

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers held on Thursday 20th January 2022

At the time of this Court, the UK Government has lifted many restrictions in respect of the outbreak of novel Coronavirus, known as Covid-19 which started at the beginning of 2020.

However, from Monday 13th December 2021, in the face of a new Covid variant which appears to have a higher transmission rate, Government guidance is that people should once more work from home wherever possible and face masks should be worn indoors in public places. In view of the risks associated with meeting in person, combined with the proven ability of the Court to function well via video link, it was decided this meeting should be conducted via Zoom.

PRESENT	Lord Manners	Official Verderer
	Mr R Deakin	Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman
	Mr A B Dowsett	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
	Dr G Ferris	Co-opted Elected Verderer
	Mr R Stride	Elected Verderer
	Mr A H Pasmore	Senior Elected Verderer
	Mr D Readhead	Elected Verderer
	Miss A Sevier MBE	New Forest National Park Appointed Verderer
	Mrs D Westerhoff	Natural England Appointed Verderer
	Mr R Manley	DEFRA Appointed Verderer

IN ATTENDANCE	Miss S Westwood	Clerk to the Verderers
	Mr P Grugeon	Forestry England Area Land Agent
	Miss T Tidman	Forestry England Assistant Land Agent

APOLOGIES	Mr C Harrison	Deputy Surveyor
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2022/12023	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	RESUME
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The minutes of the last Court held on Wednesday 15th December 2021 were approved and will be signed by the Official Verderer at the earliest opportunity.

2022/12024	NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	RESUME
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Miss Sevier wished it to be recorded that she is a member of the Action Clerk VGS.

PRESENTMENT BY MISS T TIDMAN ON BEHALF OF THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR

2022/12025	NETWORK RAIL COMPENSATION LAND AT NORLEY WOOD Tess Tidman MRICS, Assistant Land Agent, Forestry England	RESUME
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Compensation Land offered to Forestry England by Network Rail (Basic Overview) See also
Minute No.
12031

Background

Network Rail is undertaking essential works to the substation at Woodfidley as part of their 'HV Switchgear Replacements' project, this will see the footprint of the substation site increase by 382 sqm.

Forestry England Land Required by Network Rail

The land that is required by Network Rail to facilitate the expansion of the Woodfidley substation site will total an area of 382sqm.

It is heavily designated including SSSI, SAC, SPA and RAMSAR and constitutes open Forest grazing land between the railway line and Frame Heath Inclosure. Plans provided.

Network Rail Proposed Compensation Land

In order to approve the works taking place, Forestry England require compensation land and Natural England require habitat mitigation. Network Rail will also require Verderers consent.

Network Rail have sourced a strip of land consisting of approximately 948sqm of former pasture that borders the open Forest (the land has been fenced out of the main pasture for several years and sits between the Forest boundary and pasture boundary).

The land is located at Norley Farm, Thatchers Lane, Norley Wood, Lymington, SO41 5RT.

Network Rail have consulted with Natural England who have indicated that the land looks promising from their perspective and is in good condition as well as a good location. They have asked that Network Rail undertake soil samples before fully commenting.

Agreement Structure in Principle

Network Rail intend to purchase the land from a private individual over the coming months.

Network Rail will then transfer ownership of the land to Forestry England and undertake the necessary work to enable the land to be 'thrown open'.

As the proposed compensation land is considerably larger than that being lost, Network Rail have requested some form of 'land banking' is considered for future essential works.

SUBMISSIONS BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2022/12026 BURLEY WAGON RIDES DISCHARGE

The Court gave consent for the Burley Wagon Rides for a further three years (1/1/2022- 31/12/2024).

It was noted that the conditions include the Wagon Ride operators being required to close any barriers on the route. It is understood the operators will give the residents 10 days notice of their intention to commence the wagon rides.

