

**Minutes of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 9.30 a.m.  
in the Verderers Hall, the King's House, Lyndhurst**

PRESENT	Mr E Heron	Official Verderer
	Mr R Deakin	Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman
	Dr G Ferris	Co-opted Elected Verderer
	Mr A H Pasmore	Senior Elected Verderer
	Mr R Stride	Elected Verderer
	Mr C Chatters	Natural England Appointed Verderer
	Mr M Gammon	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
	Miss A Sevier MBE	National Park Appointed Verderer
	Mr R Manley	DEFRA Appointed Verderer
	Mr D Readhead	Elected Verderer
IN ATTENDANCE	Miss J Bayley	Assistant Clerk to the Verderers
	Mr J R Gerrelli	Head Agister
APOLOGIES	None	

**IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

2024/13558	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	RESUME
	The minutes of the last Court, held on Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 were approved, and signed by the Official Verderer.	
2024/13559	NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	RESUME
	Mr Chatters said that he occasionally works with the Wessex Rivers Trust on projects outside the New Forest.	
	Mr Stride said that with effect from next month he will be employed full time by Forestry England's Open Forest Management Team. EH advised that his Declaration of Interest form should be updated.	
2024/13560	CONDITION OF STOCK – REPORT BY THE HEAD AGISTER	RESUME
	The Head Agister said it has been a strange year so far and he is wondering when summer is going to start. The ponies are all in good condition. The Agisters are still marking cattle, many commoners have delayed turning out waiting for the grass come in.	
	There have been several cattle deaths in the Holmsley area. Veterinary investigation has indicated that the deaths were caused by bracken poisoning. The dead cattle were all part of the same herd. The commoner was asked to remove his remaining animals from the Forest to closely monitor their health and following some aggression towards the Head Agister from one sick animal.	
	Mr Chatters asked about the strangles situation. Mr Gerrelli said that he was unaware of any affected ponies on the Open Forest but said there are a few cases on private yards in and around the Forest.	

2024/13561 STALLIONS

DISCHARGE

All stallions have now been removed from the Forest. Four stallions were injured and had to be removed early to receive veterinary treatment.

Mr Ferris said geldings were known to cause problems with the stallions and asked what the Court can do about them. The Head Agister said that any gelding known to interfere with the stallions is classed as "mischievous" and its owner can be asked to remove it from the Forest.

2024/13562 TB

RESUME

Commoners have still not heard from APHA regarding possible radial testing following the TB breakdown in Boldre.

The Court discussed the need for better communication from APHA. It is still hoped that a meeting can be arranged with the APHA Veterinary team.

Action Clerk

2024/13563 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

RESUME

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Forest Ponies	4640	4706
Forest Cattle	1447	2429
Forest Donkeys	99	85
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	6186	7220
Common Ponies	466	449
Common Cattle	363	1103
Common Donkeys	36	50
Common Pigs	11	18
Common Sheep	91	139
Total Common Stock	967	1759
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	6186	7220
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	865	1602
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	7051	8822
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	7153	8979

The Official Verderer commented on the low number of cattle. The Head Agister said a lot of cattle are yet to be marked but that many commoners have reduced the size of their herds.

2024/13564 BREACHES OF THE BYELAWS

RESUME

There is one potential byelaw breach but it is hoped that the commoner will take action following a warning letter which has been sent.

## OPEN COURT

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr Craig Harrison, Deputy Surveyor  
Mrs Joan Clark

The Head Agister opened the Court with the usual proclamation.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS

2024/13565 OP MOUNTIE

I have been in contact with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and will be meeting with her over the summer. I will be discussing Op Mountie, speeding on the unfenced Forest roads including the B3054, and Average Speed Cameras.

2024/13566 SHEEP

When I meet with the PCC, I will also raise the deliberate attacks on Forest livestock. I have already spoken with the Inspector for the New Forest West area, when I was told that, at that time, there didn't appear to be a link with incidents involving sheep in previous years. We do maintain a list of all incidents involving Forest livestock.

