

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday, 16th June 2004 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 A Gerrelli Elected Verderer
Mr P Frost Countryside Agency Appointed Verderer
Mrs K Heron Appointed Hampshire County Council Verderer
Mr J F Kitcher Elected Verderer
Miss D Macnair Elected Verderer
The Hon R Montagu Appointed Forestry Commission Verderer
Mr A H Pasmore Elected Verderer
Mrs P Thorne Appointed DEFRA Verderer

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss S Westwood Clerk
Mr J R Gerrelli Head Agister (first three items only)

APOLOGIES: None

IN COMMITTEE

The Head Agister was present for the first three items.

2004/941 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING DISCHARGE

The Minutes of the Court held on Wednesday, 19th May April 2004 were approved and signed.

2004/942 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

All the Elected Verderers plus Mrs Thorne formally declared they have an interest in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. The Official Verderer declared an interest as someone with licensed premises in the vicinity of Fritham (Minute 2004/972 refers).

2004/943 ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS DISCHARGE

The Announcements and Decisions were approved.

2004/944 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister reported that he is a lot happier with the condition of stock now. There has been a vast improvement over the past few weeks. The grass, which came through a little earlier than usual, is growing well and the ponies have picked up condition and are improving. Most foals have now been born. One or two mares still to foal are a little poor but anything that is below the standard is removed if at all possible.

The Elected Verderers agreed with the Head Agister. Mr Kitcher said the ponies on the Forest look better than some in fields and Mr Gerrelli commented that most have now got their summer coats and are looking well.

The Head Agister left the meeting.

The Chairman of the Staff Committee agreed that on the whole the condition of stock is improving. The strangles outbreak seems to have

subsided at last. Animals which were knocked back by the virus are now picking up. He agreed that a few mares with foals are not as good as they could be but those which are borderline are better left on the Forest. Some rain is now needed in the next few weeks if improvements are to be maintained.

2004/945 DONKEYS

DISCHARGE

Mr Adams said he would circulate the Draft Policy on Jack Donkeys to the Agisters. The Agisters, however, do not feel jack donkeys are a major problem. It was agreed the Policy should be kept in hand in case it is required but it will not be implemented at present. There are three mule foals known to be on the Forest, two of which were deliberate!

If there is a sudden increase in mule foals then something may need to be done.

The reply from DEFRA concerning import controls for donkeys was rather unhelpful. The representative from the Donkey Sanctuary who attended the May Welfare Tour is known to be concerned.

Donkeys which pass through Beaulieu Road Sales will be required to have a proper passport which should prove helpful.

2004/946 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RESUME

The Financial Statement for May was approved.

2004/947 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT

RESUME

One commoner is known to have still not paid. A strong letter has been sent by the office demanding payment by the end of this week.

2004/948 SPOTTED STALLION

DISCHARGE

A spotted stallion has been at large on the Bramshaw Commons. Allegedly it had been out for approximately 3 weeks before the Agisters learned about him. The Agister for the area says he did not know the horse was out. It appears, however, that a number of local commoners including a former Agister knew full well the horse was at large. Unfortunately no-one thought to advise the Agisters or the office. The matter has now been dealt with and the horse has been removed.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Mike Seddon
Mr Will Parke

Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest
Area Land Agent (New Forest)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER

2004/949 COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

The processing of the applications is almost complete. We envisage contracts will be sent to all commoners who have applied and are eligible to join the Scheme by the end of July.

