

**MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 19th June 2019 at
9.30 a.m. in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.**

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

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

2019/10532 ATTENDANCE BY MR RICHARD DAMPNEY MRCVS AHPA DISCHARGE

Mr Richard Dampney is on the interviewing panel which will be selecting Mr Hallam Mills' replacement as DEFRA's Appointed Verderer. Mr Dampney was keen to learn about the workings of the Court and he was invited to sit in on some of the meeting today.

2019/10533 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The Minutes of Court held on Wednesday, 15th May 2019 were approved and signed.

2019/10534 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME
October
2019

Declarations of interest can be found on the Verderers' website – www.verderers.org.uk. The Declarations of Interest will be reviewed in October 2019.

2019/10535 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister reported that the recent rain has made a huge difference to the Forest and the condition of stock, which was becoming worrying. The rain has increased the available forage and the stock is consequently improving greatly. Some mares with new foals were beginning to cause concern but conditions on the holdings and farms are little better than on the Forest.

A lot of cattle have now been turned out. Some were turned out earlier than was ideal and this was also a response to the earlier very dry conditions; a lack of food on the holdings being a contributing factor.

All the foals are looking really well. The mares continue to produce plenty of milk despite some of them looking less than ideal themselves. Inevitably some stock will need removing and these are being closely monitored with action being taken as and when necessary.

2019/10536 STALLIONS

DISCHARGE

The end of the stallion turnout period is approaching. Several have already been removed from the Forest. Two stallions were removed early due to injury, both at Brockenhurst. One gelding, which is a former Forest stallion, had a fight with the stallion at Ipley and came off worse. The owner of the gelding is away and he will have a vet's bill awaiting him on his return.

In response to Dr Tony Hockley's presentment, calling for the removal of geldings during the period that the stallions are out, a few owners did heed his request. However, the response could have been better. Gelding owners may need prompting next year. In response to the question of whether the Verderers could insist on the removal of geldings, it is thought that may not be possible at the moment. It may, however, be possible to restrict former stallions. Mr Deakin felt the best way forward is to discuss the problem and hopefully come to an agreement with the CDA. The Stallion Scheme itself is voluntary. The Verderers do always have the option of declining to pass any stallions to go out in a given year.

2019/10537 BOVINE TB

RESUME

Issues with the current methods of controlling TB on the Forest remain. Radial testing, necessary as a result of recent breakdowns, is almost complete, however the testing is taking place over an extended period which has given rise to some concerns. The delay in testing some animals could not be helped and was due to the time period since their last test. Repeat TB testing can only be carried out after 60 days.

Mr Mills asked if APHA has been able to identify from where the disease originated, whether it is local or whether it has come into the Forest in new cattle. Alternatively, is it in the wildlife? Mr Dampney undertook to see if the spoligotyping sheds light on this.

Action
R Dampney

There is a TB hub online, where a certain amount of information is available including the geographical area of any breakdowns. However, the detail is limited.

Further discussion took place on how matters might be improved to protect the Forest's cattle and it was agreed the TB Plan for the Forest will be updated. Mr Dampney, Mr Greenwood and the Head Agister will review the plan.

Action
JG/JRG/
R Dampney

The Official Verderer and Mr Deakin will also look at the Verderers' byelaws to see whether there is scope for the Court to take action in order to reinforce the protection of the Forest herd in instances when national TB regulations cannot help.

Action
RD/OV

Finally, it was pointed out that the present apparent increase in TB breakdowns is probably inevitable given the increase in the numbers of cattle currently being kept by commoners. The increase in numbers is a direct result of the BPS, which has encouraged some commoners to increase their herds by buying cattle from out of the Forest. Some cattle will inevitably have come from high risk areas.

The Following matters were taken out of order, after the Open Court, and therefore the Head Agister was not present.