2024/13567 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES AND SUBMISSIONS TO THE VERDERERS FOR CONSENT

I have met with the Deputy Surveyor and we have discussed the manner in which the mobile refreshment sales proposals were brought to the Court for consent. We have agreed that the process needs to be improved ahead of the Court's consideration of any future requests for consent. Following further discussion with the Deputy Surveyor, the Court will provide guidance on the process to be followed by Forestry England and other statutory bodies, such as the Highways Authority when seeking the consent of the Court for significant or controversial proposals. Once finalised, this will be published on the Court's website.

2024/13568 FENCING OF CAMPSITES

The possibility of fencing campsites is a very controversial issue and we are waiting to hear any further comments before considering the suggestion. Any proposals for the fencing of campsites would have to be brought forward by Forestry England and would need to be consulted upon with key stakeholders, such as Natural England.

2024/13569 STALLION SCHEME

Following Mrs Charlotte Line's presentment in April, requesting a review of the Verderers' Stallion Scheme, a meeting of representatives from the New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society, Commoners' Defence Association, Young Commoners together with the Verderers' Stallion Committee, took place on Tuesday 23rd May. A constructive discussion took place and a number of actions were agreed. A further meeting is to be held in early July.

### ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2024/13570 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR MAY 2024

The Agisters attended 5 accidents in May compared with 3 in May last year.

1 pony died, 2 donkeys were injured and 2 further ponies reportedly involved in accidents could not be found.

1 accident occurred in daylight, the other 4 happened in the dark.

All the drivers involved came forward.

The total number of commoners animals killed and injured this year is 8. That compares with 13 in the same period last year.

## **PRESENTMENT BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR**

There were no presentments from the Deputy Surveyor

## **PRESENTMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

2024/13571 RISK TO COMMONERS FROM THE MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES  
Presentment by Mr Andrew Parry-Norton, Chairman, New Forest Commoners' Defence Association

'Good morning Official Verderer, Verderers, and members of the Court.

As I have highlighted previously in this court, and I am sure most people in this building would agree, the stock turned out by Commoners is the foundation stone of the New Forest.

The Commoners stock has created the landscape over generations; the ecology this practice has created is of national importance, millions of visitors' travel and stay in the parks boundaries to admire the free roaming ponies and the unique setting.

Every Commoner, whatever their age and location in the Forest are hard working people dedicated to their animals, they deserve the support and recognition by other Forest organizations and should not be exposed to unnecessary risk, worry and financial burden.

I have seen a copy of the risk assessments produced by FE regarding vendors in the car parks and, in particular, the category "interaction with free roaming livestock due to sales from concession". In the event of an injury to a member of the public the FE regard it as a type 3. This is a minor injury, reversible illness requiring first aid or minor medical treatment. I do wonder if whoever compiled this has ever been kicked by a mares hoof at full stretch?

But let's suppose it is minor, the consequences for the Commoner are certainly not minor. The pony will be ordered off the Forest, it might well miss running with the stallion so no foal will be produced, if the Commoner has sufficient grazing and winter fodder the pony could be kept on the holding but this is unlikely. The most probable outcome is it will be put down.

This "minor incident" with a member of the public costs the commoner financially and is emotionally very hard; the Forest has lost another of its architects.

Due to the very unfortunate decision by some of the Verderers we find ourselves in a situation were we are stuck with the car park vendors for a minimum of 2 years so therefore every procedure must be taken to insure the public's safety, to protect the Commoners and their stock.

We ask the Verderers to ensure that:

Wherever possible the vendors are moved into the enclosures allowing the public to consume their purchased food away from the Commoners' ponies etc.

The vendors, especially the one located at Bolton's Bench, has a fence and gate erected around them, located on the gravelled car park area. This is to be of sufficient size to accommodate the queuing public and allow food to be consumed away from the stock.

We hope the Verderers that approved the FE's application, upon reflection, reverse their judgment for the license renewal in 2 years time but we thank the ones that supported the Commoners.

Thank you.'

2024/13572 ROAD CROSSINGS ON THE A35 AND A337  
Presentment by Mr Jim Greenwood

'Both the 1964 New Forest Act relating to the fencing of the A35 and the 1970 Act relating to the A337 state " the highway authority shall provide such crossings as appear to them, after consultation with the verderers, to be reasonably necessary for enabling animals at large in the Forest to pass under or round enclosures " and also "in exercising their powers under this section the highway authority shall provide to the satisfaction of the Minister sufficient gates or stiles to permit reasonable public access to or across the said road on foot." I understand these were to have been placed at points where there were established paths crossing the roads.

