. This is work in progress and the subject will be brought back to the Court when there is something to report.

2019/10620 VEGETATION SURVEY

RESUME

A paper has been circulated setting out the proposed methodology.

Leanne Sargeant will be invited to attend the next Court Committee to give a presentation on the survey. Members of the Court are requested to email comments or questions to the Clerk who will forward them to Leanne in good time for her to consider them prior to her attending the Committee.

Action All

Mr Readhead said that Southampton University undertook a survey some 30 years ago and he will try to locate a copy.

Action DR

2019/10621	CAMPSITE ISSUES	RESUME
	<p>A copy of the Campsite Survey has still to be tracked down. The Clerk apologised that she has not had time to locate it.</p> <p>The Denny Campsite Warden's Office problem needs to be resolved.</p>	<p>Action Clerk</p> <p>Action PG</p>
2019/10622	EAST BOLDRE CAR FREE DEFENCES AND THE SCHOOL BUS	DISCHARGE
	<p>Parking for the school bus to enable the children to access it safely has been achieved by moving back the barrier on the Village Hall car park. This allows the bus to reverse into the bell mouth and off the road.</p> <p>Due to vehicles parking outside the village shop, visibility for motorists exiting Matthews Lane has been compromised. It has been suggested a mirror on an existing structure might help and would avoid any additional street furniture. This solution is acceptable to the Court. However, it has been suggested that the Parish Council should contact HCC Highways to ask it to consider the issue and identify a potential solution.</p> <p>All in all, the works intended to eliminate verge parking in East Boldre have succeeded. It is considered to be a good scheme which has been broadly accepted by the residents.</p>	
2019/10623	PIPERS WAIT – WATER LEAK	RESUME
	<p>Mrs Westerhoff said Natural England is not keen on the soil from the nearby spoil heap, which is now well colonised by vegetation, to be used to reinstate the area which was excavated by the water company. The Court, however, is not satisfied with the reinstatement and asked for a site meeting with the Water Company and Natural England.</p>	<p>Action PG</p>
2019/10624	FORESTRY ENGLAND LEASE/LICENCES FOR GOLF CLUBS, CAMPSITES ETC.	DISCHARGE
	<p>Mr Greenwood has received the documents he requested from Mr Grugeon.</p> <p>Mr Grugeon advised the Court that Burley Golf Club's licence is due for renewal next year and he asked for discussions to be opened. Heads of Terms will be provided for the Court to consider. The matter will be discharged from the minutes for the time being and brought back in due course.</p>	<p>Action PG</p>
2019/10625	BRAMSHAW FOREST GOLF COURSE	DISCHARGE
	<p>Unfortunately, it appears the golf club is not adhering entirely to the conditions of its licence and management agreement. There is a lot of fencing on the course, over and above that which is agreed and the Court asked that the excess fencing be removed as a matter of urgency. In addition, golf club staff have been seen driving around the barrier in the car park and that is not acceptable, not least because of the example it sets to the public. There have been a lot of pluses in the way that the club has managed the course in recent years, but the minuses now need to be resolved. Mr Grugeon will take the necessary action to ensure the club does adhere to the conditions in its licence.</p>	<p>Action PG</p>



## SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2019/10626 REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE LIST RESUME

An updated SSSI Repair and Maintenance List was circulated.

2019/10627 DEBRIS DAM IN THE AVON WATER DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin reported a significant debris dam on the Holmsley side of Wootton Stream between the Sawmills and the bridge. It is all sawn timber which has been thrown in. It is not a natural dam and it is huge. It needs clearing. Action PG

2019/10628 QUEEN'S MEADOW DISCHARGE

An update on the blockage in the channel in Queen's Meadow is requested from Forestry England. This first appeared on the SSSI Repair and Maintenance List on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

## ENCROACHMENTS INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2019/10629 ENCROACHMENTS LIST RESUME

The list of current encroachments was circulated. Action DS

The CDA Encroachments Committee has discussed an encroachment at Kings Copse Road where brick rubble and hoggin are being dumped in the ditch to create further parking. The ditch belongs to the property but is subject to common rights and is part of the New Forest SSSI.

The CDA, together with New Forest Land Advice, is taking forward the encroachment after Forestry England's Verge Restoration Officer spoke to the resident to try to resolve the parking issue. Regrettably, her polite approach was met with an abusive response. The occupier of the property is a commoner who is feeding his cattle inside his property and therefore has nowhere on the property to park his vehicle. Attempts will be made to arrange a meeting.

## ACTION LIST

2019/10630 ACTION LIST RESUME

The Action List was circulated.

Mr Pasmore commented that he feels a more comprehensive scheme is required in the area around the Royal Oak Public House at Fritham, if the problem of verge parking further down the road is to be avoided.

New anti-verge parking leaflets will soon be ready for use by Forestry England Staff.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2019/10631 INCLOSURE RESTORATION

RESUME

An update is requested. Dur Hill now has fairly extensive scrub on the area which was clear felled several years ago. Turf Hill still requires further restoration.

The Official Verderer said that there is a programme for works to be carried out this winter which is funded by the HLS and arranged by Mr Nick Wardlaw, the HLS Contract Manager.

