

**Minutes of the Court of Verderers held on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 9.30 a.m.
in the Library, the King's House, Lyndhurst**

PRESENT	Mr E Heron	Official Verderer
	Mr R Deakin	Elected Verderer & Staff Committee Chairman
	Mr A H Pasmore	Senior Elected Verderer
	Mr R Stride	Elected Verderer
	Miss A Tilbury	Elected Verderer
	Miss K Harrison	Elected Verderer
	Mr C Chatters	Natural England Appointed Verderer
	Mr M Gammon	Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
	Miss A Sevier MBE	National Park Appointed Verderer
	Mr R Manley	DEFRA Appointed Verderer
IN ATTENDANCE	Miss J Bayley	Assistant to the Clerk
	Mr J R Gerrelli	Head Agister
APOLOGIES	None	

IN COMMITTEE in the Library

2025/13861	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	RESUME
	The minutes of the last Court, held on Wednesday 18 th December 2024 were approved, and signed by the Official Verderer.	
2025/13862	NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	RESUME
	There were no new declarations of interest.	
2025/13863	CONDITION OF STOCK	RESUME
	The Head Agister said the cold and wet weather over the Christmas and New Year period has had an impact on the condition of some ponies. The majority are still looking good and the Agisters are busy removing those not doing so well.	
2025/13864	BOVINE TB	RESUME
	Mr Deakin said we have had no contact from APHA following the confirmed case of TB in the Fritham area.	
	The Head Agister said several commoners in the south of the Forest received radial testing letters at Christmas following a TB breakdown last spring.	
2025/13865	STRANGLES	RESUME
	There have been no new cases of strangles seen in the Forest.	
2025/13866	BLUE TONGUE	RESUME
	The restriction zone has extended west, further into Dorset. Salisbury Market, however, still remains outside of the zone. Being in a restricted zone means that stock can be moved within the zone but not outside of it.	

It is hoped that following the recent cold weather restrictions will be lifted soon.

2025/13867 FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN GERMANY RESUME

The Head Agister reported on a foot and mouth outbreak in Germany. He said all UK imports of cattle, pigs and sheep have been stopped.

The Court discussed the proposed food waste collection and the need for robust animal proof bins.

2025/13868 MARKING FEES RECEIVED TO DATE AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR RESUME

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Forest Ponies	4938	4932
Forest Cattle	2671	2878
Forest Donkeys	123	129
Forest Pigs	395	423
Forest Sheep	0	0
Total Forest Stock	8127	8362
Common Ponies	585	629
Common Cattle	411	1197
Common Donkeys	95	106
Common Pigs	110	52
Common Sheep	121	163
Total Common Stock	1322	2147
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Forest	7732	7939
Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys on the Commons	1091	1932
Total Ponies, Cattle & Donkeys	8823	9871
Total Stock – Forest & Commons	9449	10509

The Head Agister left the meeting

2025/13869 BREACHES OF THE BYELAWS RESUME

There are no new byelaw breaches.

OPEN COURT

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Craig Harrison, Deputy Surveyor
Mrs Joan Clark Land Agent, South East England

The Head Agister opened the Court with the usual proclamation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECISIONS

2025/13870 LENGTH OF PRESENTMENTS

We would remind all those making Presentments that they should be brief. Other than in exceptional circumstances, I will ask members of the public making Presentments to bring them to a conclusion after 3 minutes, allowing a maximum of a further minute for them to do so. People making presentments can submit any further information to the Verderers Office.

2025/13871 MARKING FEE INCREASE

A reminder that marking fees have increased for 2025, the fees for this year are:

Ponies, Cattle and Donkeys on the Forest, £29.00 per head, Sheep £12.00 and Pigs £5.00 per head.

The Common rate, for commoners whose animals qualify, are £14.50 per head for Ponies and Donkeys and £3.63 for Cattle, £6.00 for Sheep and £2.50 for Pigs.

Marking fees are due from the 1st January. Under our Byelaws, the deadline for payment of all marking fees for continuously depastured animals is 31st March. If not paid by 31st March, you will not be eligible to join the Verderers Grazing Scheme.

