The Annual General Meeting of the Commoners duly convened by notice posted on the principal doors of the churches of the parishes and Ecclesiastical Districts to which the Forest extends, and by advertisement in the “Sussex Express” and the “Kent and Sussex Courier” and by notice to each Commoner more than fourteen days prior to this date and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row a 1.30 p.m.


1. Chairman. On the proposal of Mr. Coulthard and seconded by Mr. Owen it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Marsh be elected Chairman.

2. Notice of Meeting. The Clerk read the notice convening the meeting.

3. Minutes. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and signed.

4. Election of Conservators. The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill the three vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. J.R. Owen J.P., Trevor R. Mountain and John Card.

On the proposal of Mr. J. Rowe duly seconded by Mr. Coulthard it was unanimously resolved that the three retiring Conservators be re-elected to hold office for the three years ending December 31st 1955.

5. Election of Recreation Ground Superintendents. The Chairman expressed thanks to the Superintendents for their services during the past year.

On the proposal of Mr. Owen and seconded by Lt. Commander Hardy it was unanimously resolved that the following be re-elected.

Nutley Mr. S.J. Marsh
Chelwood Gate Mr. Trevor Mountain
Colemans Hatch Mr. J.R. Owen J.P.
Fairwarp Mr. A.K.L. Harvey.
Forest Row Mr. Wolfson in place of Lt. Commander Bristowe.

6. General Business. The Chairman informed the meeting that a war memorial erected to the troops stationed on the Forest during the 1934-1918 war near the Ladies Old Golf Club had been very badly neglected and, on inspecting same, he had found it was completely hidden from view by undergrowth. He had instructed the Rangers to clear the ground round they memorial and this work had now been completed.

The Chairman stated that he had been unable to discover who had erected the monument but he advised the members present that it was well worth a visit.

The Chairman then gave an account for the various work done by the Board of Conservators during the year ending December 31st 1952 and reported that the work filling in the trenches and gun pits was well advanced. He was now able to give the meeting the result of the experimental seeding in connection with the restoration of the Forest. An experimental plot on the temporary aerodrome near Chelwood Vachery had been divided into two sections. One section had been disc-harrowed, fertilised and sown with grass; the other section had been disc-harrowed and sown. The latter section had been a complete failure while the former section had been entirely ruined by rabbits.

He added that the Board had received the advice of various experts on that matter and was continuing to obtain any information it was possible to get.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Owen proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. S.M. Looker, Colonel Clarke M.P., and Mr. J.H. Griffin.

1. Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board as printed and circulated were taken as read and signed.

2. Matters arising from Minutes. The Clerk reported that the Vice Chairman and the Chairman of the Maresfield Committee had visited the sites of the saw-benches on the Forest with him. At their request, notice to determine Messrs. Kirby and Vinton’s Licence had been given and the Ranger had reported that all timber and debris had been cleared from this site.

A letter had also been written to Mr. C.E. Walter asking him to remove a part of a shed attached to his premises which it was decided constituted an encroachment. Mr. Walter had not yet complied with the terms of this letter.

3. Rangers’ Reports.

Ranger Day Reports. 7th December 1952.

Golf Course. The Golf Secretary complained of Mr. Porter, Butlers Bank, driving across the Golf Course with his motor car. I visited Mr. Porter asking him to cease this practice. Timber, Kidd’s Hill. Messrs. W. Brown, Crowborough have hauled timber across the Forest to Kidd’s Hill. On finishing, ruts have now been satisfactorily filled in. Saw Benches Ford’s Green. I attended a Maresfield Committee meeting that inspected saw benches at Ford’s Green and Dodd’s Bank. Forest Fires. I have attended and assisted to extinguish Forest fires at Stone Hill, Kidds Hill and Fairwarp. Work on Forest. I have commenced to cut a fire cordon round trees at Wych Cross and cleared undergrowth from the war memorial near Green Hall Toll. Forest Rates. I have collected a part of the Forest rates, making inquiries of changes of ownership and division of properties.

GILBERT DAY,
Forest Ranger.