A list of priorities needs to be drawn up. Plans were previously provided to members of the Court by Forestry England and work started to identify priority areas, but has stalled.

Action All

In view of the recent conflicts between stock and members of the public, it is becoming apparent that throwing open inclosures may not always be sensible. Some may need to be kept fenced in order to provide safe areas for the public to walk and exercise their dogs. The Official Verderer said he hopes this can be explored in combination with the review of car parks which is to take place under the Recreation Management Strategy.

2019/10632 CONTROL OF RECREATION - HATCHET POND & WOOTTON BRIDGE

RESUME

At the recent bank holiday weekend there were 3 boats on Hatchet pond, 3 swimmers in the pond and numerous people paddling. There are clear signs saying No Boating and No Swimming. Mr Deakin said that he knows of two drownings at Hatchet Pond during his lifetime. In addition, there were cars parked all over the verges in the vicinity of the ice cream van.

The Clerk reported that numerous cars were parked on the grazing at Wootton Bridge. The car free defences are virtually non-existent and need reinforcing.

The Court is extremely concerned at the lack of policing/enforcement of Forestry England's byelaws.

2019/10633 DUR HILL

DISCHARGE

Miss Macnair reported that bracken has grown over the barbed wire fence which is the boundary between Bisterne Common and the Forest at the back of Dur Hill. The wire cannot be seen and it is not obvious that there is a concealed boundary fence. Miss Macnair considers this is dangerous. As an OFAC meeting is due to be held shortly, it was suggested the concern could be raised there.

Mr Grugeon left the meeting.

## OTHER MATTERS ARISING

2019/10634 ENCROACHMENT AT PICKET HILL

RESUME  
November

Natural England has written to the owner of the property at Picket Hill but unfortunately there is evidence that feeding of stock is continuing as well as the dumping of what appears to be manure and stable waste. Mrs Westerhoff will pass on some photographs which shows a large area devoid of vegetation.

Action DW

2019/10635	LAND & PROPERTY AT LYNDHURST ROAD (ASHURST) RAILWAY STATION	RESUME November
	The Clerk reported that further information is awaited from the Crown Estate.	
2019/10636	MAP OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES & PROPOSALS	RESUME Action OV
	The Official Verderer has asked the Chairman of the New Forest National Park Authority for a copy of these documents.	
	The map is believed to have been drawn up some years ago. The subject is on the Agenda for the next RMS meeting.	
2019/10637	CONFLICTS BETWEEN STOCK & PEOPLE & HSE REPORTING	DISCHARGE
	As and when it is considered necessary, Forestry England is reporting incidents involving stock and people to the Health & Safety Executive, HSE, under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, otherwise known as RIDDOR. The HSE has confirmed that the Verderers are not expected to make such reports as they do not own the stock or the land.	
	Serious incidents occurring on a drift or at any other time when the Verderers or their staff are engaged in stock management, will be subject to the formal RIDDOR reporting system.	
2019/10638	VERDERERS' TWITTER PAGE & SOCIAL MEDIA	DISCHARGE Action RD Action OV
	The temporary Twitter page, set up for the photo mosaic wall, which appeared on the Verderers' New Forest Show Stand, remains up and running. The Clerk asked for permission to retain the page to use for making important announcements, such as drift dates, changes to drift dates or to appeal for information in the case of hit and run road traffic incidents with commoners' stock. It may also be useful for animal health announcements. At no time will the page be used for 'discussion' or stating views on any subject. The Court was in broad agreement with this suggested use and the Clerk was given permission to continue using it in this way for the time being.	
	The Court took the opportunity to remind staff not to use social media to discuss work related matters.	
	The Court needs to decide its future social media policy.	
<b>HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME &amp; VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME</b>		
2019/10639	THE FUTURE OF THE HLS	RESUME
	The future of the HLS remains uncertain although it is believed a formal announcement may be expected shortly.	

## MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

- 2019/10640 NEW FOREST WATER CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP AND WORKING GROUPS DISCHARGE
- Mrs Westerhoff will circulate a summary of recent meetings. Action DW
- 2019/10641 NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL DISCHARGE
- Miss Macnair reported that there was a discussion at the recent Panel meeting concerning ever increasing visitor numbers. At the meeting, it was suggested the New Forest should cost more to visit than other close by Parks which provide recreational opportunities.
- 2019/10642 NETWORK RAIL BRIDGE MAINTENANCE – CROOK HILL, LOVELY HILL & PIGNAL HILL DISCHARGE
- Mr Deakin reported that it is proposed to undertake some maintenance work on the above three railway bridges which traverse the main line from London to Bournemouth. It is mainly the bridge parapets and decks which are in need of repair. Mr Deakin said there is nothing significant in the proposed works.
- 2019/10643 MATLEY CATTLE MOVEMENTS / FEEDING AREAS DISCHARGE
- Mr Deakin reported he recently attended a site meeting concerning damage caused by cattle in the vicinity of Matley, which it has been suggested may be due to the location of an approved feeding area. Investigations indicate, however, that in fact the damage is not the result of the location of the feeding area but simply the daily regular and long-standing movement of cattle to Beaulieu Road, Culverley and back to Ashurst. Re siting a feeding area is however, being proposed. The new area would be on bracken ground and there is good access via an existing track. Natural England was at the meeting and agreed the new area. Forestry England is being consulted. Action RD
- 2019/10644 NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM DISCHARGE
- Mr Manley is hoping to attend the December meeting, He is, however, required to complete an application form. This he is doing. Mr Manley will attend in a personal capacity in accordance with the rules of the Forum but will of course bring back anything of interest to the Court.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 2019/10645 FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME
- The Financial Statement was noted.

