

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 16th April 2008 at 9.30 a.m. in the Verderers' Hall & Library, The Queen's House, Lyndhurst.

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| PRESENT: | Mr O Crosthwaite Eyre | Official Verderer |
| | Mr J Adams | Elected Verderer & Chairman of the Staff Committee |
| | Mr P Frost | Natural England Appointed Verderer |
| | Mr A Gerrelli | Elected Verderer |
| | Mr J F Kitcher | Elected Verderer |
| | Miss D Macnair | Elected Verderer |
| | The Hon R Montagu | Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer |
| | Mr A H Pasmore | Elected Verderer |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Miss S Westwood | Clerk to the Verderers |
| | Mr J R Gerrelli | Head Agister |
| APOLOGIES: | Mrs D Halford | National Park Authority Appointed Verderer |
| | Mrs P Thorne | DEFRA Appointed Verderer |

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

The Head Agister attended the meeting for the first three items.

2008/3680 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The Minutes of the Court held on Wednesday, 19th March 2008 were approved.

2008/3681 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister reported that the Agisters have had a difficult time in the last month being very busy removing lots of animals. The reason why stock is losing condition is not altogether clear. The Agisters have found it quite depressing as many ponies do not look as good as they should at this time of year. They are, however, in control of the situation.

A few ponies removed in the past few months have been returned to the Forest too soon and in some cases have had to be removed again because their condition remains unacceptable. This problem was raised in the Staff Committee meeting. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme can and will be used as a way of reminding commoners of their responsibilities. This has not been a great problem but it is frustrating for the Agisters to have to catch animals again.

The Agisters are also now busy marking cattle. The condition of most animals is acceptable but some which have spent the winter on the Forest have gone back. When marking cattle, any which are not in good enough condition to be turned out are not marked.

Miss Macnair remarked that some of the problems may well be caused by the wet, cold weather resulting in very little grass growth. Frosts don't help and some milder nights are needed.

It was also commented that there are a lot of young ponies on the Forest. Commoners have tended to keep foals in the past few years and this has resulted in an increase in the number of two and three year olds which always suffer more in winter due to changing teeth.

2008/3682 STRANGLES

RESUME

There remain a few cases of strangles in the Forest and that also contributes to ponies losing condition. It is thought there may be another virus going round as well which causes nasal discharge for two or three days but no abscess. It has been suggested that samples could be taken to find out what it is and Mr Adams said he has spoken to the Verderers' retained veterinary surgeon, Mr Ralph Ellis, about asking the laboratory in Newmarket which is currently studying strangles whether they are interested.

The question of whether the Agisters should inspect animals before they are allowed to return to the Forest was discussed. It was agreed, however, that as the vast majority of animals are removed before they get too poor and therefore there is no need to issue an Order which triggers the need for inspection, in most cases it would not be appropriate. It was, however, agreed that in future in the case of animals which are returned too early and have to be re-caught, an order will be issued. The owner will then be obliged to contact the Agister who will inspect the animal before it is turned back out.

Mr Kitcher congratulated the Agisters who he considered are doing a very good job in keeping on top of things.

Mr Gerrelli commented that after several reasonable winters, some new commoners haven't experienced what a harsher winter can do to the stock.

The Head Agister left the meeting.

Mr Adams agreed with the Head Agister's report and added that he felt it would be useful to reintroduce stock counts. This was formally agreed, as a method of checking that commoners are paying for all the animals they have turned out.

2008/3683 THE WELFARE TOUR

RESUME

The Welfare Tour will take place on Tuesday 13th May 2008.

2008/3684 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS

RESUME

The announcements and decisions were approved.

2008/3685 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESUME

The Elected Verderers declared an interest in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

Mr Gerrelli declared an interest in any items concerning Campsites.

2008/3686 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RESUME

The Financial Statement for February was approved.

2008/3687 REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED AS AT END OF FEBRUARY 2008 RESUME

| | | | |
|-----------|------|-------------------|------|
| Ponies | 4253 | Pigs | 0 |
| Cattle | 841 | Sheep | 60 |
| Donkeys | 106 | | |
| SUB TOTAL | 5200 | TOTAL ALL ANIMALS | 5260 |