Ranger Stanton Reports. 18th December 1952.

1. On November 5th I investigated a complaint made by Mrs. Hazeldene of Yards Green, Nutley, concerning the use of her boundary hedge and surrounding bushes as a latrine. Mrs. Hasledene states that in the summer during the cricket season and winter during the football season, members of the public who watch matches played Upon Fords Green Recreational Ground use her hedge as a latrine. 2. On Friday November 7th I attended a meeting of the Maresfield Committee on a further inspection of the saw benches in Nutley. Kirby and Vinton have now removed their dumps and have cleaned up the Forest ground used by them. C. Walters of Holly Cottage, Nutley, has not yet taken down the shed which he had been instructed to remove. 3. Mrs. Hazeldene and Miss Appleby have complained of the condition of the track that borders their property at Fords Green, Nutley. They say that Kirby and Vinton use a tractor and trailer and that in wet weather it becomes almost unusable on foot. This is the sole access to Miss Appleby’s property. 3. Ranger Day and I have started clearing the undergrowth from around the war memorial that stands on the disused part of the Ladies Golf Course, Forest Row.

D. STANTON.
Ranger.

4. Home Guard and the use of the Forest. The Clerk reported he had received a complaint from Ranger Day that he had found several cars used by the Home Guard on the Forest and they were more than fifteen yards from the verge. The Clerk asked the Board if they could give him a ruling on this matter as no doubt the Home Guard would be using the Forest again in connection with their Training.
The Chairman thought that the rules which had been drawn up for the Army should apply equally to the Home Guard. It was pointed out that in the last war the Home Guard had had no occasion to drive cars across the Forest.

It was proposed by Mr. Wolfson and seconded by Mr. Warburton that the Clerk should meet Colonel Sales, the Officer commanding the Home Guard, and come to an understanding in the matter.

5. Complaint received from Mrs. Hazeldene - Fords Green.
The Clerk reported that Mrs. Hazeldene had complained that the spectators at football and cricket matches played on Fords Green Recreation Ground had been using her boundary hedge as a latrine.

The Chairman stated that there was some talk of building a Pavilion on the Recreation Ground as a memorial of the Coronation and if this were done some additional lavatory accommodation might be provided.

6. Complaint received from Mrs. Hazeldene and Mrs. Appleby.
The Clerk reported that Mrs. Hazeldene and Mrs. Appleby had complained that Kirby and Vinton's lorry was continually using the track past their properties and causing ruts, etc.

The Chairman pointed out that this was a recognised track and that Messrs. Kirby and Vinton ware within their rights in using it.

7. Appointment of Conservators by East Sussex County Council.
The Clerk read a letter stating that the East Sussex County Council had appointed the following to serve on the Board of Conservators for three years ending the 31st December 1955:
The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Lewes O.B.E.
Miss M. Blount M.B.E.
Colonel R.S. Clarke M.P.
Mrs. S.M. Looker O.B.E.
and Mr. G.A. Warburton.

8. Overhead Wires near New Lodge, Newbridge. The Chairman reported that he had visited the site and that the South Eastern Electricity Board could equally well carry these wires over private property without crossing the Forest. He had asked the Clerk to inform the Board accordingly.

9. Pipeline - Weir Wood through Wych Cross to Nutley. The Clerk produced plans of the amended route which met with the full approval of the Board.

10. Finance.

Since the last meeting the following amounts have been collected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RATES</td>
<td>£175. 17s. 0d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>£0. 1s 0d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISCELLANEOUS</td>
<td>£29. 2s. 6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Church of Eng.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Society</td>
<td>£15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claim from H.P. Motors</td>
<td>£14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranger Day refund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>£0. 2s. 6d.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BANK ACCOUNTS showing the following balances:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL ACCOUNT</td>
<td>£110. 13s. 6d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAGE ACCOUNT</td>
<td>£21. 19s. 1d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETTY CASH ACCOUNT</td>
<td>£17.16s. 4d.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E.J. Gilham - Nutley</td>
<td>£26. 10s. 0d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.H. &amp; R.W. Clutton, East Grinstead</td>
<td>£45. 19s. 8d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>£42. 3s. 8d.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. Any Other Business.