The two underpasses on the A337 in the 10 kilometres from Cadnam to Brockenhurst were, in my opinion, sited to take advantage of convenient land contours however this road has 8 sets of box gates at crossing places. Many need attention and cannot be used to cross the road safely.

The A35 has three underpasses and no box gates which I know of in its 20 kilometres from Ashurst until you reach Holmsley, where there are three sets.

Traffic volumes are far heavier than in 1964, there are something between 4 and 5 times the number of vehicles on the road, speeds have generally increased on these fenced roads, as have the size and number of HGV movements. More traffic has been directed onto the A35 than was the case when the roads were fenced.

As an example of the difficulty of crossing this road with a horse, sixty years ago before the A35 was fenced I could ride straight across from the Ironshill Lodge entrance to a well used historic trackway on the edge of Mallard Wood. After fencing it was still possible to go straight across the road through a gate on the south side, though this became poorly maintained and difficult to use. As a result of recent much needed, well erected fencing improvement, this gate has been removed and post and rail fencing erected right across its former location. This is a prime location where a box gate should have been installed and maintained. Was this fencing carried out with agreement from Forestry England and the Verderers?

The only way to cross the road now is to ride along the cycle path to the Ashurst Lodge road. With HGV's and motorcycles thundering past it has become a very hazardous undertaking on this straight road where vehicles frequently travel very fast, some with no regard for riders. It is 3 kilometres from Ashurst to the Racecourse underpass with no safe crossings.

There are locked and or poorly hung gates in many other locations on the A35 but none make safe crossing places.

It is time for a rethink of provisions which were made 60 years ago and are now inadequate and outdated. It should not be made so difficult and dangerous to get from one part of the Forest to another. A box gate at the location I have mentioned would be a start.'

2024/13573 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES  
Presentment by Mr Brian Tarnoff, Local Resident

Mr Tarnoff reflected on what has been said this morning concerning potential injuries to the public, commenting that this is an issue that can happen at any hotspot. He suggested that the introduction of the PSPO's should have triggered a re-evaluation of all the food and drink provisions in the Forest including the Ice Cream Vans. The increase in the range of food items could be considered mission creep. He said that in his opinion, given the latest Risk Assessment and Habitat Regulation Assessment, a re-evaluation of provisions should take place including the Ice Cream Vans which have been in place for years. What was acceptable years ago, may not be now. He commented on the timing of the DS's request for consent for Ice Cream Sales over the past few years and felt the formal procedures do seem to have fallen by the wayside.

2024/13574 SUPPORT FOR THE AGISTERS & COMMONERS WHO GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO HELP THE FOREST  
Presentment by Miss Grace Moore, Commoner

'I have been fortunate to have been commoning for 20 years. I have had my fair share of trials over this period, but have met some lovely people being part of the Forest and have always had support from the Agisters.

We all know how much the Forest has changed, maybe not for the better. The amount of people who use the Forest has exploded even in my short years of commoning, but only a handful of people actually hold it together.

An Agisters job is 24 hours. Their workload has increased hugely over the years. Their support to commoners is non stop and the increase of people and animals is a stretch to them all.

I stand here today to say we need to support these men as much as they support us. Their knowledge of the land cannot be replaced.

I was shocked to hear that none of them have private health care! For a small team who look after so much we need to consider their health and wellbeing as well as they cannot be replaced easily. Mental health should be considered too, maybe counselling as what they must cope with and have seen some horrors. Plus dealing with, calmly may I add, with all the pointless phone calls that have to be checked must be draining too.

These men have supported me and I would not be commoning without them. So please consider a full MOT for them all so they can keep up the good work.

My second point is for the volunteers, the people who go out of their way to look out for the Forest itself. Two come to mind and I know there are many more.

Gilly Jones – New Forest Roads Campaign uses her free time to relentlessly get awareness for the drivers through the Forest.

Bob Sparks who used to volunteer to help in any aspect, given to him on the Forest. He sadly has cancer now so cannot continue.

