

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 18th January 2012 at 9.30 a.m. in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.

PRESENT: Mr Dominic May Official Verderer
Mr R Deakin Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman
Mr A Gerrelli Elected Verderer
Miss D Macnair MBE Elected Verderer
Mr C Maton National Park Appointed Verderer
The Hon R Montagu Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
Mr A H Pasmore Elected Verderer
Mr D Readhead Co-opted Elected Verderer
Mrs P Thorne DEFRA Appointed Verderer
Mrs D Westerhoff Natural England Appointed Verderer

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss S Westwood Clerk to the Verderers
Mr J R Gerrelli Head Agister

APOLOGIES: NONE

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

2012/5854 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The Minutes of the Court held on Wednesday, 21st December 2011 were approved.

2012/5855 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

The Official Verderer, the Elected Verderers, including Mr Readhead, and Mrs Thorne all declared an interest in the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

Mr Gerrelli declared an interest in matters concerning campsites and also later with reference to an encroachment.

2012/5856 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister said that the weather has been kind and overall the condition of stock is very good. In particular the ponies are doing very well.

As usual a few mares with foals have started to lose condition and were removed last week. A few young ponies are also beginning to look not quite so well. Ten to fifteen ponies were found in Park Grounds Inclosure. They had apparently been shut in for some time. It is thought the got in whilst timber extraction was taking place and the gate had been left open. Once the work had finished the gate was shut, trapping the ponies in the inclosure. Despite this being a fairly dense inclosure with little grass, sufficient food and water was available and apart from one older mare with a foal the other ponies which were driven out looked well.

The Agisters have started catching and removing two year old colts. A discussion took place about whether commoners who are incapable of catching their own colts should be penalised under the Verderers' Grazing Scheme. The Head Agister said the colts will be included in the Agisters' lists of ponies removed and therefore consideration can be given to whether or not a penalty should be applied.

Andrew Naphthine found two ponies dead in an inclosure at the bottom of Coppice of Linwood. It is a small fenced-in area and it seems that a gate must have been left open at some point allowing several ponies to get in. The gate must subsequently have been shut, trapping the ponies. The two dead ponies starved. The others were poor but survived and were taken back to their owners' holdings. The Forestry Commission will be asked what can be done to avoid such an incident occurring again.

The Head Agister also reported that a horse in extremely poor condition was found dumped on the Forest at Vereley just after New Year. The Police have been informed and they are carrying out enquiries to see if it is possible to identify where it came from. It was a brown, thoroughbred cross gelding approximately 14.2hh. Unfortunately the animal died. As it was not a commoners' animal, the question was raised who should pay for the disposal, the Verderers or the Forestry Commission. This will be raised again later in the meeting when the Deputy Surveyor and Land Agent are present.

The Head Agister left the meeting.

2012/5857 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS

RESUME

The Announcements and Decisions were approved.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Mark Street, Area Land Agent (New Forest)
Mr Kevin Penfold, Acting Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER

2012/5858 GRIT BINS

Following his presentment at our November Court, Mr Richard Bastow of Hampshire County Council joined us afterwards in Committee to discuss the siting of grit bins across the Forest. The Verderers' Clerk made a number of site visits with Hampshire County Council employees, and exact positions were agreed. This winter's grit bins are now in the acceptable positions, and where possible they do not encroach on the grazing.

Where bins have been sited in less than ideal positions, for instance on grass or where they may be considered visually intrusive, they will be subject to further consideration and will be removed for the summer, if a suitable alternative site cannot be found.

2012/5859 HOLIDAYS CAMPSITES

Mr Graham Ferris made a number of presentments at our November Court.

The Deputy Surveyor agreed that the condition in which Roundhill Campsite was left at the end of the last summer's camping season was unacceptable. At our December meeting, the Deputy Surveyor confirmed that he has spoken with Forest Holidays regarding the lack of tidying up at the end of the camping season. It has been agreed that this year, 2012, the Forestry Commission's Recreation Manager will visit the sites with the Forest Holidays' Campsite Manager before each site closes. The intention is to run through what needs doing at the end of the season to ensure the sites are left in a clean, tidy and safe condition. The Deputy Surveyor has also assured us that compliance with conditions regarding the regular moving of rented tents will also be checked.