Commoners will be invited to return their contracts, duly signed, within 14 days of

receipt if they wish to participate in the Scheme.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2004/950 ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR MAY 2004

Total Accidents for the Period: 11 (7)

	Killed		Collar		Injured		Collar		Uninjured		Collar		Not Found	
Ponies	4	(4)	1	(0)	3	(0)	1	(0)	0	(1)	0	(0)	1	(1)
Cattle	0	(0)	N/a	N/a	2	(0)	N/a	N/a	0	(0)	N/a	N/a	0	(0)
Donkeys	1	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Pigs	0	(0)	N/a	N/a	0	(0)	N/a	N/a	0	(0)	N/a	N/a	0	(0)
Sheep	0	(0)	N/a	N/a	0	(0)	N/a	N/a	0	(0)	N/a	N/a	0	(0)
Totals	5	(4)	1	(0)	5	(0)	1	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	1	(1)

TOTAL KILLED & INJURED	10	(4)
Accidents During the Hours of Darkness	5	(2)
Vehicles Involved		
Private Cars / Light Commercial	9	(5)
Motor Cycles	0	(0)
Heavy Vehicles	1	(0)
Bicycles	0	(0)
Number of Local Motorists	7	(4)
Number of Accidents Not Reported	1	(2)
Total Killed and Injured for the Year to date	38	(27)

Number of Deer Killed - (-)

Figures in brackets () show previous year's totals.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR OF THE NEW FOREST

There were no Presentments by the Deputy Surveyor.

PRESENTMENTS

2004/951 STALLIONS
Presentment by Peter Sweet, Practising Commoner

Col Sweet expressed concern that the present Stallion Scheme whereby the number of stallions turned out and the time in which they are turned out is limited is not the best long-term solution for limiting numbers of foals born on the Forest. He was concerned at the loss of bloodlines and hardiness in Forest stock as well as the difficulties faced by commoners trying to keep stallions on their holdings for 10 months of the year.

Col Sweet advocated that further investigations should be made into immuno-contraception which is used on wild herds in New Zealand.

2004/952 COMMERCIAL EXPERIMENTATION IN THE FOREST
Presentment by Mrs Olive Collins of Brockenhurst

"Over the years the Commercial Exploitation of the Forest for timber and recent years, for recreation, have been the subject of some memorable battles in this Court. But as we advance into the 21st Century we face a new and maybe bigger threat which I have called 'Commercial Experimentation' Loosely defined as 'Experimentation for the purpose of acquiring funding'.

You don't have to be a genius to guess that I am referring to the LIFE projects which are turning our Forest into an academic's paradise and a countryman's hell! That

these projects appear to be specifically designed to meet funding criteria and are being carried out without regard to their affect on the wider Forest is, to put it bluntly, a total disgrace.

The use of the Forest as an open air laboratory is anathema to many Forest people who know and value the rare and special flora and fauna which thrive in this unique landscape without feeling compelled to shout about it.

In claiming that the projects taking place within the Inclosures will not have a detrimental impact on the Open Forest is dangerously naïve and demonstrates not only woeful ignorance but an appalling arrogance when many of the older, more knowledgeable Commoners that I have spoken to hold a totally opposite view.

Since the supposed benefits from the LIFE projects are as far as I can see only speculation based on theory I appeal to you, as guardians of the Forest, to use your powers to stop this vandalism before it causes even more irreparable damage”.

2004/953 **CAMPING IN THE FOREST**
Presentment by Mr Bob Cooper, Minstead Manor Commoner

Mr Cooper said that the Forestry Commission is charging £40.00 per week including electricity to certain property owners who are in turn renting their homes for £500/£600 per month. He asked the Court to investigate as he felt the rate of compensation paid to the Verderers in respect of campsites should be brought to the attention of the Auditors.

2004/954 **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – LIFE 3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**
Presentment by Mr Bob Cooper

Mr Cooper made a lengthy Presentment during which he expressed grave concerns at the content of the Environmental Impact Assessment recently produced by the Environment Agency in respect of the LIFE 3 works on the Forest. He also felt that it does not meet the requirements of the appropriate legislation. Mr Cooper added that he has a letter from a senior Forestry Commission Officer who has also expressed concern at some of the alleged restoration works being carried out on Forest streams.

The Official Verderer interrupted Mr Cooper as his Presentment was running over the five minutes allowed under the Verderers' Regulations and asked Mr Cooper to sum up what he had to say.

Mr Cooper continued expressing his dissatisfaction with the LIFE 3 proposals until the Official Verderer asked him to stand down.

