

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 19th November 2014 at 9.30 a.m. in the Verderers' Hall and the Library, the Queen's House, Lyndhurst.

PRESENT:	Mr Dominic May	Official Verderer
	Mr A Gerrelli	Elected Verderer
	Mr R Deakin	Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman
	Mr B Dowsett	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
	Miss D Macnair MBE	Senior Elected Verderer
	Mr C Maton	National Park Appointed Verderer
	Mr G M H Mills	DEFRA Appointed Verderer
	Mr D Readhead	Elected Verderer
	Mr R Stride	Co-opted Verderer
	Mrs D Westerhoff	Natural England Appointed Verderer
IN ATTENDANCE:	Miss S Westwood	Clerk to the Verderers
	Mr J R Gerrelli	Head Agister
APOLOGIES:	None	

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

2014/7577 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The Minutes of the Court held on Wednesday, 15th October 2014 were approved and signed.

2014/7578 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

The Official Verderer, the Elected Verderers, Mr Stride and Mr Maton all declared an interest in the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme and the Verderers Grazing Scheme.

Mr Hallam Mills declared an interest in HLS Schemes as his Estate is in Higher Level Stewardship. The Estate is also involved in the Better Boundaries Project, run by the New Forest Land Advice Service with support from Natural England. Mr Mills is also a Patron of the New Forest Trust.

The Official Verderer, Mr Deakin, Miss Macnair and Mr Readhead are all members of the New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society.

Mr Dowsett advised the Court that he is a Forestry Commission Voluntary Ranger. Mr Deakin and Mr Readhead are members of the New Forest Stallion Syndicate. Mr Maton is a Forestry Commission contractor.

2014/7579 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister said that stock still looks very good. The drifts have been completed although some had to be cancelled because of strangles. Overall the ponies which came in on the drifts all looked well. Mares with foals are now easy to distinguish. The Agisters are going out, either on their own or with commoners, catching mares with foals and other animals wanted by their owners. The future condition of stock is very much weather dependent, the current wet weather not being ideal.

2014/7580 STRANGLES DISCHARGE

The strangles outbreak has eased up. There are still odd cases about but the situation is very much improved and the outbreak seems to be abating.

2014/7581 STOCK LOSING CONDITION AND REMOVED FROM THE FOREST IN OCTOBER 2014 RESUME

1 mare was removed from the Forest as she was losing condition.

1 mare was also removed in October 2013.

The year to date figure is 165. In 2013 it was 343.

2014/7582 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE IN 2014 (2013 in brackets) RESUME

	Forest	Commons	Total
Ponies	4329 (4382)	726 (729)	5055 (5111)
Cattle	2686 (2518)	1098 (968)	3784 (3486)
Donkeys	96 (94)	60 (71)	156 (165)
Pigs	133 (243)	23 (35)	156 (278)
Sheep	0 (0)	142 (113)	142 (113)
Total	7244 (7237)	2049 (1916)	9293 (9153)

Ponies, cattle and donkeys on the Forest – 7111 (7004)

Ponies, cattle and donkeys on the Commons – 1884 (1768)

Total Ponies, Cattle and Donkeys – 8995 (8772)

2014/7583 BYELAW ENFORCEMENT RESUME

No byelaw offences have been reported.

2014/7584 THANKS TO AGISTERS FOR HELP WITH TB TESTING DISCHARGE

Mr Gerrelli asked the Head Agister to pass on his thanks to the team for their help with TB testing.

Head Agister Jonathan Gerrelli left the meeting

2014/7585 BEAULIEU ROAD HOTEL AND STATION – ENCROACHMENT RESUME

Work on the Hotel has resulted in a scalping road being laid between the old station yard and the hotel at Beaulieu Road, as well as a storage area for building materials. The road and compound are on grazing that had been available to commoners' stock. The Court is keen to see that proper reinstatement takes place once the works on the hotel are completed.

The status of the land was discussed. The Official Verderer explained that he understands the land is under the control of Network Rail but is subject to a reverter clause which stipulates that once no longer required for railway purposes, land originally taken under the Railway Act should return to the Crown/Open Forest. The reverter has never been enacted. The Forestry Commission took down the remnants of an old wire fence some years ago as it was a hazard to stock but the status of the land has never been formalised.