2012/5860 CYCLING IN THE FOREST

The Verderers share the CDA's concerns at the increase in illegal cycling in the Forest and we have asked the Deputy Surveyor to instruct the Forestry Commission Keepers to enforce its byelaws and exert better control over cyclists who do not remain on the waymarked cycle routes. The Verderers' Higher Level Stewardship Scheme is paying for new signs to be erected in those Forestry Commission car parks without cycle routes. These new signs will make clear that cycling on the Forest is not permitted from there, and also direct the cyclist to the nearest car park with a cycle route. The Verderers' HLS is also paying for a new clearer cycle route map which can be handed out by Forestry Commission Keepers and Rangers free of charge to cyclists, in an effort to encourage them to stay on the cycle routes. And I'd personally like to thank the Deputy Surveyor for agreeing to a trial of a sign at the entrance to six car parks which say "Walking and horse riding only. No cycle route".

The dramatic increase in recent years in large, organized road cycling events is also viewed with considerable concern by the Verderers, particularly as in some cases in 2011 such events interfered with the pony drifts.

2012/5861 ILLEGAL FEEDING OF PONIES

In November, Mr Derek Bennett raised the issue of people feeding windfall apples and acorns to the ponies. We are grateful to Mr and Mrs Bennett for their concern, and the Verderers will try to educate and inform the public as best we can such as through this Court and by press releases. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to pass on some information to local residents and visitors alike which I hope the press will be able to publish.

The time of year for windfall fruit has of course now passed. However, in winter we are faced with other threats to the welfare of the animals. It is understandable that the public thinks that the animals would benefit from additional feed at this time of year. However, unless you are a commoner with specific permission from the Verderers, putting out hay and other feedstuffs for the Forest animals is not only illegal (it is a breach of our byelaws and in some cases may constitute fly-tipping for which there can be a hefty fine), but it also does far more harm than good to the animals.

Instead of foraging as they should, animals hang around waiting for the next meagre handout as the quantities given can never be sufficient as more animals will arrive to take advantage of what they see as easy pickings.

Some horse owners use the Forest as a way of getting rid of dusty, mouldy hay that they consider isn't good enough for their own horses! Stale bread (which is also not good for ponies), vegetable peelings, and other vegetation, is often found placed in the most hazardous of places, often right next to the side of the road. Such haphazard feeding is unhelpful, illegal and most certainly counter-productive and the Verderers would much prefer people didn't do it.

2012/5862 PIGS ON THE COMMONS

Miss Harrison objected at our November Court to a byelaw which was revised in 2010 which she said abrogated her common rights.

We have sympathy with Miss Harrison. However, the National Trust has adopted the byelaws and the Court cannot ignore them. Miss Harrison did object to the revision before the byelaws were confirmed. All objections were sent to DEFRA and the reasons for the alteration, which were necessary to protect the Forest and other commoners' interests, were explained.

2012/5863 COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

Under the terms of the Verderers' Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, we must bring to an end by 2013 the system of payments to commoners for their animals which is called the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. The present Countryside Stewardship Scheme will therefore come to an end on 29th February this year, 2012. A new system of payments to commoners for their animals will start on the 1st March 2012. This new Verderers' Grazing Scheme will pay in a completely different way and I will announce new rules in detail in February's Court.

The payments made to commoners before Christmas, for the final full year of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, were for the scheme year to the end of September 2011. The Verderers have therefore decided that there will be a payment made in April 2012 to bridge the gap of 5 months from 1st October 2011 to 29th March 2012, of 5/12 of the December payment. However, eligibility for this 5/12 bridging payment will be subject to the new Verderers' Grazing Scheme rules which I will announce next month, and so it may not be paid to everyone who received a payment in December under the old Countryside Stewardship Scheme entitlement.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2012/5864 ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2011 AND A SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR

We want to try to make our monthly accident report more detailed. Inevitably I include a lot of statistics, but hopefully I am giving more background and analysis. I do hope that the press will kindly note the content: it will hopefully make drivers think a bit more as they cross the Forest, especially at night when the majority of accidents occur.

The Agisters attended 24 road accidents involving commoners' animals in December which is a 26% increase on December 2010 when there were 19.

Our Head Agister, Jonathan Gerrelli, attended 7 of these accidents. He had three to deal with on one day, the 7th December, and on the 9th December he attended two.