2022/12027 MINSTEAD CRICKET CLUB – LICENCE TO MINSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL DISCHARGE

The Court raised one query and that was, is the Club allowed to cut turf. Mr Gugeon replied, saying only small areas of turf may be taken to fill in or repair small areas of damage. The Court was satisfied with this response and gave consent for the licence for 25 years from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2045.

2022/12028 TREE PLANTING IN POUND LANE BURLEY

DISCHARGE

Further Health and Safety tree works have been carried out, resulting in 2 mature oak trees having to be felled in Pound Lane, Burley over this winter. There are more that are likely to need to be felled in the near future, and they are being closely monitored. The Parish Council wishes to replace those mature trees with new saplings for future veteran trees. Its proposal is to plant 10 trees along Pound Lane. These would be at suitable locations near to the sites of any felled trees (a location plan was provided to the Court). These would all be oak saplings, secured from a local provenance supplier. In order to protect these from damage from browsing, it is proposed to fence around each tree (as was done in 2018 with the 6 new trees that were planted then), with a 2m square frame, 1.2m high, made from post and rail with stock netting at the bottom. The fence structure around each tree will be needed for 10 years to allow the trees to become established and withstand stock. The Parish Council will be responsible for maintaining the fence in good order and removing it at the end of the 10-year period. Planting will be carried out by hand, the turf or top soil will be carefully removed and put to one side, whilst the hole is dug. Soil will be returned to the hole and the turf will be replaced back around the tree so as to reduce disturbance to plant species.

These future veteran trees will provide habitat and shelter for wildlife along the lane, creating a living corridor connecting the Forest from one end of Pound Lane to the other, providing havens for invertebrates, bats and, birds and habitat for lichens and fungi. The verges along Pound Lane Burley, have traditionally had trees adding to the aesthetics of the area and maintaining that link with the wider Forest and shelter for livestock. Old photos of the lane dating from 1910, 1930, 1960 all show a tree lined avenue. Pound Lane is designated as Ancient & Ornamental Woodland and as such should have some trees along those verges. Without planting and fencing to protect those trees, this area would not naturally regenerate as the verges are so well grazed there is no scope for natural regeneration. Previous trees have been planted in the recent past and they were all fenced to allow establishment.

Forestry England has been working closely with Burley Parish Council to agree this plan. It will seek permission from Natural England for the scheme, subject to the Verderers giving their consent for the temporary fences to protect these trees from stock.

The Court gave its consent to these proposals.

2022/12029 TREE PLANTING FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE IN DISCHARGE
COTT LANE BURLEY

Burley Parish Council would also like to plant 12 oak trees to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Previously, for the Queen's Silver Jubilee, Burley Parish Council planted oak trees adjacent to Cott Lane (near to Burley Golf Course, plan provided) and of these, 9 have survived. Burley Parish Council would like to plant another 12 oak trees for this year's Jubilee, adjacent to these trees on an area of forest that has recently been cleared of gorse. The area is

immediately adjacent to the earlier jubilee trees and provides a connecting strip of future pasture woodland linking the woodland around the edge of the village and across the top end of the golf course.

Again, the Verderers' permission is sought to install 12 small fenced areas to protect the individual trees from browsing until such time as they are established. The request is for 10 years to allow suitable establishment. Each individual oak would be fenced to protect it as per the structures in Pound Lane and Burley Parish Council will be responsible for their maintenance. Forestry England will seek Natural England's assent if the Verderers give their permission for this planting.

The Court gave this submission very careful consideration but, on this occasion, declined its consent.

The Verderers are concerned to preserve the grazing and vegetation (including gorse) which is vital for the stock and delivers other ecological benefits. This proposal, when coupled with the existing planting, would according to the plan submitted, result in 21 trees covering when mature, an area of approximately 1 acre on the Open Forest.

The Verderers receive many requests for trees, plaques, seats et cetera to be planted or placed on the Open Forest. It is the policy of the Verderers almost always to refuse consent. Any fenced enclosure amounts to an encroachment.

