

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 20th July at 9.30 a.m. in the 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	Countryside Agency Appointed Verderer
	Cllr K Heron	Hampshire County Council Appointed 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
	Mrs P Thorne	DEFRA Appointed Verderer
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr J R Gerrelli	Head Agister (first three items only)
	Mrs S Cardwell	Assistant to the Clerk
APOLOGIES:	Miss S Westwood	Clerk
	Mr A Gerrelli	Elected Verderer

IN COMMITTEE

The Head Agister was present for the first three items.

2005/1734 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

DISCHARGE

The Minutes of the Court held on Wednesday, 15th June 2005 were approved and signed.

2005/1735 VERDERERS' POLICIES

The Official Verderer stated that the draft Policy Document has been distributed to all concerned and that the Forestry Commission has had sight of it. He believes that there will be no adverse comments from the Forestry Commission and any written observations will not preclude the Verderers approval this morning. The Official Verderer proposed that the Verderers' Policies be approved and Cllr K Heron, a sub committee member, seconded the proposal. A vote to approve the Policy Document was taken which was unanimous. The Official Verderer also proposed that the Policy document should be reviewed in three years (2008) and this was also agreed.

It was suggested by the Official Verderer that the Policy Document should be printed up and a copy sent to the National Park Authority prior to the Verderers' training day due to be held on 10th August.

During the training day it is proposed that the NPA members are shown examples of the working Forest, as well as what the Verderers do. A lunch will be provided. It was requested that as many Verderers as possible should attend and they should contact the Clerk so that she is able to book the appropriate number of coach.

The idea of the training day is to ensure that the NPA are fully informed and educated about the Forest and how it works.

It was noted that two members of the NPA are attending the Verderers' Court today.

The contents of the latest Forestry Commission's letter was queried as

their previous letter was one of attack. The Official Verderer explained that the FC had requested that the Court gives a reasonable explanation of its decisions and not to just refer to sections of the Policy. In general, the Forestry Commission accept the Policy Document.

2005/1736 ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS

DISCHARGE

The Announcements and Decisions were approved but Mr Adams requested that a reminder be added that stallions need to be removed from the Forest by the end of July.

2005/1737 CONDITION OF STOCK

RESUME

Report by the Head Agister

On the whole, the animals are looking very well at the moment, particularly the cattle. Ponies are in good condition and the foals are doing well. There is a lot of grass about particularly in the bogs and bottoms.

Mr Pasmore commented that a few of the ponies (approximately 5%) look very lean. They do not pose a problem at the moment but will need watching in the autumn.

The Head Agister agreed that a few are showing a bit of rib but the majority are well and have good foals. He remarked that in the Penn Common area some late foals are expected due to Mr Penny's illegally depastured stallion and this situation will need watching.

Mrs Thorne raised the incident of a pony getting caught up in fencing at Broomy. The new fencing is on level ground whereas it used to be on a bank. The Head Agister confirmed that a watch will be kept on the situation.

Mr Adams remarked that Mr Penny's stallion is still out.

The Head Agister left the meeting.

Report by Mr John Adams – Chairman of the Staff Committee

Mr Adams remarked that one or two mares will need to be checked over at the drifts and that some foals do not seem to be thriving as they should. However, on the whole the condition of the animals is good.

2005/1738 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESUME

The New Forest Golf Club will be raised later in the meeting and the Official Verderer declared an interest as a director of another Golf Club in the Forest.

As a member of the New Forest Fox Hounds, Mrs Thorne declared an interest in the items on the Agenda concerning hunting. Cllr Heron also declared an interest on the hunting issue.

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

2005/1739 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RESUME

The Clerk has been unable to produce the Financial Statement for June due to the ongoing Court case. This will be prepared together with July's and circulated in August.

2005/1740 MARKING FEES

RESUME

The Assistant to the Clerk confirmed that marking fees have been paid to date for the following animals:-

Ponies	4248
Cattle	2277
Donkeys	97
Pigs	1
Total	6623

2005/1741 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT

RESUME

The Official Verderer reported that the owner of the 2 bulls at large on the Forest, Mr Colin Barnes, has been served with a removal notice. Mr Barnes subsequently removed one of the bulls but was having difficulty with the other one. As we were satisfied that he had a genuine problem, we agreed to provide assistance from the agisters and with their help the bull was removed last Sunday. Mr Barnes was informed that bulls will not be tolerated on the Forest and that they must not get out again.