2004/955 **LIFE 3**
Presentment by Mr Len Mansbridge, Practising Commoner

Mr Mansbridge supported Mr Cooper's Presentment. He said he has been commoning for over 75 years. He added that when he first started commoning, he was told by the Senior Agister that he would be turning his animals out at his own risk in the Forest in its natural state. Mr Mansbridge said the Forest is now man made and he asked who is responsible if an animal dies in a bog?

2004/956 **STALLIONS**
Presentment by Mr Len Mansbridge, Practising Commoner

Mr Mansbridge supported Col Sweet's Presentment. He felt the hardiness of the ponies is in jeopardy under the present Stallion Scheme. He was also dissatisfied with the judging of the Stallions and said that the Judges should read and digest the code of

practise for pony judges. He added he was very unhappy at what he saw 2 years ago.

2004/957 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – LIFE 3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Presentment by Mr Mike Cooper, Practising Commoner

Mr Cooper endorsed the Presentments by Mr Bob Cooper and Mr Mansbridge and went on to say that the New Forest Pony Publicity Group is working hard to promote the New Forest Pony. The statement in the Environmental Assessment saying that commoners breed ponies for the meat trade is untrue and extremely damaging. Such a damning statement which will be given to high ranking Government officials could be very damaging to future grant applications.

2004/958 BLACK WELL COMMON - ELECTRICITY BOARD CONTRACTORS
Presentment by Mr Mike Cooper, Practising Commoner

Mr Cooper commented that the cut timber and brush has still not been removed. Bracken, approximately 4 feet high, is now covering the logs which are on a main path used on the drifts. He felt this is a health and safety issue as the logs are now very well hidden and could be a danger to horse-riders. There is a centre for children nearby and it is not nice for them to be running out into the type of material that has been left lying around. Additionally, Mr Cooper felt that leaving brush on the Forest encourages residents and others to dump garden waste which often contains material which is poisonous to stock.

2004/959 HIGHWAY WARNING SIGNS AT EXBURY
Presentment by Mr Mike Cooper, Practising Commoner

Mr Cooper asked if any progress has been made towards getting some signs put up on the Exbury Road, warning motorists that they are entering the Open Forest and that there may be animals on the roads.

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2004/960 STALLIONS

DISCHARGE

It was agreed that the Stallion Scheme has altered the behaviour of the mares but it was questioned whether the change is really detrimental.

The issue of immuno-contraceptives was carefully considered when Col Sweet brought the idea forward the first time. There were several reasons why the suggestion was considered impractical. Spring would be the time when immuno-contraceptives would have to be administered and that is not practical on the Forest.

There is no funding available for obtaining the necessary licence as the drugs are not available in the UK.

The Stallion Scheme is currently under review with a meeting of the stallion sub-committee due to be held the day after the Court.

It was agreed a letter should be sent to Col Sweet explaining the reasons why the immuno-contraceptive suggestion has not been taken forward and adding that the current intention is to focus efforts on improving the present stallion scheme.

2004/961 ALLEGED COMMERCIAL EXPERIMENTATION IN THE FOREST DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor agreed that the work that is taking place is indeed at times experimental. The principle is the restoration of damage caused by straightening streams.

The Elected Verderers, however, were of the view that when the Forest was drained in the 1960's it was a very good thing from the point of view of the commoners. Commoners generally accept that some work is alright but it is considered that some proposed work may well damage the grazing.

All agreed that individual proposals should be considered on their own merit.

The Deputy Surveyor said some proposals will use techniques and engineering solutions which have not been used in the Forest before but have been used elsewhere. There is also a benefit in using local contractors. He said a lot of the work being carried out under LIFE 3 is traditional management which without additional funding could not be carried out.

The Deputy Surveyor disputed that the scheme was put together because funding was available. He said the work needed was identified first and then means of funding it were sought. Most of the work has been identified through the SAC Management Plan and then a mechanism was found to take forward the required works.

