

**Minutes of the Court of Verderers held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 9.30 a.m.  
in the Verderers Hall, the King's House, Lyndhurst**

PRESENT	Lord Manners	Official Verderer
	Mr R Deakin	Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman
	Dr G Ferris	Co-opted Elected Verderer
	Mr R Manley	DEFRA Appointed Verderer
	Mr A H Pasmore	Senior Elected Verderer
	Mr D Readhead	Elected Verderer
	Miss A Sevier MBE	NFNPA Appointed Verderer
	Mr R Stride	Elected Verderer
	Mr C Chatters	Natural England Appointed Verderer
	Mr M Gammon	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
IN ATTENDANCE	Miss S Westwood	Clerk to the Verderers

**IN COMMITTEE in the Library**

2022/12560 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING RESUME

The minutes of the last Court held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were approved and signed by the Official Verderer.

2022/12561 NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RESUME

There were no new Declarations of Interest.

2022/12562 CONDITION OF STOCK RESUME

The Head Agister commented that we wanted rain and we have certainly had some! The weather has remained mild and the grass has kept growing so there is a good late flush.

Overall, stock is in very good condition. The drift season has finished and the ponies which came in looked well. A few mares and foals have been missed and, if requested, the Agisters will assist the commoners getting those in.

The Agisters have started marking cattle and assisting with TB testing as the window for that is now open.

2022/12563 LIFE IN COMMON LAND PROJECT – SPAIN DISCHARGE

This project was funded by LIFE Nature and Biodiversity aimed to improve the conservation status of the priority habitats of bogs (7110\* and 7130\*) and Atlantic wet heaths (4020\*), in the Serra do Xistral Special Area of Conservation in Galicia, NW Spain.

The Head Agister and Forestry England's Senior Ecologist, attended this Final Congress, the main results of the Project were presented, as well as similar experiences of other entities, projects and experts in the field.

Wild ponies are essential for habitat conservation in the Serra do Xistral (there are about 2000 wild ponies in the area, free roaming and under a traditional system of management). The Congress was

interested in the system of free roaming ponies in New Forest: their contribution to the heathland conservation and their exemplary system of management through the Verderers and the Agisters, rules of grazing, etc.

The Court was invited to send a delegate to participate in Session 1 of Communications related to Traditional activities and habitat conservation, to share their experience in the New Forest ponies management and importance for habitat conservation. Costs were paid by the conference, with no expense to the Court.

The Head Agister said it is surprising how much is the same as the Forest, including the commoners! He said the same problems are being encountered, including costs impacting the viability of commoning, a lack of young commoners and also Wolves! Wolf packs are taking young foals. Until recently, Wolves were culled to manage their numbers. Now, they are protected and their numbers are increasing.

Similar habitat and mire restoration projects to those in the New Forest are being undertaken.

The cattle, which are also present, are strong, thick set continental types, similar to Limousins.

Foals are shipped to Italy live for meat. The ponies are all branded and ear tagged. Everything is microchipped and the conference was surprised to hear that the New Forest has a derogation.

There are some RTAs involving livestock, mainly in the villages.

The look of the landscape is very similar to Dartmoor with a lot of wet heath. In response to a suggestion that a reciprocal visit to the New Forest could be arranged, the Head Agister said some of the delegates have been here. This conference celebrated the end of a 5 year project. There were about 40 delegates in person and a further 100 online. Speakers came from Germany and Ireland were very interesting.

The Head Agister commented that delegates were very well looked after and he said the interpreters were excellent.

2022/12564 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR RESUME

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Forest Ponies	4737	4983
Forest Cattle	2836	3152
Forest Donkeys	125	150
Forest Pigs	309	27
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	8007	8312
Common Ponies	644	857
Common Cattle	909	1781
Common Donkeys	107	136
Common Pigs	36	116

Common Sheep	162	195
Total Common Stock	1858	3085
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	7698	8285
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	1660	2774
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	9358	11059
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	9865	11397

2022/12565 BREACHES OF THE BYELAWS DISCHARGE

Two pigs have been found at Applemore. They are not Forest pigs and appear to have been abandoned. They were getting onto the A326 and they have been impounded. The Clerk has placed an advert in the Advertiser and Times and she will report the pigs to the Police.

Action Clerk

2022/12566 RMS ADVISORY GROUP & CYCLING LIAISON GROUP DISCHARGE  
VERDERER REPRESENTATION

Mr Manley will sit on this group.