The Court agreed in principle to offer to pay any reasonable legal fees which will inevitably be incurred in returning ownership of the land to the Forestry Commission. The matter will be raised with the Deputy Surveyor and the Land Agent here in the New Forest.

Action
OV

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

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

APOLOGIES: None

THERE WERE NO ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS BY THE OFFICIAL VERDERER

ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2014/7586 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2014

The Agisters attended 11 accidents in October compared with 28 in October last year.

2 ponies were injured and had to be destroyed, 1 was injured and 3 were not found.

1 cow was killed, 1 was injured and destroyed, 2 were injured and 1 wasn't found.

5 accidents occurred in daylight, 5 in the dark and 1 at twilight. 2 accidents were not reported.

8 of the accidents which were reported involved cars or light commercials and 1 involved a heavy commercial vehicle.

5 motorists were local.

The total number of animals killed and injured in road traffic accidents at the end of October 2014 was 63, compared with 81 to the same date last year.

Details of the hit and runs, for which we are obviously seeking information, are as follows:-

On Wednesday 22nd October a Charolais X steer was found injured and had to be destroyed by the Agister following a collision on Forest Road, Thorney Hill. The injured animal was reported at 11 am, but we are unsure of the time that the accident took place. No driver has come forward.

On Saturday 25th October at 11 pm, a pony was reportedly involved in a collision at Picket Post but nothing was found injured and again no one has come forward to say they collided with an animal.

Now for the first few weeks of November. So far, this month there have been 15 accidents. 9 animals have died and 3 have been injured. All bar one of the accidents occurred in the dark.

On Monday 3rd November, 3 donkeys died in one accident on the B3078 on the Bramble Hill/Fritham Crossroads. The accident has been the subject of a Police press release and so I won't go into detail except to say that whilst a driver did stop and provide his details to Police, there is suspicion that another vehicle, a white tall sided van, was also involved and any information in that connection would, as usual, be very welcome.

Finally, the Speed Camera Initiative

In October a total of 680 drivers were caught speeding in the Forest. 411 drivers were caught speeding within a 40 zone on unfenced roads. In addition, a further 269 drivers were caught exceeding the speed limit on fenced roads within and just outside the Forest.

Further analysis of the data will be undertaken but I can report that the fastest driver was clocked doing 68 miles per hour and a further 9 drivers were caught doing over 60 miles per hour.

Drivers might like to note that the speed camera van operates in the dark and the photos taken are as clear as day!

The Official Verderer added that the Speed Camera Van initiative is a joint partnership project with the Verderers, New Forest Commoners' Defence Association and Hampshire Police, and it runs for one year.

PRESENTMENTS BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR

2014/7587 FUNGI COLLECTING

I would like to respond to the presentment made by Sarah Cadbury at the October Court where she raised concerns over commercial picking of fungi on the Forest.

I sought feedback from Forestry Commission staff who have reported a higher level of picking activity this year, prompted by improved weather conditions for fungi this year. Our Keepers do challenge anyone found in possession of picked fungi and will confiscate any quantity in excess of the personal limit quoted on our Fungi Code.

It is difficult to assess the true scale of these activities but there is sufficient anecdotal evidence that some commercial exploitation of fungi is occurring and limiting the enjoyment of fungi observation for other forest users.

The Forestry Commission will be working with the National Park Authority and other interested parties to look again at how we can manage fungi picking in the future.

The Official Verderer remarked that it is nice to see the Forestry Commission is actively seeking a solution.

PRESENTMENTS

2014/7588 ASSIGNMENT WOOD Presentment by Mr Graham Baker

'Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen. You'll excuse me if I read my presentment.

My name is Graham Baker and I am one of the 80 or so commoners with the right to Fuelwood. In my case 3 cords which I have collected with one or other of my sons for the last 25 years.

Originally we would saw and split the wood in situ and later when the commission signalled its dislike of chainsaw use we starting taking it back to the house as it was.

Around 10 years ago the wood started to come in 2 metre lengths rather than the traditional four feet lengths so each log was more than half as heavy again. It became necessary to occasionally chainsaw a log in half to make it manageable for loading and for moving within the stack.