A. The Clerk submitted the dates for the Board Meetings for 1953 and the Board approved.

B. Sheep on the Wych Cross/Forest Row Road. The Clerk reported that the R.S.P.C.A., had approached him for permission to erect Notice Boards on the Forest to warn motorists against straying sheep. Mr. Wolfson proposed and it was seconded by Mr. Owen that the Clerk should ask the R.S.P.C.A. to submit plans as to the wording and size of the Boards they wished to erect.

C. The Clerk reported the Relinquishment of Land at Fairwarp by the Ministry of Works.

D. Mr. Coulthard stated that the Hutments and other buildings at Kingstanding Wireless Station were in a deplorable condition and proposed that the Clerk should write to H.M. Ministry of Works bringing this to their notice. The Board resolved that this should be done.

[signed] S.J. Marsh
CHAIRMAN

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, February 18th 1953, at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for Absence were received from Col, R.S. Clarke M.P., Mrs. A.M. Ridley, Messrs. G.A. Warburton and W. Gillham.

(A) Election of Chairman Proposed by Mr. Owen seconded by Mr. Harvey It was unanimously resolved that Mr. Marsh be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

(B) Election of Vice Chairman Proposed by Mr. Coulthard, seconded by Mr. Marsh it was unanimously resolved that Lt. Cmdr. Hardy be elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

(C) Election of Committees It was unanimously resolved that the following Committees be re-elected en-bloc.


Special Purposes Committee  The Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Board, the Chairman of the Forest Row and Maresfield Committee and Col. R.S. Clarke M.P.

The Chairman proposed a Vote of Thanks to the Committee members for the valuable work they had done during the past year.

1. Minutes The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising from Minutes.
(A) Encroachment on Forest by C. Walters, Holly Cottage, Nutley. The Clerk reported that the shed had now been removed.

(B) Home Guard and the use of the Forest.
The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with Col. Eeles C.O. who had promised to give full particulars of all future exercises prior to them being held on the Forest.

(C) Overhead Wires Near New Lodge Newbridge.
The Clerk informed the Board that he had written to the South Eastern Electricity Board informing them that Overhead Wires could not be erected on the Forest.

(D) Sheep on the Wych Cross/Forest Row Road.
The Clerk reported that he had not received any further information as to the intentions of the R.S.P.C.A.

(E) Hutments and other Buildings, Kingstanding Wireless Station.
The Clerk reported that he had taken this matter up with the Ministry of Works and read a letter received from them in which they stated that the present untidy appearance of the Station was due to work in progress on the erection of a new building and that when the works were completed the whole area would be tidied up. Mr. Owen brought to the Notice of the Board that this matter had come before them over two years ago and the Ministry of Works had then promised to have this matter attended to but nothing had been done. The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should write to the Ministry of Works informing them of this.

3. To Transfer a sum of £220 from Deposit account to General Account.
The Clerk informed the Board that owing to the payment of accounts amounting to £219.12.3. for work in connection with the restoration of the Forest the General Account had been overdrawn and asked the Board for their Consent to transfer £220 from the £1,000 on Deposit Account.

Proposed by Mr. Coulthard duly seconded by Mr. Wolfson it was unanimously resolved this should be done.

4. Rangers’ Reports.

Rangers Day 15th February, 1953.

Weller ******* Charles Weller, having died on 28th December 1952, I reported this to the Chairman. On his instruction, Ranger Stanton and I have removed the encroachment made by Weller. Three rough sheds have been demolished, rubbish cleared and buried, boundary hedges burnt, and ditches filled in.

Gypsy. I attended Uckfield Police Court to prosecute a Gypsy Fred Brazil, who had refused to remove his caravan from the Forest when requested. The result was a conviction with a fine of 5/-

Water Trenches I have inspected the water trenches with Messrs. Arnold's representative. The filling of these trenches has been improved since the last inspection.