Robert Maton attended 6 accidents, Andrew Napthine was called to 5, Peter Rix to 4 and Mike Lovell 2.

9 accidents occurred on the B3078, that is the Cadnam to Fordingbridge road, all of which occurred north of Long Cross. Two ponies were struck within three quarters of an hour on the 20th December. They were only about a mile apart, one at Telegraph and the other at Black Gutter. Both were injured and had to be destroyed. These days I think Deadman Hill could more accurately be described as Dead Pony Hill.

8 ponies and 3 cows were killed in December and 3 ponies and 1 cow were injured.

20 accidents occurred at night and this once more highlights the need for drivers to take much more care when crossing the Forest at night. 4 accidents occurred in daylight which suggests a speed in excess of the 40 MPH limit – or a serious lack of awareness.

We only had 1 hit and run, although that is still 1 too many.

As for 2011 as a whole, unfortunately the total number of animals killed and injured increased from 92 in 2010 to 103 in 2011. The total number of road accidents involving commoners' animals, which includes animals which were not injured, or were uninjured or not found also increased from 161 in 2010 to 174 in 2011.

My analysis shows that the worst road for accidents in the Forest remains the B3078 between Cadnam and Fordingbridge. Last year there were 34 accidents on that road.

The other notably bad road is the B3054 where there were 24 accidents. This is the road between Lymington and Dibden Purlieu via Beaulieu. 7 accidents were at Hilltop with the remaining 17 having occurred between Lymington and Beaulieu. They were evenly spaced along the road but Crockford, Norley Wood Crossroads and further along towards Hatchet Pond are all locations that are frequently mentioned in our weekly reports to the press.

The B3079 is the road between Brook and the Forest boundary in the north at Landford. 12 accidents occurred on that road.

The road between Sway and Brockenhurst over the Marlpit Oak crossroads is quite short, but still 11 accidents occurred on it last year.

The C10 from the A31 at Picket Post into Burley had 7 accidents and there were a further 6 on the C10 from Burley across to Holmsley Tea Rooms and on past Wilverley and Setthorns Inclosures.

I hope that this summary will help drivers to focus on the danger of an accident with Forest-run animals, and the importance of keeping under the 40 MPH speed limit, day and night. Please drive carefully.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE ACTING DEPUTY SURVEYOR OF THE NEW FOREST

None

PRESENTMENTS

2012/5865 CYCLING

Presentment by Mr Peter Roberts, Chairman, New Forest Association

The New Forest Association supports responsible cycling both on and off road within the New Forest and recognises it will grow. But the situation is not satisfactory and getting worse and NFA echoes the concerns made by the Commoners Defence Association at the November Court. We have come across a cycle sport event taking place, in part on Forest gravel tracks in April, which the website promotes by suggesting that cyclists 'will want to set a good time as they blast around this flowing course.'¹ Is this how we want the Forest used? Is it the form of recreation that should be endorsed by the Commission and Park Authority?

The Verderers are to be congratulated for doing their own research into future recreational events and in their flexibility into avoiding a conflict in October by rearranging drift days. But is this their responsibly? Are these the right priorities?

The New Forest is not getting any bigger, but year by year demand for recreation increases and will continue to increase. When will the Commission and National Park Authority accept this truth and start dealing with the increasing conflicts?

New cycle routes have been suggested in the National Park Authority's Recreational Management Strategy.² NFA contends this is premature - it is time to take stock. What are we trying to achieve? What have been the successes of the existing off road routes? What have been the failures and how can these be addressed? Is the limited space in the Forest being used efficiently? Is this open access area being afforded sufficient protection? What is the best way for more and more visitors to enjoy the Forest without destroying the very thing they have come to enjoy? Do the Commission have both the

resources and will to manage and police this increased recreation? How can the increasing conflict, the subject of numerous presentments in this Court be avoided?

NFA urge the Verderers to seek from the Commission a review covering the management of recreation, the rationale of off road cycling, the success or otherwise of existing routes, an effective system of event management and policing, and suitable planning tools that will allow us to welcome ever more visitors with minimum damage to the environment and traditions of the precious and unique New Forest.

Notes

The Association regards the lawful use of cycling not only as beneficial to health but as a means to appreciate the wonderful wildlife and scenery that the New Forest offers. There are other forests with off-road tracks that are much better suited and appropriate for high speed mass cycling events. We ask that cyclists and those supporting cycling in the New Forest show consideration and respect for other users and work to protect and enhance the area that they value so much for their recreation.