The Court was reminded that comments on the Environment Agency's Environmental Impact Assessment should be made by Friday.

The Deputy Surveyor went on to explain his understanding that the reason the Forestry Commission has not been required to carry out Environmental Assessments on all the proposed LIFE work is because it is subject to different regulations. He added that the Forestry Commission has done some Assessments on certain aspects of the Forest Design Plan proposals and always does so on development work. Forestry Commission proposals under LIFE 3 do not require Assessments.

All funding received has to be matched.

2004/962 LIFE 3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DISCHARGE

The statement in the Assessment that the Forest ponies are bred for the meat trade is not true. The document was regarded as a somewhat crude assessment of the effects the LIFE 3 works are likely to have on the grazing. The Elected Verderers believe it is essential to conserve the streamside lawns.

A formal response to the Assessment is required and it was agreed a sub-committee would meet after this meeting to discuss the issues raised and prepare a suitable submission. Mr Frost, Mrs Heron, Mr Kitcher, Miss Macnair and Mr Pasmore agreed to meet after lunch.

2004/963 GATEWOOD SIGNS RESUME

Mrs Heron reported that the signs have been ordered.

2004/964 ELECTRICITY BOARD CONTRACTORS' WORK DISCHARGE

Mr Parke explained that it is standard practise for brush to be cut into pieces small enough to ensure animals do not become caught up in it and for it then to be left on the Forest. The logs will be inspected and the Forestry Commission will take whatever action it considers is appropriate.

2004/965 LONG TERM OCCUPANCY OF FORESTRY COMMISSION CAMPSITES DISCHARGE

The Forestry Commission confirmed that it has no objection to people staying on its sites for up to 3 or 4 months at a time. They ask that the pitch be moved from time to time to prevent the grass dying off underneath the caravan. The Commission is careful to guard against any possibility of someone obtaining rights of residence. The sites are rarely full, except at Bank Holidays and so it is not considered that long term occupancy restricts other visitors. The Commission was asked how many people they have staying for extended periods on the Forest's campsites.

SUBMISSIONS BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

There were no submissions from the Forestry Commission at this meeting.

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

2004/966 ROAD SIGNING RESUME

Mrs Heron explained that strategies for road signing and other similar matters etc., are drawn up at Winchester. The Area Surveyor's office at Jacobs Gutter Lane are responsible for implementation.

The County Environment Committee is looking at signing strategies in other Counties and if any are felt to be appropriate to the Forest, consideration will be given to implementing them in the Forest. The Court will be consulted at the appropriate time.

Members of the Court felt it would be useful if a representative of the Highways Dept could attend a meeting to discuss a signing policy for the Forest. Mrs Heron agreed to see who would be available.

2004/967 ORIENTEERING RESUME
September

The agreement should be signed very shortly. A copy will be provided to the Court.

2004/968 BRAMSHAW TELEGRAPH TO WINDYEATS ROAD - RUBBISH RESUME

The rubbish situation seems to have improved but the lumps of concrete and length of steel pipe are still there. The Forestry Commission agreed to see what can be done about removing the pipe.

2004/969 BRAMSHAW TELEGRAPH TO WINDYEATS ROAD HAUNCHING DISCHARGE

Some work has been done but it has not been effective. A major improvement scheme is required but there is no funding available at the moment. There is a constant stream of lorries travelling to and from the Dump.

2004/970 BURLEY STREET GARAGE PARKING DISCHARGE

Mr Parke reported that this matter is in hand and it was agreed the matter should be discharged from the minutes.

2004/971 ASHURST TO LYNDHURST CYCLEWAY DISCHARGE

Further details of the signing are awaited from Hampshire County Council. It was agreed this matter should be discharged for the time being.

2004/972 THE ROYAL OAK PUBLIC HOUSE AT FRITHAM RESUME

Mr Parke had nothing further to report so far. The Forestry Commission will come back to the Court with a scheme to reduce the effects of verge parking. The issue of planning permission for the marquee will be taken up with the District Council Planning Department and the Court will be advised of the result.