We need to think of a way to reward these people and say thank you for all their hard work. Even via a cup of tea. I personally would love to hear the stories of why and what others do to thank them myself.

So many people help the Forest every day but it is not common knowledge. Maybe we can in some way recognise and reward selfless acts of kindness. It may encourage others to do the same.

Thank you for listening, and thank you again to everyone who keeps the Forest running for everyone else to enjoy.'

**The Head Agister closed the Court**

**IN COMMITTEE (in the Library)**

**CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS**

2024/13575 RISK TO COMMONERS FROM MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer said the Court had a lengthy discussion last month regarding the mobile refreshment sales risk assessments. Mr Deakin said the point Mr Parry Norton is making is that a minor incident between a pony and a member of the public could have a massive impact on the commoner who owns the animal. The Court agreed.

Mr Gammon asked the Deputy Surveyor for an update on the Boltons Bench refreshment van. The Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England is actively looking for another vendor to take on the site.

The DS advised that concessions will be within fenced areas where possible. The DS asked the Court's view as to the principle of fencing the concessions at Bolton's Bench, where no existing enclosed area is available.

The Court discussed fencing the refreshment concession at Boltons Bench, to include enough space to hold both a queue and people eating. The Court agrees fencing is a good idea but only in the gravel car park, not on areas grazed by livestock.

2024/13576 ROAD CROSSINGS ON THE A35 AND A337 DISCHARGE

The Court discussed Mr Greenwoods presentment at length. The Official Verderer raised concerns that a gate could be removed without consultation with the Court.

It is agreed that the matter will be discharged to the Staff Committee to discuss and re-evaluate HCC Highways infrastructure from the requirement for removing animals from the highway.

The Deputy Surveyor said it will be helpful if an announcement is made by the Court reminding people to report any issues to the appropriate authorities.

TO STAFF  
COMMITTEE

2024/13577 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES DISCHARGE

Mr Tarnoff's comments about the Public Space Protection Order were discussed. The Court will wait for the PSPO Annual Report to be issued before discussing further. It is also hoped that the RMS strategy will highlight areas where changes are required.

The Court agrees with Mr Tarnoff's comments about the change in standard of Forestry England's formal procedures.

2024/13578 SUPPORT FOR THE AGISTERS & COMMONERS WHO GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO HELP THE FOREST DISCHARGE

The Court welcomed Miss Moore's comments on the Agisters. The Official Verderer said an Employee Assistance Programme is already in place for all staff.

Mr Deakin said the Staff Committee write and thank individuals who have gone above and beyond to help the Agisters at the drifts.

Mr Manley said the Head Agister and Agister Robert Maton have been nominated for the Heathcote Award at the New Forest Show this year.

Mr Manley said that commoners Mr Mike Eccles and Mr James Young have been awarded the New Forest Trust Diamond Jubilee Award for their work on the illegal encroachment at Shobley.

The Court agrees it is important to pro-actively reward people who go above and beyond for the Forest. Miss Sevier added that she does not feel it was necessary for the Court to offer its own award, as there are many awards already in the public eye which are important for the whole Forest community.

2024/13579 SOUND RECORDING OF IMPROMPTU / OFF THE CUFF PRESENTMENTS DISCHARGE

Adlibbed presentments can be very difficult to reproduce for the Court minutes. The Court discussed the possibility of recording these presentments on a mobile phone, and the need to inform the public that they may be recorded. It was proposed that we do not record presentments for now but this decision may be revisited in the future.

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO FORESTRY ENGLAND**

2024/13580 MOBILE REFRESHMENT SALES – HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENTS DISCHARGE

The Court thanked the Deputy Surveyor for providing the Habitat Regulation Assessments for the mobile refreshment sales. The Deputy Surveyor questioned whether the Court needed HRA's for every request for consent. The Official Verderer said the Court needs all available information to assist with the decision-making process.



2024/13581 PROCEDURES RESUME

The Court discussed the procedure Forestry England should follow when submitting applications for Verderers consent. It is agreed that a small working group consisting of the Official Verderer, Mr Pasmore and Mr Gammon will meet to produce written guidance which will then be brought back to the Court for further comment.