2008/3688 ANIMALS REMOVED IN MARCH 2008 RESUME

| | POOR | SICK OR INJURED | WANTED BY OWNER | OTHER | TOTALS |
|------------------------|------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|--------|
| Mares with Foals | 1 | | 1 | | 2 |
| Mares with Yearlings | 33 | | 4 | 1 | 38 |
| Mares | 22 | 2 | 3 | | 27 |
| Fillies | 60 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 73 |
| Colts | | | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Geldings | 2 | | 2 | | 4 |
| Stallions | | | | | 0 |
| Mule | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Cattle | 2 | | | 15 | 17 |
| Calves | | | | | 0 |
| Donkeys with Foal/Yrlg | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Donkeys | | | 6 | | 6 |
| Pigs | | | | | 0 |
| Piglets | | | | | 0 |
| Sheep | | | | | 0 |
| Total | 122 | 3 | 27 | 24 | 176 |
| Total year to date | 360 | 9 | 66 | 51 | 486 |

Two year old colts

Summary by Species

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Ponies | 151 |
| Mules | 1 |
| Cattle | 17 |
| Donkeys | 7 |
| Pigs | 0 |
| Sheep | 0 |
| Total | 176 |

2008/3689 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT RESUME

The Press Release and Announcement covers the result of the prosecution of Mr Bob Cooper.

Mr Barnes trial is still scheduled to take place on Wednesday 30th April in Southampton Magistrates' Court.

OPEN COURT – 10.00 a.m. in the Verderers' Hall

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Will Parke, Area Land Agent (New Forest)
Mr Mike Seddon, Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER

2008/3690 ENFORCEMENT OF BYELAWS

At the Lyndhurst Magistrates Court on Friday 4th May 2007 Mr Robert Cooper of Acres Down Farm in Minstead, Lyndhurst was successfully prosecuted by the Verderers for non-payment of his annual marking fees due under the Verderers' byelaws.

Mr Cooper was fined £200 (the maximum fine allowable for this type of offence) and ordered to pay £2,500 towards the Verderers' legal costs in bringing the prosecution. He was also ordered to pay £680 compensation in respect of the unpaid marking fees for 2006.

Mr Cooper subsequently exercised his right of appeal to the Crown Court, and his case was finally concluded on Monday 7th April before His Honour Judge Boggis QC sitting in Southampton. Having heard legal argument from both parties the Judge dismissed the appeal and re-instated the original fine, costs and compensation order imposed in the Magistrates Court. Judge Boggis also ordered Mr Cooper to pay the Verderers' full legal costs of the numerous Crown Court Appeal hearings.

The Judge made it plain in his judgement that he could find no legal reason why Mr Cooper should not be subject to the Verderers' Byelaws once his animals entered the Forest from the neighbouring Manor of Minstead, and accordingly a marking fee is due and must be paid. He went on to remind Mr Cooper that the marking fee is not a charge for grazing, but a fee that is paid by all commoners. The fee goes towards the costs of providing the valuable skills and services given by the Agisters, which benefit all the owners of animals lawfully turned out on the open Forest.

Naturally we are pleased that this appeal against conviction has failed, and that Mr Cooper has also been ordered to pay our legal costs.

2008/3691 NEW FOREST BADGER GROUP

Mr Ken James made a Presentment at the March Open Court calling for tighter controls on cattle brought into the Forest from other parts of the country where bovine Tuberculosis may be present. Very careful consideration was given to Mr James' suggestion that cattle should be quarantined before being turned out onto the Open Forest.

The Court, however, believes that quarantine would not be helpful in controlling the spread of TB. As it is, there are strict rules all over the country regarding the movement of cattle and testing for TB.

Even if we had a quarantine system for Forest cattle, there is nothing to prevent non-commoning farmers bringing cattle into the area and turning them out into fields adjacent to the Forest. We believe that such a system would place an unfair and unnecessary burden on the commoners.

The issue will, however, be raised at the next Animal Diseases meeting being organised by the Forestry Commission, which is attended by representatives of DEFRA as well as a veterinary surgeon.

2008/3692 COUNCIL WASTE SITES AND FLY TIPPING

In his presentment last month Mr Bennett from Sway expressed concern that the new rules introduced at the Council Waste and Recycling Sites may result in additional fly-tipping in the Forest. The Deputy Surveyor has advised us that his staff are monitoring the situation carefully to see if there is any subsequent increase in fly-tipping. If in three or four months time it appears the new rules have had a negative effect, representations will be made to the County council.

2008/3693 COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

Under our agreement with DEFRA the scheme can only have 5,000 animals within it for which payments are made annually. That limit has now been reached, and we have no alternative but to close the scheme for the time being to new entrants. Those due to join the scheme in October of this year may still do so, but no new entrants will be permitted thereafter.