2022/12567 CDA SIGNAGE CONTRIBUTION DISCHARGE

The Court agreed to offer a contribution towards the cost of the new signage warning the public to stay away from the animals. 50%, up to a maximum of £500, will be made available.

#### OPEN COURT

**IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Paul Grugeon, Land Agent (New Forest)**  
**Mr Mike Pittock, Forestry England Head of Planning & Environment**

**The Head Agister opened the Court with the usual proclamation.**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS

2022/12568 NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK APPOINTED VERDERER

We are delighted to announce that Ann Sevier has been appointed for a further year.

2022/12569 THE COMMONS AGREEMENT 1964

In October 2021, we reminded Commoners that the Commons Agreement which was entered into by the Verderers of the New Forest and the commoners of certain Adjacent Commons, while the New Forest Bill of 1964 was before Parliament, expires at the end of December 2025.

We feel it is right to periodically remind commoners who have benefitted from the concessionary rates of marking fees, that from 1st January 2026, the full (Forest) rates will be due.

2022/12570 COURT DATES FOR 2023

The Court dates for 2023 are published on our Website. However, January's meeting will actually be held on the Thursday 19th January and not the previous day.

2022/12571 CAMPSITES

At our September Court I welcomed the fact that the New Forest Agricultural Show Society ("the Society"), through its subsidiary Camping in The New Forest Ltd ("CINF"), had been chosen by Forestry England as its preferred tenderer to operate the campsites.

The Society is a charity based in Brockenhurst with a remit to promote and educate Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry and Equestrianism. This is currently achieved through the holding of the annual New Forest and Hampshire County Show, year-round education courses and a bursary scheme. Administered by the office, based at New Park and led by an army of volunteers who are passionate about the New Forest, the charity is we believe highly respected in the local community.

The Show is dependent on three days of good weather and therefore over the years the Society has focused on sourcing alternative sources of income. These include setting up a holiday cottage, renting two office buildings to NFU Mutual and opening Long Meadow Campsite. These alternative income streams help to protect the Show and allows the Society to expand its charitable activities whilst supporting the local community.

We have received from the Society and its subsidiary CINF an application for our consent to take over the running of the campsites. They are proposing to enter into an agreement with Forestry England lasting 10 years (2023 – 2033)

CINF state that their aim will be to run the sites profitably but with the environment, education and community at the heart of every decision.

To help them achieve this they will be setting up an advisory group to provide guidance on key decisions and help guide future aspirations ensuring they respect the New Forest, the livestock and the Commoners. The advisory group will invite members from the Commoners Defence Association, New Forest Association, Natural England, New Forest Business Partnership and the Verderers to join the committee. The Society and CINF believe that, by working together, they can find a way to run the sites that will both respect the local environment and support the local community. There are many areas that require input from this group, but a key aspect will be to help the Society conduct a full review of Hollands Wood, Denny Wood and Longbeech. They will, over the coming years work with the advisory group to carry out a review of the portfolio of campsites.

We believe that a Forest-based operator is much to be preferred to a commercial entity whose sole motive would be likely to be to extract maximum profit from operating the campsites. We know from our discussions with the management of the Society that they recognise the need to address the future of the three most environmentally degraded campsites. We believe that they will operate the campsites sensitively and sensibly.

In the circumstances the Verderers are minded to consent to the application and we look forward to working closely with the management to ensure that the campsites are managed in a responsible fashion respecting, in particular, the rights of the commoners.

## ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

### 2022/12572 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2022

The Agisters attended 15 accidents in October this year, compared with 14 in the same period last year.

7 ponies and 2 pigs were killed, 2 of the ponies were wearing reflective collars.

1 pony and 2 pigs were injured.

8 accidents occurred in daylight, 3 occurred at twilight and 4 in the dark.

1 driver failed to report having been involved in an accident.

The total number of commoners' animals killed and injured to the end of September is 45, compared with 46 to the end of October last year.

## PRESENTMENT

### 2022/12573 MISSING MUNTJAC HEAD & PLAQUE

This Clerk read this presentment on behalf of Mr Oliver Cook

'Oliver Cook's father, Jonathan Cook culled a Muntjac on his beat in the New Forest before he retired as a New Forest Keeper in January this year, after 43 years service to the Forestry Commission.

