

MINUTES of the Court of Verderers – Wednesday 15th September 2021

At the time of this Court, the UK outbreak of novel Coronavirus, known as Covid-19 continues. Whilst Government restrictions have eased, due to a lack of availability of a suitable Covid-secure venue, the Verderers did not meet in September in Open Court or in person in Committee.

Items included in these minutes were discussed in a virtual online meeting via 'Zoom'.
The following is a record of proceedings.

PRESENT ONLINE	Lord Manners Mr R Deakin Mr A B Dowsett Dr G Ferris Mr J Greenwood Mr A H Pasmore Mr D Readhead Mrs D Westerhoff	Official Verderer Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer Co-opted Elected Verderer Elected Verderer Senior Elected Verderer Elected Verderer Natural England Appointed Verderer
IN ATTENDANCE ONLINE	Miss S Westwood Mr C Harrison Mr P Grugeon Miss Tess Tidman	Clerk to the Verderers Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest Forestry England Land Agent (New Forest) Deputy Land Agent
APOLOGIES	Mr R Manley Mr J Sanger	DEFRA Appointed Verderer National Park Appointed Verderer

2021/11830 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Court held on Wednesday, 21st July 2021 were approved and will be signed by the Official Verderer at the earliest opportunity.

2021/11831 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest can be found on the Verderers' website www.verderers.org.uk.

No new declarations of interest were made today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS FOR PUBLICATION

The Announcements & Decisions, as followed, were approved.

2021/11832 RECENTLY APPOINTED DEPUTY SURVEYOR

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Craig Harrison, the recently appointed Deputy Surveyor, to his first meeting of the Verderers court.

Craig follows in the footsteps of many illustrious predecessors but I am sure that will not daunt him.

The Forest faces many challenges some old, some new and the role of the Deputy Surveyor in tackling those challenges is crucial. On behalf of the Verderers I look forward to working with the Deputy Surveyor for the good of the Forest.

2021/11833 PIG KILLED BY DOG

Kathleen Brady, from Southampton, pleaded guilty in the Magistrates Court, to being the owner of a dog that worried livestock, in this case a pig, on the Forest at Ashurst, on 5th November 2020.

She has been ordered to pay the owner £200 compensation, she was fined £300 and told to pay £115 Court costs.

We are grateful to the Police for pursuing this case to Court and we hope it will serve as a lesson to dog owners that they must keep their dogs under control.

2021/11834 FEEDING OF FOREST ANIMALS

There is a glut of apples and other fruits this year.

Depositing fruit or anything else on the Forest, especially near or on the roadside, that may be eaten by Forest animals, is extremely dangerous and inconsiderate. It encourages animals to the roadside and puts them at greater risk of being involved in road traffic accidents. Even if it is not by the road, depositing anything anywhere for the Forest animals to eat creates a potential risk. Consuming too many apples may give a pony or donkey fatal colic. It also leads to aggression and injury as animals compete for the food.

Another problem we regularly see at this time of year is hay being dumped on the Forest, sometimes in large quantities. It is usually old hay that horse-owners feel is no longer suitable for their riding horses and they think that dumping it on the Forest is a good way of getting rid of it. Again, it can cause problems for the animals if it is mouldy or dusty and if animals compete for it. If it isn't good enough for your horse, it isn't good enough for the Forest ponies.

Depositing anything on the Forest constitutes fly tipping and if the culprit is identified, he or she may be prosecuted in the Magistrates Court.

2021/11835 VERDERERS' ELECTION

The Election of three Verderers, will be held on Friday, 26th November, when the terms of office of Anthony Pasmore, Richard Deakin and Jim Greenwood come to an end.

The deadline for registering to vote at our election is this coming Friday, 17th September. The Draft Electoral Register has then to be finalised, in time for it to be sent out to the public offices for public viewing from Monday 1st October. The fact that you may have been registered for previous elections does not count, and therefore, to be able to vote this year, you must register now. If you need a form, please telephone or email our office.