Marking fees for animals which are not continuously depastured are due before the animals are turned out. It is the responsibility of commoners to volunteer payment of marking fees, not the responsibility of the Agister to chase for them.

2025/13872 CYCLING

We are grateful to all those who have commented on the September Presentment by the Deputy Surveyor, which sought the Court's consent for proposed changes to their management of cycling on the Forest and changes to the on Forest cycle network. The Court has heard the range of views expressed, both those made in the Court and in the many letters and email that have been received.

In addition to the Deputy Surveyor's Presentment made in Court, further information supplied by Forestry England has been published on the Verderers website, along with consultation responses received from Natural England and the National Park Authority.

Having considered the information submitted by Forestry England and representations made to the Court, in particular the advice of Natural England, the Court does not consider that it has sufficient information at this time to make a decision on the Forestry England's proposal for the extension of the on Forest cycle network.

We understand that the Deputy Survey intends to make a Presentment on this matter to the Court today.

2025/13873 CADNAM CRICKET CLUB OUTFIELD FENCING

We are advised the Cricket Club has instructed a contractor to replace the outfield fencing, to a specification that has been agreed by the Court, and that this work is scheduled to start next month.

2025/13874 LIVESTOCK

The Court's powers to regulate Commoners in the exercise of their legal right to depasture stock on the Forest and Commons are set out within the Verderers Byelaws.

These state that "No person shall cause or allow any horse, bovine animal, sheep or pig belonging to them or in their charge to enter or be at large in the Forest at any time ... when they know or have reason to suspect, or they have been notified in writing by the Verderers that they know or have reason to suspect, that the

animal is vicious, mischievous, or likely to cause injury to any person or animal or to damage property”.

Anyone reporting an incident where they consider a depastured animal is acting aggressively is asked to complete a form, and where sufficient information is provided, the incident is investigated by the Court, and should an animal be found to be in breach of the byelaws, it may be ordered to be removed.

2025/13875 NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION BYELAW WATCH

We thank the New Forest Association for their Presentment on their 2024 Byelaw Watch. The Court will continue to work with partners to increase awareness of the byelaws and the Public Space Protection Orders and to encourage increased enforcement where this is possible.

THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT

2025/13876 THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT REPORT FOR 2024

The Agisters attended 94 accidents last year compared with 95 in 2023.

37 animals died and 15 were injured.

17 accidents happened in daylight, 5 at twilight and 73 in the dark.

19 drivers failed to report having been involved in an accident with a commoners' animal.

The total number of animals killed and injured last year was 52 compared with 63 in 2023.

PRESENTMENT BY THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR

2025/13877 UPDATE ON PROPOSAL FOR PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE CYCLING AND IMPROVING THE NEW FOREST OFF ROAD CYCLING NETWORK

'In September last year I brought a proposal to this court with the objective of improving the management of cycling in the New Forest. It was the result of two years of work with the cycling community, representatives of the Verderers and a wide range of community groups.

The proposal sought to address a long-standing discontentment with cycling - on all sides of the debate - and address the fundamental issues that have stalled progress for many years.

I'd like to remind the court of the core issues we are all trying to address....

The existing network is not fit for purpose. It is hard to navigate and disconnected. Many routes simply don't make sense and do not connect to the routes in and out of the forest. As a result, people simply get lost or end up creating more effective routes of their own, often using apps that do this for them. Others simply choose to bypass the network completely. The current nature of the cycle network greatly exacerbates these issues, and are a fundamental barrier to our ability to promote and encourage protection of the special qualities of the New Forest by responsible cycling and adherence to the network.

The proposal to address these issues has generated a significant amount of debate and discussion from a wide range of groups and interests. I'd like to thank everyone

who has engaged in this process and are working constructively to find a way forward.

I'd like to take this opportunity to reiterate that it has always been, and remains, our intention to meet all of the legal requirements around any proposed changes to the network. This includes Habitats Assessment Regulations which would be met prior to any changes to the network and acknowledge that Verderers would require that assurance.