Muntjac were the only species of deer found in the New Forest but not represented in the Verderers Court, so it was agreed that the Verderers would fund the taxidermy of the Muntjac and that it would be mounted in the Verderers Court, for educational purposes.

Both the Muntjac and the plaque were removed from the wall sometime during the past few weeks, but it is not known why or where they have gone. The Verderers and Forestry England are requested to do what they can to find the missing items and in the event that it is established that it has been stolen from the Court, that security protocols are revised appropriately to ensure that the many irreplaceable items in the court of considerable public interest, are properly protected.'

## PRESENTMENT ON BEHALF OF THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR

### 2022/12574 PANNAGE SEASON EXTENSION 2022

Presentment by Mr Paul Grugeon, Area Land Agent (New Forest)

Following requests from both the Commoners' Defence Association and the Verderers, I can announce that I have agreed to an extension of the Pannage Season this year, in response to the quantities of fallen acorns present this autumn.

The pannage season will now close on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022, an extension of 22 days. All pigs must be removed from the Forest by this revised end date.

Breeding sows, that is pigs in pig, may be allowed the privilege of remaining on the Open Forest after the end of the pannage season but only if authorised in writing by the Deputy Surveyor for the period specified in the consent.'

## PRESENTMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

### 2022/12575 CYCLING IN THE NEW FOREST

Presentment by Mr Richard Taylor on behalf of the New Forest Cycle Working Group

'Good morning – my name is Richard Taylor, and I'm here to make a presentment as the chair of the New Forest Cycle Working Group.

In the recent discussions in the Verderers Court around cycling in the New Forest the voice of the cycling community has not been heard and we would like to try and correct this.

The Cycle working Group is an independent group and has been established for many years. Its aim is to promote, and contribute to the delivery of, cycling-related objectives in many local strategic plans, and to promote opportunities to improve cycle infrastructure. Our membership includes local cycle groups, local cycle businesses, national cycling organisations, sustainable transport groups, local councils at all levels, Forestry England and the New Forest National Park Authority.

We aim to encourage responsible cycling in the New Forest to minimise conflict with the special qualities of the National Park and other people, and to improve usability and connectivity of the cycle network.

Improvements to the connectivity and waymarking of the off-road gravel cycle network have been promised for many years. These objectives are outlined in strategic action 14 of the Recreation Management Strategy which has been agreed by all partner organisations. We fully support the vision for the cycle network as presented by Richard Burke of Forestry England.

We are delighted to hear support from the Verderers for the cycle network and we fully agree that improvements and revisions to the network must include, 'preservation of the tranquil and undisturbed areas, links to the car parks, the interests of nature conservation and protection of the fragile environment together with the interest of the commoners as well as the interests of those who wish to use the Forest for recreation.'

However, with all this agreement on the objectives for cycling in the Forest, progress to achieving this has been non-existent, to the huge frustration of the cycling community, and cyclists continue to be demonised.

The vast majority of cyclists on the off-road network want to cycle responsibly respecting the special qualities of the New Forest. The health and wellbeing benefits of cycling are well documented and increased use of carbon free transport is universally accepted as a good thing. However, the network as it currently exists is not fit for purpose, it is poorly connected, and badly waymarked. Mapping could be improved for both physical and online maps, and it needs to be clear to existing and new cyclists which maps should be used. The CWG are there to try and help this process in any way we can. We have provided feedback on what connections on the network would be most valuable to cyclists and we have engaged fully with the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan process currently underway.

We would ask the Verderers to engage positively with all other stakeholders in the process of improving the off-road network. We all need to reduce the highly charged tabloid nature of the current debate and concentrate on producing solutions that work. We want to help with this process in any way that we can. We can provide feedback and information from the cycling community and help promote responsible cycling practices. Surely essential elements in this process.

The recent BBC panorama 'Road Rage – Cars v Bikes' showed how easy it is to whip up feelings on all sides of the argument around cycling. However, this serves little point other than to keep social media busy and sell papers. Please can all parties involved engage positively to find practical solutions which work. Thank you.'

2022/12576 CAMPING AND CAMPING IN THE NEW FOREST (CINF)  
Presentment by the Friends of the New Forest (New Forest Association)

'I am John Ward, Chairman of the Friends of the New Forest, and I am making this presentment on behalf of this Association.