I hope we will see a strong turnout at the election and I ask all those present to help spread the word so that as many people as possible are able to vote. I very much hope the press will also help by giving publicity to this important event.

For anyone wishing to stand for election, the deadline for the delivery of nomination papers is Noon on Tuesday 2nd November and I will issue a reminder at the October Court. Anyone requiring further information, should contact the Verderers' Office, or the Office of the Returning Officer, Mrs Rachel Brooks, at the Under Sheriff's Office, Foot Anstey LLP, The White Building, 1-4 Cumberland Place, Southampton, SO15 2NP. Tel: 02380 172210

2021/11836 RESPONSE TO PRESENTMENT FROM JULY ON CAMPSITES

The OV said that having looked at our protocol for dealing with presentments, he feels it is a matter that FE needs to respond to by a presentment in Court. This was agreed.

The DS said FE has spoken to Camping in the Forest and its campsite wardens reiterating that disposable BBQs and open fires are not allowed in the controlled environment of a campsite. This will be ongoing.

PRESENTMENT BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR

2021/11837 NEWLY APPOINTED DEPUTY SURVEYOR
by Mr Craig Harrison

'Thank you to the Official Verderer for his kind welcome since I've taken up the post.

It is an honour and privilege to take on the Deputy Surveyor role. The New Forest is an amazing place, close to my heart and a place that inspired me to pursue a career in forestry and land management. I promise to give my full commitment and endeavour to the forest, alongside my responsibilities for our other woodlands across Southern England.

The Forest provides so much – wildlife, beauty, heritage, livelihoods and enjoyment to name but a few. Those who live and work in the Forest, including my colleagues in Forestry England, are passionate about these values and we all care about protecting and enhancing them. Delivering these values is extremely rewarding but also challenging to balance at times. My desire is to work with everyone in a collaborative and mutually respectful way.

The Verderers are an important part of the Forest's heritage and I hope we can openly share our expertise and experience, to make sure that the New Forest is in a better condition and more resilient to future changes/challenges. I very much look forward to working with you all.'

PRESENTMENTS

2021/11838 BRIDGES
Presentment by Mrs Charlotte Lines, Chair, New Forest Commoners Defence Association

'It has been reported through the NFCDA committee that several bridges are in urgent need of repair/replacement (please see pictures below). As you can see, they present a danger for Forest users and livestock. Locations include Longwater, Denny Lawn, Markway, back of Ashurst Lodge, Busketts Inclosure, and Furzey lawn.

We understand that the bridge at Furzey Lawn was reported in June and nothing has been done to date. In some cases people have filled the holes with various items such as a concrete, and wood which presents further risk.

We believe the issue around bridges was raised at the last Verderers' Court and it would appear that repairs have not been carried out. We hope we can get some assurances from the court that the repairs will be instigated as a priority matter, before there is a serious incident.'

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2021/11839 BRIDGES

RESUME
April 2022

The Furzey Lawn Bridge is a particularly bad example of a bridge needing repair. It is considered to be extremely dangerous and is the only way of crossing the stream. It has been awaiting repair for a long time.

Two damaged bridges near Ashurst Lodge and two in the Denny Lawn/Woodfidley area have also been reported to FE.

Ponies are accustomed to using the bridge near Ashurst Lodge during the drift. It is the route they always follow and they won't take any notice of tape across the ends of the bridge. The drift is on 8th October and the Court asked FE if the bridge can please be repaired by then. This bridge has been recognised as dangerous for a while and appropriate signage and tape put up, but members of the public have removed the tape.

In the past, there have been examples of animals putting a foot through a hole in a bridge deck. On one occasion a cow put its foot through a hole and was left hanging, caught by its foot. It lived, but was extremely difficult to extricate.

Concern was expressed at the constraints FE staff are under, and it is respectfully suggested that the FE process for repairing bridges is far too complex. Most bridges require little more than a board being replaced. An in-house Craftsman or contractor could do the job much more cheaply than the process using civil engineers. In some cases, the work needed to put rails across the ends of a bridge is actually greater than the repair.