Fire A fire broke out on Kidd's Hill. This was extinguished with the assistance of Uckfield and Forest Row Services.

Fire Brooms. Ranger Stanton and I have cut 250 fire brooms for the use of the Fire Services.

Fallen Trees. I have assisted to cut up and remove various trees that had blown down across roads on the Forest during gales.

GILBERT DAY.
Forest Ranger.

Ranger Stanton 16th February, 1953.

1. Ranger Day and I have finished clearing up the encroachment at Cripps Corner.

2. I have finished clearing around the War Memorial on the Ladies Golf Course, Forest Row.

3. I have made enquiries about a dump of household refuse, tins etc. that has accumulated behind Laburnum Cottage, Dodds Bottom, Nutley.

I have given a full report on this to the Chairman.
4. I have noticed that the E.S.C.C, have put a portable notice board upon the dump at the top of Millbrook, Nutley, stating "E.S.C.C. Dumping Prohibited".

5. I have moved on occasional tramps and gypsies that have stopped upon the Forest.

6. I have attended and helped extinguish Forest fires at Stone Hill, Kings Standing, Lisburn Area, Millbrook Area, Nutley (Dodds Bank) Old forge, Nutley.

D. Stanton,
Ranger.

5. Dump of Household refuse at Dodds Bottom, Nutley.
The Clerk reported that he had received a report from Ranger Stanton that there was a very large dump of refuse on the Forest from the Cottages at Dodds Bottom, Nutley. The Clerk then read this report and also a copy of the letter he had written to the Surveyor of the Uckfield R.D.C. The Chairman suggested that no doubt Mr. Wolfson could inform the Board as to what steps the Uckfield R.D.C. were taking to remedy this complaint.

Mr. Wolfson stated he understood that the road leading to the back of these cottages was in such a bad condition that the Council refuse vans would not call there, but at the same time the Council had this matter under consideration and they would convey their intentions by letter to the Clerk.

6. Water Pipeline - Quabrook to Chelwood Gate.
The Clerk reported that he had received a further request from Messrs. Arnolds (Branbridges) Ltd. the Contractors for the Uckfield R.D.C. for a clearance certificate for their work in connection with the above. The Surveyor of the Uckfield R.D.C. had advised that no certificate be granted until the weather changed.

Proposed by the Chairman duly seconded by Mr. Owen it was unanimously resolved to Withhold the Certificate of clearance pending a further inspection about 2 months hence to enable the Board to see the result of this work after the effects of temperature changes.

7. Death of Weller, and end of Encroachment.
The Chairman gave the Board an abbreviated history of the encroachment and also explained how this encroachment had now been removed.

8. Finance.
Since the last Meeting the following amounts have been collected:

RATES £30. 3. 6.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS £70. 3. 6.
LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONTRIBUTIONS £131. 2. 5.

MISCELLANEOUS.
£5. 7. 6. Refund Sun Insurance.
£1. 0. 0. Deposit.
£20. 19. 5. Refund by Stanton on Telephone a/c £32. 6. 11.

Bank Accounts, Showing the following balances

GENERAL ACCOUNT £71. 7. 5.
WAGES ACCOUNT £11. 13. 7.
PETTY CASH ACCOUNT £10. 7. 3.

Accounts for Payments.

E.J. Gillham, Nutley £14. 9. 6.
Ashdown Garage Ltd. Chelwood Gate £15. 7. 3.
Cullen's, East Grinstead £14. 12. 6.
Mr. P.A. Williams Salary

9. Any other Business.

(a) Erection of two posts Village Hall Fairwarp.
The Clerk read a letter received from the Chairman of the Fairwarp Village Hall Committee requesting permission to erect two posts on the footpath from The Village Hall to Fairwarp Village to prevent four wheel vehicles driving along the footpath. Proposed by the Chairman duly seconded by Mr. Owen it was resolved unanimously to grant permission.

(b) Deer - Ashdown Forest.
The Clerk read a letter received from The Pests Officer of the County of East Sussex Agriculture Executive Committee bringing to the notice of the Board the serious damage and destruction of crops on Farms adjoining the Forest and suggesting the erection of fencing. The Chairman explained that fencing was not allowed on the Forest and that as the Deer were not owned by the Conservators they had no responsibility in the matter.