The number of animals that are currently out on the Forest is now in excess of the maximum amount of 7,000 allowed under our Stewardship Scheme Agreement with DEFRA. We are anxious therefore to find ways of reducing that figure without effecting the amount that any participant in the scheme is currently receiving

We have thus decided to reduce the number of every current member's entitlement by 25%, but to increase the payment per animal to compensate for that reduction. Thus the amount received will be the same, but members can thus reduce the number of their animals currently in the scheme by up to 25% without any financial penalty. The sole purpose of this simple measure is to encourage commoners who are holding on to stock simply to maintain their payments under the scheme to reduce their animals if they wish without losing any money.

Therefore from this year onwards participants may only need to keep up to 75% of their herd, but they can still receive up to 100% of their original 2004 entitlement.

We will be writing to all members to explain this more fully as soon as possible.

In addition, in order to maintain an audit of the payments made to commoners, we have decided to ask our Agisters to undertake stock checks in selected areas of the Forest. We must therefore give a warning that any commoner who is found to have more animals on the Forest than have been paid for, which is a byelaw offence, runs the risk of being expelled from the scheme.

2008/3694 ANIMAL WELFARE

I regret to have to report a recent animal welfare incident whereby a commoner, having been asked by his Agister to remove one of his cattle from the forest because of its poor condition, removed it briefly, before returning it to the Forest without any improvement in condition. The Agister subsequently discovered the same animal some weeks later in such a terrible condition that he had no option but to humanely destroy it there and then.

Such neglect is totally unacceptable, and in order to mark our deepest disapproval of this sort of behaviour the owner of the animal has been expelled from the Stewardship Scheme and payments which would have been due this year will be cancelled.

2008/3695 REFLECTIVE COLLARS

We are pleased to announce that, due to demand, we have ordered a further 1,000 reflective collars for ponies, which will be given free of charge to any commoner who wishes to use them. In order to obtain your free collars please either contact the office or your local Agister.

2008/3696 BLUETONGUE

Now that almost all of England is within the bluetongue zone the government is making every effort to produce a vaccine for farmers to use to protect their animals from this disease. The National Park Authority and the National Farmers Union are therefore pressing DEFRA hard to allow the New Forest to be treated as a special case, and be put at the front of the queue for these vaccines.

Since it will be enormously difficult to catch and vaccinate cattle once they are depastured, we would urge DEFRA to grant this request so that the Forest can be put in a so called "Priority One Zone" of the country, which will be given the vaccine first. It will cause undue hardship to many of the Forest's cattle farmers if they need to keep their animals in during the spring and summer in order to wait for the vaccines to reach Hampshire.

2008/3697 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIAL VERDERER

Although there is still no news as to who is to be OV as from 30th April, it is hoped that a decision will be announced very soon.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2008/3698 ACCIDENT REPORT FOR MARCH 2008

The agisters attended 6 accidents, compared with 5 for the same period last year.

1 pony and 1 pig were killed.

5 accidents occurred during the hours of darkness.

6 involved private cars or light commercials.

5 accidents involved local motorists.

The total killed and injured for the year to date is 17 compared with 21 for the same period last year.

It was also reported during three weeks at the end of March/beginning of April there were no accidents.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR OF THE NEW FOREST

None

PRESENTMENTS

2008/3699 NEW TOILET & SHOWER BLOCKS SITUATED AT ROUNDHILLS CAMPSITE

As a result of information received from one of our members concerning electrical hook-ups, a number of our committee attended the campsite and examined the three sites where the toilet blocks are located. At two locations electrical sockets were

found on the toilet blocks with leads extending to a motor home and caravan. Since receiving the initial complaint, the cables have now been buried by slitting the turf and burying them. The caravan had another coiled cable beneath it, which was also connected, and one assumes that a second caravan is to join it in the near future. We believe that each of these three blocks have gone way beyond their original specification, and I refer you to the photographs sent to Miss Westwood. Besides the two main buildings at each site, there is now a dishwashing cabin, disabled toilet cabin, and water supply tank. Hard standing surrounds all of these units at each location. Twelve large interconnected propane bottles appear to supply heating and hot water for each set of units. These are not properly protected, and it is our fear that animals and children could interfere with them very easily, leading to catastrophic results. At one location a circular sewer manhole cover was not locked down. I easily lifted it with one finger exposing a large chamber some 4ft deep, easily large enough to contain a small child. Whilst walking past an electricity sub station, we observed that the perimeter fence gate was unlocked and open. Looking inside it was clear that access could be gained to some high voltage equipment, and secondly that our stock could have entered and become trapped.