2004/973 COPPICE OF LINWOOD RUBBISH RESUME

Mr Parke said the tenant has been given until the end of June to clear the rubbish. Mr Pasmore said he will check in early July.

2004/974 GRID NO. 56 – PILLEY STREET DISCHARGE

The County Council has taken on board the safety concerns.

2004/975 CYCLE STANDS AT BURLEY DISCHARGE

Mr Parke spoke to John Sorrell of Hampshire County Council and a plan for the area will be produced and presented to the Court in due course.

OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2004/976 BEAULIEU ROAD HOTEL SEWAGE OUTLET RESUME

The Hotel has not yet obtained final approval for its new system from the Environment Agency of the Planning Department.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2004/977 MATLEY CAR PARK – OLD ROAD DISCHARGE

Concern was expressed that the old road is being used by people with model cars. The car park is now well screened and virtually out of sight of the road. Concern was expressed that undesirable activities may be taking place. The Deputy Surveyor said that next time Forestry Commission contractors are working in the area they will be asked to

thin the trees.

2004/978 WATER MAIN – CASTLE TOP TO THE CORNER OF THE THORNEY HILL ROAD RESUME

It was reported that the inspection covers are frequently being removed from this main, creating a hazard to stock and riders. Additionally, the original concrete post markers which were fairly discreet have been replaced with large bright blue signs on metal posts. These signs were considered to be out of keeping with the Forest.

It was noted that at one time it was agreed that markers should be less obtrusive and would be laid flat on the ground. They were also discouraged unless considered essential. Mr Parke will investigate and see what can be done.

2004/979 OAK TREE AT HOUSE ON MILL LANE, WOODS CORNER, BURLEY DISCHARGE

There is a large oak tree which appears to be dead with a further three oaks on private land that do not look very healthy. The Forestry Commission was asked to find out if the trees are suffering from a disease. The Deputy Surveyor agreed the Commission needs to know if there are any problems and the matter will be investigated.

2004/980 WELL COVER – LINWOOD DISCHARGE

Mrs Thorne reported that the cover of the well behind her house at Linwood is broken. She remarked that it could do with being fenced. The Forestry Commission will inspect it and see what should be done.

2004/981 LOGS ON PICKET POST RUGBY PITCH DISCHARGE

There appear to be even more logs on the rugby pitch. Mr Parke reported that the Club has promised to remove the logs quickly. The Forestry Commission is to cost and submit a quotation for measures to prevent encroachment by vehicles.

2004/982 EAST END ALLOTMENTS DISCHARGE

Mr Gerrelli remarked that he thought a new fence was to be erected between the allotments and the road to ensure the safety of stock. Mr Parke said he will check with Mr Harry Oram to see what has been done and what is due to be done.

2004/983 WINTER FEEDING AREAS DISCHARGE

A commoner has requested a feeding area close to his property at Dilton. The Keepers and Agisters met recently and they are concerned that a feeding area here might result in various problems. The Verderers felt they would rather not agree a feeding area at this location and the Forestry Commission is also reluctant to grant approval. The applicant is understood to have adequate feeding space and facilities on his own land.

2004/984 KITES DISCHARGE

Very large kites are being flown at Wilverley and on the top of Longslade. The kites are a hazard to riders and they frighten Forest

stock. The Deputy Surveyor said there is a size limit of approximately 2 metres square for kites being flown on the Forest. Flying of large kites is an activity that the Forestry Commission does try to discourage.

2004/985 DEVILS DEN – THORNEY HILL DISCHARGE

The hollies, known locally as Devils' Den need a thorough clean. At present the area is littered with rags, glass and old prams.

2004/986 SWAY FOOTBALL CLUB RESUME

A recent report in the Lymington Times stated that the Parish Council were considering letting the Football field to Forest Heath Football Club. Sway Football Club now has the use of the Jubilee Field and it was thought the original recreation ground would, therefore, be thrown open. Mr Parke explained that the Forestry Commission Licence to the Parish Council expires in 2012 and until then the Parish Council may allow the ground to be used for the residents of the Parish. Mr Parke further explained that he has written to the Parish Council to find out who the Forest Heath Football Club is.