The Deputy Surveyor said there are currently approximately eight bridges in FE's programme to be repaired soon. FE has a nationally set procedure for bridge repairs that must be followed locally. Repairs have been held up by the due process of contracts and procurement which, at present, is unavoidable. He noted that the programme doesn't match the bridges mentioned in the presentment and he will talk to his team about making sure the priorities are right. The DS said consideration will be given to where drifts are due to take place and every effort will be made to get bridges in those areas repaired first.

Action DS

The DS said he is interested in reviewing all FE's bridges in the Forest, to see whether any can be removed. The priorities are the needs of commoners and the Verderers/Agisters alongside FE's operational needs, and recreational interests. He suggested that where the bridges serve recreational interests only, it may be that FE may wish to remove them in order to create quiet areas. This is, however, all part of a wider debate which will take place in the future.

Action DS

Miss Tidman was asked to circulate the email address for the person in the civil engineering team who deals with bridges.

Action TT

DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS TO BE RECORDED AT THIS COURT

2021/11840 DE-MINIMIS CONSENTS

RESUME

The following de-minimis consents were reported and recorded:-

- DM0125 – SGN New Gas Main, Cobblers Corner
- DM0126 – S W Water new main, Newtown Lane Mockbeggar
- DM0127 – S W Water new main, Willowbrook Farm, Ogdens Rd, Hyde
- DM0128 – BT Openreach, Gaza Ave, East Boldre new 10m duct
- DM0129 – BT Openreach, Opp Sunnycott & PO, Main Rd, East Boldre
- DM0130 – BT Openreach, Chapel Lane, East Boldre 85m duct
- DM0131 – SSE, Hightown Common, replace 8 x poles
- DM0132 – SSE, Busketts Way, Woodlands, replace 3 x poles

2021/11841 BT OPENREACH - JOINT BOXES

RESUME

Following on from the de-minimis report, a discussion took place concerning the joint boxes that Openreach usually needs to install at various points along its cable routes. NE has expressed concern at the loss of habitat from the siting of numerous surface mounted boxes. The Official Verderer said NE has arranged a Teams meeting next week to discuss this issue. Mr Deakin and Mr Dowsett asked to join the meeting. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

Action Clerk

2021/11842 TARRED TELEGRAPH POLES

DISCHARGE

Another issue is tarred telegraph poles. Mr Grugeon said he has been in touch with BT and SSE about what is acceptable.

PROPOSALS FOR UTILITIES WHICH FALL OUTSIDE THE REMIT OF THE DE-MINIMIS SYSTEM

2021/11843 BT PROPOSED FIBRE TO THE PREMISES PROVISION BETWEEN EAST BOLDRE AND EAST END

DISCHARGE

This proposal is for new broadband provision for East Boldre/East End, V6002 – 350m new duct and V6005 – 519 new duct. This is Version 2 of an earlier proposal and the cable and joint boxes will now be put in the carriageway. These proposals were approved subject to the three usual conditions.

2021/11844 BURLEY LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

DISCHARGE

This is the scheme whereby overhead cabling is being buried and existing poles removed.. A section of cable now needs to be buried in the verge past Burley Golf Course in order to avoid a road closure which would clash with the other nearby road closure connected with the replacement of the bridge carrying the A35 over the disused railway line.

Concerns were expressed over piles of sand that BT has asked to store (temporarily) on the Forest. FE's Sean Marsh is arranging a pre-works meeting during which this issue will be discussed.

The Court approved the proposal subject to assurance that the sand can be effectively removed from grazing. Mr Grugeon said he is investigating whether car parks can be used or the sand brought in aggregate bags.

Action PG

2021/11845 UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE SURVEY AT CASTLE HILL

DISCHARGE

This survey is associated with the Burley Landscape Improvement Scheme. The only concern is the lack of any reference to the presence of free ranging livestock in the Method Statement. Mr Grugeon said consent at this stage is requested for the survey only. If it is necessary to undertake excavations or ordnance is found which needs to be blown up, additional consents will be requested.