The Earl of Lewes stated that at a meeting of the Agriculture Executive Committee it was reported that the damage done by the Deer ran into many hundreds of pounds and asked for any suggestions from the Board that would help to save the farmers from this trouble. Would the Conservators raise any objection to the shooting of Deer on the Forest.

The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Lord of the Manor owned the Sporting rights on the Forest.

The Earl of Lewes asked that in the event of the Lord of the Manor granting permission to shoot the Deer on the Forest would the Conservators give all the co-operation possible.

The Chairman proposed and it was duly seconded by the Vice Chairman that the Rangers should co-operate by informing the Pests Officer where and when they sighted Deer on the Forest.

IN COMMITTEE

The Clerk reported that the Rangers had asked to be provided with Crash-helmets. Proposed by Mr. Griffin and duly seconded by The Chairman it was unanimously resolved that these should be purchased by the Clerk.

[signed] S.J. Marsh
Chairman.

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A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday April 15th 1933 at 2.50 p.m.


Apologies for Absence were received from Mr. G.A. Warburton.

1. Minutes. The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising from Minutes.

A. Dumps of Household refuse at Dodds Bottom.
The Clerk reported that although the Uckfield R.D.C. had provided Bins, these were so small that there was still a considerable amount of refuse there.
Mr. Wolfson informed the meeting that the Council were providing larger bins and asked permission from the Board to allow the Council to bury the surplus refuse at present on the ground and stated he felt convinced that the larger bins would then meet the case.

It was resolved that permission be granted.

B. The Clerk reported that the Rangers had now been provided with Crash Helmets at a cost of £3. 5s. 0d each.

3. The Clerk reported the accident to Ranger Day's Motor Cycle which was destroyed by fire on the 11th March 1953 whilst Day was fighting a Forest Fire.

The Clerk, informed the Board that acting on the instructions of the Chairman he had ordered a new machine at a cost of £178. 17. 10d. and had obtained an allowance of £107. 10. from the Insurance Co.

The Ranger was fully mobilised on the road again on March 16th.

4. The Clerk presented the estimate for restoration of the Forest by Thorns & Co., for £92. 10s. 0d. It was resolved to accept same.

5. Forest Rate for 1953.
   It was resolved that a rate of 6d. per acre be levied and the Rate Book was produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

6. Rangers’ Reports.

   Ranger Day. 12th April, 1953.

   Motor Cycle
   On 11th March, owing to sparks from a Forest Fire, the Motor Cycle, EAP 810 ridden by me, caught alight and burnt out.

   I obtained a new cycle PKT 340 on 16th March.

   Forest Fires
   Forest Fires have been numerous this year, owing to the dry season, and have burnt perhaps 400 acres.

   Fire Brooms
   250 Fire Brooms have been further provided to the local Fire Services.

   Sewage, Priory Road.
   4 Loads of sewage residue were dumped on the Forest near the Priory Road by Mr. Mumford, Tylehurst Farm, Forest Row, and these have been satisfactorily cleared.

   Quarry Fence.
   A forest fire destroyed the fence round a disused quarry near Green Hall Toll. This fence I have repaired.

   Blind Corner, Wych Cross.
   I have cut undergrowth from a blind corner at Wych Cross.

   Gun Pits.
   I have, together with the Chairman, surveyed Gun Pits in the Kingstanding area. I also went round this area with Mr. Thorne.

   GILBERT DAY.
   Ranger.

   Ranger Stanton Reports 12th April, 1953.

1. Attended and helped to extinguish a large number of Forest fires
2. Helped Ranger Day cut fire brooms for the Uckfield, Crowborough and Forest Row fire stations.
3. Measured the track leading to Larkhill in preparation for the owner, Mrs. Motley, having it metalled.
4. Reported that the Uckfield Rural District Council have put two five gallon oil drums (for use as dustbins) at Dodds Bottom, Nutley, but have not done anything regarding the dump of refuse there.
5. Reported that Mr. Venus of Stone Hill Cottage, Nutley has a stack of wood outside his property and upon the Forest.
6. Started cutting the gorse and bracken from the road bend opposite entrance drive to "Arden’s", Nutley.
7. Collected Forest Rates.