The Verderers naturally understand the wish to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. Other similar requests are likely. The Court gave the following guidance. The Court will entertain favourably a request for consent to plant a suitable native species specimen tree to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee within the curtilage of the settlement but on the Open Forest, only if there is no other suitable location on Parish or private land. Natural England and Forestry England consent (where required) will be needed and the fencing arrangements must also be approved by the Court.

Mr Grugeon indicated that Forestry England supported this proposal.

The Official Verderer said he will write a careful letter to the Parish Council explaining the reasons for the Court's decision which will doubtless be met with disappointment by the Parish Council.

Action OV

2022/12030 ICE CREAM SALES

DISCHARGE

The Verderers have previously given consent for Ice cream and soft drink sales at agreed locations on the Crown Lands of the New Forest. The current consent expires at the end of March 2022.

Forestry England sought the Court's consent for a further 2 years and below is a list of locations. A tender exercise for these locations will be run, which means there is the possibility that not all locations will be taken up.

Hatchet Pond has been removed from the list as it is no longer seen as appropriate to have a concessionaire at this location due to the ecological sensitivity of this site. Given this, the opportunity has been taken to review all locations previously consented and Cadnam Cricket car park has also been removed from the list. Some additional, more robust locations, have been added. Some of these are neighbouring locations to existing sites and have been included as one Lot/Site.

This gives the opportunity for FE to be able to move Licence holders to other agreed locations should there be a need, i.e. if a car park is closed for maintenance, drifts, events etc. FE sees these proposals as an opportunity to build successful relationships with concessionaires. FE wants them to act as custodians for these sites, be visible in displaying key messaging around responsible behaviours such as livestock interaction and littering and help to manage irresponsible behaviour and report issues immediately.

Submissions from those who can provide greener solutions to noise pollution and emissions will be favoured.

Locations seeking consent:

1. Blackwater/Brockhill
2. Bolderwood
3. Whitefield Moor/Beachern Wood
4. Wilverley Plain/Longslade Bottom/Setthorns campsite
5. Stoney Cross Layby/Rufus Stone/Ocknell & Longbeech campsites
6. Godshill Cricket/Ashley Walk
7. Linford Bottom/Vereley
8. Ashurst/Denny/Matley campsites
9. Hollands Wood/Roundhill/Aldridge Hill campsites
10. Dibden/Deerleap
11. Anderwood
12. Burley Cricket
13. Boltons Bench
14. Reptile centre

The Court gave consent for 2 years, to March 2024, for all the above with the exception of 5. where the Stoney Cross Layby site is to be moved into Janesmoor Car Park, in order to improve safety for stock as well as pedestrians and other motorists.

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2022/12031 NETWORK RAIL COMPENSATION LAND AT NORLEY WOOD RESUME

This proposal is being submitted as a presentment and Forestry England was asked to prepare a simple explanatory document suitable for display on the Verderers' website. This document should include plans showing the land which will be taken and that which is being offered in exchange.

Action TT

In order for consent to be forthcoming, several conditions must be met.

1. Detailed plans published for public consideration.
2. S.19 1949 New Forest Act must be satisfied. i.e. a full land exchange must be effected.
3. Double the area of land being lost to be thrown open. The thrown open land must be clear of fences/scrub etc. The remaining area of land in the vicinity of that which is to be thrown open may be 'banked' by NWR for future exchanges.

In addition, the Court will wait to hear supporting or counter presentments at the February Court. After that, a decision will be made.

2022/12032 **DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS TO BE RECORDED AT THIS COURT** RESUME

DM0141 Proposed Civil works in private land, (Southfield Lane), Bisterne, Burley - Fibre to the Premises Projects Burley V9002

DM0142 Proposed Civil works in Bisterne, Burley - Fibre to the Premises Projects Burley V9002, V9004 and V9013

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COURTS

2022/12033 **EVENT ON ROUNDHILL CAMPSITE** RESUME

Miss Tidman reported on this in the absence of the Deputy Surveyor.