The Court approved the proposals subject to a reference being added about ensuring the safety of the livestock.

Action PG

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO FORESTRY ENGLAND

2021/11846 RE-FENCING OF DIBDEN INCLOSURE

RESUME
November

The proposal to re-fence this inclosure has stalled, partly due to concerns expressed by Natural England but also because FE is now questioning whether re-fencing is necessary. The DS said a meeting with NE that was due to take place was postponed.

The Court's concerns about members of the public mixing with cattle in an area known for intensive recreational use, especially by dog walkers, were repeated. The Deputy Surveyor asked for time to acquire an understanding of the issues and consider what solutions might be available. The OV said

he is aware that Mr Deakin had a frustrating meeting with NE and he added if a further meeting takes place, he would like to attend.

Action
DS/OV/RD

2021/11847 FORESTRY ENGLAND INCLOSURES – LONG TERM STRATEGY

RESUME
November

The problems associated with the removal of inclosure fences which are essential to ensure stock pounds are useable was explained to the DS.

Some fencing has been taken down as it is no longer required by FE. In places, lengths of fencing have subsequently been replaced and the Court has taken responsibility for some of these, but that is not financially sustainable in the long term.

The problem is increasing as more inclosures are thrown open. An estimated 80% of the pounds need an inclosure fence.

Given the stock is essential to the maintenance of the SSSI, the Court feels FE should therefore accept responsibility for fencing where it is essential for stock management.

On the recent Fawley drift, only about 50% of the ponies which the Agisters aspired to catch were driven in. The remainder got away due to lack of fencing that has been removed. The DS said he understands he need for a broad agreement in respect of fence maintenance and will consider the issue further. He is invited to attend a drift.

Action
DS/RD

2021/11848 CAMPSITES

RESUME
April 2022

The Court's position is clear. It seeks the removal of the three worst offending campsites, which are those where there are regular conflicts between campers and the commoners' animals and where the presence of the campsite is particularly damaging to the SSSI.

An anonymous email received by the Clerk from someone calling him or herself 'Concerned Camper' was forwarded to the DS prior to this meeting. Independent support for the content of the email has been received and also forwarded. An earlier presentment from the NFA also refers to the issues raised. The DS has been in touch with Camping in the Forest. A review will take place at the end of this season and training for campsite staff will be provided prior to next year's camping season. The CDA has offered assistance in achieving that.

Action DS

The DS said FE recognises the impacts of campsites and is looking for a long-term solution which must take into account the positive impact camping has on the local economy.

2021/11849 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

RESUME
November

An update will be provided by Mr Richard Burke (FE) at the next meeting of the RMS group, on the way in which PSPOs have been used in large areas in Dorset. The OV wrote to the Leader of NFDC seeking support in principle and he is awaiting an answer.

The Court is keen on the use of a PSPO to proportionately manage and deter verge parking as well as potentially the various other issues which detrimentally affect the Forest, including feeding ponies, lighting fires, wild camping, cycling off the waymarked network, flying drones etc.

Concern was expressed at the lack of the RMS group's progress because it seems nothing has happened. The OV said he understands, but a significant amount of work is actually going on in the background, albeit it is not obvious.

2021/11850 ILLEGAL CYCLING

RESUME

The question of whether electrically assisted bicycles and/or electric bikes should be permitted on the waymarked cycle route was again discussed. Clarification is required. It was agreed that fully electrically powered bicycles (capable of substantially exceeding 15.5mph) are not acceptable but the Court needs to make a decision on electrically assisted bicycles. It was agreed a way forward is for the OV to make an announcement at the next Court saying that the Verderers are minded to agree to the use of *electrically assisted bicycles* on the waymarked cycle network and invite support or counter presentments at the next following Court.

Action OV

The Court asked FE to 'get a grip' of this issue before it is too late.

The DS said FE staff are doing their best to encourage people to use the waymarked cycle network and they are trying to stop off track cycling. FE has been liaising with local Police and seeking legal advice about enforcement. This has highlighted the complexity of the issue and a number of tests that need to be met to implement enforcement. He added that a proper consultation on cycling is going to be required and FE must take account of wide opinions.