2019/10538 REPORT ON MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR RESUME

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Forest Ponies	4939	4762
Forest Cattle	3939	3717
Forest Donkeys	132	124
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	9010	8603
Common Ponies	755	614
Common Cattle	1636	1419
Common Donkeys	136	65
Common Pigs	41	24
Common Sheep	211	213
Total Common Stock	2779	2335
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	9010	8603
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	2527	2098
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	11537	10701
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	11789	10938

The number of cattle turned out continues to rise. However, because of the Basic Payment Scheme, commoners are asking for calves to be marked in order that they may obtain a receipt to send with their claim for subsidy. The Byelaws stipulate that calves and foals do not attract a marking fee in the year of their birth. Marking young calves has distorted the figures showing the number of cattle for which marking fees have been received. When the Verderers' Byelaws are next reviewed, consideration may be given for introducing a minimum age that marking fees are due for calves.

2019/10539 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT DISCHARGE

A two year old colt which was removed from the Forest recently, has jumped out of the field into which it was put. It has now disappeared. The Agisters are looking for it.

2019/10540 ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS RESUME

The Announcements and Decisions were approved.

OPEN COURT – 10.00 a.m.

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

The Head Agister opened the Court with the usual proclamation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER

2019/10541 FOREST ANIMALS AND PEOPLE

It is vital that we get the message across to all those who use the Forest for recreation, that they must keep their distance from the cattle, ponies, donkeys, sheep and in the pannage season pigs.

The Forest animals are not pets, and neither are they domesticated. Many ponies, for example, spend virtually their entire lives on the Forest.

The consequences of feeding ponies were graphically illustrated by Kathleen Clark's presentment in April. Because her pony had been fed by well-meaning but ignorant members of the public, her pony became aggressive around people, seeking an easy source of food and then had to be removed from the Forest. It was not the fault of the pony. Why should a pony have to be removed for bad behaviour, from its home where it has spent all its life, namely the Forest, when it's behaviour has been caused by people?

It is equally important that when walking on the Forest, with or without dogs, that people keep well away from the animals.

There are increasing numbers of out-of-control dogs in the Forest – the front page of last week's Lymington Times reported yet another dog attack, this time on a foal. The owner of the dog who left that foal after it was attacked by his or her dog is as culpable as the hit and run driver, about whom I have spoken in the past.

Regrettably some animals, in particular cattle, which are doing the vital job of grazing the Forest, have been worried by out-of-control dogs. As a result, the animals are more likely to act unpredictably around humans especially those accompanied by a dog. We encourage everyone here today and anyone who reads this announcement, to spread the word of the importance of keeping your distance from the Forest animals at all times.

The keep your distance campaign launched by New Forest commoners is worthy of all our support.

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2019/10542 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR MAY 2019

The Agisters attended 7 accidents. This compares with 11 in the same month last year.

1 pony was killed. 1 foal and 1 sheep were injured and had to be humanely destroyed. 1 pony and 1 foal were uninjured and in 2 instances the animals reported were not found.

4 accidents occurred in daylight and the other 3 occurred in the dark.

All the accidents were reported by the driver involved.

4 motorists are known to have been local.

The total killed and injured so far in 2019 is 36 compared with 29 in the same period last year.

PRESENTMENT BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR

2019/10543 FORESTRY ENGLAND HOUSING

Presentment by Mr Paul Grugeon, Area Land Agent (New Forest) on behalf of the Deputy Surveyor

'I would like to respond to a presentment made by the Chairman of the CDA at the May Verderer's Court regarding the use of FC housing for Commoners.

The Chairman explained that he had written to the Secretary of State, Michael Gove to raise his concerns and the Minister's reply is still awaited. It would not be appropriate for me as a Government official to pre-empt any response given by the Minister.

But I would like to add some more context to the debate.

We all agree that the quality of the grazed habitats of the New Forest is dependent upon the presence and activity of commoning stock. The collective efforts over recent decades of Commoners and Verderers to promote and sustain the quality of the stock on the Forest have to be applauded. It is this vital tradition of stock management and welfare that needs to be supported into the future.

But the activity of commoning it is not sufficient in itself to maintain the condition of the Forest and the all the benefits it provides to society. The Forest vegetation requires management by people. Controlled burning; bracken control; scrub clearance from forest lawns; removal of invasive plants such as rhododendron and ragwort; and maintenance of passageways, driftways and fences are all activities that support commoning and require people to plan, consult, obtain consent, supervise and deliver the work – all work completed by Forestry England staff on a daily basis with passion – they do it because they care – they put the Forest first. This is work that is required today and for decades to come.