This year before they would tell me where my allotment was, the Commission obliged me to read for the first time and sign for the first time the lengthy terms and conditions that come each year. These conditions effectively ban the use of chainsaws for any commoner not employed in forestry. I contacted the Commission saying that collection was only viable if individual logs weighed less than 100Kg which equates to a log diameter of 10 inches. Given the rough conditions and uneven nature of logs, only two people can sensibly lift the wood. I believe an individual lifting more than 50Kg, that's 110bs, has a real risk of injury. I received a polite reply that emphasised chainsaws could not be used even in an emergency unless the conditions were met. I asked the Commission how many accidents involving commoners and chainsaws had occurred in the last 50 years and was told none had ever been reported.

When I went to hand in my papers I was pleased to be offered a choice of big or small logs. When I saw my assignment I realised the choice actually was big or even bigger logs.

I am unable to collect a third of my allotment with the heaviest log at around 160Kgs. I have complained to the commission but have received no response.

Is it important that a few people can't get all of their freebe wood? I believe it is; free wood is not so far removed from free grazing. Badly thought through Health and Safety rules like these could be a threat to all commoning activities.

I do not accept that the terms and conditions imposed are necessary and believe that they actually increase the total risks involved in wood collection - after all the same person has to cut the same wood with the same chainsaw simply in a different place.

There are several common sense solutions to the problem - one obvious one being going back to four foot lengths. I ask the Court to discuss with the Commission and find that solution.

I have an associated matter.

No doubt the deputy surveyor is familiar with M A Fonseca's book - the Measurement of Roundwood - Methodologies and Conversion Factors.

In section 2.4.2 on page 79 he discusses stacked Roundwood and the conversion of stacks to solid wood.

He relies on the Swedish National Board of Forestry stacked measure guidelines for pulp logs. Table 2.8 starts at a ratio of 60% and makes adjustments for knot trimming, buttresses, quality of stacking, log diameter, and crookedness to determine the solid wood content

If the court had time and a white board, I could run through some illustrative calculations and examples.

My point is that wood 2metres long does not stack as well as wood 4 ft long and I would like to know what factor has been built into the stack dimensions to compensate for this loss.

I have provided the clerk with copies of the paperwork. Matthews Fonseca's book is available from Amazon for £68.57p'.

2014/7589 BRAMSHAW GOLF COURSE
Presentment by Mrs Mary Gray

'My apologies for having to bring this to Open Court once again.

Of late 'abuse' as I call it, on Open forest, this is where the Golf Links is situated.

I understand maintenance machinery should only be used when conditions of ground are appropriate. Believe me, Thursday afternoon of last week, and since, there has been vehicle use as if no rain had fallen.

Not to mention extreme foot fall, particularly Saturday morning, most using a golf trolley to compact the mud (affecting animal grazing).

These links in such conditions would be closed in the past, or at the very least no trolleys allowed.

Come on Forestry Commission representatives, get your house in order (keep your eye on the ball) excuse the pun! Look at these licences more carefully. Byelaws are there to protect the Crown Lands. You, being the house-keepers, the Verderers our guardians.

Thank you for your time'.

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

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

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2014/7590 FUELWOOD

DISCHARGE

Mr Maton explained that the machinery used to extract cordwood is designed to handle logs that are a minimum of 2m long. Shorter lengths would fall between the bolsters. It was suggested therefore, that perhaps the answer would be to cut 8' lengths which could then be cut in half when being stacked for collection on the track. The diameter of the logs was also discussed.

The Court was told that the Forestry Commission's health and safety policy limits the use of chainsaws to those who can provide proof of the appropriate National Proficiency Training Certificate and public liability insurance.

The Deputy Surveyor agreed to investigate with the staff responsible if any measures could be practically taken to alleviate the problem of larger diameter cordwood. The Court expressed the wish that the Forestry Commission be more sympathetic to its assignment wood holders in future and ensure the size of the wood is manageable.

Action
DS

The Deputy Surveyor agreed to respond at the next Open Court.