If the current Court case is resolved satisfactorily, then hopefully we will be in a position to remove Mr Penny's stallion.

2005/1742 VERDERERS' COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

RESUME

Mr Pasmore remarked that he is worried about the increase in stock numbers and wondered how DEFRA will view this when next year's applications are received.

The Scheme has been capped at 2004 marking fees and this coupled with the strict eligibility rules, should enable the situation to be contained. This will be raised with Mr C Draper, the Scheme Manager, after the Court.

Mr Frost queried whether DEFRA's acreage for the Forest included inclosures which are being thrown open. As more grazing land becomes available, can numbers of animals be increased?

Miss Macnair considers that pigs should be classified separately.

The Official Verderer stated that we can probably negotiate the situation with DEFRA.

Mr Pasmore remarked that as 400/500 extra acres is available, English Nature should be told that these additional areas will need to be grazed.

The Official Verderer said that he will raise this issue with Mr Draper.

2005/1743 NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

The Official Verderer referred to the recent appointment of the new Chief Executive, Lindsay Cornish. He recently held a meeting with her and was impressed with what she had to say. She knows how important the Verderers' role is and he felt that the meeting had been very useful.

The Official Verderer apologised for his absence for the remainder of the Court Committee meeting due to his attendance at the Magistrates Court.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER

2005/1744 HIT AND RUN REWARD SCHEME

We would like to remind the public of the existence of our scheme which offers a reward of up to £1,000 to any person who provides evidence that is instrumental in achieving a successful conviction in a hit and run incident.

There have recently been a handful of such hit and runs, and in one case a conviction has been secured and a reward has been given. This scheme will hopefully encourage more people to decide to help when they have witnessed these sorts of incidents.

2005/1745 ELECTIONS

Although the next elections are not due to take place until next year, we are determined to increase the awareness of these polls amongst those who are entitled to vote. We have thus put together a campaign that will begin later this year to encourage all those who can vote to register.

The Verderers' Elections are an integral and important part of our commoning system, and allow all commoners to have a say in who they wish to represent them and act on their behalf in the regulation and management of commoning. Our elections are unique to the Forest, and we wish to ensure that everyone who is entitled to vote actually does so on polling day in November 2006.

2005/1746 ACCOUNTS

We are now in receipt of the draft audited accounts, and we hope to be able to finalise and approve them at the September Court, after which they will be available for inspection at the office, as well as being published on our website.

2005/1747 VERDERERS' POLICIES

The Verderers' Revised Policies were approved in Committee this morning. Copies are available on request from the Verderers' Office or viewed on our website.

2005/1748 STALLIONS

We would like to remind all stallion owners that their stallions must be off the Forest by the end of July.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2005/1749 ACCIDENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2005

The agisters attended 15 accidents in June which compares with 12 for the same period last year.

7 ponies and 1 donkey were killed and 5 ponies were injured.

9 of the accidents occurred during the hours of darkness.

9 involved private cars or light commercials, 1 involved a heavy vehicle and 5 accidents were not reported.

8 accidents involved local motorists.

The total killed and injured for the year to date is 48 compared with 49 for the same period last year.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR OF THE NEW FOREST

There were no presentments by the Deputy Surveyor

PRESENTMENTS

2005/1750 UNAUTHORISED CAMPING ON MINSTEAD MANOR LANDS
Presentment by Mr Bob Cooper

The Official Verderer reminded Mr Cooper of the Court's Rules of Procedure and the 5 minute rule regarding the length of presentments.

Mr Cooper made a presentment concerning unauthorised camping just off the C17 near Robins Bush on Minstead Manor Common which is part of the New Forest SSSI, on Friday 8th July 2005. Numerous cars were parked on the verges, fires were lit on grazing land and rubbish and filth were spread indiscriminately over an area in excess of an acre and a half. A warning that the revellers were on an SSSI from the owner and the police and a request for them to move off on Saturday morning were ignored. The party continued until about 5.00 p.m. on Sunday 10th July.

The office of English Nature was informed of the incident at 9.00 a.m. the Monday morning following not having a weekend telephone number for them.

Eventually an inspection was carried out and the owners and the commoners then cleared the site of much of the rubbish. The firebases were still warm to hot until Tuesday morning.