For some considerable time, our Association has been concerned about the running of Forestry Commission campsites within the New Forest, both in terms of the location and harmful impacts of some campsites contrary to the SAC management plan to which an operator should pay heed, and to various issues regarding their general management.

We also have an ongoing dispute with the headquarters of Forestry England regarding the legal basis on which campsites are run, including the requirement for Verderers' consent and whether a contract to do so should be a personal licence and not a registerable lease.

Against this background we have hoped that the re-tendering process for appointing a new organisation to manage the New Forest campsites may be an opportunity for a much needed fresh start.

We have noted that the New Forest Show Society operating as 'Camping in the New Forest' is the prospective new manager and that they have applied for the consent of the Verderers.

We have also noted that in their application CINF recognise that for too long there has been damage to the local environment, a lack of respect for the working of the Forest and poor investment in facilities, and that they state:

"Our plan will be to run the sites profitably but with the environment, education, and community at the heart of every decision".

"We will be setting up an advisory group to provide guidance on key decisions and to help guide future aspirations ensuring we respect the New Forest, the livestock and the Commoners."

CINF recognise that a key aspect of working together would be a full review of Hollands Wood, Denny Wood and Longbeech campsites. We've been concerned about these for a long time.

We welcome the opportunity the Forest now has to move forward with a new 10 year period for the management of the campsites by a new licensed operator based within the Forest, and we would hope to play a full and supportive part within the proposed Advisory Group.

We are, therefore, supportive in principle of CINF running the New Forest campsites subject to more information and confirmation of the points that I have outlined.  
and

We support the required consent being given by the Court of Verderers.'

2022/12577 NFDC PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPOs) AND HEATHLAND FIRES  
Presentment by Mr Brian Tarnoff on behalf of the Friends of the New Forest (New Forest Association)

'We broadly support both of the two PSPOs focussed on the Crown Lands, aimed at preventing wildfires, and banning the inappropriate feeding and petting of Forest Livestock.

The Dorset Open Land PSPO which came into force on 1st July 2022 included prohibition on:

- a. placing, throwing or dropping items likely to cause a fire,
- b. lighting fires, barbeques (including disposable barbeques), sky lanterns or fireworks,
- c. using items which either (i) cause a naked flame or (ii) pose a risk of fire,

The NFDC draft uses much the same language, but excludes restrictions on fireworks and sky lanterns. All other extant PSPOs targeting wildfires on moorlands, coastal and heathland habitat have the same restrictions as Dorset.

Over 190 councils in England have committed to banning sky lanterns, many have included this ban in their PSPOs. Both Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Council have banned sky lanterns from events they permit on their own land. (The National Park says they have banned sky lanterns on their web page on wildfires, but it is unclear if they have any practical way at their disposal to enforce this ban.)

NFDC may balk at inclusion by insisting that they need more direct evidence of the threat from sky lanterns and fireworks to progress the PSPO. Clearly more than ten other authorities were able to meet the legal requirement for those prohibitions in their PSPOs. It may be difficult to find specific remains of either fire source in the aftermath of a 200 hectare heathland fire, and if anything we'd rather not have further evidence beyond what a sensible risk analysis from the Fire Service might supply. There is ample evidence that our heathlands will be susceptible to wildfires, we should guard against every probable source.

Sky lanterns and Fireworks ought to be added to the PSPO:

- Consistent with best practice as shown in other PSPOs.
- Consistent with rules of the authority on our Western border, where cross-border incidents have and may occur.
- Balance of probability that the risk of wildfires to the public outweighs the negligible loss of enjoyment in the public space of these activities.
- The increasing risk of summer wildfires as the effects of climate change continue.

We hope that the Verderers will consider this in their response to the consultation.'

2022/12578 CAMPING  
Presentment by Mr Richard Reeves, Lyndhurst

'Official Verderer, Members of the Court.

I hereby object to any lease or similar agreement which provides for the continued operation of Hollands Wood, Denny Wood and Longbeech Campsites (these being those identified as causing serious damage to the Forest habitats in which they are



situated and have been flagged as priorities for closure under the 2001 SAC Management Plan. Both the Verderers and Forestry Commission were signatories to this plan, yet, 21 years later, nothing has been done.

Forestry England (and their predecessors) have had plenty of time to get their house in order but have failed to move forward, instead preferring to kick the issue into the long grass. Many false and misleading statements have been made in support of keeping the status quo, tellingly by those with their own narrow self-interest at heart. The suggestion that the potential new tenants would somehow be able to avoid causing further damage is ludicrous, while the argument that the impact of such damage could be offset by an organisation's good works in other fields is nothing more than whitewashing. It is akin to claiming to love and care for a child, while selling their organs.