2014/7591 BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB

DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer said he feels the Forestry Commission should be managing its licenses more actively, the golf club being an example of where it is not.

Mr Readhead and Miss Sargeant met with Mr Stuart James of the Bramshaw Golf Club this week to discuss and find ways of addressing the problems raised by Mrs Gray by letter earlier in the week.

Mr Readhead said he has been out to the course in response to complaints on approximately 20 occasions in the past year. He added, however, that he thinks the management is now trying to manage the course correctly.

It seems that because the Golf Club has been told that its proposed improvements to the course need planning consent, they are now unlikely to go ahead because of the cost involved. This means that the first tee, which has been the site of conflict between the Club and a nearby commoner, will not now be moved. This was considered to be unfortunate.

Mr Grugeon explained that the Forestry Commission does not have the resources to police all the licenses and as a result its method of management is to react when something wrong is noticed or reported. Improvements are being made and it is possible that in future the Forestry Commission will arrange annual meetings for its larger licensees.

The Deputy Surveyor suggested that out of hours the Duty Officer is the best person to call to report any problems. He added that any compliance issues will be followed up.

SUBMISSIONS BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

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

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

2014/7592	HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS	RESUME
	Members of the Court were provided with a copy of Hampshire County Council's response to the Official Verderer's letter of complaint to the two local MPs. The Court was disappointed that the letter was essentially a long denial of the problems.	
	The Deputy Surveyor said he would be very happy to support a meeting with HCC to resolve the repeated issues that are arising when maintenance work is carried out on the Forest's unfenced roads. The Clerk was asked to provide the Deputy Surveyor with a copy of the Maintenance Plan in its current (draft) form.	Action SW
	Because of the continual problems of verge damage and other issues connected with highway maintenance in the Forest, it was agreed a high level meeting should be convened with senior representatives of Hampshire County Council Highways present, together with an appropriate representative of the Forestry Commission and Natural England, to try to agree a way forward.	Action OV/Clerk

2014/7593	FLY TIPPING AND LITTERING	DISCHARGE
	<p>The Deputy Surveyor agreed that both these issues are ongoing problems which are really difficult to resolve. Programmes are already in place to help reduce littering but the Forestry Commission struggles to manage the problems with limited resources.</p> <p>Miss Macnair once again suggested an education initiative involving local schools would be helpful and she reminded everyone of the original Wombles campaign back in the 1970s which was so successful. It was agreed that the Forestry Commission's Community Manager, Zoe Cox, should be approached with a view to investigating whether a similar, local initiative could be run again.</p> <p>Another initiative, known as Operation Clean-Sweep also used to be carried out in the Forest each year. The Deputy Surveyor agreed to consider whether it would be possible to reinvigorate it and it was felt to be something the National Park Authority could usefully help with.</p> <p>Concern was also expressed that the changes at Marchwood Waste and Recycling Centre may mean that white goods will not in future be accepted. If that happens, an increase in fly tipping of such items as fridges, freezers and cookers is almost inevitable.</p> <p>It was suggested that cameras placed in strategic positions where fly tipping is prevalent may help catch the perpetrators. It is understood that in other parts of the country such surveillance has been very successful. The Deputy Surveyor said it could be considered where practical but he would like to discuss options with Country Watch.</p>	Action DS
2014/7594	SIGN OUTSIDE NEW PARK	DISCHARGE
	The sign has been removed.	
2014/7595	KINGS COPSE ROAD - REDUCTION OF TRACK WIDTH	DISCHARGE
	The Deputy Surveyor said it is too late to include this in the current year's contract for this sort of work, but that it will be done as soon as possible as part of the ongoing car free ditching works.	ACTION DS
2014/7596	SWAN GREEN CRICKET CLUB - REMOVAL OF PAVILION	RESUME
	Mr Stride said he has spoken with the last trustee. Mr Grugeon said that the licence for the Club expires on the 15 th December. The Club has been given until the end of December to remove the pavilion, services and concrete pad.	Action PG
2014/7597	FALLEN TIMBER	RESUME
	The paper prepared by Jane Smith, Head of Planning and Environment at the Forestry Commission in consultation with Natural England was not felt to adequately address the concerns about the excessive amount of fallen timber currently on the Open Forest. The New Forest Commoners' Defence Association is also dissatisfied with the paper.	