Only 3 events a year are allowed on Roundhill Campsite outside the camping season. Discussions are taking place with the event organisers. The management plan is being revised and the HRA will be reviewed. FE considers minimal damage was caused and environmentally sensitive areas avoided.

Miss Tidman undertook to investigate the position regarding amplified sound and the sale of merchandise. Action TT

The Court expressed concern that the campsite was being used for events outside the camping season. It is felt this goes way outside the original consents for the campsite. Mr Deakin asked if such events are included in the MoU between FE and the Verderers. The Official Verderer questioned how it fits with the conditions under which consent for the campsites was given. Forestry England is asked to answer these queries. Action TT (DS)

2022/12034 **NEOSPORAS AND FOREST CATTLE** RESUME

The Court was advised that the dog walking code has been updated. 'Stick and flick' of dog waste is no longer encouraged. Dog walkers are requested to clean up after their dogs and use the bins provided or take the waste home for disposal. Dog poo bags will be made available again.

A discussion then took place regarding whether unwormed dogs represent an increased risk and also whether the increasingly popular method of feeding dogs raw meat may contribute to the problem.

Eating the afterbirth of infected cows is known to transmit the disease to dogs. Dogs and foxes can spread the disease onto grazing or into water. A greater understanding of the science is needed. The Clerk has contacted Southampton University and a response is awaited.

If a large number of cattle/herds are found to be affected, it may be necessary to try to insist dog owners pick up after their dogs although enforcing that would be difficult. The only way of eradicating the disease once it gets into a herd of cattle is to cull infected animals. That could be disastrous for the owners of those animals.

The issue will be raised with the Dog Forum although it is felt that most members will be responsible dog owners who will already pick up after them.

It was agreed in the first instance, to try to find out how widespread Neospora infection in Forest cattle actually is.

An announcement will be drafted for the February Court.

Action
OV/RD

2022/12035 REVISION OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT AND DOGS

DISCHARGE

Mr Grugeon has scrutinised the revision and the requirement for dogs to be on leads only applies to fields containing sheep.

SSSI ENHANCEMENT / REPAIR & MAINTENANCE

2022/12036 SSSI ENHANCEMENT / REPAIR & MAINTENANCE LIST

RESUME

The Court thanked FE for amending the title of this list and ensuring it reflects both forthcoming projects and snagging of earlier schemes.

ACTION LIST – ISSUES REPORTED TO FORESTRY ENGLAND

2022/12037 ACTION LIST - ISSUES REPORTED TO FORESTRY ENGLAND

RESUME

Concern was expressed that not all items reported to FE are recorded on this list.

The Clerk explained that everything reported to her is forwarded to FE via the email address she has been asked to use.

The Action List has historically recorded items raised in Court Committee and from time to time items that have not been resolved within a reasonable timescale.

Mr Deakin suggested the purpose of the list should be reviewed and Mr Grugeon agreed to ensure this is done.

Action PG

PERMISSIONS AGREED VIA EMAIL, REQUIRING RATIFICATION

2022/12038 BT OPENREACH FTTP PROPOSALS/SCHEMES – BURLEY NEW COTTAGE, JORDAN'S LANE PILLEY AND LODGE HILL COTTAGE, LYNDHURST DISCHARGE

The following proposals/schemes were advised by email and approved. Consent is ratified for....