Action DS

The Court is extremely unhappy that no progress is being made and the DS was urged to look at what FE can do to deal with cyclists who persistently, and in some cases publicly, flout the rules and encourage others to do the same.

2021/11851 MINSTEAD CRICKET CLUB LEASE

RESUME
November

A fire in the Parish Clerk's office has resulted in a further delay. Approval of the draft management plan is awaited from NE and other relevant public bodies.

Action PG

2021/11852 UNDERPASS GATES

RESUME

It was agreed the Head Agister will liaise with Dave Morris.

Action RD

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS INCLUDING THE ENHANCEMENT LIST

2021/11853 ENHANCEMENT LIST

RESUME

Noted.

2021/11854 RESTORATION OF PENNY MOOR

RESUME

The DS said a proposal from the CDA is awaited. There may be another meeting. Members of the Court will appreciate an invitation to that meeting.

Action DS

2021/11855 TURF HILL

DISCHARGE

Stump grinding will be undertaken on 6 unrestored acres.

Action
OV/AHP

The OV and Mr Pasmore will inspect the work.

ENCROACHMENTS ON FORESTRY ENGLAND LAND INCLUDING THE ENCROACHMENTS LIST

2021/11856 ENCROACHMENT LIST RESUME

The list and actions were noted.

ISSUES REPORTED TO FORESTRY ENGLAND (ACTION LIST)

2021/11857 ACTION LIST RESUME

It was suggested item No. 38, which has remained on the list for some time, should be removed as the issue is being monitored. Action DS

The Deputy Surveyor, Mr Grugeon and Miss Tidman left the meeting

MATTERS FROM EARLIER IN THE MEETING REQUIRING FURTHER DISCUSSION

2021/11858 CYCLING – ELECTRICALLY ASSISTED BICYCLES RESUME

It was suggested the views of other organisations, such as the BHS and NFEA should be sought. Action Clerk

2021/11859 CYCLING – REFERENCE ON CAMPING IN THE FOREST'S WEBSITE DISCHARGE

There is a reference to cycling at Matley on CiTF's website. There is no access to the waymarked cycling network in that area. The Clerk will ask for the text to be amended. Action Clerk

ENCROACHMENTS NOT INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2021/11860 ENCROACHMENT AT PICKET HILL/SHOBLEY RESUME
November

There is nothing to report and the matter is ongoing.

2021/11861 ENCROACHMENTS WORKING GROUP DISCHARGE

There is concern that the burden of dealing with encroachments is falling too heavily on the CDA members of the Group. The OV will liaise with the CDA. Mr Pasmore would like to resume his attendance at the Group's meetings. The importance of communication between FE and the CDA was stressed. Action OV

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

2021/11862 VERDERERS' LIVESTOCK OFFICER DISCHARGE

The post was advertised and two high quality applicants were interviewed. Miss Jenny Tillyer was selected and is in post. She is providing valuable assistance on the drifts, assisting the agisters and interacting with the public.

2021/11863 AGISTERS VEHICLES DISCHARGE

Three new vehicles are on order with delivery expected in April next year. An approach is being made to the supplier of the current vehicles with a view to extending the contract until the new vehicles are available and for a longer term for the remaining two vehicles. Action DR

The Court is hugely impressed with the Assistant Clerk who has negotiated an excellent price with a very significant discount for the new vehicles.

2021/11864 THE 1964 COMMONS AGREEMENT DISCHARGE

Discussion has taken place with the CDA concerning the Commons Agreement which expires in 2025. An announcement will be made at the November Court advising Commoners who have benefitted from the concessionary rates, that marking fees at the full rate will be payable from 1st January 2026. Action OV

It is estimated that in the region of 140 commoners will be affected.