Mr Cooper complained about English Nature's lack of action and asked the Court to tell the Agency that they expect them to act promptly to prosecute any offence of the nature of the one on Manor lands as described above and that it will expect English Nature to co-operate with the Court in the future.

The Official Verderer queried whether Mr Cooper wished the Court to write to English Nature asking them to respond quicker?

Mr Cooper referred to English Natures Enforcement of Policy Statement (copy given to the Clerk) and requested that they be asked why they did not react more quickly.

Mr Cooper also asked if the Court has a weekend contact telephone number for English Nature and if so, could they pass it on to him please.

2005/1751 ILLEGAL CAMPING IN THE FOREST
Presentment by Mr D M Bennett

After having made my presentment last month on the subject of illegal camping in the Forest, I realised that I had not explained clearly the size of sign I had in mind. This would be a small plaque, or if necessary two small plaques, similar to the ones used in respect of 'No Cycling'. These would have a caravan and tent crossed through, and would be of a suitable size to fit on one of the existing posts already in use in the car parks. Having recently seen a sign of this type, I photographed it, and will hand the photos in with my presentment for your consideration.

Mr Bennet also mentioned that during this dry weather the fire risk is greater from overnight campers.

2005/1752 NO PARKING SIGNS ON GATES
Presentment by Mr Chris Aldhouse, New Forest Equine Association

At the last New Forest Consultative Panel a carriage driver reported being unable to get through a cattle grid gate due to parked cars and as a result the horse became stressed and almost crossed the cattle grid.

By coincidence the following day I went into the Forest near Moonhills and found a van parked in front of the gate. My small pony was unusually well behaved that day so I was able to squeeze by, but had I been driving a carriage I would have been unable to pass.

The Hampshire County Council Representative was to back a request to replace the no parking signs which used to be on these gates. As NFEA representative, I was asked to bring this point to the attention of the Verderers and ask for your support with this request.

The Official Verderer promised to bring this to the attention of the Deputy Surveyor.

2005/1753 STALLIONS
Presentment by Mr Mike Cooper

Mr Cooper referred to his previous presentment regarding stallions and asked what the outcome was.

The Official Verderer replied that the Verderers have had some discussion on this subject but will discuss again this morning.

2005/1754 LYNDHURST GOLF COURSE – TURF AND FENCING
Present by Mr Mike Cooper

Mr Cooper referred to his previous presentment on the above and commented that the fence is still in position and a "garotting" strand of wire has now been added. He said that both these issues need to be addressed.

The Official Verderer replied that both these issues will be discussed in the Court Committee this morning.

2005/1755 LONGDOWN RUBBISH DUMP

Presentment by Mr Len Mansbridge, Commoner

Mr Mansbridge was concerned about Forest animals turned out in the vicinity of the old rubbish dump at Longdown. He said that gas was still coming out of the dump; that the water in the area was contaminated and the well water had been condemned. He is concerned that the ponies in that area are drinking contaminated water and could be slowly being poisoned.

He referred to Longdown disease as it was called years ago, when sewage escaped into the Beaulieu River. Several ponies died over a 5/6 year period and some post mortems were held. The ponies' livers were like concrete. Another pony died and was taken to Itchen Abbas for a post mortem. It was confirmed that it died of poisoning through drinking contaminated water.

Mr Mansbridge then asked if a water trough could be placed in the Longdown area as this might solve the problem. In the area where gas is escaping, he suggested that this be fenced off and a land exchange carried out via the Forestry Commission to compensate for the loss of grazing.

Mr Mansbridge said that the Forestry Commission were wrong to give their permission for this rubbish dump in the first place, and that the New Forest District Council were wrong to ask for a dump in an area where animals were present.

He said that the Verderers should ask the NFDC to install a water trough at their expense.

The Official Verderer thanked Mr Mansbridge for his clear request and promised that it would be discussed in Committee.

Prior to closing the Open Court the Official Verderer announced that as usual there will be no Court in August and the next Open Court will be in September.

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

In the Official Verderer's absence at the Magistrates Court, Mr A Pasmore was voted as Acting Chairman for the remainder of the Court Committee.

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2005/1756 UNAUTHORISED CAMPING ON MINSTEAD MANOR LANDS DISCHARGE

Mr Cooper requested the Verderers to send a letter to English Nature asking them to act promptly when a problem on an SSSI is reported to them. It was queried whether or not the Verderers should get involved in this matter at all as it is not Crown Land.