BT Openreach - duct, joint boxes and replacement of joint boxes at Forestry Commission, Burley New Cottage, Burley Lodge, Burley BH24 4HS - FTTP Burley V9018 v2

BT Openreach - 154m underground duct in verge Jordan's Lane, Pilley, FTTP Project Lymington V9053

BT Openreach – Total 150m of new ducts and renewal of pole at Forestry Commission, Lodge Hill Cottage, Southampton Road, Lyndhurst SO43 7BU - FTTP Ashurst V9014

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR FORESTRY ENGLAND

2022/12039 LETTER TO THE RMS ADVISORY GROUP FROM THE NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM RE HABITATS REGULATIONS DISCHARGE

Mr Grugeon explained that FE has tightened up its permissions procedure in light of the HRA and Covid-19. The permissions system is designed to ensure FE can manage organised activities which take place on the Crown Lands of the New Forest. The new HRA process covers most large events. Concern was expressed that there remains a lack of clarity about when the process is applied and what it is applied to. The HRA process will be reviewed and such concerns addressed.

Action FE

2022/12040 SCOTS PINE FELLING PROPOSALS AT SLAP BOTTOM RESUME

The Court requested an update on these proposals and asked whether the matter had been referred to the Minister and if so, what is the result?

Action DS

2022/12041 FELLING OF OAK TREE IN HOLLANDS WOOD CAMPSITE RESUME
April

It is believed that Camping in the Forest (CiTF) arranged for the felling of an oak tree on health and safety grounds but no consultation took place and the consent of Natural England was not obtained.

Mr Grugeon said CiTF did make an application for works following a safety survey but he is unable to respond to this specific question. Such felling is not consented in the Management Plan. All branches removed must be left as near as possible to the tree from which they came and that has not been done.

Miss Tidman said that FE will be meeting CiTF in the spring, in advance of the start of the 2022 camping season.

Action FE

2022/12042 B3078 SALT LICK TRIAL DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin thanked FE on behalf of the Commoners for permitting the salt lick trial. He added he has seen a photograph of a pony licking the salt from one of the blocks. It is early days, but it is hoped this initiative will help to reduce animal RTCs on this very dangerous road.

2022/12043 QUEENS MEADOW/DRIVERS NURSERY – DEAD TREES DISCHARGE

Mr Readhead said that at a recent visit to the area, he was horrified at the number of dead trees. These trees have died due to waterlogging. Dr Ferris said the trees have been dead a long time and Mr Deakin suggested the issue goes back 12 years.

Mr Grugeon and Miss Tidman left the meeting

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COURTS

2022/12044 FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES (FiPL) DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer reported that the CDA has amended its application for funding and no longer seeks a contribution from the Court.

2022/12045 DANGEROUS FENCE AT LATCHMOOR COTTAGE, BROCKENHURST DISCHARGE

This matter has been referred to the Staff Committee. Action RD

ENCROACHMENTS NOT INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2022/12046 PICKET HILL, SHOBLEY RESUME

The OV repeated that it will be necessary to litigate. The Court will be asked to contribute to legal costs. Action OV

REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

2022/12047 RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN & FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN DISCHARGE

Mrs Westerhoff reported that control of discharge of effluent into Forest rivers is incorporated in this plan.

2022/12048 FOREST FARMING GROUP (FFG) PAPERS & THE VERDERERS' WEBSITE DISCHARGE

It has been decided the FFG papers should not be published on the Verderers' website. Action OV

2022/12049 NEW FOREST CATCHMENT – PROPOSED FISH PASS UNDER DISCHARGE
THE A31 AT OCKNELL ARCH

A proposal to construct a fish pass in the culvert which runs under the A31 at Ocknell Arch has been referred back to the Environment Agency to reduce the impact of their proposals and ask Highways England to reconsider their refusal to allow any modifications in the culvert. The steps in the culvert are not helpful to fish trying to make their way upstream. The Court will be included in future consultations.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

2022/12050 DMMO 1355 – APPLICATION TO ADD 3 RESTRICTED BYWAYS RESUME
IN THE PARISH OF RINGWOOD – INCLUDING KINGSTON
GREAT COMMON

The Clerk was asked to obtain further information including whether Action Clerk
and how objections to new byways can be made.