The issue of affordable living in the south of England for those people who are custodians of both the land and animals are equally acute. It is increasingly the key issue in recruiting and retaining staff for Forestry England. I am pleased that we can support some staff with the provision of housing at rents below market rates and many of these are practicing commoners. Unfortunately, the level of available FC houses mean only 20% of my staff have this benefit, the remainder have to find a way to live within the open market.

Last financial year we spent more on maintaining our properties than we received in rent. This is not financially sustainable.

So, I await the Secretary of State's guidance with interest on the degree to which we can support discounted rents and yet balance the sustainable management of our housing stock.

It is clear that the interests of the Forest are best served through relevant parties collaborating to share a problem and being creative together to find solutions to the wider issue of affordable housing. This is beyond just Forestry England housing and draws in responsibility of the wider community to find ways to sustain the presence of key workers whom provide the services upon which we all benefit.'

PRESENTMENTS

2019/10544 NEW FOREST ROADS CAMPAIGN & COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Presentment by Mrs Gilly Jones

'My Colleague and I have been doing Community Speed Watch on Roger Penny Way, and I would like to share with you some of the figures from our one hour session on Friday 14th June, from 6.30 to 7.30.

In that hour, going in one direction 44 vehicles went past our device at over 40mph, the highest was a motorcycle at 61mph.

These figures show that some people have a total disregard of the speed limit. One can only think that they also have no consideration for Forest Stock.

Speed watch is very much a Marmite exercise, supported by many, considered a job done by 'do-gooders' by others. Our view on this is, we hope, by being there at key rush hour times, we will, if nothing else, remind people of the speed limit.

We have had the B3054 (Beaulieu Aerodrome) cleared as another road for us to work on.

Now, we are looking for others to give a couple of hours a month to help on both roads. Anyone can contact through the Facebook page or email the enquires email address for the Verderers, who will forward them to me.

Speed is not the only thing that causes animal accidents, but we also need to remind people that the speed limit is there for a reason.

I would like to thank Hampshire Police and the country watch team for the continued work on speed enforcement throughout the Forest.'

The Head Agister closed the Court

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Paul Grugeon, Land Agent (New Forest)

APOLOGY: Mr Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2019/10545 NEW FOREST ROADS CAMPAIGN AND COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

The Official Verderer said he has asked Mrs Jones for the B3078 vehicle speed statistics. He added that he has corresponded with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) regarding Average Speed Cameras. Cllr Heron said he has met with the PCC who has confirmed he supports Average Speed Cameras in principle.

The technology is moving on quickly, however, there are a limited number of systems which have Department of Transport approval and the Forest will have to fund any cameras which are installed in the Forest.

DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS – ITEMS RECORDED AT THIS COURT

2019/10546 DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS

DISCHARGE

DM0049 HCC Clear ditches/construct kerbing to alleviate flooding of the highway, London Minstead outside Minstead Study Centre

Mr Greenwood remarked that he felt much of the kerbing is unnecessary, however, in one place, it is a very good idea and is the only way to deal with the problem. The Clerk confirmed she forwarded his comments to HCC.

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

2019/10547	NEW FOREST CROWN FREEHOLD PROPERTIES	RESUME
	A response from the Minister is awaited. Once that has been received, further discussions will take place.	
2019/10548	VEGETATION SURVEY	RESUME
	A brief is awaited from the Forestry Commission. Mr Grugeon will chase it up.	Action PG
2019/10549	DOG WALKING CHARTER/OUT OF CONTROL DOGS	RESUME
	Cllr Heron is drafting a letter to the Minister. Mr Readhead said it is imperative that there is a means of controlling dog walkers, commercial and private. Dogs do not mix well with cattle and other stock.	
	Mr Mills commented that dogs also create huge problems for ground nesting birds.	Action OV/DS
	Possible ways forward were then discussed including consideration of current and potential legislation. Cllr Heron suggested more information is needed for the public.	
	It is noted that there appears to be nothing in the Recreation Management Strategy specifically aimed at controlling dogs. The Official Verderer offered to write to the NFNPA to ask for assistance in encouraging Forestry England and the National Trust to be more proactive.	Action OV
	Out of control dogs are seen as a fundamental threat to commoning. The Commoners' Defence Association is keen to be involved in discussions.	