1 <http://www.ukcyclingevents.co.uk/events/wiggle-new-forest-spring-mtb-ride-2012/>
2 *Recreational Management Strategy, NFNPA 2010, p 51*

2012/5866 ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS
Presentment by Mrs Rosemary Bennett, Resident of Sway

For many years efforts have been made to take more care on the roads of the Forest in order to reduce the number of animal accidents – yet the terrible death toll continues. It almost seems that some motorists simply do not care about the suffering inflicted on the poor creatures and the distress caused to their owners.

In view of this, it occurred to me that if these things did not concern them, they might be concerned about the damage to their car. Might it therefore be an idea to stress this aspect sometimes in future publicity?

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

The Head Agister re-joined the meeting

2012/5867 DUMPED AND ABANDONED ANIMALS DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer explained the situation with the horse found at Vereley and asked if the Forestry Commission will cover the disposal cost. It was pointed out that some years ago it was believed that agreement was reached with a previous Deputy Surveyor that costs incurred by the Verderers in keeping abandoned and dumped animals, where the owner cannot be identified and which are clearly not commoning stock, would be covered by the Forestry Commission.

It was explained that whilst ponies in reasonable condition can be held in Long Meadow until they are sold, those which are in poor condition obviously cannot. Additionally, pigs cannot be put in the grazing and they present additional problems in that if whoever houses them has their own pigs or cattle, they are effectively shut down for 21 days if they take other such livestock onto their property.

The Forestry Commission accepted that as land owner it is responsible for abandoned and dumped animals and agreed to cover the cost of the disposal of animals described above. Mr Street then went on to explain that he is naturally keen to keep administrative costs to a minimum. It was

therefore agreed that the Verderers will pay for impounding or disposing of dumped or abandoned animals and then re-claim the cost at the same time as the annual compensation for loss of grazing is invoiced.

The Head Agister left the meeting

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

- 2012/5868 CYCLING RESUME
- The Deputy Surveyor was given a copy of the NFA's presentment so that he could consider the questions raised and provide a response at the next Court Committee. Action KP
- 2012/5869 ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS DISCHARGE
- The Clerk explained that obtaining details of the damage to vehicles is not always easy and it is not usually possible to take photographs as the vehicles are cleared away too quickly. The suggestion made by Mrs Bennett will be given due consideration.

NEW SUBMISSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

- 2012/5870 REPLACEMENT WATER MAIN IN WOODENHOUSE LANE, PILLEY DISCHARGE
- Sembcorp Bournemouth Water proposes to replace an existing underground water main in the above-mentioned lane and 9 service connections. A location plan and detailed plan of the proposed works was provided. Most of the route is in the adopted highway but the service connections are in Forestry Commission land. The directional drilling method will be used and Sembcorp has confirmed that Bentonite will not be used.
- Sembcorp Bournemouth Water has also updated its Working Protocol with Natural England for areas designated as SSSI and Mr Street confirmed it has been approved by the Forestry Commission. Therefore the appropriate measures will be put in place for any excavations within the Forest and will be monitored by Sembcorp's project managers.
- After consideration of the proposals, the Court approved them, subject to the standard three conditions of safe working conditions, satisfactory reinstatement and compensation for loss of grazing.

- 2012/5871 WATER MAIN LEAK AT BROOK DISCHARGE
- Mr Street advised the Court that there was a leak in a water main at Brook. Sembcorp made an emergency repair which has been inspected and there are no obvious problems.

MATTERS ARISING OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

- 2012/5872 BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB MANAGEMENT PLAN DISCHARGE
- The map has been amended and is being appended to the plan. The original map is also being left in the plan as it provides a good cross reference. The Court authorised the Official Verderer to sign off the plan.

2012/5873 NEW FOREST GOLF CLUB DISCHARGE

Mrs Westerhoff circulated a report on her recent site visit with Mr John Ledger of the Golf Club, Mr Dave Morris from the Forestry Commission and Ms Jenny Thomas from Natural England at which recent management, and future felling of birch trees on the course was discussed. It also detailed four additional requests.