D. STANTON
Ranger.

7. Finance.
Since the last meeting the following amounts have been collected:

Rates £3. 18s. 6d.
Acknowledgements £7. 2. 0.
Miscellaneous:
Sun Insurance Claim £107. 10. 0.

Bank Accounts showing the following balances:

General Account £149. 12. 2.
Petty Cash Account £20. 5. 10.

Accounts for Payment.
G.E. Tunbridge (Motor Cycle) £182. 9. 6.
Ashdown Garage Ltd. £25. 18. 9.
Petty Cash Account £60. 0. 0.

£20. 5. 10. £39. 14. 2.
£248. 2. 6.

8. New Licenses Issued. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following had been issued:

H.M. Postmaster General Roadway to Nutley Telephone Exchange.
Miss Greta Hazell. Roadway to Bakers Cottage, Nutley.
Rear Admiral G.F. Burghard. Roadway to Newbridge Cottage, Colemans Hatch.
J.H. Drew Esq. Roadway to Old Whites Farm, Forest Row
Mrs. G.B. Popple. Roadway to "Brackens", Fairwarp
Mr. C.E. Walter. Electricity Mains to Holly Cottage, Nutley.
Uckfield R.D.C. Roadway to Fairwarp Sewerage Plant.
Mr. A.E. McLaren. Water Mains to High Beeches, Forest Row.
Mr. I.N. Rhoades. Roadway to Suntings Ghyll.
South Eastern Electricity Board. Electric Mains to Crows Nest, Duddleswell.
Electric Mains to Forest Gate, Poundgate.
Electric Mains to Mount Pleasant Farm.

9. Any Other Business.
A. Lt. Commander Harvey asked if the Clerk had received any favourable reply from the Ministry of Works regarding the deplorable state of Kingstanding Wireless Station.
The Clerk informed the Board that he had taken up the matter prior to the last meeting in February and had received a reply stating that the reason for the untidy appearance was due to work in progress on the erection of new buildings and that when the works were completed, the whole area would be tidied up. He had since received a letter from the East Sussex County Council enclosing a copy of a letter they had also written to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on instructions of the County Planning Committee asking that this matter should be dealt with as soon as possible.

B. The Chairman informed the meeting that there were a number of dangerous bends on the road to Fairwarp and that he had had the gorse and bracken cut on several of these by the Rangers and that this work was continuing.[signed] S.J. Marsh.

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A Meeting of the Special Purposes Committee duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday the 27th Hay, 1953 at 2.30 p.m.


1. The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Special Purposes Committee as printed and circulated were taken as read and signed.

2. The Meeting was convened to meet Mr. Mees to discuss the ways and means of combating Forest Fires.

Mr. Mees produced a plan showing the various sites at which the Forest Fires occurred.

3. Colonel Clarke brought to the notice of the Meeting that a considerable number of the sites shown on the plan were not on Forest land.

4. It was agreed that the original estimate of the cost of these fires, namely £3,000 was incorrect so far as Ashdown Forest was concerned.

5. The origin of the fires was discussed and various opinions were given as to the cause, and it was agreed, that many were started maliciously.

6. With regard to the methods of combating fires Mr. Mees stated that the Fire Brigade had tried controlled burning on Chailey Common and that it was not successful. He thought that unless the original causes of the fires could be stopped, then the cutting of fire breaks seemed the only means of confining them.

7. Lt. Comdr. Hardy proposed that the Forest should be surveyed and that the danger spots should be protected by fire breaks cut by machinery.

8. The Chairman thought that this method, apart from being very expensive, would be very difficult and he was doubtful if a machine would pass over the rough and uneven surface of the Forest.