However, in order to engage stakeholders, we have sought views on the proposals before beginning the process of securing regulatory approval. This not only ensures the proposals are sufficiently robust and helps address any key issues raised but will also avoid unnecessary waste of limited public funds by all bodies involved. Withdrawing the proposal at this stage would risk losing the considerable progress made to date, including the valuable insights and shared understanding gained through this process.

We also note with interest Natural England's response to the Verderers on the proposal. This encourages Forestry England and the Verderers, both as competent authorities, to work together to assess the proposal and identify any key issues likely to affect the key designations of this landscape.

Continuing to work collaboratively on these issues is key. In this spirit and to help us all to move forward, I ask that the Court engage further with Forestry England to identify and compile the additional information necessary for a decision to be made.

We ask that the Verderers confirm the specific elements of the proposals they support, those where they require additional information in order to take a view, and the elements they do not support. This will allow us to move forward constructively to the next stage regarding key requirements for regulatory consents and approvals.

Collectively the measures proposed represent a considerable investment in the Forest and the way recreation is managed. There is real engagement and commitment by local partners to work together and achieve the benefits this proposal offers - for the Forest landscape, and for more sustainable recreation and travel.

The proposal represents a key opportunity for all stakeholders, to improve adherence to the network and enhance the off-road cycling experience in the New Forest. It provides an effective way to increase understanding of the need, and how to preserve the special qualities of the New Forest. We believe that this will result in real benefits for the Forest and all those who use it and remain committed to trying to secure those benefits.'

PRESENTMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

2025/13878 FORESTRY ENGLANDS PROPOSAL FOR PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE CYCLING AND IMPROVING THE NEW FOREST OFF ROAD CYCLING NETWORK
Presentment by Mr Andrew Parry-Norton New Forest Commoners' Defence Association Chairman

'Good Morning Official Verderer, Verderers, Members of the Court

Over the last year the Forest has had imposed upon it, catering vans in car parks, the removal or down grading of bridges, and now the possibility of additional cycle routes.

It could be seen as steps towards the gradual "urbanization" of the Forest; as always the increasing number of visitors each year, penetrating deeper into the Forest, the Commoners stock, the architects of the Forest landscape, suffer more harassment and disturbance in their natural environment; and Commoners carry the responsibility of legal litigation from stock interactions.

Already cyclists use tracks that are not the permitted routes; they are often seen crossing open Forest with no consequences of legal enforcement.

Reluctantly, CDA committee conditionally accepts the introduction of the extended cycle network as a method of controlling the influx of cyclists: keeping them on permitted tracks with suitable appropriate way markers, however:

The CDA do not agree to new laid engineered routes on the open Forest. A large network of tracks already exist that could be utilized and will have less impact on the Forest. These tracks should be open for cyclists only during the hours of sunrise to sunset, giving our stock at least some quiet time away from people.

Our acceptance is also on the basis that:

The activities of Commoners managing their stock should be prioritized over recreational use; cycle routes in the vicinity of these organized activities should be closed for the public safety, at the request of the Verderers or the Commoners.

The cycle network needs correctly marking and policing. A substantial number of well trained marshals' need to patrol a very large area with legal action taken against persistent offenders proactively. Large cycle events, time trials and speeding electric bikes should not be permitted on any of the Crown Lands.

The whole network needs to have constant reviews, possibly at two-year intervals; the routes, during this time span, need careful honest monitoring. Discussions can then take place between all interested parties on what is working, what needs to be changed and what can be improved upon.

It must be stressed that these cycle routes are for **all users**, the cyclists will encounter horse riders, walkers and in some instances vehicles. The cyclists do not have sole use and must treat other users with respect and the appropriate behavior. Signage, maps and phone apps should clearly display this message.

Commoning plays an intrinsic and vital role in maintaining this environmental haven and created this special place that so many people come here to enjoy, it needs protecting to exist into the future,

Commoners are under enormous pressure both in monetary terms and mental strain.

The CDA believes that the vital role Commoners provide should always be considered first over any proposals for recreation in the Forest. Every effort should be made to protect this ancient landscape, the practice of Commoning, and the environmental and cultural benefits it helps to maintain for the nation.'