2004/987 FENCED ROAD VERGES – ADVERTISING RESUME

Various advertising boards have appeared on the verges of the A337 and A35 and the Court enquired whether they are permitted. Mr Parke explained that the Forestry Commission has no jurisdiction over the verges of these roads. Mrs Heron said she would ask the County Council if they have powers to prevent such advertising.

2004/988 CYCLE PITS IN BUSKETTS WOOD DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore reported that cyclists had again been digging pits in Busketts Wood and he asked the Forestry Commission to ensure that they are filled in. Mr Parke explained that this is an ongoing problem and that as soon as the pits are filled in, someone digs some more elsewhere. The name and telephone number of the lady who originally reported them to Mr Pasmore will be forwarded to the Forestry Commission so that FC staff can locate the pits and fill them in again.

2004/989 SINGLE FARM PAYMENTS RESUME

It seems DEFRA is drawing up rules for the new scheme. The Deputy Surveyor promised the Forestry Commission would lend its support in respect of the Forest's commoners. The problem appears to be the regional elements of the scheme and how the money will be allocated as respects those with common rights. There is concern that the new scheme could cause problems for commoners. A means needs to be devised to recompense bone-fide commoners whilst preventing abuse by those with common rights who do not actually depasture their animals. A meeting is due to take place shortly with representatives of the National Farmers Union, Commoners' Defence Association. Mr Pasmore will be in attendance. The outcome is likely to depend on DEFRA's control over the rule making. A conference on Common Land issues may be arranged and if so the Forestry Commission should be invited to attend.

2004/990 FORESTRY COMMISSION STAFF OUT OF HOURS ROTA DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor said that the best way of contacting Forestry Commission staff out of normal working hours is to dial the usual

number. The Commission now has a 24 hour telephone answering service and a message will be passed on.

The Deputy Surveyor and Mr Parke left the meeting

OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COURTS

2004/991 STALLION SCHEME RESUME

The Official Verderer reported that unfortunately it is not possible to use Stewardship Scheme money to fund the stallion scheme to the extent that was originally hoped. DEFRA have indicated that it may well be possible to support stallions to the same level as the mares even though they are only out for 2 months.

The Deputy Surveyor is giving careful consideration as to whether the Forestry Commission can help with funding for a further year.

New Park will be available for winter grazing subject to certain conditions. The New Forest Trust will be involved and it is also approaching the International League for the Protection of Horses and other organisations to see if additional funding can be secured.

The Official Verderer said he hopes to be able to make an announcement in the July Court as to the progress with a new Stallion Scheme.

In the meantime, the Stallion Sub-Committee is to meet to consider and agree new proposals.

2004/992 VERDERERS' PONY IDENTITY LIST DISCHARGE

A newsletter is due to be sent to all commoners and a note will be included advising that the New Forest Pony Breeding & Cattle Society must be provided with the details of ponies which are registered with the Society but do not have full passports and have been included on the Verderers' List.

2004/993 VERDERERS' COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME – DISCHARGE
VERDERERS' STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

It was agreed that Mr Adams, Mr Gerrelli, Mr Pasmore, Mrs Thorne will sit on the Stewardship Committee. The Chairman will be the Official Verderer.

2004/994 VERDERERS' COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME – RESUME
ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Letters have been written to the Commoners' Defence Association, Forestry Commission, English Nature, the National Trust and DEFRA asking them to nominate representatives to sit on this committee.

2004/995 REQUEST FROM DEFRA FOR A LIST OF COMMONERS DISCHARGE
DEPASTURING STOCK ON PLAITFORD, CANADA AND WEST WELLOW COMMONS

DEFRA has requested the list because it is investigating overgrazing on these commons. The Court gave permission for the list to be provided.

REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2004/996 NEW FOREST COMMITTEE DISCHARGE

The minutes of the last New Forest Committee meeting have been circulated. There was nothing of note that needed to be discussed at this meeting.

STAFF MATTERS (including the Staff Committee)

2004/997 JUDGING OF FOALS DISCHARGE

At the last Court it was agreed that the Head Agister and Agister Maton should be asked to judge the foals. Both have indicated that they are happy to do this. For obvious reasons, they will not judge their own foals.

2004/998 AGISTERS' STAND AT THE NEW FOREST SHOW DISCHARGE

The Forestry Commission has requested a contribution of £150.00 towards the cost of repairing the Agisters' stand. This expenditure was approved.

2004/999 CATTLE GRID AND FENCE AT LYBURN DISCHARGE

It was agreed a further letter should be written to the Lyburn Estate asking for the cattle grid and fencing to be repaired. The Court agreed to offer a without prejudice donation towards the necessary work as the Agisters are spending an unreasonable amount of time catching ponies which have found their way into the Estate and neighbouring properties.

2004/1000 AGISTERS' MILEAGE RESUME
September

The Clerk confirmed that any mileage re-imbusement payments over the 40p approved by the Inland Revenue are subject to National Insurance. It was agreed the mileage rates would be reviewed along with the next salary review when the salary supplement which is currently being paid will also be considered.

2004/1001 HUMANE KILLERS DISCHARGE

The new humane killer for the Head Agister has now been obtained and another has been repaired. The gunsmiths now has plenty of ammunition in stock.

STAFF TRAINING

2004/1002 CHAINSAW TRAINING DISCHARGE

Agister Lovell has completed his training and passed the exam. His certificate should be received shortly. The Court thanked Mr Kitcher for his time and help in providing the necessary training.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

2004/1003 ACCIDENTS DISCHARGE

A couple of minor injuries have been recorded in the Accident Book.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2004/1004 WELFARE STANDARDS

RESUME

Mrs Thorne tabled a paper suggesting a review of the present pony standards as they have been in use for the past 10 years. It was agreed that members of the Court should provide feedback direct to Mrs Thorne. A set of standards for ponies, cattle and donkeys will be required for the Stewardship Scheme.

2004/1005 A326 FENCING

RESUME

There is an ongoing problem with the fence on the A326. The stile has been mended but the fence is still in an unacceptable condition. The Forestry Commission has cleared the brambles and has exposed the fence which is too low. It is understood that Forestry Commission and Hampshire Highways are due to meet on site to discuss what needs doing. The Forestry Commission will carry out the necessary repairs. It was requested that these repairs be carried out as soon as possible.

2004/1006 HAMPTWORTH ESTATE PLANNING APPLICATION

RESUME

A planning application has been submitted for further expansion of the composting and recycling facility at Pound Bottom. Wiltshire County Council seems intent on continuing to increase the pressure on Hampshire's roads. The Minerals and Waste permission has no end date and has already been extended once. There is concern at the continued extension of this site which is placing an unacceptable burden on the adjacent Forest road.

It is felt the haul road within the site should be made up to take the traffic onto the Landford Road but this is not favoured by the applicant. It was agreed that representation should be made to the appropriate planning authority requesting that the application be deferred in view of the imminent announcement about the National Park.

Letters will be sent to the Minister for the Environment as well as Wiltshire and Hampshire County Councils. The contact at Hampshire is Cllr Keith Estlin, Executive Member for the Environment, with a copy to Alison Quant, Chief Officer. The letter will state that the Forest roads are unsuitable for this type of traffic.

2004/1007 LYNDHURST BYPASS

RESUME

This subject has been raised again. It was reported that Desmond Swayne MP may be supporting the Lyndhurst Bypass lobby in their endeavours. It was agreed that a letter should be written to Desmond Swayne, copied to Julian Lewis MP stating that the Court objects to an outer bypass. Mr Pasmore's letter to Desmond Swayne will be circulated.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.12 p.m.