The actions of Forestry England in attempting to find a new tenant for these three sites are hypocritical in the extreme, and hardly demonstrate a safe pair of hands. Still, I hope and trust the Verderers will side with the New Forest.'

2022/12579 OP MOUNTIE  
Presentment by Mrs Gilly Jones

'Good Morning Official Verderer and Verderers.

I would like to take this chance to update you on the first year of Operation Mountie.

On the 1st November we welcomed Donna Jones, the Police and Crime Commissioner and her Deputy Terry Norton to Roger Penny Way to see how the operation works and how it has been part of the reduction of animal accidents within the New Forest.

We have done 18 operations throughout the year. From cold and frosty 6 am winter starts to wet and windy 10pm finishes, we have covered different areas, sometimes reacting to where accidents have happened.

157 vehicles have been stopped.  
30 drivers have been given tickets for going over 50 mph  
Others have also been found drug driving, having no mot, insurance, other road traffic violations, even taking car without consent.  
5 cars have been seized.

After the record of 15 weeks without a fatal RTA earlier this year, and with animal accidents still fairly low this year, we hope that the Operation's unique way of working, by offering education rather than a ticket has made an impact.

Sarah Roberts and Olli Smith also attended on the 1st. Both came up with slogans, used on road signs. Sarah's slogan 'If you kill a pony. its mummy will be lonely' back in 1992. Olli's slogan 'Ponies don't dent they die' is still being used today. We invited them to show that the campaign to reduce animal deaths is decades old.

We also have had some wonderful donations from Copythorne WI. They have knitted us Winnie the ponies. We give these to children who are in a vehicle while the driver gets the education.

With nearly 70% of drivers being commuters, we know we must work harder to get the messages out to these people. The one comment came up more than once. 'I know where all the ponies are' shows that some drivers get complacent.

Only 27% knew who to call if they witnessed or were involved in an accident. We have given out 100s of the animal accident cards. We also asked people to download What3Words, as the app is invaluable to the Police and the Agisters, helping them to get to a scene quicker. We also remind people that social media is not a reporting app.

I would like to thank all team who have taken part this year. Richard Williams and Carl Peverill and the other officers from Hampshire constabulary, Charlotte Belcher and the Forestry England team, Suzi Shilling, who works on New Forest Roads Awareness with myself, and Erika Dovey from the National Park.

We have more Op Mounties planned for 2023. Along with our Community Speed Watch and the speed camera Van, we hope that, as we go forward, the amount of accident keep reducing.

I hope that Commoners and the public appreciates how much work has been put in over the last 12 months, we have one goal, and that is to keep everyone safe.

Thank you.'

2022/12580 OPEN FOREST MANAGEMENT  
Presentment by Mr Mike Eccles, Commoner

Mr Eccles brought two problems to the attention of the Court that he hoped could be resolved and he thanked Forestry England for work recently carried out.

1. Beaulieu Road at the cattle grid leading to the Heath Roundabout, Dibden Purlieu. The drift fence is covered in vegetation meaning that it is not able to do the job it was intended to do, namely making livestock more visible to oncoming drivers. Mr Eccles asked if the vegetation could be removed.
2. At Ravensnest, Linwood, some pea shingle has been added to a pull in/layby. The area may also have been excavated prior to the surface being laid. This is believed to be Forestry England land. Mr Eccles asked if this can be looked at.
3. Mr Eccles thanked Forestry England for the scrub clearance that has been carried out on Blackfield Common and the vegetation clearance on the road between Hill Top and Ipers Bridge.

**The Head Agister closed the Court**

**IN COMMITTEE (in the Library)**

**CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS**

2022/12581 CAMPING

DISCHARGE

It was decided it is appropriate for this subject to be considered after Forestry England staff leave this meeting. However, Dr Ferris did have a matter for Mr Grugeon.

Dr Ferris said that there used to be an annual meeting with the previous operators, where a review of the year just gone was carried out and discussions took place concerning the next year. This was a discussion on practical operational matters. Dr Ferris hoped this will happen with the new operators.