2025/13879 ANIMAL ACCIDENTS – LIAISON WITH HAMPSHIRE POLICE
Presentment by Ms Gilly Jones, Commoner and lead on New Forest Roads Awareness

'My presentment today is made with prior knowledge of the livestock fatality numbers.

I'm sure that everyone must be pleased with the decrease in fatal incidents, and to add some context to this, they are almost half from what they were a decade ago.

Obviously, with traffic and livestock in the same space, there will always be accidents.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Forestry England for the verge clearance program. This work is so important for livestock and gives the drivers a clearer view of the road ahead.

With modern car sensors, better headlights, brakes and most people genuinely changing how they drive, we hope that this downward trend continues, although 3 ponies have already died this year, Two on Sunday night a couple of miles apart.

This brings me to the reason for my presentment:

A few weeks ago an Agister was called to an incident and was told by a police officer that it was a hit and run. When I went to put a sign up, I came from the other direction and found the taxi at the side of the road wrapped in police tape. But the Agister wasn't contacted by the Police.

On other occasions have seen the Agisters spending hours on the phone trying to get information out of the call centres staff. The Verderers do have a data sharing agreement with the Police and it should be easy from Agisters to get the details of the drivers involved in accidents but it's not.

One comment recently said was 'It's not normal practice to share information with Agisters'

This comment is more than worrying, my concern is that the call handlers are not trained about how to deal with livestock incidents and don't know about the data sharing agreement.

And here is one scenario, do we really have as many Hit and Runs as we are recording? Are calls being logged, but Agisters are never contacted? Are Commoners missing out due to call centre mishandling?

I ask the Official Verderer to make the PCC aware of this and ask her to review the issue.

I need to make it very clear that my issue is not with the police officers attending these incidents, and more with the lack of training of call centre staff. But I know that the staff turnover is huge, and our livestock are not that high on the totem pole, but we have to try our best to get a resolution to this problem.'

2025/13880 FORESTRY ENGLANDS PROPOSAL FOR PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE CYCLING AND IMPROVING THE NEW FOREST OFF ROAD CYCLING NETWORK
Presentment by Mr Mark Ferrett, Commoner

'Good morning Verderers and the Court.

As we experienced from the November Court of last year, a huge number of pro cyclists wishing your good selves to back Forestry England with more cycle routes across the whole of the Forest.

Since the last Court I have taken the time personally to visit the proposed cycle routes and take account of the impact which would happen, especially to the north of the Forest and to the virgin Forest ground.

Spending many hours, I have come to the conclusion that we are in danger of becoming a total theme park, not once did I encounter a Forestry England representative but indeed found plenty of bike riders doing as they want.

There is a definite split between the family out enjoying the Forest and the wonders of the place and the go-fast team who have no care for the surroundings they are in.

I am very concerned about the interaction and disturbance of the commoners stock and also the wildlife.

I have mentioned before in this Court that this is a working Forest which you Verderers having two holding numbers identifies as a farmstead.

Please Verderers, surely we must all hold on to what is left of a unique area and provide better guidance for the existing gravel tracks to be used by the cyclists and managed in an appropriate way by Forestry England.

This situation when coming to the vote has to be a no to more cycle routes.

I ask the Verderers when the vote is taken and this is a clear request from many commoners, for the good of the Forest. Vote for a no for Forestry England proposals and no abstainments this time please.'

2025/13881 CADNAM CRICKET CLUB OUTFIELD FENCING
Presentment by Ms Charlotte Riddoch, Commoner

'My name is Charlotte Riddoch, I am a Commoner with ponies turned out at Bartley and Cadnam cricket pitch. It is a relief to hear that progress has been made regarding replacement fencing at Cadnam cricket club pitch.

I respectfully request that the suitability of the new fencing be scrutinised, and a decision made with all haste please.

Alongside this problem, I understand that the Cadnam cricket club are not required to open up the pitch for the Stock to graze at this time of year -- surely this requirement should be in the lease with FE? If not, Why not? Every other club does, the Stock has the right to graze the Forest, including the pitches, especially at a time when they need it most.