After several minutes discussion it was suggested that the Court should write a polite letter to English Nature welcoming their views on how such situations should be handled in the future. We will also request a contact telephone number at weekends.

2005/1757 ILLEGAL CAMPING ON THE FOREST DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor confirmed that there are already No Camping signs and/or dragons teeth in the most popular spots and he is not keen to erect additional signs. There are signs in the Cadnam Car Park but no one seems to take any notice of them.

The trouble spots are targeted by Forestry Commission staff and this will continue, however, it is their policy not to move campers immediately if it is felt that they may not be fit to drive or if they have young children.

The car parks are not always the problem, for example there were some illegal campers at Moyles Court recently for three days. This area is the responsibility of the National Trust or Lord Normanton.

With regard to BBQ's, the Deputy Surveyor confirmed that it is the FC's policy to discourage BBQ's except in certain locations. The keepers and rangers have to be courteous in dealing with these situations and the appropriate staff training is provided.

2005/1758 LYNDHURST GOLF COURSE – TURF & FENCING RESUME

The additional strand of wire was confirmed as to be almost invisible against a dark background. Mr Will Parke confirmed that the Forestry Commission had stipulated when the fence was erected that the top must be a rail.

After a brief discussion the Forestry Commission were asked to contact the Golf Club and request that the wire be replaced by a rail.

A letter should be sent to Mr M Cooper confirming our actions.

2005/1759 STALLIONS RESUME
September

All aspects of the Stallion Scheme are currently being reviewed and it is hoped that the results of the review will be available in September.

A letter should be sent to Mr M Cooper advising him of this.

2005/1760 NO PARKING SIGNS ON GATES DISCHARGE

All gates adjacent to cattle grids should be equipped with No Parking signs. Hampshire Highways at Hounslow are the people to contact regarding this problem and Cllr Heron offered to take the appropriate action.

A letter will be sent to Mr C Aldhouse advising him of our action.

2005/1761 LONGDOWN RUBBISH DUMP RESUME

Mr Mansbridge's presentment was discussed but there did not appear to be any evidence to support his claim with regard to animals being poisoned. The Forestry Commission were requested to write to the Environment Agency to ask for appropriate monitoring to take place in that area.

The sewage problem which was mentioned in Mr Mansbridge's presentment is an old problem which has since been resolved.

A letter is required to be sent to Mr Mansbridge explaining our action.

SUBMISSIONS BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2005/1762 VERDERERS' INCLOSURES

RESUME

The Forestry Commission wants discussions on the principle of reducing the compensation payments for the Verderers' Inclosures if they are to surrender their rights permanently to grow trees on areas restored to open heathland. (See letter dated 15th July 2005 reference 50/L 15/6 WJP/MG). A plan enclosed with the letter showing the phased restoration to heathland at Dur Hill was provided as an example.

It was pointed out by the Court that the lease for such compensation is due to run for 125 years. Although the land may no longer be wanted by the Forestry Commission for timber production, there is nothing in the lease to provide for the end or reduction of compensation payments.

Mr Will Parke, FC, stated that it would be an inappropriate use of public money to pay something for nothing especially when the clearance work was recreating nationally important open Forest habitats.

It was thought that some sort of formula could be found so that the Verderers do not lose out financially and the Deputy Surveyor promised to give the matter some consideration. He also asked if the Verderers could look at the issue of reviewing such payments at five year intervals. The areas involved could be mapped and copies provided.

The Court confirmed that this may be possible depending on the nature of the restoration. The important point is that the Court should be put in no worse financial position than at present, on conclusion of the negotiations.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2005/1763 LINFORD ROAD, SHOBLEY

DISCHARGE

A new culvert is being installed in this area. Mr Will Parke, FC, promised to provide the office with a copy of the papers.

2005/1764 UNOFFICIAL ROADSIDE PARKING

RESUME
October

The Deputy Surveyor reported that the unofficial roadside parking problem at Wootton has been resolved but there are about 70 other locations where similar problems occur. It is a growing problem and the Deputy Surveyor and Mr H Oram are to look at the issue in September. It is a sensitive issue which usually attracts a lot of press coverage and can create bad feeling. There apparently is a reluctance to park in 'secret' car parks, i.e. those surrounded by trees, due to the possibility of theft occurring.