Our conclusions were that these units should be inspected by the Verderers to ascertain compliance with the original specification put before you. We consider many points should be re addressed with regards to the safety of our stock and the wellbeing of all who visit the area. None of the locations would bear being photographed and placed in a glossy camping magazine as upgraded facilities.

Whilst onsite, it was also pointed out that four caravans that had been placed in position on the opening day of the camping season (06.03.08) were still in same position (as at 08.04.08), thus exceeding the 21-day rule. Again photographs are in your possession.

2008/3700 TREE FELLING – HOLLANDS WOOD CAMPSITE

A concerned resident of Brockenhurst has brought it to our attention that two large oak trees have been felled in the campsite area. One is near the warden's hut, the other midway between the warden's hut and the first toilet block. I am assured that they are not Turkey Oak. Our informant has informed the New Forest Association, and our committee felt that you should be advised of the matter in order that the relevant enquiries can be made.

2008/3701 LENGTHENING OF THE CAMPING SEASON

We were to make a presentment concerning the earlier opening times of the Forest campsites, but understand you already have the matter under review. However, the implications do concern us, and we would be grateful to hear the results of your enquiries in due course.

2008/3702 PRESENTATION OF THE ROWL KITCHER CUP

The Official Verderer announced that the Rowl Kitcher Cup, kindly donated some years ago by the late Rowl Kitcher's family, will once again be presented to the owner of the highest scoring young Colt selected to run out on the Forest. He asked Mr John and Master Matthew Pooley who own the colt Hatchett Sunseeker to step forward. This is the second year running that Sunseeker has won the cup.

The Official Verderer then said he didn't know whether this would be his last Court and he proceeded to say a few words of thanks in case this was his last opportunity to do so.

Mr Michael Cooper, on behalf of the CDA, responded....

“Over the past six years, our Association has admired your tenacity, skill, and professionalism, in the way that you have carried out your duties. During our time, many of us involved in Forest affairs, have been acquainted with several Official Verderers, all of which have made fine contributions to the assurance that the Forest has a future. But you sir, will be a very hard act to follow indeed. From us all we offer our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for what you have achieved for the Forest. If you are not to return for a third term of office, we wish you every success for the future. On a personal note sir, it has been a pleasure doing business with you, and I very much hope we will continue to do so in the future”.

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

PRESENT: Mr Mike Seddon, Deputy Surveyor
Mr Will Parke, Area Land Agent, New Forest
Mr Richard Palmer of Forest Holidays

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2008/3703 ROUNDHILL CAMPSITE

RESUME

The way the works being undertaken on Roundhill Campsite by Forest Holidays is causing great concern and is considered to be totally unacceptable.

The Deputy Surveyor and Mr Parke responded by saying they also had concerns about what is happening on this site. To this end, Mr Parke has been in contact with Forest Holidays to express his serious reservations about the way they have gone about replacing the various campsite buildings. The Forestry Commission shares the Verderers view that the work is being carried out in a way which clearly indicates that Forest Holidays has insufficient respect for the Forest and the site itself.

Forest Holidays has been requested to present a plan as soon as possible showing how they intend to remedy the situation.

It was suggested that a site visit is appropriate and that Mr Steve Trotter, National Park Director of Conservation, Recreation and Sustainable Development should be requested to attend. This was agreed and Mr Trotter will be asked to join the Official Verderer and Mr Frost on site as soon as possible.

2008/3704 TREE FELLING – HOLLANDS WOOD CAMPSITE

DISCHARGE

The Court has already been advised that lopping and some felling would have to be carried out in Hollands Wood for safety reasons. The Court again expressed concern at the effect the campsite is having on the Ancient and Ornamental woodland.

2008/3705 CAMPING SEASON

DISCHARGE

The early opening of the campsites was dealt with at the March Court. Minute No. 2008/3660 refers.

SUBMISSIONS BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

There were no new submissions by the Forestry Commission

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

2008/3706 BOVINE TB DISCHARGE

Mr Adams confirmed that cattle coming from high risk areas have to be tested before they are moved. This applies to all cattle, including those which are moved from one area to another but remain in the same ownership.

2008/3707 ROAD SIGNING AT BRAMSHAW TELEGRAPH RESUME

Nothing further has been received from the Highway Authority.

2008/3708 GAS REGULATOR BUILDING AT KNAVES ASH RESUME

Mr Will Parke reported he has a meeting next week with the Gas Board and the company which is building the units in order to discuss re-designing the kiosks.