2022/12051 NEW FOREST SHOW RESUME
March

The Court confirmed that the Verderers will attend the New Forest
Show in 2022. The Official Verderer and the Clerk will look at the
likely costs involved and report back to the Court. Action
OV/Clerk

STAFF COMMITTEE MATTERS

2022/12052 FOREST STALLIONS RESUME

Mr Deakin reported that the stallion fields are under threat. Cadland
Estate requires the land as mitigation for habitat which is being taken
at Marchwood Military base. This could be as early as spring this
year. Finding alternative grazing will be a challenge. Mr Deakin, the
Head Agister and Mr Greenwood (Cadland Estate) will be looking at
possible suitable sites on the Estate. Action RD

2022/12053 COMMONERS' RENTED GRAZING AND LOCAL ESTATES RESUME

Rewilding is believed to be lucrative and as a result some
commoners are losing grazing that they have historically been able
to rent from local Estates. This potential loss of backup grazing is a
significant concern for the Forest.

In some cases, seasonal (summer) grazing is being offered to
commoners, but that is of little help as Forest stock spend the
summer on the Forest. Backup land is needed in the winter months.

Without back up grazing the conservation benefits delivered by the
grazing of stock will be jeopardised. The ecological benefits of back
up grazing need to be recognised in this wider context. It was agreed
Mrs Westerhoff would write to Natural England making these points
and to see if further information is available. Action DW

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

2022/12054 HLS ROLLOVER DISCHARGE

A further rollover for one year has been received. Work is continuing. It is hoped it will be possible to include more lost lawns and terrestrial restoration is ongoing.

2022/12055 TURF HILL DISCHARGE

The Official Verderer, Mr Deakin and Mr Pasmore attended a site meeting. Cautious progress is being made. Any archaeological reports on other restoration sites will be shared.

2022/12056 PICKET MIRE DISCHARGE

Proposals will be circulated in due course.

VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME

2022/12057 VGS PAYMENTS DISCHARGE

Commoners have received their payments with the exception of a small number where queries have yet to be resolved.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2022/12058 SOCIAL MEDIA DISCHARGE

The Verderers' Facebook page is now live. The facility for people to comment is disabled.

Mr Deakin reported on a discussion in the January Staff Meeting concerning posts on Facebook directed at Agisters. He felt it is acceptable for staff to respond simply by saying that an issue has been noted and attended to. The purpose of this is to prevent ongoing online discussion about issues that have been resolved. It may be appropriate to add that the quickest way to report incidents is to ring the office. Outside working hours Forestry England's 24 hour number or the police should be contacted if it is a matter that cannot wait until the office opens.

The Official Verderer said he will look at and amend as appropriate the current guidelines which have been issued to staff. Action OV

2022/12059 FORMER AGISTER ANDREW NAPTHINE DISCHARGE

A small group of Verderers and Staff met to present Andrew with the Armada Dish which has been commissioned by the Verderers and a picture montage of Andrew's activities as a New Forest Agister, which was created by the current Agister team.

2022/12060 FINANCIAL STATEMENT DISCHARGE

The Financial Statement was noted.

2022/12061 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR RESUME

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Forest Ponies	30	221
Forest Cattle	53	216
Forest Donkeys	0	35
Forest Pigs	0	0
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	83	472
Common Ponies	0	25
Common Cattle	0	653
Common Donkeys	0	0
Common Pigs	0	60
Common Sheep	0	0
Total Common Stock	0	738
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	83	472
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	0	678
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	83	1150
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	83	1210

2022/12062 CONDITION OF STOCK Report from the Head Agister RESUME

The weather has been generally mild over the last few weeks, but rather wet, and this has started to have an impact on the condition of the Forest stock, particularly the ponies. Overall, they are still holding up well, but a few are losing condition. As usual these are the older mares, any mares with foals still on them, and some of the young ponies. As a result, we have started catching up and removing any that are falling below an acceptable standard. Not huge numbers, but a few.