If the pitch had been open and grazed the ponies would not have learned to push through the fence in the first place!

The requirement to open up the cricket pitches for a specified time every year is absolutely essential to reinforce the right of the Stock to graze the fenced-in areas, otherwise one wonders if, not allowing this access to the animals on a yearly basis, could lead to the Stock being excluded from this area on a permanent basis!'

2025/13882 ICE CREAM VAN AT BOLTONS BENCH
Presentment by Mr Tim Laine, owner of Forest Glade Ice Cream, Lyndhurst

'My name is Tim Laine and, together with my son Simon, we own Forest Glade Ice Cream on the High Street in Lyndhurst.

We noted that in the March Meeting, consent was given to Forestry England for five sites to sell tea, coffee and other non-alcoholic hot and cold drinks, unwrapped cakes and sweet pastries for a period of two years.

However, the site at Bolton's Bench, at some time in the summer, placed an ice cream van at this location, which is not in accordance with the consent as granted.

Could the Verderers please point this out to Forestry England and ask that they adhere to the consent as given.'

The Head Agister closed the Court

IN COMMITTEE (in the Library)

CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTMENTS

2025/13883	FORESTRY ENGLANDS PROPOSAL FOR PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE CYCLING AND IMPROVING THE NEW FOREST OFF ROAD CYCLING NETWORK	DISCHARGE
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The Court noted the presentments made by Mr Andrew Parry-Norton and Mr Mark Ferrett. Both will be taken into consideration when the Court is ready to make its decision on the Forestry England Cycle Network proposals.

2025/13884	ANIMAL ACCIDENTS – LIAISON WITH HAMPSHIRE POLICE	RESUME
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The Official Verderer will write to the Chief Constable for Hampshire copied to the Police and Crime Commissioner inviting them to visit the Forest in the Spring.

Action
OV/Asst
Clerk

2025/13885	CADNAM CRICKET CLUB OUTFIELD FENCING	RESUME
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The Court has agreed to the specification submitted by the club to replace the outfield fencing. Mr Pasmore said when the Court granted a new license for the club it stated that the outfield must be thrown open to stock for three months of the year. Mrs Clark said the estates team is working with the club to resolve the misunderstanding with the license.

2025/13886	ICE CREAM VAN AT BOLTONS BENCH	DISCHARGE
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The concession for the ice cream van at Boltons Bench has not been removed. Permission was granted for the concession to sell hot beverages and sweet pastries in addition to the ice cream sales.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COURTS OF CONCERN TO FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/13887	FORESTRY ENGLAND PRESENTMENT TO THE VERDERERS COURT 18/09/2024 – A PROPOSAL FOR PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE CYCLING AND IMPROVING THE NEW FOREST OFF ROAD CYCLE NETWORK	RESUME
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A meeting will be arranged to discuss the cycle network plans where the Court will set out where it thinks the scope should be regarding the Habitat Regulations. The Official Verderer, Mr Chatters and Mr

Gammon will engage with the Deputy Surveyor by email before the end of the month.

2025/13888 HCC CYCLE ROUTES INCLUDED IN THE LCWHIP RESUME

The Deputy Surveyor has not yet spoken to Mr Richard Burke.

2025/13889 BRIDGES RESUME

Mr Deakin said the Staff Liaison Committee has proposed that the Agisters, and any riders under a Verderer controlled event, be permitted to ride over the bridges, which are not full specification, providing they consider what they need to do to be safe. For example, approach the bridge straight on, slow down and treat the bridge as an obstacle, carrying out a visual check for any damage. A full risk assessment will be issued.

The Deputy Surveyor said his team are looking at putting non-slip strips on all bridges. A new regime has been put in place and the bridges will be inspected regularly. Bridges are also being numbered to make reporting issues easier.

Mr Pasmore asked the Deputy Surveyor for a map showing the location of all the Forest bridges. The Deputy Surveyor said a map has been shared with the Official Verderer and will be circulated in due course. He confirmed that no bridges will be permanently removed without consultation with the Court and any bridge closures will be communicated to the office.