Action  
AHP/MG

#### UTILITY PROPOSALS – DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS

2024/13582 DE-MINIMIS-CONSENTS - UTILITY PROPOSALS AGREED BY DISCHARGE  
THE DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE

DM0200 South West Water – water maintenance works – disconnect main at Brighton Road Sway, near to reservoir.

#### UTILITY PROPOSALS - FALLING OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE

2024/13583 UTILITY PROPOSALS FALLING OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE DISCHARGE  
DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE

The proposal to undertake essential AC Permanent Mitigation works on the Esso pipeline from Twiggs Lane End to Hardley Industrial Estate is approved subject to the usual three conditions.

#### CAMPSITES (CAMPING IN THE NEW FOREST – CNF)

2024/13584 CNF FOOTPRINT ECOLOGY REPORT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NEW FOREST CAMPSITES RESUME

Mr Chatters said he read both the Footprint Ecology report and FE's response. He said the FE/CNF response to the Footprint Ecology report appears to address commercial matters. He asked the Deputy Surveyor if the Court should expect something else which sets out the statutory and policy frameworks within which these decisions will be made. The Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England does not just have a commercial interest in the campsites, he said a further advisory group meeting is planned but has been delayed due to the General Election in July.

Mr Gammon asked if a Social Economic Report would be carried out, the Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England will be renewing the 2016 report in the early Autumn.

The Court will consider the two reports together. The Official Verderer asked that any comments be passed to Mr Chatters who will report back to the advisory group.

Action All

#### SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2024/13585 THE REPAIR & MAINTENANCE/ENHANCEMENT LIST RESUME

The list was noted.

2024/13586 WORK IN ISLAND THORNS DISCHARGE

Mr Pasmore said he is happy with the information provided by Forestry England regarding the planned work in Island Thorns.

#### ENCROACHMENTS

2024/13587 ENCROACHMENTS LIST RESUME

The list was noted.

#### ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2024/13588 ACTION LIST RESUME

The list was noted.

2024/13589 INFORMATION BOARDS DISCHARGE

The Deputy Surveyor said he hopes all the signs have now been removed. He asked the Court to provide location information of any that have been missed. The Official Verderer suggested using What3Words or a dropped pin on a map.

Action All

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2024/13590 HOLLY REGENERATION PENS RESUME

Mr Pasmore said he is in favour of the holly regeneration pens but is concerned that the correct procedure has not been followed by Forestry England. He said enclosures are starting to appear but the sites enclosed are far too small.

Mr Stride said the pens had been discussed at the OFAC meeting and sites were agreed and passed to Dave Morris to action. Mr Pasmore agreed that the locations have been discussed but correct consent has not been sought from the Court.

Action DS

2024/13591 BROCKENHURST FLOOD DEFENCE STUDY DISCHARGE

Mr Chatters said in his view Wessex Rivers Trust should be asked to be clearer about what they feel the issue is in Brockenhurst. He said he is concerned that they are not distinguishing the difference between the Open Forest and privately enclosed land.

The Deputy Surveyor said Forestry England has met with Natural England and the Environment Agency to discuss the flood risk to some Brockenhurst properties.

The Official Verderer asked Mr Chatters and the Clerk to write a letter to Wessex Rivers Trust welcoming a discussion with them and detailing the special status and national importance of the grazed lands in the New Forest.

Action  
CC/Clerk

2024/13592 DENNY LODGE WATER SUPPLY RESUME

Mrs Clark said the work to replace the water pipe at Denny Lodge is now progressing. Mr Deakin said he had looked at the proposed route of the pipe which has previously been agreed but said there has been some confusion as to whether a water tank would be required or not. Mrs Clark said the new plan is without the water tank. The Official Verderer asked her to submit the final proposal to the office as soon as possible. He said if the plan has dramatically changed, consent may have to wait until the next Court.

Action JC

2024/13593 REVIEW OF FOREST BRIDGES RESUME

Mr Deakin asked the Deputy Surveyor if the Court could see the results of the recent review Forestry England carried out on its Forest bridges. He said the Agisters have raised concerns that several bridges on vital drift routes which are necessary for stock management have been downgraded or are planned to be removed.