Mr Dampney left the meeting

The Chairman of the New Forest National Park Authority, Mr Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre and the Head of New Forest National Park Authority Planning, Mr Steve Avery, joined the meeting for part of the following agenda item.

2019/10550	RECREATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	DISCHARGE
	The Official Verderer welcomed Mr Crosthwaite Eyre and Mr Steve Avery to the meeting and made a brief introduction.	
	Mr Crosthwaite Eyre thanked the Official Verderer for his introduction and went on to explain how the National Park Authority believes the RMS should be taken forward and what it is designed to achieve.	
	Mr Crosthwaite Eyre explained that the RMS will evolve as time goes by. There are 23 strategic actions and 7 objectives. Enforcement will be essential to tackle verge parking. The NFNPA will be asked to make a Local Development Order which will help to ensure that the Strategy results in a net gain for the Forest.	
	The Court was asked to support the RMS document and the introduction of the LDO.	

Mr Crosthwaite Eyre and Mr Avery thanked the Court for listening to them and left the meeting.

The discussion continued.

The Official Verderer said he is in support of the LDO, the Strategic Actions and the Spatial Vision and asked the Court to also give its support.

Mr Pasmore said he has grave reservations. Cllr Heron abstained. The remaining Verderers confirmed their support. The Official Verderer will go back to Mr Crosthwaite Eyre to advise him accordingly.

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| 2019/10551 | SSE REPLACEMENT POLES – BANK /ALUM GREEN / HOLIDAYS HILL | RESUME |
| | Further discussion is required as a suitable route is not yet agreed. Another site meeting may be required. | Action PG |
| 2019/10552 | CATTLE GRID AT CASTLE MALWOOD | RESUME |
| | The work on the cattle grid has still not been undertaken. | |
| 2019/10553 | WINDBLOWN TREES | RESUME |
| | This matter is still being discussed. | |
| 2019/10554 | GOLF CLUBS AND THE USE OF PESTICIDES | DISCHARGE |
| | Mr Greenwood was concerned that the guidance which Mr Grugeon explained is attached to the Club licences, copies of which were provided to members of the Court, does not reflect the position regarding the use of chemicals, given that the Clubs have now said they won't use any. In response Mr Grugeon said he felt it is acceptable to leave the guidance as written in case the clubs do wish to use chemicals in the future. | |
| | The Official Verderer suggested if any member of the Court feels strongly that he should not now sign the agreements, he/she should let the Clerk know promptly. | |
| 2019/10555 | INCLOSURE FENCES | RESUME |
| | Further discussion is needed. | |
| 2019/10556 | VERGE PARKING AT FRITHAM | RESUME |
| | The Royal Oak public house is making alterations to its adjoining land in order to permit some parking under the 28 day rule. | |
| | A meeting was held in the area recently and a further meeting will be arranged to discuss how best to protect the verges around the village. A date will be suggested and members of the Court advised, in order that they may attend if they wish. | Action FE |

2019/10557 EAST BOLDRE VILLAGE SHOP DISCHARGE

It is confirmed that the Minister can approve a land exchange provided it has Verderers' consent. Mr Pasmore pointed out that the land must be of equal value, not only equal area. Mr Grugeon has informed the EBVS Committee that it needs to identify some suitable land to exchange. The Court will await a detailed proposal from Forestry England.

Action PG

2019/10558 HAMPSHIRE HIGHWAYS ROADSIDE FENCES RESUME

The Clerk will follow up recent emails with a call to HCC

Action Clerk

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2019/10559 REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE LIST RESUME

An updated SSSI Repair and Maintenance List was circulated.

ACTION LIST

2019/10560 ACTION LIST RESUME

An updated Action List was provided.