Action DS

Miss Tilbury said posts had been erected at bridges at Ranswood and Longslade making it impossible for carriage drivers to get around. The Deputy Surveyor said the posts may have been put in place to stop vehicles driving over the bridges. Miss Tilbury will email the Deputy Surveyor with further details.

Action AT

2025/13890 CAMPING ADVISORY GROUP RESUME

The Camping Advisory Group meeting has not yet been held and the reports collated throughout the last camping season have not been shared with the Court. Mr Deakin said we are not far from the start of the new camping season and he had hoped to have received the livestock interaction report to see if any lessons needed to be learnt.

The Deputy Surveyor said the Campsite Livestock Interaction Group had made constructive progress. Mr Gammon said he sat in the group but that they had not met for some time.

The Deputy Surveyor suggested a broader group should be formed to draw groups together and cover more than just the campsites. He will put together a proposal. Miss Sevier requested that he includes all Open Forest land owners and managers in the group.

Action DS

2025/13891 BRAMSHAW GOLF CLUB RESUME

The Club is reviewing its existing management plan. Mrs Clark said there is no update available at this time.

2025/13892 VERGE RESTORATION SITES FOR 2025 RESUME

The Verge Restoration Proposals were discussed. Mr Deakin will feed back the Courts comments to the Verge Restoration Officer. Action RD

DE-MINIMUS PROPOSALS

2025/13893 DE-MINIMIS-CONSENTS - UTILITY PROPOSALS AGREED BY THE DE-MINIMIS COMMITTEE DISCHARGE

DM0216 Southern Water – Excavate and locate external stop cock in gravel track outside Holly Lodge, Emery Down SO43 7EA

DM0217 Scottish Southern Energy replacement of a stretch of overhead power cable and one pole located on private property, Latchmoor House Brockenhurst

DM0218 Southern Gas Networks Over line survey of the high-pressure pipe between Beaulieu Heath and Lepe 27th to 31st January 25.

SSSI RESTORATION WORKS

2025/13894 SSSI REPAIR & MAINTENANCE/ENHANCEMENT LIST RESUME

There have been no changes to the list.

2025/13895 ANDERWOOD PROPOSED WETLAND RESTORATION WORKS DISCHARGE

The proposals were accepted.

2025/13896 MILLYFORD BRIDGE PROPOSED WETLAND RESTORATION WORKS DISCHARGE

The proposals were not approved due to concerns over lost grazing due to flooding.

ENCROACHMENTS

2025/13897 ENCROACHMENTS LIST RESUME

The list has not changed.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION BY FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/13898 ACTION LIST RESUME

Nothing new has been added to the Action List.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/13899 PONIES TRAPPED IN THE CROWN OF WINDBLOWN TREES DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said the Agisters have recently had to free two ponies which were trapped in the crown of windblown trees. He said he understands the difficulties faced by Forestry England but the Court

has an agreement that windblown trees, especially those with large heads, would be promptly cleared.

2025/13900 ACCESS TRACKS TO POUNDS DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said some of the vehicle access tracks to the pounds are becoming impassable. Mr Stride said he will raise the issue at the Open Forest Advisory Committee meeting. Action RS

2025/13901 WATER LEAK AT PIPERS WAIT RESUME

Mr Deakin said a large area is currently temporarily fenced off at Pipers Wait to allow for reinstatement following the serious water leak. He said one of the fenced off areas will never be able to be re-opened due to the damage caused to the ground by the running water, which has made it a danger to livestock. He said reinstatement works need to be carried out in this area. It was agreed that Mr Deakin and Miss Amy Howells, the FE Estates Officer, will visit the site and provide a report at the next Court.

2025/13902 DENNY LODGE WATER SUPPLY DISCHARGE

Mrs Clark said the Denny Lodge project is now complete and the properties now have a mains water supply. Some Herras fencing remains in place to allow the ground to settle and will be removed in due course.

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

ENCROACHMENTS NOT INVOLVING FORESTRY ENGLAND

2025/13903 PROPERTY ON BLACK HILLS ROAD DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said that local Commoners have advised that the areas of concern have been hard standing for a long time. There are no concerns regarding loss of grazing.