The Deputy Surveyor said consideration will be given to the amount of fallen wood that has accumulated over time and he will discuss the issue further with Jane Smith and Marianne Bergin, Senior Ecologist. Mr Stride will pursue the matter with the Forestry Commission on behalf of the Court.

2014/7598 PROVISION OF ASSIGNMENT WOOD FROM FALLEN TIMBER DISCHARGE

The 1858 Register of Claims (of Forest Rights) says:-

".... and that every allowance of fuel and fuel wood is an allowance of the quantity described of good fuel wood yearly from the open and unenclosed parts of the said Forest as reasonable and necessary estovers for the necessary firewood of the messuages mentioned and described in this our Register, to be burnt and expended therein."

It appears a later management decision may have over-ridden the above. By using fallen timber from the open Forest for estovers, woodland grazing can be restored and tracks within the A&O woodlands can be re-opened.

2014/7599 UNDERGROUND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO NEW COPSE NORTH COTTAGE AND WOODFIDLEY COTTAGE DISCHARGE

After a further detailed discussion it was agreed that in this case, the new sub-station will be sited on the Open Forest, in the corner at the end of the garden of the western cottage, up against the railway fence boundary.

In order to resolve the issue of loss of grazing resulting from the new sub-station being placed on Open Forest it was agreed that by exchange of letters, the Forestry Commission will provide the Court with an undertaking to provide exchange land (at least 9 sq.m.) at some time in the next year. It will not be the first time that such an agreement has been reached and the Clerk cited the reservoir tops and Picket Post junction scheme (exchange land provided at Vernalls Farm, Lyndhurst) as examples.

The Court also agreed that the cabling for the new sub-station can cross Open Forest.

Action
DS

Additional problems were noted which included scaffold poles left on the Open Forest by Network Rail close to the current sub-station, and a new flat-pack hen house near one of the cottages which is reportedly for sale.

2014/7600 GAS CONNECTION AT TIMBER TOP, FOREST PARK ROAD, BROCKENHURST DISCHARGE

It is understood that the new gas pipe has been laid in the verge of Forest Park Road without any prior consent. On this occasion no further action will be taken.

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2014/7601 LONGBEECH MIRE, LONGBEECH INCLOSURE, Ma5 (CORBETS HAT MIRE, WOODCRATES MIRE & WHITEMOOR) RESUME

The Verderers requested that the paperwork of different schemes should be kept separate to ease tracking of amendments and filing. The Forestry Commission will split the proposed paper into two separate areas – Longbeech and Ma5 and resubmit them for approval.

Action
DS

ENCROACHMENTS

2014/7602 THE ENCROACHMENT LIST RESUME

The revised encroachment was circulated prior to the meeting.

2014/7603 ROSARY GARAGE RESUME

Mr Grugeon has written to the solicitors acting for the new owners of the property regarding the illegal gate, asking that the boundary be re-aligned in the correct position.

Additionally, it was reported that stock is gaining access to the rear of the property and from there finding their way onto the Bramshaw (private) Golf Course. Mr Grugeon was asked to take this up with the solicitors.

Action
PG

2014/7604 OSMONDS BUSHES DISCHARGE

The fence line opposite Osmonds Bushes Car Park has been realigned and the stile is now usable.

2014/7605 SMALL SCHOOL, LYNDHURST DISCHARGE

The Forestry Commission's proposal for protecting grazing at the unofficial parking area with dragon's teeth was agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

2014/7606 HAUNCH REPAIR PROPOSALS ON THE UNFENCED ROADS DISCHARGE

Hampshire County Council Highway's proposals for reinforcing the haunches of certain roads in the Forest were considered unacceptable by both the Forestry Commission and the Court. This will be communicated to HHW by the Clerk.

2014/7607 PARKING ON FOREST VERGES RESUME

The Official Verderer suggested that a new project be implemented to protect verges from illegal parking by residents. He suggested this may be something that the HLS could finance. The Forestry Commission was asked to consider ways forward.

The Deputy Surveyor will investigate the status of the ParkWise Scheme and discuss it further with staff.