2008/3709 RHODODENDRON AT SANDFORD WAY, BURLEY DISCHARGE

The rhododendron clearance is in the work plan.

2008/3710 ILLEGAL FENCE AT ROSE COTTAGE, BEECHWOOD LANE, BURLEY RESUME

Mr Parke reported that as the occupier will not remove the illegal fence, the matter is now to be put into the hands of the Forestry Commission's solicitor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2008/3711 BUSKETTS LAWN DISCHARGE

Mr Frost reported that the fence between the Forest and land next to Busketts Lawn Hotel has all but gone but there is a lot of barbed wire and mesh fencing laying on the ground. The boundary is now indistinct and it will be important to ensure that when a new fence is erected it is in the correct place. Mr Parke said the local Keeper will be informed.

2008/3712 AREA BEHIND ASHURST LODGE DISCHARGE

Rhododendron is once more encroaching on the area behind Ashurst Lodge that was cleared sometime ago. Mr Parke said the Forestry Commission will inspect the area.

2008/3713 BULL HILL CROSSROADS DISCHARGE

Mr Parke said the County Council is fully aware of the concern about the proliferation of signs. At a recent meeting attended by Mr Parke with the National Park Authority and the County Council, the County representative said they are looking at a more sympathetic scheme which will utilise rumble strips and stop signs. If that doesn't work, a staggered junction will be designed. Proposals are expected shortly.

2008/3714 VILLAGE SIGN AT EAST END DISCHARGE

A new village sign saying "East Boldre" has appeared on the Open Forest not far from East End Allotments. Concern was expressed that this is yet another sign.

2008/3715 DUNG HEAP NEAR WOODS CORNER, BURLEY DISCHARGE

It seems someone is creating a dung heap on the Open Forest outside their boundary. The local Keeper will be asked to investigate.

2008/3716 ROAD WIDENING AT LINWOOD RESUME

The experimental haunch repairs at Linwood are resulting in the road being widened by approximately 6" to 9" which is extremely worrying. Mr Parke assured the Court that the Highway Authority intends to put in dragons teeth to stop constant over-running and that the drawings showed no widening would take place.

Mr Pasmore reported that on the west side of Hale the road has effectively been widened by over 6 feet. The surface has been extended right upto the car free ditch. At present two strips of 100 metres have been completed and if they are eventually connected, it will result in a road on which motorists could easily reach 60 mph.

Such "road widening" even if unintentionally, is considered totally unacceptable. The Clerk will contact Mr Kevin Fuller at Hampshire Highways to express the Court's serious concerns.

2008/3717 SHRINES/MEMORIALS ON THE FOREST DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore remarked that the various "memorial sites" that appear on the Forest from time to time are becoming more and more elaborate. Whilst it is appreciated that people clearly take comfort from creating such "shrines" to their departed loved-ones, it is felt they are not appropriate on the Open Forest. The Deputy Surveyor advised that after a respectful period, the Forestry Commission discretely removes the flowers etc., that have been left. Mr Frost offered to raise the matter with the National Trust as there is a very extensive "shrine" on its land.

The Deputy Surveyor and Mr Parke left the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COURT AND PREVIOUS COURTS

2008/3718 ENCROACHMENT AT MINSTEAD RESUME

This matter is being dealt with by the Commoners' Defence Association. Statements are being obtained.

2008/3719 KINGSTON GREAT COMMON RESUME
June 2008

Mr Steve Trotter of the National Park Authority continues to assure the Official Verderer that he has opened up communication with the land owner.

2008/3720 STALLIONS AND THE HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE RESUME

The Official Verderer reported that he had attended a meeting, together with Mr Adams and the Head Agister, with Mr Upfold, an Inspector from the Health and Safety Executive.

Mr Upfold explained that HSE had received a complaint from the lady who was allegedly injured by a Forest stallion in 2005.

The management of the Forest's stock was explained in detail to Mr Upfold.

See also Minute No. 2008/3729 below.

2008/3721 REVIEW OF THE VERDERERS' BYELAWS RESUME

It is understood the Minister's signature is awaited.

2008/3722 THE MINISTER'S MANDATE RESUME

After careful consideration, the Court decided to advise the Deputy Surveyor that in its view the Mandate should be reviewed on time. The Mandate is of crucial importance to the Forest and it was agreed that the National Park's Management Plan should be influenced by the Mandate, NOT the other way round.

The Verderers were asked to let the Official Verderer have a note of any specific points that they feel should be emphasised.