The only alteration to the proposals concerned the proposed installation of dragons teeth on the right-hand side of the entrance road to prevent cars driving onto the Course. The Court said a ditch would be preferred. The main reason is because on drift day the ponies are driven right through that area and dragons teeth can be dangerous, particularly to ridden horses. It was also pointed out that dragons teeth are more costly and difficult to maintain than a ditch. The Forestry Commission may take on this part of the maintenance as part of car-free areas management.

Mrs Westerhoff recommended the Court agree to the proposed works in the light of the efforts made by the Club to improve the state of the course.

Mr Street confirmed the proposed works are in line with the Management Plan that is currently in place.

The proposed works were therefore approved by the Court and the Clerk will write to the Club accordingly, subject to Agister consultation of the proposed car-free ditch.

2012/5874 CYCLE WAYMARKERS DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor referred to the Official Verderer's announcement. He said that it is proposed that counters will be installed this summer in the six car parks which the Verderers have identified as suffering from the most cycle trespass. Signs will then be installed in time for next summer, together with counters, to monitor what effect the signs have.

2012/5875 VISIT BY THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON FORESTRY RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor updated the Court on the visit which will take place on 28th February.

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2012/5876 SNAGGING RESUME

A date has been set for visiting some of the sites where work has been completed to see what has been successful and what hasn't.

Action
KP

The Deputy Surveyor is working up a process for monitoring. Mr Deakin suggested that for each restoration project, a post-completion site visit should take place, with attendance by the Verderers, the CDA and the Forestry Commission.

2012/5877 LATCHMORE DISCHARGE

A press release was issued to inform the public of what is planned. A less extensive programme of tree felling and scrub clearance than was originally envisaged will be carried out over the next few weeks.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2012/5878 DEAD PONIES IN INCLOSURE RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor said he will investigate whether the inclosure within Coppice of Linwood is really necessary and report back at the next Court. Action KP

2012/5879 FALLEN TREE OUTSIDE LONG MEADOW RESUME

The Forestry Commission was asked to remove the fallen tree which is on the boundary of Long Meadow. It impedes access for the management of stock and doesn't discourage the public as people simply climb over it. The Deputy Surveyor said he will follow this up and report back to the next Court. Action KP

2012/5880 NEW PARK – NEW POLO FIELD DISCHARGE

The Court was advised that New Park is planning on creating a new polo field. The proposed access is via the gate and cattle grid closest to Brockenhurst which is used as an access during the New Forest Show.

ENCROACHMENTS OF INTEREST TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2012/5881 THE BEECHES RESUME

Mr Street reported he is trying to reach agreement with the owner regarding the entrances. The Forestry Commission will agree the new entrance if the old one is closed off. Action MStr

2012/5882 LAND AT KINGS COPSE RESUME

Mr Street has written to the land owner asking him to apply for permission for the change to his access. Action MStr

2012/5883 ENCROACHMENTS IN BURLEY RESUME

The Forestry Commission is undertaking an exercise in Burley to clear rocks and other materials that residents have put outside their entrances. Similar exercises will be repeated in other villages.

The Estates Keeper role has helped reduce encroachments and prevent new ones as they are often seen and can be dealt with before they become established.

An increase in the number of cars parked outside Graham Lodge, near the Red Shoot was reported and the Estates Keeper will be asked to investigate. Action MStr

FURTHER MATTERS CONCERNING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2012/5884 VANDALISM IN WOODGREEN DISCHARGE

Mr Street reported that the Forestry Commission has received a letter from Woodgreen Parish Council asking for support in trying to reduce incidences of vandalism including damage to benches and digging up earth etc. If anyone has any information, it would be gratefully received. Forest Watch is involved.

2012/5885 THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS DISCHARGE

Mr Street told the Court that the Forestry Commission is receiving requests for events on the Open Forest to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Court confirmed it will raise no objection to village green type activities, within villages. The only conditions that the Court wishes the Forestry Commission to impose is that there shall be no fireworks or Chinese lanterns and there is a proper rubbish clearance operation after each event.

2012/5886 FORESTRY COMMISSION RE-ORGANISATION DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor advised the Court that as from the 1st January, the Queen's House will be the main administrative centre for a management area now totalling over 46,000 hectares. The DS asked the Verderers to be understanding in that there is a lot of work still to do in merging systems and staff. Most staff posts have now been confirmed.

