

13th January 2012

Dean Forest to wit

At a Special Court of Attachment  
of our Sovereign Lady the Queen at  
The Speech House on the thirteenth  
day of January in the Sixtieth year  
of the reign of our Lady Queen Elizabeth  
the Second by the Grace of God , etc in  
the year of our Lord Two Thousand and  
Twelve

Before

R.W. Jenkins Esq., J.P.  
Ray Wright, Esq.  
M.V. Bent Esq.  
I. J. Standing Esq., BDS, M.A. MUSMS Dip.

K.G.Stannard Esq., Deputy Surveyor  
Forestry Commission  
R.W. Davies Esq., F.R.I.C.S., Land Agent,  
Forestry Commission

K. P. Griffin B.A. Solicitor, Steward

Prior to the commencement of the Court, the Senior Verderer welcomed Ian Standing to his first Court as a Verderer and presented him with the Verderers ties.

## **APOLOGIES**

None.

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Court held on the 7th October 2011 were approved and signed.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **Verderers Chairs**

The Senior Verderer had spoken to the Police and advised them that Harry Kear had been the tenant of the Hotel at the time of the theft as their investigations are continuing. Mr Davies advised that he had thanked the Speech House lessees for the secure presentation of the recovered chairs on the raised dais in the Court Room.

## New Bridge at Cannop

The Court heard this is to be officially opened on the 20<sup>th</sup> March and the Verderers will be invited to the opening ceremony.

## Verderers Election

It was agreed that the election had been extremely well organised and a tremendous success at Gloucester Cathedral. Many people had commented that it had been a privilege to witness the election in the setting of the Cathedral. The Steward was directed to write a letter of thanks to both the High Sheriff and his Under Sheriff.

## MINERALS

Mr Davies reported that the appointment of the new Deputy Gaveler had been completed, and Daniel Howell, a local person and grandson of a former Deputy Gaveler, Albert Howell, is now in post.

Mr Davies also advised that the Coal Authority are investigating the hole at Parkend Cricket Club, but it is not known if it is a shaft or a covered well.

The Court also heard that the fencing around the Rogers and Stowfield Quarries is almost complete.

## COMMONING

The Deputy Surveyor reported that Ceri Evans has taken over the Chairmanship of the Sheep Liaison Group. He added that complaints are reduced and the Group meetings have been very positive. He suggested that Mr Holder from the Commoners Association should be invited to the next Court and it was agreed this was an excellent idea. ...

## DEER

The Deputy Surveyor advised the deer cull was proceeding to plan.

He added that a new deer larder is to be constructed as the present one is inadequate. In addition there has been a problem with the disposal of offal and waste as the present disposer's licence has been revoked. Accordingly, waste has to be stored on site until the problem is resolved.

## BOAR AND FERAL PIGS

The Court was advised that the night census had taken place in November and about one fifth of the Forest had been covered, with 16 boar identified. This had been misreported as only 16 in the entire Forest, but the final figure is expected to be

approaching 400. The Forestry Commission research colleagues had commented that the system was designed for deer, not boar, so the results may be inaccurate.

The Deputy Surveyor reported that the Commission had received over 800 emails from people from all over the world, requesting a cessation of the boar cull. He added that a meeting is planned with the Council to discuss the matter in view of the numerous complaints of damage.

The Court heard that only one animal had been culled since September, this being an animal that had been injured as a result of a RTA.

It will be very difficult to set a cull target until numbers are known, but in the meantime, two sporting activity areas have been identified for fence protection against boar damage. Beechenhurst is being fenced and The Cyril Hart Arboretum is already fenced off. The Commission policy is that sporting areas will be protected if the Commission is the landowner.

Culling continues outside the Forest on private land, as far away as Huntley. The Forest has the largest population by far as it is ideal territory for the boar.

Mr Wright commented that the Tourism Association should warn visitors in their brochures both to keep clear of the boar and not to feed the animals.

In response to an enquiry, the Court heard that the corral trap had yet to be deployed, and in fact had not been required. In addition, radio transmitters used on the boar population near Ross had found the animals are mixing with the Forest population, so the animals are ranging far and wide.

The Boar Management Plan was approved unanimously by the Verderers.

## **CINDERFORD REGENERATION**

Mr Davies advised the Court that the Area Action Plan had been approved by the Inspector, so the development of the Northern Quarter is now possible.

He added that discussions are taking place with the Council regarding exchange land. This may include both the Linear Park and possibly part of the Five Acres College site if the College moves. He advised the Court that the Area Action Plan area comprises some 200 acres, but only about 7 hectares will be developed.

The Senior Verderer commented that the College was built on a very heavily wooded area and he was concerned that forested land would once again be developed. Mr Davies commented that the existing College predated the 1981 Forestry Act, so the forested areas are now better protected and exchange land is a requirement when land is sold by the Commission.

Mr Bent expressed his concern about the Northern United site and buildings that are part of the industrial heritage being demolished to make way for the proposed new road. Mr Davies replied that the HCA have yet to make a decision about the site,

although buildings can be demolished as not listed. He added that the shaft itself and the memorial will not be affected.

Mr Standing commented that the development will create a very urbanised environment. He appreciated it is too late in the day to stop this, but added that there should be no more sales of this nature. The Deputy Surveyor replied that the 1981 Act states land can be released if not required for forestry, but there is little scope to develop further in any event, so any future development will be towards Littledean from Cinderford. Mr Davies added that the Commission is against any further land development in the Forest and has refused hundreds of proposals.

The Senior Verderer suggested a site meeting and this was agreed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Mr Davies mentioned there are two supermarket companies – Sainsburys and Asda - seeking planning in Cinderford, but only one will be allowed.

## **DEPUTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT**

### **(1) New Bridge at Cannop**

The Court heard that the new cycle bridge at Cannop will be officially opened by the Director General of the Commission on the 20<sup>th</sup> March. It is to be named Wimberry Bridge. The new cycle trail will also be officially opened.

### **(2) Tree Planting**

The Deputy Surveyor advised the planting is progressing well and comprises approximately two thirds broad leaf (predominately oak and chestnut) and one third conifer.

### **(3) Wind Damage**

This has been quite severe and it will take some time to remove trees that are not causing a hazard.

### **(4) Soudley and Cannop Ponds**

The engineers have inspected following the tree surgery and although Cannop is not a problem, work is required at Soudley. However, the work cannot commence until it is clear the crayfish population will not be affected.

### **(5) Castlemain Site**

The waste handling facilities are to be improved and the site generally tidied up.

**(6) West England Forest District**

This officially opens on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Jim Sauter and Phil Morton are confirmed in post, as is Ian Harvey as Chief Ranger. There are other new posts to be filled and the HQ will be in Coleford, with Exeter and Cannock staffing reduced.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**(1) Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee**

The Court discussed this important event and how it should be recognised, perhaps by a tree planting commemoration.

The Steward was instructed to write to Her Majesty to congratulate her on behalf of her Verderers.

**(2) Cyril Hart Way**

A road on a new KW Bell development near Cyril’s house is to be named after him

**(3) St Anthony’s Well**

Mr Davies advised that someone had interfered with the watercourse and caused damage. Mr Wright commented that the site is used for parties and is always left in a mess.

**DATES OF NEXT TWO COURT SITTINGS**

The date for the next Court will be Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2012. The following Court date will be the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012, but the Court will be preceded by the tree planting ceremony.

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Verderers

Deputy Surveyor  
Forestry Commission

Steward