MATTERS ARISING

2025/13904 MARKING FEES MAXIMUM LIMIT AND REVIEW OF THE BYELAWS RESUME

The Official Verderer said he would like to put the review of the byelaws on hold until after the coroner's report on the incident at Godshill on Monday the 21st October is released. He will email an explanation of why the plan has been put on hold to Defra.

Action
OV/Asst
Clerk

Mr Deakin suggested a meeting would be beneficial with all Cattle Commoners to discuss livestock issues and to go through the Verderers TB Plan to confirm their understanding. It is hoped the CDA will take the lead on this with the Courts assistance.

Action RD

2025/13905 HIT AND RUN REWARD CLAIM RESUME

The Assistant Clerk apologised and asked for the matter to be resumed at the February Court.

Action Asst
Clerk

2025/13906 TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONSULTATIVE DISCHARGE
PANEL, ILLINGWORTH PANEL AND FOREST FARMING GROUP

Miss Harrison is appointed to the Staff Liaison Committee and The Stallion Committee.

Miss Tilbury is appointed to the Verderers Grazing Scheme Committee

Miss Sevier is appointed to the De-minimis Committee.

2025/13907 DRIFT REVIEW MEETING DISCHARGE

Mr Deakin said the Drift Review Meeting had been held and highlighted some points to take forward which he will discuss with the Staff Liaison Committee.

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME AND THE VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME

2025/13908 VERDERERS GRAZING SCHEME RESUME

The Grazing Scheme payments were made at Christmas.

Miss Sevier said the Court should pass on their thanks to Tina for working from home with a very painful broken leg to get the payments made.

REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2025/13909 OCKNELL ARCH FISH PASS DISCHARGE

Mr Chatters said he has not heard anything for a long time about the fish pass at Ocknell Arch. He feels it is strange for an engineering project to be quiet for so long.

2025/13910 NATIONAL HIGHWAYS A31 FENCE RESUME

Mr Deakin said the site visit with National Highways is on the 30th January. As the works will not be carried out until September a plan needs to be made for how the existing fence will be held up.

2025/13911 ACCESS FORUM DISCHARGE

Miss Sevier said the Access Forum had discussed the issues the Verderers were facing over Forestry England's proposed changes to the cycle network.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2025/13912 FINANCIAL MATTERS INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT RESUME

The Financial Statement was noted.

STAFF MATTERS

2025/13913 STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES DISCHARGE

The minutes were noted.

- 2025/13914 AGISTER VEHICLES RESUME
- Mr Manley updated the Court with his progress on the proposals he is putting together for replacement vehicles for the Agister team. A proposal will be circulated before the next Court. Action RM/Asst Clerk
- 2025/13915 NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR THE AGISTER TEAM RESUME
- The Official Verderer will speak with Mr Deakin and the Assistant Clerk to discuss the next steps for the electronic submission of the Agisters paperwork.
- 2025/13916 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT INTERVIEWS (PDI's) DISCHARGE
- The Official Verderer will liaise with Mr Deakin to discuss implementing PDI's annually.
- 2025/13917 APPRENTICE AGISTER DISCHARGE
- The idea to employ an apprentice for the Agister team has been postponed.


TRAINING & HEALTH & SAFETY

- 2025/13918 INCIDENT AT GODSHILL ON MONDAY 21st OCTOBER RESUME
- Mr Deakin said he and the Head Agister are meeting with a representative from the Verderers insurance company on the 23rd January.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 2025/13919 HYDE COMMON ROADSIDE SITE MEETING DISCHARGE
- Miss Sevier said she is attending the site meeting at Hyde Common on the 7th of February and asked if the Court thought it would be beneficial for an Agister to attend. The Official Verderer did not think it was necessary.
- 2025/13920 STURTMOOR POND RESUME
- Mr Chatters reported that creeping water primrose, an invasive, non-native plant has been found at Sturtmoor Pond. He said the Environment Agency may approach the Court for permission to fence off areas to prevent the plant being spread by livestock.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 13:05 hrs


19th February '25