Mr Frost remarked that proper laybys for parking up to 3 cars can be useful. However, the Deputy Surveyor pointed out that there are numerous problems with this type of parking facility such as liability, the size of them – are they safe, environmental issues on an SSSI etc.

It was also pointed out that the visual impact of such parking would be undesirable.

It was suggested that a Working Group comprising Verderers and FC staff etc. may be required.

The Deputy Surveyor said that the National Park Plan will be produced in the next five years and in the meantime, the Forestry Commission will continue to take action on illegal parking in some laybys and gateways.

Cllr Heron reported that a meeting at Moyles Court, has been recently held with regard to a parking issue.

2005/1765 DUNCES ARCH INCLOSURE, EXTRACTION DAMAGE RESUME

The Forestry Commission had obtained estimates for restoration work, but these had not been accepted by the contractor responsible for the damage.

If agreement has not been reached within one week, the Forestry Commission will undertake the work necessary and then invoice their contractor.

2005/1766 ASHURST CRICKET PITCH RESUME
September

Mr Will Parke, FC, is currently discussing this issue with the Parish Council who appear to be quite happy for the area to be grazed. It was decided to resume this item at the September Court.

2005/1767 HGV WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS RESUME

Cllr Heron has been progressing this issue with both the National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council and has asked all the appropriate questions. The County Council acknowledge that there already is a problem on the B3078, B3079 and B3080 which traverse the Forest.

With regard to Pound Bottom Tip, it was commented that the Forest is not a good place for this tip which Wiltshire County Council gave permission for and Hampshire are getting all the trouble.

2005/1768 ROUNDHILL WATER TOWER DISCHARGE

It was decided to discharge this item.

2005/1769 ASHURST TO LYNDHURST CYCLEWAY DISCHARGE

This matter has been delayed as English Nature want compensation land. The Verderers are awaiting further details and it was decided to discharge this item.

2005/1770 TRAIL HUNTING RESUME

Cllr Heron and Mrs Thorne declared an interest in this issue.

The Deputy Surveyor reported that the FC has recently held discussions with the hounds (mounted) and the beagles (on foot) with

regard to the issue of licences. The trail hunting would be on Crown Land and in essence would occur with similar frequency to previous hunts i.e. twice a week, 3 to 4 hours per time. A scent trail will be laid (not using dead animals) which is to be agreed by the FC. The trail will mimic animal runs with false stops. They will provide in advance a list of meets, locations and areas of the Forest to be hunted which will be rotated according to the FC Keeper beats i.e. similar to past hunts. They have requested that the hunts run from September to the end of March but the Forestry Commission have indicated that they do not want them to run that long and have stipulated September to the end of February.

They have also requested the licence to cover 7 vehicles for the hunt followers. The FC are prepared to include cover for 2 vehicles on Health and Safety grounds but asked for the Verderers' views.

With regard to the issue of a licence, the FC are minded to act in line with Government policy. They are still waiting for the National Agreement for terms and conditions of such licences which they expect to receive in August. In view of the fact that the hunt wish to commence in September, the FC would like the Verderers' advice today – after the meeting if necessary.

Mr Pasmore queried why the hunt want 7 vehicles – are they really necessary?

The Deputy Surveyor confirmed that it is a matter of tradition for followers to closely follow the hunt. Some paying members are getting older and cannot ride but want to follow. Also some times the trail will be in the more remote areas of the Forest.

Mr Frost commented that this could be classified as motorised recreation and the Verderers have already refused bus trips around the Forest. He also asked if there will be anti hunt people and police present.

Cllr Heron confirmed that the anti hunt people will be present to closely watch proceedings to make sure that the hunt is obeying the rules.

The Deputy Surveyor stated that he expects the anti hunt people to follow the hunts closely. He has questioned the need for so many vehicles but commented that as a lot of the followers are commoners they will maintain that they have a legitimate reason to have a vehicle on the Forest. He also said that it would be logical to allow some vehicles to follow the hunt so that the situation can be monitored.

Mr Pasmore said that he hopes that the hunt will be regulated according to the weather and ground conditions. The FC confirmed that they can make this a condition of the licence.

Mr Adams asked if the size of the field will be limited. The Deputy Surveyor commented that fields traditionally have not been too large.