## STAFF MATTERS / HEALTH & SAFETY / TRAINING

- 2019/10646 REMUNERATION COMMITTEE DISCHARGE
- There is a need to replace Mr Mills on the Remuneration Committee. Mr Manley offered and was accepted. The Official Verderer will suggest some dates for the next meeting. Action OV

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

2019/10647 COURT DATES FOR 2020

DISCHARGE

The following Court Dates were agreed:-

All on the third Wednesday of the month

15 <sup>th</sup> January	20 <sup>th</sup> May	16 <sup>th</sup> September
19 <sup>th</sup> February	17 <sup>th</sup> June	21 <sup>st</sup> October
18 <sup>th</sup> March	15 <sup>th</sup> July	18 <sup>th</sup> November
15 <sup>th</sup> April	August – no Court	16 <sup>th</sup> December (committee only)

2019/10648 WELFARE TOUR OF THE FOREST

RESUME  
December

The next Welfare Tour will be held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019

2019/10649 NEW FOREST HERITAGE CENTRE FORUM

RESUME

This forum will meet twice a year to assist with the process of rebranding and redevelopment of the Heritage Centre, including the retail area, collections storage, library and galleries together with the delivery of an overarching Master Plan. The forum is intended to be a means of sharing updates on the progress and also to elicit thought and discussions about what can be done, how it can be done and how the Heritage Centre can support the efforts of the Verderers and others.

The Court has been invited to participate in these discussion forums. Mr Pasmore agreed to attend as the Court's representative.

Action AHP

2019/10650 VERDERERS' ATTENDANCE AT REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE & SERVICE

DISCHARGE

The Court feels that sadly it cannot send a representative to the Lyndhurst Parade and Service this year. The Clerk was asked to respond to the kind invitation which has been received. A number of Verderers attend services local to them.

Action Clerk

2019/10651 NEW FOREST COMMONERS' DEFENCE ASSOCIATION MEETING

DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin reported on a recent meeting where a number of matters were discussed, including the number of foals born on the Forest and whether sufficient stallions are turned out. Some commoners want more as they are looking for filly foals to replace ageing mares.

Crown Freehold properties are under discussion. It is noted that the cottages at Anderwood, currently occupied by a commoner and an Agister/commoner, are not formally designated for commoner occupation only. It is further understood they are not protected by planning rules. Given that they were built as replacement dwellings for Holmsley Lodge and Shrike Cottage, which were sold by the Crown, it is considered essential that the Anderwood cottages are only ever made available to practising commoners.

The Official Verderer confirmed there is a Housing Review Group which is chaired by the current National Park Chairman and former Official Verderer Mr Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre. Members of the Group are Mr Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor and Ms Mari Sibley, Head of Estates at Forest Enterprise,

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.

the Official Verderer, Cllr Edward Heron, NFNPA Appointed Verderer, Mr Tony Hockley, CDA Chairman and Mr Sam Dovey also from the CDA. Advisors are Mr Steve Avery, Head of NPA Planning and Mr Tim Davis, Housing, Development and Strategy Manager at NFDC. The meeting's facilitator is Mrs Kate Russell from the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers (CAAV).

2019/10652 BLACKFIELD CATTLE GRID GATE & HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS – FENCING REPAIRS

RESUME  
November

Mr Readhead reported that this gate is hanging off and needs urgent repair. It has been reported via the office and Mr Readhead has also contacted HCC about the problem. Mr Readhead eventually met with the local Highways Engineer and upon inspection, the gate fell over. It has now been added to HCC's priority list. The Court was extremely concerned that it is taking HCC so long to repair the gate, which in its present condition, could easily allow Forest stock to access roads outside the Forest where motorists do not expect to encounter them. A very nasty accident could result.

It was agreed that the Official Verderer, Mr Deakin and the Clerk should meet with HCC. An offer to meet has been received by HCC following Cllr Heron's earlier intervention and therefore efforts will be made to secure a meeting as soon as possible.

Action  
EH/Clerk

2019/10653 ALPACAS

DISCHARGE

The Clerk advised the Court that she has received a report concerning Alpacas being taken for walks on the Forest and she asked what the position is regarding these animals.

It is believed a lot of Alpaca owners do vaccinate against TB and other diseases which might be passed onto cattle.

The Court's view, however, is that Alpacas should not be on the Forest. The Clerk is currently trying to find out who is walking the Alpacas as without being able to identify them, nothing can be done.

Action Clerk

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.42 p.m.

*Judithanne )*  
*16/10/19*