2022/12582	CYCLING	DISCHARGE
	It was agreed this matter should also be discussed later in the meeting.	
2022/12583	PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS – PSPO'S	RESUME
	The Court agreed to potentially seek the inclusion of sky lanterns and fireworks when it makes its response to the consultation which is due to start in December. However, concern was expressed that adding things now, could trigger a second round of consultation. If that is likely to happen, the Court felt it is best to go with what has been drafted. The Official Verderer said he will ask the question.	
		Action OV
2022/12584	OP MOUNTIE AND AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS	DISCHARGE
	OP Mountie has contributed to the fantastic support for Average Speed Cameras offered by the Leader of NFDC, Jill Cleary, Cllr Edward Heron and HCC Cllr Nick Adams-King. In addition, the PCC remains very supportive and has said she is willing to try to find funding for the cameras. Unfortunately, the operational police are not so keen. The next stage is the feasibility study which will include system design, the effect on the Landscape and Ecology. It is understood FE and Natural England are supportive.	
	It was agreed Gilly Jones should be thanked for the huge amount of work she had done behind the scenes to bring the project to this stage.	
		Action OV
2022/12585	OPEN FOREST MANAGEMENT	RESUME
	Mr Pittock agreed to look at the site line fencing at the Heath Roundabout. The Clerk commented that other site line fences are in a similar condition and could do with some clearance.	
	Pea shingle should not be on the Forest because it damages animal teeth. Mr Grugeon said he will ask Sean Marsh to investigate.	
		Action PG
2022/12586	CAMPSITES	DISCHARGE
	Mr Reeves' concerns are being taken into account.	
2022/12587	MISSING MUNTJAC HEAD AND PLAQUE	DISCHARGE
	Mr Grugeon said the theft has been reported to the Police. Unfortunately, the exact date of the theft is not known. CCTV is being scrutinised. It was pointed out that if the perpetrator is identified, he or she could be considered responsible for damage to a listed building as well as being guilty of theft.	

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

2022/12588 NEOSPORA RESUME

The report has been received from Surrey University. It indicates the risk to cattle on the Forest from Neospora is negligible. It requires some clarification as respects the potential for other parasites which were found in dog faeces to transmit to humans.

Mr Grugeon felt that as land owners and managers, Forestry England should seek to obtain quantitative and qualitative analysis of the risk or mode of transmission to humans, in order avoid unnecessary public concern.

The Clerk said she will contact the University to find out if it can help further and if so, she will put them in touch with Mr Grugeon. Action Clerk

2022/12589 DMMO 1231 SANDFORD (RINGWOOD) TO BURLEY RESUME

There is nothing further to report.

2022/12590 RIGHTS OF WAY APPLICATIONS MADE BY UK CYCLING RESUME

It has come to the Court's attention that a large number of applications have been made by UK Cycling for rights of way all over the Forest. It is assumed the arguments made by Mr Grugeon as to why rights of way cannot be confirmed in the New Forest, will apply to these applications.

It is considered disappointing that HCC has not advised the Court that these applications have been made. Mr Grugeon said he is sure that when the applications come nearer to the top of HCC's list, the Court will be informed.

Mr Manley suggested the Court should write to HCC to lodge its interest. FE will do the same. Both organisations will object. Natural England will also be notified as it is an advisor and regulator of anything which affects the SSSI. Action PG/Clerk

2022/12591 NEW FOREST ANIMAL DISEASE CONTINGENCY PLAN DISCHARGE

A review is underway. There is a list of actions. It was agreed to discharge this from the Court's agenda. It will now be dealt with by the Staff Committee. Action RD

2022/12592 COMPENSATION FOR VERDERERS' INCLOSURES RESUME

Agreement needs to be reached as to which inclosures are open and grazable, which are open but require reinstatement and which are still fenced. Accurate figures are required from FE together with a description of the condition of the inclosures. The Official Verderer has some maps which he was sent some time ago and he will pass these to the Clerk who can show them to Mr Pittock. Technically, if FE wishes to throw open Verderers' Inclosures, they should surrender them formally. Action OV

**DE MINIMIS CONSENTS**

2022/12593 NFCDA PROPOSED SALT LIKE TRIAL 2023 DISCHARGE

The Court approved this further trial.

**SSSI RESTORATION WORKS**

2022/12594 THE REPAIR & MAINTENANCE/ENHANCEMENT LIST RESUME

The list was circulated. One item needs transferring to the Action List.