Action
DS

2014/7608	CYCLE HIRE FROM STANDING HAT	RESUME
	<p>Concern was expressed that the disabled cycle hire arrangements which it is believed are run by the National Park Authority at Standing Hat may not be being run as intended, with bicycles being hired to able bodied cyclists who are not accompanying disabled cyclists. A report was received recently that there were significant numbers of able bodied people who may have been hiring bicycles which it is believed are being supplied by a local cycle hire company. The Verderers sought assurance that the scheme is being managed correctly and in accordance with any permission that may have been granted by the Forestry Commission.</p>	
	<p>The Clerk reported she had corresponded by email with Mr Nick Tucker, the Forestry Commission's Head of Recreation and Public Affairs and she will forward those emails to the Deputy Surveyor.</p>	Action Clerk
2014/7609	BT SUPERFAST BROADBAND ROLLOUT IN THE NEW FOREST	DISCHARGE
	<p>The Official Verderer went to the site meetings. Locations for new cabinets that will not be sited on the grazing have been agreed for 7 sites.</p>	
	<p>There are 7 more sites to agree, some of which may be complicated. The Official Verderer will join site visits to these locations and will bring the subject back to the Court in due course.</p>	
	<p>The Official Verderer has advised Open Reach that it must obtain the consent of the Court for any activity on the grazing, including trenching to lay ducts for cables.</p>	
ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF CONCERN TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION		
2014/7610	WOODGREEN PUB SIGN ON GRAZING	RESUME
	<p>A sandwich board is being placed outside the public house in Woodgreen and the Deputy Surveyor was requested to find out if it has consent.</p>	
2014/7611	PIG HUT	DISCHARGE
	<p>A pig hut is on the open Forest outside Anderwood Cottages. It does not have consent.</p>	Action DS
2014/7612	RHINEFIELD HOUSE HOTEL	RESUME
	<p>It is thought that Rhinefield House Hotel may have tarmacked over its entrance without consent. The work was undertaken last week. Mr Grugeon will investigate.</p>	Action PG
2014/7613	STREET LIGHTING REPLACEMENT	RESUME
	<p>Excavation of grazing has taken place opposite Brockenhurst College on Open Forest; consent has not been obtained, as an application has not been before the Court. Mr Grugeon was asked to investigate.</p>	Action PG

2014/7614	LINWOOD ROAD	DISCHARGE
	Proposals for resolution of encroachments and reinstatement of the verges with associated haunch repairs are still awaited. The result of previous works is that the road has been widened. This matter will be added to the list of problems with Forest roads. Linwood Road is a classic example of a single track road that over the years has been widened, with a large loss of grazing.	Action OV/SW
2014/7615	NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY PROPOSALS FOR RESURFACING CYCLE TRACKS ON THE FOREST	RESUME
	The Court wishes to be consulted about any Open Forest cycle tracks that are being resurfaced. Hampton Ridge has reportedly been done and it is thought the disused railway line is also on the list. In particular, the Court wishes to be consulted about the track from Burbush through to Brockenhurst. The Deputy Surveyor will investigate and bring the matter back to the Court.	Action DS
2014/7616	DITCHEND BOTTOM	DISCHARGE
	Mrs Westerhoff said that, after the recent heavy rains, she considers that the restoration of Ditchend Bottom is looking good. Mr Dowsett and Mr Deakin agreed.	
2014/7617	POLLUTION BY CARAVANNERS IN BEAULIEU HEATH CAR PARK	DISCHARGE
	Mrs Westerhoff reported she has been told that Beaulieu Heath car park is a popular location for caravanners to discharge their grey water onto the car park or into the adjacent ditch. Mr Grugeon said he will ask the local Keeper to investigate and monitor the situation.	Action PG
2014/7618	CYCLE TRESPASS ON THE GRASS RIDE FROM BRAMSHAW TELEGRAPH TO AMBERWOOD COTTAGE	DISCHARGE
	A sign advising cyclists that the grass ride is not available to them was requested. This would help the Voluntary Rangers who speak to trespassing cyclists and are met with the response that there is no 'no cycling' sign.	Action DS
2014/7619	PONDHEAD FARM SHOP SIGN	RESUME
	The Court asked if Pondhead Farm Shop has permission for a sign on the verge.	Action PG
2014/7620	VERGE CUTTING – VERELEY HILL	DISCHARGE
	The Clerk confirmed that she has requested the roadside vegetation on Vereley Hill be cut back as a matter of urgency and she has received a response from Dave Morris to say that it will be done.	
2014/7621	DAMAGE TO VERGES CLOSE TO PILLEY ALLOTMENTS	RESUME
	Significant damage is being done in the vicinity of Pilley Allotments by vehicles being parked on the verges. It is thought to be the result of a local resident objecting to members of the public parking outside his house.	Action PG