Action DS

2024/13594 FORESTRY ENGLAND FIRE FIGHTING PROCEDURE RESUME

Mr Stride raised concern that Forestry England staff are no longer permitted to fight wild fires on the Crown Lands. The Deputy Surveyor said that staff will support the emergency services response but will no longer be involved in firefighting or damping down. He continued that he cannot be responsible for his staff being put at risk.

Mr Deakin said we have just had the worst year for burning and already there is too much gorse which will increase the risk of wild fires. Mr Stride said he felt it should be considered for future funding and said there are many skilled men in the Forest who should be utilised.

The Official Verderer said Forestry England is reducing the capacity to protect the Forest and the public given that we are having hotter, dryer summers. The Deputy Surveyor said that there will be more focus on fire prevention and preparedness, including the management of fire breaks.

DS

**There being no other business involving Forestry England, the Deputy Surveyor and Land Agent left the meeting**

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM EARLIER IN THE MEETING**

2024/13595 CNF FOOTPRINT ECOLOGY REPORT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NEW FOREST CAMPSITES RESUME

Mr Chatters said he has read the documents in detail and that he believes Forestry England's response to the Footprint Ecology report is purely fiscal. The Court agrees it is important to respond to its areas of responsibility as detailed in the report.

**ENCROACHMENTS**

2024/13596 ENCROACHMENTS NOT INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said there are several encroachments which the Commoners Defence Association is looking into. The Official Verderer said the Court may have to be more actively involved in the future so no commoners are put in the same position as Mr Eccles & Mr Young.

**OTHER AGENDA ITEMS**

2024/13597 VERDERER ASSISTANCE ON THE NEW FOREST SHOW STAND DISCHARGE

A rosta was completed by the Assistant Clerk which provides Verderer cover for the three days of the show.

2024/13598 ILLINGWORTH PANEL / SELECTION PANEL FOR PROPERTIES LET ACCORDING TO THE NEW FOREST HOUSING AND ENCLOSED GRAZING LAND MANAGED BY FORESTRY ENGLAND REPORT DATED 28/2/20 DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer said the Court is required to nominate two Verderers to sit on the panel when it is convened. The requirement is that this should be the Official Verderer (or a nominated substitute) and an Elected Verderer. Miss Sevier (for the OV) and Mr Readhead are currently the Court's appointees to sit on panel. The Official Verderer asked for an Elected Verderer and an Appointed Verderer to be substitutes in case a conflict of interest arises. Mr Pasmore and Mr Gammon volunteered. Mrs Clark will be advised.

Action Asst  
Clerk

**REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

2024/13599 ACCESS FORUM DISCHARGE

Miss Sevier reported back from a good meeting of the Access Forum where sensible access and the safety of the public were discussed.

**OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

2024/13600 FINANCIAL MATTERS INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement was noted.

The Official Verderer said the Agisters' vehicles are a real drain on the Court's finances. A small working group will be formed to look at possible ways to reduce costs.

Action OV

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

2024/13601 RTC'S AND OTHER INSTANCES WHERE COMMONERS' ANIMALS STRAY ONTO THE FENCED ROADS DISCHARGE TO STAFF COMMITTEE

The matter is discharged to the Staff Committee to produce guidance for the Agisters.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

2024/13602 WIDENING OF THE A326 CARRIAGEWAY DISCHARGE

Mr Manley asked Mr Chatters if there is an update on the proposed widening of the A326. Mr Chatters advised that whilst preliminary investigations are underway, planning consent has not yet been sought.

2024/13603 THE NATIONAL TRUST DISCHARGE

Representatives of the National Trust will be joining the Verderers for lunch followed by an informal discussion.

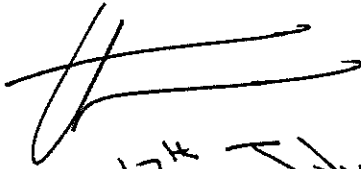
Mr Deakin advised that the water supply to the stallion fields at Mottisfont is finally being installed.

**STAFF MATTERS**

2024/13604 VIEW HR LIMITED DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer confirmed that, in consultation with Mr Deakin, he had appointed View HR Limited to assist and advise the Court on employment matters

The meeting ended at 13:00 hrs



17<sup>th</sup> July 2024.