The FC also confirmed that they would consider the issue of a licence for drag hunting by other parties if they were approached.

Cllr Heron commented that previously over half the area hunted previously by beagles is on private land.

2005/1771 REVIEW OF COMMON LAND

RESUME

Mr Pasmore commented that he has gone through the legislation document and found it very difficult reading. Section 194 of the Law of Property Act gives protection to the whole Forest at present, but this is to be repealed. The substituted "protection" will not apply to the Forest, leaving the Adjacent Commons particularly vulnerable to abuse.

Mr W Parke confirmed that the FC has a copy of the Official Verderer's letter.

The Bill, which potentially creates problems for the Verderers, is now before the House of Lords. It was suggested that the Verderers and Forestry Commission could combine their efforts with regard to legal advice but the FC is not sure what part they could play as they are part of the Government.

It was also pointed out that the National Park Authority has the same lawyers as DEFRA and the FC.

Cllr Heron commented that as the National Park Authority will look after the New Forest it is in their interest to protect the Park. It was asked if the NPA will help with this issue and Cllr Heron agreed to contact them in this respect.

Mr Pasmore stressed that the timescale on this matter is extremely urgent and suggested that the Verderers' lawyers be asked to look at this without delay. It was proposed, and unanimously agreed, that the sum of £2,000 should be allocated immediately from the Railway Fund to finance this work and that the Clerk should be asked to put this in had at once, in consultation with the Official Verderer.

2005/1772 BEAULIEU ROAD HOTEL

RESUME
September

Mr Parke confirmed that the Clerk has recently written to the Environment Agency regarding this matter but as yet no reply has been received.

It was thought that no action will be taken until later this summer and it was suggested that this be resumed in September.

2005/1773 MARKWAY LAWN

RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor said that following a site meeting, a report is being finalised and should be available fairly shortly. A map of the area drawn up in the 1780s is also required.

Simon Weymouth is to speak with Geodata Institute with regard to the levels of the channel for final consent.

Work is to be commenced in the second week of August and it will take up to one month to complete.

2005/1774 ELLINGHAM CRICKET GROUND

DISCHARGE

Mr W Parke reported that the logs have been removed but the covers are still on the Forest. The Cricket Club has been asked to remove them.

2005/1775 HOLMSLEY PASSAGE DISCHARGE

Mr Parke confirmed that he has no further information on this scheme.

2005/1776 FENCE BEHIND ENGLISH NATURE'S OFFICE, LYNDHURST DISCHARGE

Mr Parke confirmed that this land is part of the old Police Station grounds. The Crown sold the land in 1857 for £20. The original brick wall has recently been removed and replaced by a wire fence. Mr Parke has examined the new fence and confirmed that it is in the correct place.

A letter needs to be sent to Mr L Mansbridge concerning his recent presentment about this matter.

2005/1777 NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY OFFICES DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore asked if there is any truth in the widespread rumours that the National Park Authority wishes to build in the grounds of the Queen's House. The two Verderers serving on the park said that they had no knowledge of such a scheme. The Deputy Surveyor said he was unaware of current plans to build, but that it had to be remembered that this site is government land.

2005/1778 SWAY RECREATION GROUND DISCHARGE

The chairman drew attention to press reports that there is dissention among the various parties concerned with the lease of this site and to the fact that the Court had previously indicated its desire for the return of the land to the Forest. Mr.Parke said that there was uncertainty about the future of the recreation ground and noted the Verderers' concerns.

2005/1779 MILKHAM INCLOSURE GATE DISCHARGE

Mrs Thorne commented that the inclosure gate down the gravel track from Spring Bushes Car Park was always locked and there is no side gate.

She also asked if there are any maps available showing the Keepers' walks since the recent changes to the areas.

It was confirmed that Frontline (FC telephone number) operates outside normal office hours and will call out people if necessary.

The Deputy Surveyor promised to let the Verderers have copies of the Keepers' areas maps.

2005/1780 HIGHLAND WATER INCLOSURE DISCHARGE

Mr Frost referred to a seepage mire area which needs to be grazed. He mentioned that the area looks as though it has been fenced and conifers will re-generate if left as it is.

The Deputy Surveyor said that he will investigate.

LIFE 3

There was nothing to report under this item.

The Deputy Surveyor and Mr Parke left the meeting.