**ENCROACHMENTS**

2022/12595 ENCROACHMENTS LIST RESUME

There are no current encroachments on FE land to report.

**ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION BY FORESTRY ENGLAND**

2022/12596 ACTION LIST RESUME

Following the retirement of Mrs Jayne Albery, there has been some confusion as to which items belong on which list. The Clerk reported she has engaged with FE staff who have been extremely helpful and in future, lists will be available before each Court.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND**

2022/12597 ICE CREAM VAN AT THE FIGHTING COCKS DISCHARGE

A private ice cream van (i.e. one not part of the franchise permitted on FE land) has been seen parked at the end of the Fighting Cocks parking area. It is thought it may be FE land. Mr Grugeon will check and take the necessary action.

Action PG

2022/12598 EAST BOLRE VILLAGE HALL DISCHARGE

The proposed alterations at East Boldre Village Hall involve internal works and external cladding. The Court raised no objections.

Action Clerk

2022/12599 COURT DATES FOR 2023 DISCHARGE

The January Court will be held on the third Thursday and not the Wednesday. This will be communicated as widely as possible.

Action Clerk

2022/12600 CROW ACT DISCHARGE

Mr Manley asked if FE would be willing to support the implementation of the Crow Act?

In reply, Mr Grugeon said to do so would be very complicated. FE has always been against such a move because Crow would grant freedoms which it does not want.

Mr Pasmore said that if the Crow Act does not apply to the New Forest, it is still open to FE to grant or withhold permission for activities which are an offence under that Act, like off-lead dog running in the nesting season and off lead dogs in the vicinity of livestock. At the moment FE's failure to restrain such activities means that the New Forest's protection is inferior to that of other areas of common land.

Mr Gammon asked if there is evidence that the law is upheld in areas where Crow does apply. Mr Grugeon followed up that comment by saying it would be another level of legislation that would have to be enforced.

Mr Chatters commented that there is an obligation to enforce under Crow but the administration is down to Natural England.

The New Forest already has legislation. The problem is enforcing it.

2022/12601 NEW CDA SIGNS DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin asked Mr Grugeon if something can be done to reduce the costs FE is saying it will have to charge to help put up the new CDA signage. He said it seemed expensive and he hopes that as FE has an interest in reducing conflicts between stock and the public, it may be able to look again at the costs. Mr Grugeon and Mr Pittock agreed to see what can be done.

Action  
PG/MP

2022/12602 HOLMSLEY CAMPSITE DISCHARGE

A big pile of grass clippings has been found on Holmsley Campsite. Fortunately, they are sufficiently degraded not to be of interest to the ponies but they should not be there. In addition, there is a stack of pallets behind a building, which could be a hazard to stock.

Action  
PG/MP

2022/12603 TRACK AT PITTS WOOD DISCHARGE

Miss Sevier thanked FE for clearing the track.

**The Deputy Surveyor and Mr Grugeon left the meeting**

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

2022/12604 CAMPSITES RESUME

The Official Verderer updated the Court on his conversations with Camping in the New Forest. Based on the information provided, the Court is content to proceed to the next stage which will be the Official Verderer writing a letter consenting to CITNF entering into an agreement with Forestry England to run 10 New Forest campsites for a period of 10 years for all sites except Hollands Wood, Denny Wood and Longbeech for which the agreement will be 5 years. All infrastructure will have to be removed and the sites reinstated within 2 years of closure.