2012/5887 HORSE RIDING SIGN RESUME

Miss Macnair queried why there is a sign at Burley outside Little Hey, directing horse-riders across a grassy area rather than along the adjacent gravel track. The result is that considerable damage has been caused to the grass. The Deputy Surveyor said he would investigate.

Action KP

The Deputy Surveyor and Mr Street left the meeting.

ENCROACHMENTS NOT INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2012/5888 ENCROACHMENTS RAISED BY THE CDA DISCHARGE

The CDA is concerned about three possible encroachments.

No.11 Holmsley Gatehouse
Five Thorns, Brockenhurst
Canterton Lane

These were discussed by the Verderers and it was agreed to await further action by the CDA.

2012/5889 FIELD AT BULL HILL RESUME

Mr Gerrelli declared an interest and left the meeting whilst the matter was discussed.

Action
RM, RD, DR

A new fence is being constructed at Bull Hill which it is believed may constitute an encroachment. Mr Montagu, Mr Deakin and Mr Readhead will visit the site and report back to the next Court.

Mr Gerrelli returned to the meeting.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING

2012/5890	HOT BRANDING V MICROCHIPPING – RESPONSE TO THE INDEPENDENT REPORT INTO HOT BRANDING AND MICROCHIP IMPLANTATION OF EQUINES BY DR M KENNEDY - FUNDED BY THE RSPCA	DISCHARGE
		Action All
	Mrs Thorne prepared a draft response to which was circulated to all members of the Court. Comments were invited. Once finalised it will be sent by the Official Verderer to the RSPCA with copies to DEFRA & the Minister, the Rt Hon Jim Paice.	Action PT & OV
2012/5891	HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE PLAN	RESUME
	The Clerk reported that she has sent the plan with suggested amendments and comments to Mr Richard Bastow at Hampshire Highways. The next step will be for Mr Bastow and the Clerk to meet to discuss the queries that have been raised.	Action SW
2012/5892	GRIT BINS	RESUME
	The Clerk said she is arranging to inspect the bins which have now been distributed with Mr Bastow. If any member of the Court has concerns about the siting of any bins, they were asked to inform the Clerk.	Action SW
2012/5893	NEW FOREST & SOUTH DOWNS JOINT LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND BID	DISCHARGE
	There are elements of the plan which are of great concern. Mr Pasmore agreed to draft a response explaining why the Court cannot support the plan. The Official Verderer will sign the response.	Action AHP & OV

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

2012/5894	REPORT BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER ON THE HLS	RESUME
	The Official Verderer appraised the Court of the current situation with the HLS. A number of matters are currently under review.	

VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME (VGS)

2012/5895	REVISED TERMS AND CONDITIONS	RESUME
	The revised terms and conditions was circulated. Members of the Court were asked to let the Official Verderer know if they felt any further amendment is necessary. The Official Verderer was authorised to make final decisions on the rules.	Action OV

FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS

2012/5896	FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR DECEMBER 2011	RESUME
	The financial statement for December 2011 was approved.	

2012/5897	MARKING FEES RECEIVED	RESUME
	Ponies 86 Cattle 5	
	Total 91	
2012/5898	ANIMALS REMOVED FROM THE FOREST IN DECEMBER DUE TO POOR CONDITION	RESUME
	1 mare with a foal 1 mare on her own 2 geldings	
	Total 4	

STAFF MATTERS (including the Staff Committee) - There were no staff matters to discuss

TRAINING - No training is currently taking place or due in the near future.

HEALTH AND SAFETY - There are no health and safety issues at present.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2012/5899	REVIEW OF THE HABITATS DIRECTIVE	RESUME
	Mrs Westerhoff advised the Court that the Habitats Directive is being reviewed. The terms of reference are on the DEFRA website. Mrs Westerhoff offered to look at the information which is available and report back to the Court.	Action DW
2012/5900	ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING FOREST STOCK	RESUME
	Mr Readhead asked if time could be allotted at the next meeting for a detailed discussion on this subject. It was agreed it will be put on the Agenda for the February Court towards the beginning of the meeting.	Action SW
2012/5901	SWAY RECREATION GROUND	RESUME
	It is thought an application may be received soon for a new licence for the Sway Recreation Ground. The Clerk was asked to find the earlier minutes on this subject.	Action SW

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 13.32hrs