Action DS

NEW ENCROACHMENTS INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2019/10561 GRAVEL AT NOMANSLAND DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore asked that the gravel at Pipers Wait, laid by the water company following a leak and which constitutes an encroachment on the grazing, be added to the list.

Action Clerk

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2019/10562 INTRODUCTION OF THE WHITE TAILED EAGLE ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT RESUME

Mrs Westerhoff and Mr Greenwood both expressed an interest in attending the forthcoming meeting which has been arranged to discuss the introduction of the White Tailed Eagle to the Isle of Wight.

The Court is interested to know what Natural England has done to assess the impacts on other species this introduction may have.

Action DW

2019/10563 BROOMY PLAIN ROAD RESUME

Objections to the new road layout have been received from a large group of residents living in Linwood. A meeting is to be arranged, which the Official Verderer said he will chair.

OV

The Court still strongly supports the works and feels that they should be completed. The addition of signage will satisfy some of the issues raised by HCC's Safety Audit. HCC has some administration to finalise and then it is anticipated that the works will be completed.

2019/10564	DRONE ON BROOMY PLAIN	DISCHARGE
	<p>Mr Pasmore reported that he spoke to a man flying a drone on Broomy Plain. The man said he didn't know he was not allowed to fly a drone over the New Forest. Mr Mills questioned whether the online Dronesafe No Fly Zone map, which is primarily designed to ensure safety around airports by informing drone users where the flying of drones is prohibited, could have the New Forest added. Mr Mills will provide Mr Grugeon with the details of the website.</p>	Action HM/PG
2019/10565	CAMPSITE ISSUES	RESUME
	<p>SETTHORNS CAMPSITE</p> <p>Mr Readhead said that at a recent CDA meeting, it was reported that the campsite may have extended its footprint by adding a hut and storing machinery in a small enclosure. Mr Grugeon will investigate and report back.</p> <p>DENNY WOOD CAMPSITE</p> <p>It is alleged that people visiting campers on Denny Wood Campsite are being charge for car parking. In addition, a second hut has appeared at Denny. There is also a suggestion that a lawnmower is being used on the site.</p> <p>ROUNDHILL CAMPSITE</p> <p>Additional gravel may have been laid.</p> <p>These items all need to be investigated and answers provided.</p>	Action PG
2019/10566	REDEDICATION SERVICE AT THE CANADIAN CROSS	DISCHARGE
	<p>Mr Dowsett reported on this service which he and Miss Macnair attended on behalf of the Court. Mr Dowsett laid a wreath with the Forestry Commission.</p> <p>Mr Grugeon was asked to thank Mr Richard Daponte on behalf of the Court for coordinating everything.</p>	Action PG
2019/10567	BT OPENREACH MEETING	DISCHARGE
	<p>The recent training session arranged for the benefit of BT staff, attended by Mr Sean Marsh from Forestry England, Ms Helen Spring from Natural England, Mr Deakin and Mr Dowsett, is felt to have been very helpful. The first part of the day took the form of a discussion in Queen's House. This was followed by site visits to areas where there have been issues. In attendance was Mr Steve Melvin, the Manager at Openreach who is responsible for the broadband and fibre rollout in the Forest. Mr Melvin has taken on the responsibility for seeing that the works carried out on the Forest are done correctly and to a high standard. Mr Melvin is trying to address recent problems and avoid them being repeated.</p>	