Action OV

2022/12605	CYCLING	RESUME
	<p>After careful consideration, the Court agreed to support the Presentment from Mr Taylor heard earlier in Open Court.</p> <p>The Court will enter into discussions with the Cycling Working Group with a view to reviewing the present waymarked cycle network. A sub-committee of Verderers, consisting of Mr Manley, Mr Deakin and Mr Gammon was set up. Mr Pasmore said he will not support any part of the network including the tranquil areas. In the first instance, Mr Manley will contact Mr Taylor.</p>	Action RM
2022/12606	ENCROACHMENT AT PICKET HILL / SHOBLEY	RESUME
	A meeting with Counsel has been arranged for next week.	Acton OV/AP
2022/12607	THE RECREATION DIARY AND LARGE EVENTS	DISCHARGE
	The Court feels that monitoring of large events is essential. It was agreed that unless there are problems, this subject will not be raised again. FE will be asked to try to ensure large events avoid the tranquil areas.	Action Clerk
2022/12608	NEW FOREST SHOW	DISCHARGE
	<p>The Clerk provided the costs of the 2022 New Forest Show. A large proportion of the costs was for the purchase of the buzz wire game. However, the game proved to be a good investment, as it encouraged children into the display, giving staff the opportunity to talk to their parents about issues facing the Forest and to provide general information on the livestock and how the animals are managed.</p> <p>Costs in 2023 will be significantly lower and on that basis, the Court agreed to attend again.</p>	
2022/12609	FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SPEED CAMERA VAN	DISCHARGE
	A further year's support was approved. The Clerk will advise Hampshire Police. Some data was requested to indicate how many drivers are caught speeding and this the Clerk will endeavour to obtain.	Action Clerk
2022/12610	LONG SERVICE AWARDS	DISCHARGE
	The Court advised the Clerk that the awards must be ready by April 2023.	
2022/12611	SOLENT FREEPORT & INVESTMENT ZONES	DISCHARGE
	The 'Investment' zones have been replaced by 'Green' zones. There is concern that the development will result in more pressure on the Forest. Most of the zones will be on brownfield sites. The New Forest National Park Authority is monitoring progress.	

2022/12612 PIGS ON THE WESTERN COMMONS DISCHARGE

The Court debated whether the pigs are entitled to visit the Western Commons pur cause de vicinage or through prescriptive rights.

2022/12613 CATTLE AT HILLTOP DISCHARGE

The Staff Committee discussed the herd of white cattle at Hilltop and the Clerk wrote a letter to the owner, pointing out the risk of turning out cattle with horns in what is an extremely busy part of the Forest. The Court's recommendation is that cattle should be de-horned unless their horns are a characteristic of the breed. Highlands would be an example.

#### HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME (HLS) & THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME (VGS)

2022/12614 HLS RESUME

Defra has offered to extend the current HLS for a further 5 years with an option to convert to another environmental scheme such as CSS but that decision will have to be made within the next few weeks. 2023 is the last year of the current CSS. Options are being considered.

Action OV

2022/12615 VGS DISCHARGE

The VGS committee consists of four members, following the retirement from the Court of Mr Dowsett. It was agreed to continue with this number. The Official Verderer holds the casting vote.

2022/12616 LIVESTOCK TRAILERS RESUME

The Official Verderer will discuss the possibility of the HLS funding replacement trailers for the Agisters with Natural England.

Action OV

#### STAFF MATTERS

2022/12617 STAFF COMMITTEE MINUTES DISCHARGE

The minutes had been circulated. A request was made for them to be sent earlier.

Action Clerk

2022/12618 VEHICLES RESUME

5 lease hire vehicles will be delivered shortly from a different supplier.

The Court agreed that for financial reasons, the purchase order for 5 new vehicles should be cancelled.

Action Clerk

#### OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2022/12619 FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement was noted.



2022/12620 AUDITED ACCOUNTS DISCHARGE

The audited accounts were approved and the Official Verderer authorised to sign them.

#### TRAINING & HEALTH & SAFETY

2022/12621 DRIFT REVIEW DISCHARGE

A review of this year's drifts will take place shortly. The review will identify any issues and lessons learned will be discussed as part of the continuous improvement.

Action RD

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2022/12622 ASHURST HOSPITAL DISCHARGE

This re-development is expected to be underway soon.

2022/12623 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPOs) RESUME

It was agreed a newsletter can be sent asking commoners for their views on the proposed PSPOs.

Action OV

Assuming the PSPOs go ahead, staff (Agister) training in enforcement will be needed. Success will be measured by behaviour change

2022/12624 REFLECTIVE PONY COLLARS AND RTAs DISCHARGE

It has been suggested that all ponies should wear reflective collars. The reasons why this is not achievable are:-

1. Ponies lose them
2. Anything put on a pony is a potential hazard to the animal and therefore collars are usually only fitted to animals which are known to frequent roadside verges.
3. Some owners simply do not agree with them.

The Agisters fit as many collars as possible when ponies come in on the drifts.

2022/12625 OBSTRUCTION TO CATTLE GRID GATE IN BROCKENHURST DISCHARGE

The gate by the Honda garage has been locked and is blocked by motorbikes connected with the nearby motorcycle dealer. The Clerk will inform HCC.

Action Clerk

The meeting ended at 14:00 hrs

*Jul Mannes*  
21 December 2022