2008/3723 OVERGRAZING REPORT BY NATURAL ENGLAND – PLAITFORD, WEST WELLOW AND CANADA COMMONS RESUME

The meeting should take place shortly.

COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

2008/3724 ADVISORY GROUP MEETING DISCHARGE

At the recent Advisory Group meeting, all recommendations put forward by the CSS Sub-Committee were agreed.

Cross compliance is an issue and the Overgrazing report on Plaitford, West Wellow and Canada Commons was mentioned.

The Official Verderer was pleased to announce that the Advisory

Group had agreed that if the Verderers' income from marking fees is reduced as a result of action taken to deal with the overgrazing issue, funds from the Countryside Stewardship Scheme may be utilised to plug any gaps in the Verderers' finances.

NATIONAL PARK

2008/3725 FOREST FRIENDLY FARMING ADVISOR DISCHARGE

Finance has been secured for Mr Ian Stone's position (Forest Friendly Farming Advisor).

2008/3726 MOBILE EDUCATIONAL TRAILER UNIT RESUME

The National Park Authority has asked if the Agisters could assist in towing a mobile educational trailer unit. Mr Adams, Chairman of the Staff Committee was asked to give this some thought to this proposal.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

No other matters were on the Agenda

MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2008/3727 ANIMAL DISEASES LIAISON GROUP RESUME

Mr Adams will attend the meeting on Tuesday next week. Miss Macnair also expressed interest in attending. The issue of TB will be raised at the meeting.

2008/3728 SSSI SITE MEETINGS RESUME

The first meeting in the North of the Forest to discuss SSSI restoration has taken place and Mr Pasmore gave a verbal report to the Court. A meeting to cover proposals for the South of the Forest is due to take place shortly. The purpose of these meetings was for the Forestry Commission to ascertain if there are any strong objections. Once the principles are ironed out formal proposals and maps will be provided and consent for the works sought as usual.

STAFF MATTERS (including the Staff Committee)

2008/3729 COMMONERS' BAN FROM KEEPING PONIES (Ms Sarah Moore & Mr Anthony Ward) RESUME
July 2008

Ms Sarah Moore and Mr Anthony Ward have both been banned from keeping ponies for 10 years following a trial in the Magistrates' Court. There are implications for the Agisters as respects how they deal with animals currently in the ownership of Moore and Ward.

The Clerk reported that at the request of the Head Agister she has already been in contact with the local Animal Health/Trading Standards office and it has been agreed that a meeting will be arranged after the 28 day period that Moore and Ward have to appeal against their conviction.

TRAINING

2008/3730 ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATES DISCHARGE

All the Agisters have now obtained their Certificates.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

2008/3731 STALLION INSPECTIONS RESUME
February
2009

Following the visit from the HSE Inspector, the Livestock Society will be contacted regarding the question of what risk assessments should be carried out at the Beaulieu Road Sale Yard with respect to the stallion inspections.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2008/3732 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT RESUME

The Official Verderer appraised the Court of two appeals that are currently pending concerning decisions of the Information Commissioner.

2008/3733 RETIREMENT OF MR WILL PARKE DISCHARGE

Mr Parke retires in June and a lunch party in the Verderers' Hall has been arranged to which members of the Court are invited.

2008/3734 PONY PUBLICITY GROUP – NEW FOREST WEEKEND DISCHARGE

Miss Macnair requested formal approval for the Publicity Group to take its visitors to the Weirs Drift. This was agreed.

2008/3735 DRIFT MANAGEMENT RESUME

The Clerk advised that a meeting is to be held with the Forestry Commission Rangers to discuss the management of the public.

2008/3736 THE ATLAS PROJECT RESUME

The Clerk reported that unfortunately scanning the Atlases is going to be more costly than originally envisaged. The Court agreed, however, that as this is an important one-off exercise, additional funds should be made available. It is hoped the National Park Authority, which is assisting with funding, may also be able to increase its contribution.

As respects the actual scanning of the Atlas sheets, Mr Pasmore commented that he believes the Public Record Office at Kew may hold the original of the Atlas. A far better result should be attainable if the original sheets are scanned rather than a copy. The Clerk will make enquiries.

2008/3737 THE LIFE ROSEBOWL

RESUME

Miss Macnair reminded the Court that the LIFE Rosebowl is to be awarded annually to the owner of the mare whose progeny is most successful in the New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society Performance competition. The Clerk will contact the Society to obtain the necessary information.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.30 p.m.