2021/11865 VERDERERS' POLICIES REVIEW RESUME

Mrs Westerhoff produced a paper with suggested amendments. Further discussions will take place. Action OVDW

2021/11866 STALLIONS – FACEBOOK PAGE RESUME

It is agreed that the Court should set up a Facebook page on which to place notices about stallions and possibly other things such as pannage and drifts. The page will be set up so that comments (from the public) are not allowed.

The Court agrees good communication with both commoners and the public is essential and some principles/rules relating to the use of the Facebook page, will be drafted for approval. Action OV/Clerk/JB

UTILITIES PROPOSALS (FALLING OUTSIDE THE DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE'S AUTHORITY)

2021/11867 BT/OPENREACH – NEW DUCT IN KEWLAKE LANE DISCHARGE

The 180m duct in Kewlake Lane was approved, subject to the three usual conditions regarding satisfactory reinstatement, safe working conditions and compensation for loss of grazing. Action Clerk

2021/11868 BT OPENREACH – CIVIL WORKS IN OGDENS DISCHARGE

These amended works connected with the Fordingbridge V5117 FTTP project were approved, subject to the three usual conditions. Action Clerk

HLS / VGS

2021/11869 HLS ROLLOVER RESUME

The scheme year end is approaching. It is hoped there will be another rollover. Action OV

BREACHES OF THE VERDERERS' BYELAWS

2021/11870 BULL CALF DISCHARGE

A young bull has been found at large in the Forest in breach of the byelaws. In place of a byelaw prosecution, consideration is being given to whether this breach can be dealt with by way of a penalty under the VGS. Action VGS Cttee

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2021/11871 FINANCIAL STATEMENT DISCHARGE

Noted

2021/11872 AUDITED ACCOUNTS DISCHARGE

The Audited Accounts were approved.

STAFF MATTERS, GENERAL REPORTS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2021/11873 DRIFTS – CONFLICTS WITH CYCLISTS AND WALKERS DISCHARGE

Unfortunately, a small number of cyclists have caused problems at some drifts by refusing to follow advice. On occasion they have been abusive.

On the Hilltop drift some members of the public out walking, had seen the notices warning of the drift but still thought it was OK for them to proceed. In some other instances, they had not seen the notice.

2021/11874 ROADSIDE FENCING DISCHARGE

HCC's response to reports of defective fencing is once again leaving a lot to be desired. In some cases it takes months before a proper repair is made and some temporary repairs are not sufficient to prevent stock from repeatedly escaping onto the roads.

In many areas of the Forest, the roadside fences are now in very poor condition. The Clerk will send Mr Deakin the list of new fences due to be erected by HCC. Action Clerk

2021/11875 MARKING FEES RECEIVED RESUME

	2021	2020
Ponies on the Forest	4981	4965
Ponies on the Commons	857	832
Cattle on the Forest	3152	5155
Cattle on the Commons	1781	2403
Donkeys on the Forest	150	135
Donkeys on the Commons	136	138
Pigs on the Forest	0	13
Pigs on the Commons	93	88
Sheep on the Forest	0	0
Sheep on the Commons	195	223
Total on the Forest	8283	10268
Total on the Commons	3062	3684
Total overall	11345	13952
Total PCD on the Forest	8283	10255
Total PCD on the Commons	2774	3373
Total PCD Overall	11057	13628

Marking fees will be reviewed in the October Court and an announcement made in November in respect of fees in 2022.

2021/11876 CONDITION OF STOCK REPORT BY THE HEAD AGISTER, JONATHAN GERRELLI RESUME

Early September and we are now well into the drifts, and as usual some have gone better than others, but the one consistent thing has been the overall excellent condition of the ponies. Yes, you can generally see the mares that have a foal as they will be showing a bit of condition loss due to feeding of the foal, but even these are on the whole far better than usual. And the majority of the foals are also looking really fat and well. This is of course due to the amount of forage available on the Forest this year. I don't think I can remember ever seeing so much food for the stock out there at this time of the year as there is now. Certainly, no signs of over grazing!

The cattle are also doing well, and as there doesn't appear to be a very large crop of acorns I would expect them to be left out longer through the Autumn to take advantage of all the food available.