We have also been assisting commoners with finding and catching a few stray cattle that had not returned to their holdings, and we are really busy marking cattle for 2022 while helping commoners with their cattle TB tests. The majority of the cattle are looking in good condition, but any that are below our standard we will not mark, and we will ask the owners to keep them in. There are some herds out that we will be looking through if necessary.

There are at least a couple of rising two-year-old colts at large, and we will endeavour to assist the owners in removing these before the end of the month.

Our new Agister, Michael, has now been a part of the team for the last two months, and has settled into the job really well, getting acquainted with his area and the commoners there, and learning very fast that it's not all about riding round on your horse!

2022/12063 RTA REPORT - THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR RESUME
 DECEMBER 2021

The Agisters attended 5 accidents in December, compared with 20 in the same period in 2020, representing a welcome and significant decrease.

2 ponies died, one of which was wearing a reflective collar

1 pony and 1 cow were injured.

1 further accident was reported but the pony involved was uninjured.

2 accidents happened at twilight and 3 in the dark.

All the accidents were reported by the drivers involved.

The total number of commoners' animals killed and injured in 2021 was 59. This compares to 71 in 2020.

2022/12064 TRAINING / HEALTH & SAFETY RESUME

First Aid Training will be undertaken this year.

Action Clerk

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2022/12065 GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE GLOVER REPORT RESUME

The response includes PSPOs. The Clerk was asked to circulate the online link to the report. Members of the Court were asked to read it and let the Official Verderer and the Clerk know the matters to which they feel the Court should respond.

Action All

2022/12066 VERDERERS' ELECTIONS RESUME
 March

A small working party consisting of the Official Verderer, Mr Pasmore, Mr Deakin, the Clerk and her assistant, will meet to discuss the advice which has been received and decide upon a way forward.

Action
 OV/Clerk

2022/12067 CAMPSITES RESUME

Legal Academic, Mrs Sarah Neild has prepared a paper concerning the legal issues with the Open Forest Campsites. It was agreed a meeting to discuss the issues raised should take place between the OV, Mr Pasmore, representatives from the Friends of the New Forest (NFA), and a representative from the CDA.

Action
 OV/Clerk

2022/12068 THE FEBRUARY VERDERERS' COURT DISCHARGE

With Covid restrictions ending, it was agreed the February Court should be held in person. The venue is to be announced.

Action
 OV/Clerk

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| 2022/12069 | ELMS TEST & TRIAL | DISCHARGE |
| | Mr Stride reported that the Landscape Recovery ELMS Test and Trial contract had been signed. The facilitator is being recruited. Included in the scope of the trial will be governance for the New Forest. Stakeholders will be consulted. The Court will be very concerned about governance. | |
| 2022/12070 | COVID-19 & THE OFFICE | DISCHARGE |
| | Mr Deakin said the future staffing of the office will be discussed. | Action RD |
| 2022/12071 | KEEPER JONATHAN COOK | DISCHARGE |
| | Mr Dowsett reported that New Forest Keeper, Jonathan Cook is retiring, having been in post for over three decades, and will be moving to Scotland. He suggested a thank you letter from the Court would be appropriate. | Action
BD/Clerk |
| 2022/12072 | REVISION OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT AND DOGS | DISCHARGE |
| | Mrs Westerhoff returned to the issue of out-of-control dogs and livestock. In response, the Official Verderer said that even if the revised Animal Welfare Act is unhelpful to the Forest, there is always the current legislation on the worrying of livestock by dogs to fall back on. | |
| 2022/12073 | ACCESS FORUM | DISCHARGE |
| | Miss Sevier agreed to represent commoning. She will report relevant matters to the Court. | Action AS |
| 2022/12074 | NEW FOREST TOUR BUS | DISCHARGE |
| | The Court decided not to support the advert on the back of the Tour Bus this year. It was felt the £1,000 would be better spent on essential signage. | Action Clerk |

The meeting ended at 12:22 hrs

*Julianne
16 February 2022*