



New Forest Commoners Defence Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Lyndhurst Community Centre, Friday 16th March 2018 at 7.30pm

Agenda Item	Topic
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President Mr Mike Eccles welcomed everyone to the meeting and handed over to the Chairman Dr. Tony Hockley (TH)
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Adams, Val & Derek Clitherow, Kerry Dovey, Jonathan Gerelli, Kevin and Fiona Gover, George Gray, Jimmy Haynes, Fred & Lynne Hollister, Hazel Quinn, Karen MacSween, Belinda Montagu, Sue Rogerson
3.	<p>Obituaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairman read out the names of members who had sadly passed away in 2017 and those present stood for a minute's silence.
4.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the 2017 AGM were accepted. Proposed: Ann Sevier, Seconded: Robert Stride Minutes approved and signed by Chairman
5.	<p>To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts</p> <p>5.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairman thanked Jo Ivey for her work on the Annual Report and Sally Fear for her photographs. The Chairman emphasised the important work being done by the committee: Developing CDA Principles for Post-Brexit support, building upon the HLS scheme, with limits and payment thresholds on stock numbers; responding to consultations on recreation management and planning policies. With support from the Heritage Lottery Fund commoners have received social media training, and Forest organisations came together in October to launch an #Add3Minutes campaign on winter animal accidents. The funding is also enabling the development of a new CDA website, to become the main point of information on the "Real New Forest". <p>5.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Treasurer explained that in the accounts there are currently some restricted funds, these are historical funds which were set aside for pound maintenance and fighting animal accident claims. He proposed that in 2018 these will become unrestricted. He highlighted the need for members to update their subscription Bankers Orders. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts adopted. Proposed: Ailsa Farrand, Seconded: Brian Ingram
6.	<p>Election of Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairman made a presentation of flowers and Marlings wine to retiring Hon. Secretary Nicky Cantello and thanked her for all of her hard work over 10 years.

	<p>6.1 President Mr Mike Eccles</p> <p>6.2 Hon. Secretary Mrs Lyndsey Stride</p> <p>6.3 Hon. Treasurer Mr Richard Deakin</p> <p>6.4 Hon. Veterinary Surgeon Mr Peter Tunney</p> <p>6.5 Hon. Solicitor Mr Martin Pate</p> <p>6.6 New post: Assistant Claims Secretary Mr Sam Dovey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposer Graham Ferris, Seconder Ann Sevier • All in favour of the above appointments and creation of the new post.
7.	<p>Appoint Auditor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Tony Pickles to continue as Auditor • No vote needed- Rule 7.3 (d)
8.	<p>Election of Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retiring 2021 (7 places) K Harrison, T Hordle, G Jones, D Readhead, A Sevier, D Stokes, J Greenwood • Retiring 2019 (1 place) K Dovey • Retiring 2020 (2 places) T Hockley, O Cook, • Proposed: Ailsa Farrand, Seconded: Nicky Cantello. All in favour
9.	<p>Young Commoners Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oliver Cook updated the members on the activities of the Young Commoners group. The Newsletter was circulated at the AGM. Forthcoming events including BBQ and games after the Open Farm Sunday event on the 10th June. • He made a presentation of flowers to Lyndsey Stride, thanking her and Robert Stride for their contribution to Young Commoners over the past ten years.
10.	<p>Open Discussion</p> <p>10.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Simon Lunniss (RPA) made a presentation explaining the current situation with regards to BPS payments for 2015, 2016 and 2017, re-mapping the Forest and 2018 applications. • In the event that 2017 payments are not made by the end of March a bridging payment of 75% of entitlements held will be paid in early April. • The New Forest is a very complex area to administer with over 28000 Hectares, 500 land parcels and 250 graziers claiming. • All queries will be looked at in the next two months. • In 2018 the new forest will be re-mapped as part of the commons re-mapping programme. New high quality sophisticated mapping processes will be used to accurately survey the Forest in both summer and winter. Including 8-band imagery and “ground-truthing”. This new area will be used for 2019 and 2020 payments. • Active Farmer changes to 2018 application. Farmers no longer need to prove active farmer status. • Tom Thomas asked why 2014 marking fees were used for 2015 application. Jim Greenwood explained that 2015 could not be used as people are able to mark cattle beyond the 15 May deadline. • Brian Ingram asked why priority was not being given to claimants who have not received 2015 and 2016 payments. He asked why the mapping was being given as an excuse for not paying, yet others had been paid. He expressed dismay at the prioritisation of processing for 2017 payments. Communication was very poor. SL said that he was familiar with Bryan’s case and that it was being dealt with as a matter of priority. He apologised for poor communication. • Kay Harrison asked if her case was on the priority list and asked if there is a number commoners can ring to talk to someone who understood the system in the Forest. SL

	<p>replied that he was familiar with the case would spoke with Kay after the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Vanderhoek asked why the Forest is so complicated to map. SL explained that the rules had been written for farmland and not common land and required a lot of resources. The new system should make mapping more accurate. • Jim Greenwood asked Do reinstated entitlements have to be used this year in order for them not to be taken away again? Answer: No • Oliver Cook asked if we could have a direct line number for a commons specialist at the RPA for dealing with commons claims. • John Adams asked how the removal of the active farmer requirement would affect the National Trust commons. SL explained that the regulations were purely bureaucratic and did not prevent non-active farmers from claiming. Active farmers are those carrying out any agricultural activity and would include organisations such as the National Trust. • Alison Tilbury said that the current system prevents commoners from knowing how many entitlements they have to use or to sell. SL admitted that the situation was not good but that the Minchinhampton case made annual recalculation legally necessary. • Robert Maton asked why we cannot set a limit on the number of animals being turned out in the Forest or use a base year for allocation of area for the good of the Forest. SL replied that for legal reasons we must accept the rules of the current scheme but that future schemes will not be based on rights or marking fees paid. • TH Thanked SL for giving up his Friday night and travelling to the New Forest. He presented him with Beaulieu chocolates. <p>10.2 Filming: TH explained that the CDA are working with an independent film company who are making a film for the BBC about the New Forest, and that the involvement of commoners in the film will be very beneficial to the “real” New Forest, commoning story.</p> <p>10.3 Richard Reeves talked about the Ancestors Eyes project and called for volunteers to help prepare the items gathered so far to be placed online. He also asked copies of any CDA annual reports from 1909 to WW2..</p> <p>10.4 Mary Gray asked for a blanket 30mph speed limit across the unfenced Forest roads. TH explained that the police would only support changes to the limit where they thought it enforceable. TH outlined measures being taken to combat animal accidents, including the mobile speed van and investigation of average speed cameras.</p> <p>10.5 Jacqui Vanderhoek asked why wide loads of mobile homes were allowed on the B3078. A Sevier explained that there is no alternative route to Sandyballs for wide loads.</p> <p>10.6 Sarah Harrison said that not enough is being done to manage the deer population in the Forest.</p> <p>10.7 Alison Bolton asked if there is anything we can do to have the names and addresses returned to the Annual Report. It was explained that this would be a very time consuming job if we are to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations. Positive, express consent will be required on a regular. It may be that the new website or other advances make this more deliverable in future.</p> <p>10.8 Gilly Jones called for commoners to join and support the Shared Forest business group, of businesses that commit to be Forest-friendly.</p>
	<p>The meeting was closed at 9pm and members were invited to stay for refreshments.</p>

Signed by Chairman

Date

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