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

2005/1781 NEW FOREST STALLION SCHEME RESUME

Mr Adams distributed a draft proposal covering winter grazing and the operation of the Scheme for next year. He requested comments (if any) be directed to him within the next week. Mr Adams will meet Mr Cuzens after the New Forest Show to examine the additional grazing on offer.

2005/1782 WILVERLEY INCIDENT RESUME
September

Our insurance company has been notified of this incident and we await their advice.

2005/1783 FALLEN STOCK RESUME

A copy of the letter from the New Forest Hounds is to be distributed to all Verderers.

2005/1784 HOLLANDS WOOD AND ROUNDHILL CAMP SITES RESUME
September

This item is to be resumed at the September Court.

2005/1785 VERDERERS' ELECTION 2006 RESUME

Mr C Draper has drawn up a campaign of action to publicise the Verderers' Election in November 2006.

Mr Pasmore suggested that Atlas meetings could be set up to encourage more people to go on the Electoral Register for the 2006 Election. It was also proposed that the Atlas should be taken to the Commoners' Defence Association meetings.

Cllr Heron enquired as to how much in the way of expenses were available to candidates and Mr Pasmore said he wasn't sure but they were limited.

The Official Verderer has indicated that we need a higher number of people participating in future Elections.

Mr Montagu stressed the need for features in the local press as we must be seen to be getting the message out and not conspiring.

The Election will be publicised at this year's New Forest Show, and names and addresses taken of potential eligible voters.

On the whole Mr Draper's proposals were acceptable to the Court.

2005/1786 PROSECUTION OF CERTAIN NATIONAL TRUST COMMONERS RESUME

This Court case is on going at the moment.

2005/1787 MOYLES COURT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS DISCHARGE

Mrs Thorne has no additional comments to make concerning this issue.

VERDERERS' COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

2005/1788 VERDERERS' COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME RESUME

The Committee will meet with Mr C Draper after the Court Committee to discuss the position on partnerships entering the Scheme.

NATIONAL PARK

2005/1789 NEWLY APPOINTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE DISCHARGE

This item was discussed in the earlier Court Committee.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

2005/1790 TRAIL HUNTING RESUME

The Court decided in principle to support the issue of a trail licence.

With regard to the request for vehicles, we would favour an approach which will reduce or minimise vehicle movements with maximum occupancy of those vehicles which are permitted.

The Forestry Commission is to be asked whether the licences to be issued are on an annual basis. The Verderers would recommend that they be issued on a trial basis for the first year.

MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

STAFF MATTERS (including the Staff Committee)

2005/1791 POUNDS AND LEADER+ FUNDING DISCHARGE

Some Leader + funding has been lost due to work on the Woodgreen pound having been commenced in advance of formal approval.

2005/1792 AGISTERS' REMUNERATION DISCHARGE

The remuneration sub-committee, consisting of the Official Verderer, Mr Adams, Mr Kitcher and Mrs Thorne recently met to discuss the agisters' remuneration. Their proposal will require the Court's approval but as it has not been budgeted for this year, will not be effective until April 2006.

TRAINING

2005/1793 FIRST AID TRAINING DISCHARGE

First Aid training has been provided for all the agisters except for the Head Agister who had to attend the Magistrates Court.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

There were no health and safety matters concerning employees to report at this meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2005/1794 DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN DISCHARGE

Cllr Heron attended the meeting on this Plan and her notes are available if anyone should wish to read them.

2005/1795 GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW DISCHARGE

The New Forest Pony Publicity Group were represented at the above show and Miss Macnair reported that there was a great deal of interest in the New Forest pony. People from Yorkshire have indicated that they intend to come down to the Beaulieu Road Sales.

2005/1796 STALLION INSPECTION DISCHARGE

It was requested that the office send a letter to the stallions owners with reference to the inspections taking place at the Breed Show in August. Mr Adams will advise the time schedule for the inspections prior to the letter being sent.

The letter should indicate to the owners of the top 20 stallions that they do not need to have their stallions inspected again.

The office was also requested to write to the Pony Breeding Society and the Commoners' Defence Association requesting the names of two judges from each organisation who will judge at the Stallion Inspection.

2005/1797 NEW FOREST SHOW DISCHARGE

The office was requested to post the Show tickets to those Verderers who are on duty at the Verderers' stand.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.15 p.m.