2014/7622 FIREWORKS DISPLAY ON BEAULIEU AERODROME DISCHARGE

It was reported that there was a huge fireworks display on Beaulieu Aerodrome on Sunday 9th November with very loud rockets being discharged. The Court felt the Keepers should police such incidents around Guy Fawkes night.

Action
DS

2014/7623 DISUSED RAILWAY LINE - REMOVAL OF OLD RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE DISCHARGE

The Clerk reported that she has been told that some damage to grazing is being caused as a result of the removal of the old infrastructure (reinforced concrete posts etc.) along the disused railway line at Longslade. Mr Stride felt that despite the wet weather, it is unlikely that significant damage is being caused but said he would check. In addition, the person reporting the matter to the Clerk had added that there were no signs warning that the work is in progress and as large machines are pulling out the posts, this was felt to be rather hazardous to the public.

Action
RS

Mr Rothnie and Mr Grugeon left the meeting

LUNCH

OTHER MATTERS ARISING

2014/7624 PUBLICISING STRANGLES DISCHARGE

The Clerk reported that she has written a short advisory paper on strangles in the Forest which is on the Verderers' website.

It was agreed that publicity of any future outbreaks will be dependent upon the situation at the time.

2014/7625 STOCK NUMBERS RESUME
April 2015

The stats that are produced for the Court, and which have been recorded over the years indicate the number of animals for which marking fees have been paid. There have frequently been suggestions that the marking fees may not be an accurate reflection of the number of animals that are actually on the Forest but in recent years, with the subsidies that are currently available on production of a receipt for marking fees, it is felt the register is probably now fairly accurate.

There are inevitably more animals in some areas than others and always have been. Stock numbers are not generally perceived to be a problem. Natural England monitors the vegetation and currently has no issues. Condition of stock is an indicator, but is more dependent upon weather conditions. It was suggested that April may be a good time for a review of stock numbers.

2014/7626 SEARCH FEE REVIEW DISCHARGE

The search fees have not been increased since 2006. The Clerk produced a proposal for revised fees which was accepted by the Court. The new fee scale, which will be implemented on 1st December, will be published on the Verderers' website.

Action
Clerk

2014/7627 NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP PLAN DISCHARGE

Mrs Westerhoff produced a very helpful paper. Some further amendments were suggested which the Official Verderer will incorporate prior to forwarding them to the Park. It was also agreed unanimously that the Verderers should be included in the organisations on the front of the plan which have jointly produced it.

Action
OV

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

2014/7628 CASS COTTAGE, HYDE – APPLICATION FOR NEW ACCESS DISCHARGE

The application for a new access at Cass Cottage was refused.

The reasons being as follows:-

1. The new access will result in a loss of grazing and SSSI habitat.
2. Three properties share the existing access onto the road, and there is no proposal to close it.

Two additional points made by the applicant, namely problems with the current access to his house within the property curtilage, and disturbance to neighbours from the use of the current garage/open parking area, are not matters for the Court and therefore they were not considered relevant.

The Clerk was asked to communicate the Court's decision to the applicant.

2014/7629 NATIONAL GRID PROPOSALS TO BURY HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES ON HALE PURLIEU DISCHARGE

The Court supported the proposals by the National Grid to carry out feasibility studies in respect of burying the high voltage lines in the north of the Forest. The pylons are a blot on the landscape and their removal is to be welcomed.