2019/10568	FORESTRY ENGLAND'S WEBSITE	DISCHARGE
	Mr Greenwood remarked that since the Forestry Commission changed its name to Forestry England, its website is hopeless! Mr Grugeon said he will pass on the message to those responsible for the site.	Action PG
2019/10569	PANNAGE SEASON 2019	RESUME
	Mr Deakin advised Mr Grugeon that an email has been sent to the Deputy Surveyor on the subject of proposed dates for this year's Pannage Season but no response has been received. An announcement needs to be made in the July Court and Mr Grugeon was asked to chase it up.	Action PG/DS
2019/10570	INCIDENT BETWEEN A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC AND CATTLE AT LINFORD BOTTOM	DISCHARGE
	The Court wished its thanks to Head Keeper Mr Andy Page to be recorded in respect of his assistance last week when a member of the public was injured in an incident with a herd of cattle. Mr Grugeon will pass on the Court's thanks. The cattle in question were voluntarily removed from the Forest.	Action PG
Mr Grugeon left the meeting.		
OTHER MATTERS ARISING		
2019/10571	ENCROACHMENT AT PICKET HILL	RESUME September
	Natural England is acting to ensure the encroachment at Picket Hill is abated. The person responsible for the encroachment has received a letter, instructing that the newly planted non-native trees must be removed. The area where stock had been fed, is now clean and tidy but where the ground has been cleared, docks and nettles are taking over. CDA involvement may be necessary. The Clerk will contact the CDA Chairman.	Action Clerk
2019/10572	LAND & PROPERTY AT LYNDHURST ROAD (ASHURST) RAILWAY STATION	RESUME
	The Clerk said she now has the name of the person at Network Rail who is dealing with this matter. Crown Estate is also in touch with him.	
2019/10573	VERDERERS- POLICY LEAFLET – PRECIOUS WILDERNESS OR SUBURBAN PARK	DISCHARGE
	Agreement has been reached on the small number of amendments that have been suggested. Some new photographs are being obtained. It is hoped the revised leaflet will be available in time for the New Forest Show but there is a small stock of the current leaflet left.	Action Clerk
2019/10574	PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST ON HYDE COMMON	RESUME
	Natural England has objected to the mast.	

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME & VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME

2019/10575 THE FUTURE OF HLS IN THE NEW FOREST DISCHARGE

Mrs Westerhoff expressed the view that in order to obtain a new agreement, it is essential to get as many of the Forest's SSSI units as possible into 'favourable condition'. This includes resolving issues such as excessive Scots Pine on heathland. Mr Pasmore said other factors must also be considered. The OV emphasised the importance of achieving favourable condition given the current efforts to achieve an extension to the existing scheme.

2019/10576 VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME MEETING DISCHARGE

The meeting which was due to take place in June has been postponed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

2019/10577 NEW FOREST WATER CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING DISCHARGE

Mrs Westerhoff went along to the recent meeting. Carp removal and relocation of fish from Hatchet Pond and sites on the Beaulieu Estates has been the subject of some debate.

2019/10578 JOINT LITTER WORKING GROUP DISCHARGE

Mr Dowsett reported that NFDC is seeking ways to change behaviours and is looking at the psychology of littering. Consultants have been appointed to investigate why people litter, in the hope that methods can be found to change that behaviour. Something called the 'nudging technique' has been mentioned.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2019/10579 FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement was noted.

2019/10580 AUDITED ACCOUNTS DISCHARGE

The Audited Accounts, which were circulated with the Court papers in advance of the meeting, were approved. The Official Verderer is authorised to sign them off.

STAFF MATTERS / HEALTH & SAFETY / TRAINING

There were no Health & Safety or Training matters to discuss

2019/10581 CONFLICTS BETWEEN STOCK AND PEOPLE RESUME

Mr Deakin suggested the Court should arrange to meet with representatives of the New Forest Commoners' Defence Association sooner rather than later, to discuss the increasing conflicts between stock and some members of the public.

Action
OV/RD

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2019/10582 BURLEY FLAG POLE

DISCHARGE

The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Grugeon and request he contacts Burley Parish Council regarding the flag pole that should be taken down when it is not in use. It has been noticed that it has been left up.

Action
Clerk/PG

2019/10583 HALLAM MILLS

DISCHARGE

Mr Readhead wished to thank Mr Mills for being an excellent colleague during his service on the Verderers' Court. He said his input has been invaluable. Mr Mills responded by thanking Mr Readhead and saying it has been a privilege to serve on the Court. He added, he believes the Forest is in good hands and he applauded the openness of the debates in Committee. He added that educating the young is vital. The Clerk then thanked Mr Mills for his support of her personally as well as the office.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.30 p.m.

J. Mannes
17 July 2019