The donkeys have also been taking advantage of the good growing season and there are several large herds of them in various parts of the Forest, and there appears to be a lot more donkey foals around.

I don't think there will be so many pigs to go out as usual, due to the lack of acorns, but we are marking some.

2021/11877 ANIMAL ACCIDENTS – AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS ON THE B3078 & THE OV'S MEETING WITH THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER RESUME

The OV reported on his recent meeting with the PCC and Cllr Edward Heron. Cllr Heron is confident he can obtain funding for a feasibility study, the cost of which is estimated to be in the region of £30,000. Cllr Heron is also confident that funding to cover the capital cost of average speed cameras on the B3078 can be secured.

It was, however, pointed out that a feasibility study was carried out some years ago and it is questionable whether carrying out another study can be justified. Mr Deakin will obtain a copy of the study if it is available.

Action RD

2021/11878 FUNDING FOR THE SPEED CAMERA VAN DISCHARGE

The Court agreed to provide £10,000 annually for the speed camera van for a further two years, subject to a satisfactory agreement with Hampshire Constabulary.

Action Clerk

The Clerk was asked to confirm how much the New Forest Tour Bus costs in total. The Court contributes £1,000 per annum.

Action Clerk

2021/11879 RESIGNATION OF AGISTER & RECRUITMENT OF HIS REPLACEMENT RESUME

Agister Andrew Naphine has unexpectedly resigned after 29 years' service and will leave mid-October. An advertisement for his recruitment has been posted on the Court's website. The Clerk said to date 14 applications have been received with an additional 13 requests for a copy of the Job Specification.

In recognition of Andrew's long service, a leaving present will be arranged.

Action RD

TRAINING & HEALTH & SAFETY

2021/11880 TRAINING DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said he will review the staff training requirements and arrange training as necessary. Action RD

2021/11881 HEALTH & SAFETY DISCHARGE

A walker in the vicinity of one of the drifts slipped and broke a wrist but this was unconnected with the drift.

The Office staff are still working from home.

An HSE Spot Audit was not required.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2021/11882 RECREATIONAL PRESSURE DISCHARGE

In the recent Access Forum, Mr Deakin made a presentation which was an abridged version of the one he gives to groups requesting talks by the Verderers. Afterwards, someone said that a lot of communications work has been done but the question was then asked, are there any indicators of success? Mr Deakin said his impression is that there have been fewer people this year and less verge parking.

A lady asked if she can have a copy of Mr Deakin's presentation. The Court raised no objections. Action RD

2021/11883 POUND BOTTOM LANDFILL SITE DISCHARGE

It has been suggested that this site, once closed, could be used as a recreation facility, possibly similar to Moors Valley. Various views were expressed by members of the Court, some potentially in favour, others strongly against.

2021/11884 HATCHET POND CAR PARK DISCHARGE

The car park restructure plan has been made available to members of the Court.

2021/11885 WELFARE TOUR RESUME
November

It was agreed a discussion will take place after the end of the drifts as to whether it is practical to hold a Welfare Tour this autumn. The difficulty maybe having people in close proximity to one another on coaches (Covid-19). Action RD

2021/11886 VERDERERS' ELECTION RESUME

The office staff are working hard on preparing for the election. The next key date is the publication of the Register. Action
Clerk/JB/TW

2021/11887 OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER COURTS

RESUME

The OV said it is his intention to make a decision on whether it is safe to hold an Open Court in October, a couple of weeks before the Court is due to take place. Minstead Village Hall has been booked as it is large enough for people to be well spread out. If an Open Court goes ahead, a protocol will be needed which will include recommendations in respect of social distancing and the wearing of masks when entering and leaving the Hall.

Action OV

Some members of the Court expressed concern, but the preference overall is to get back to holding public Open Courts if sensible to do so. Much will depend on the prevailing Covid-19 situation closer to the time.

A decision will also need to be made regarding the committee part of the Court.

Action OV

There being no further business, the video conference ended at 13:23 hrs.

*Julianne
20 October 2021*