Action
Clerk

VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME (VGS)

2014/7630 VGS PAYMENT FOR PURE BRED NEW FOREST PONIES ONLY RESUME

The suggestion that subsidy should be paid for pure bred New Forest Ponies only, will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the VGS Management Committee on 26th November.

Mr Gerrelli was not in favour of such a change to the rules, citing the argument that unregistered teeth eat as much vegetation as registered ones and he felt that the VGS is supposed to be about conserving the Forest. However, other members of the Court disagreed and it was suggested that pure bred New Forest Ponies could be considered to be part of the Cultural Heritage of the Forest which the HLS/VGS is supposed to take into account as well.

The matter will be discussed in the VGS meeting and resumed for further discussion by the whole Court before a final decision is made.

Action
OV

MATTERS ARISING FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2014/7631 BHS BREEDS COMMITTEE DISCHARGE

Miss Macnair reported that she attended a meeting of the BHS Breeds Committee where a presentation was made on proposals by DEFRA to set up and pay for a database of all equines in the UK. However, the industry will have to pay for its maintenance. General lack of knowledge of the legislation needs to be addressed.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2014/7632 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR OCTOBER 2014 RESUME

The financial statement was noted.

STAFF MATTERS

2014/7633 COST OF MICROCHIPPING DISCHARGE

A request has been received for reimbursement of microchipping costs undertaken privately as to date, the Beaulieu Road Sales have not taken place this autumn.

The request was declined by the Court, but Mr Readhead said the Livestock Society may give some consideration to reimbursing the amount that would have been charged for microchipping at a Sale, for animals presented and sold at the forthcoming November and December Sales.

HEALTH & SAFETY & TRAINING

2014/7634 CHAIN SAW TRAINING RESUME
March 2015

A trainer and assessor have been selected and training will take place in the New Year.

2014/7635 DRIFT REVIEW DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin reported that a review of this year's drifts has been undertaken. The major issue that arose was the lack of police attendance despite assurances that they would attend. This was due to unforeseeable events and other priorities on the day.

In future, if the police fail to turn up, a risk assessment will be undertaken prior to the drift commencing, to ensure that it can still be run safely. If it is considered it cannot, the drift will not take place as it is not acceptable to undertake a drift if it is not possible to satisfactorily manage identified risks. The only way to ensure the Police attend is to pay, as has been done on a few occasions in the past.

2014/7636 HEALTH & SAFETY REVIEW RESUME

A date for the review has been set.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 2014/7637 NEW FOREST CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS (WATER) DISCHARGE
- Mrs Westerhoff said that some documents have been brought to her attention which she will review and report back at the next Court if necessary. Mr Mills asked for a copy of the papers, which Mrs Westerhoff undertook to provide. Action
DW (HM)
- 2014/7638 LAWSONIA INTRACELLULARIS RESUME
- Miss Macnair reported that a mare of hers has recently succumbed to this infection which is carried by pigs. The Clerk undertook some hasty research over lunch and a call to a local equine veterinary practice has given some assurance that it is not a huge problem. The Clerk will undertake some further research to find out if it is likely to be a concern in the Forest but the initial advice received from the veterinary practice is that it is not. A vaccination is available for horses but is probably only necessary if they live on a pig farm. Action
SW
- 2014/7639 TB REPORTING DISCHARGE
- In response to a query from Mr Mills, Mr Deakin reported that a letter has been sent out to commoners containing a reminder that they must have their cattle TB tested between 1st October 2014 and 31st January 2015. The letter reiterated that it is up to commoners to arrange the test, and not to wait for AHVLA to write to them telling them to do so.
- Included in the letter was a request that they return a copy (provided) to confirm that they had received it and also to let the Clerk know the date of their TB test and the result. Commoners who do not respond will be visited by the Agisters.
- 2014/7640 MOBILE PHONES DISCHARGE
- The new smartphones are not as successful as expected, with signals generally being very poor. This has resulted in difficulties communicating with the Agisters. A solution is being sought. Action
Clerk
- 2014/7641 LYNDHURST TO ASHURST CYCLE WAY RESURFACING DISCHARGE
- As yet, a formal approach for consent has not been received from Hampshire County Council.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 15:30 hrs.

Dominic May
Official Verderer
16th January 2015