9. The Chairman was of the opinion that it was not necessary for the Fire Brigade to turn out in full force far every call for a Forest Fire and proposed that if two men in a Land Rover with radio communications to Head Quarters answered the call they would find in many instances they could handle the outbreak efficiently themselves and thus save the considerable expense of a full Brigade turn out.

10. Mr. Mees proposed that if the householders were allowed and advised to cut fire breaks for a good distance around their property, they would no doubt feel safe and for this reason refrain from calling out the Brigade unnecessarily.

If racks of fire brooms were placed at various points on the Forest it would be of great assistance.

11. The Chairman replied that the Rangers held stocks of these brooms and at one time there were racks at certain stations on the Forest. They would consider if this system should be brought into force again.
It was then unanimously resolved:

A. That the Clerk should report the matter to the E.S.C.C. with a request that the Chief Constable be asked to state what steps the Police proposed to take in ascertaining the names of the culprits who started the fires and that preventative measures were being used.

B. That the Clerk's suggestion be adopted of having printed notices sent out with the rate demands and acknowledgement rent statements, suitably worded informing Property Owners that it was advisable and now permissable for them to cut fire breaks round their property within a radius of 30 yards and also requesting them to approach the County Fire Service for advice on the best methods of protection of their property.

C. That the Senior Ranger and District Fire Officer should report where the fire breaks should be cut and prepare a map showing the suggested areas.

The discussions on Forest Fires ended with the meeting thanking Mr. Mees for his attendance.

13. The Chairman informed the meeting that Ranger Stanton had tendered his resignation which the Chairman had accepted and his employment would terminate on May 30th.

14. Colonel Clarke asked if another Ranger had been appointed and if not, what were the prospects of obtaining one.

15. The Chairman replied that the Clerk himself was on the look out for a suitable man. He thought that they should endeavour to obtain one from one of the families living on or around the Forest as it was a job for a person that had the interests of the Forest at heart.

16. Colonel Clarke then asked if the Rangers' wages were in line with the scale paid for agricultural workers.

17. The Clerk informed the Meeting that the wages paid were £6 per week to the first Ranger and £5. 10s. 0d. to the Second.

18. The Meeting decided that these rates were slightly under the agricultural workers' scale and proposed that an increase should be made.

19. The Chairman suggested that this matter be deferred until the next Board Meeting to be held on July 15th next.

20. The Chairman informed the meeting of two cases of encroachment on the Forest caused by:

A. Mr. Kemp, Dodds Bottom, Nutley.
B. Mr. Spencer Ridley, Millbrook.

It was resolved that the Clerk should write and request the removal of the encroachments.

S. J. Marsh.

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A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday July 15th. 1953 at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for Absence were received from Miss M. Blount, Col. R.S. Clarke M.P., Messrs. A.K. Harvey, John Rowe, and C.A. Warburton.

1. Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Appointment of Mr. R.T. Innes in place of Mr. Coulthard to represent the Uckfield R.D.C.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. R.T. Innes to the Board.
3. Mrs. Ridley appointed to represent Uckfield R.D.C.
The Chairman thanked Mrs. Ridley for her past services and welcomed her reappointment.

Matters Arising from Minutes.
A. Encroachment on the Forest by Mr. Venus, Nutley.
The Clerk reported this encroachment had now been removed.

5. Encroachment by Mr. Spencer Ridley, Millbrook, Nutley.
The Clerk reported that he had visited Mr. Ridley and had informed him that the encroachment must be removed. He had confirmed this by letter giving him dates by which the following must be cleared.

A. Faggots and Cart not later than the end of September 1953.
B. The Litter Stack not later than end of March 1954.

The Board approved the Clerk's action in this matter.

6. Encroachment by Mr. Kemp, Nutley.
The Clerk reported that this had now been removed.


Gun Pits.
Messrs. Thorne's bulldozer has filled in gun pits and slit trenches in the Kingstanding area.

Litter on Forest.
Working with Tyler's lorry, 5 Loads of tins etc., were cleaned from the Forest on 22nd. April and a further 5 loads on the 29th. April. These have been buried in a disused gravel pit on the Forest.

Fence at St. Johns Crowborough.
Some years ago, a rough protective fence was erected on the margin of the Playground at St. Johns School, Crowborough. This was to prevent pupils straying on to the main road. This fence has now been re-erected with concrete posts and stout wire netting.

Encroachments.
Mr. Venus, Stone Hill Cottage, Nutley, had placed a fowl ark on the Forest. This has now been removed. Mr. Kemp, Dodd’s Bottom, Nutley, had a fowl ark and an old car chassis placed on the Forest. These have been removed. Larger encroachments made by Mr. Ridley, Millbrook, Nutley, have been reported to the Clerk.

Water Way Leave.
The water trench excavated across the Forest by Messrs. Arnolds would now appear to be in a satisfactory condition.

Work.
I have cut undergrowth from blind corners at Nutley and Fairwarp.

GILBERT DAY.
Forest Ranger.

The Clerk referred to the estimates for 1953, copies of which had been circulated, and a letter received from the East Grinstead Urban District Council in which it was stated that the Council only proposed to pay £50 instead of the sum of £64 shown as due in the estimates.

Mr. Griffin speaking on behalf of the East Grinstead U.D.C stated that this occurred owing to the estimate not being in the Council's possession at the time they made their own estimates and asked that in future the estimates be sent in before April each year.
Mr. Owen brought to the notice of the meeting that the Clerk had kept expenditure within the estimate, which he considered a good achievement when costs were continually rising.

It was recommended that the estimates be approved.

9. **Weir Wood Water Board.**
The Clerk read a letter received which stated that owing to the delays in supplies of materials the work on the section of the pipe line on the Forest Row side of the Wych Cross Reservoir would not commence until the beginning of next year.

10. **Kingstanding Wireless Station.**
The Clerk read a letter received from the Ministry of Works which stated that the Foreign Office had approached the Ministry in respect of replacing the hutments with new buildings. In regard to camouflaging of the other buildings visible to the public highways, this is already in progress.

The Clerk also reported that the East Sussex County Council had taken up this matter with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

11. **Special Purposes Meeting of May 27th. 1953.**
The Clerk read the Minutes and also Ranger Day's reports of his visit with the District Fire Officer to the Forest.

The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Fire Officer had prepared plans of the fire breaks that it was proposed should be cut in the Autumn.

**Ranger's Report on Forest Fires.**

Sirs,
Acting on instructions, I have on 24th. June, and again on 2nd. July, made exhaustive tours of practically the whole of Ashdown Forest with Mr. Payne, the District Fire Officer.

The following items were discussed and recommendations were put forward.

**Fire Breaks.**
The general cutting of these breaks owing to the strong growth to be tackled and the uneven and, in places boggy, nature of the surface of Forest, would appear to be impracticable owing to expense. Existing tracks, such as the military ones, could be widened by burning.

**Fire cordons round property.**
These cordons would be of real help in dealing with Forest fires, but they must be real cordons, well out round the whole of the property. We found in two cases in the Fairwarp area where a favoured clump of holly and broom bushes had been saved in front and near to creosoted garage doors.

**Future fire fighting technique.**
On receipt of a Forest fire call, the Brigade concerned notifies the Ranger. An appliance with two full time firemen is sent to the scene and the Ranger is contacted. If no property is likely to be involved the fire is allowed to burn under control by these three men. If property seems to be in danger the firemen, who would be in wireless communication with their headquarters, would send a call for further assistance.

In fact, to summarise the whole findings, the efficient cutting of fire cordons round all properties on and bordering the Forest would solve most of the problem of the expense caused by Forest fires.

The fire services never turn out to save Ashdown Forest, but to protect private properties.

Yours sincerely,
GILBERT DAY
Forest Ranger.
Lt. Commander Hardy proposed that he should interview a representative of the Allen Cutter Company and ask for a trial demonstration on the Forest.

Mr. Owen seconded the proposal and suggested that Lt. Commander Hardy should also obtain estimates for the work to be done.

The Chairman suggested that Lt. Commander Hardy should after his interview with the Allen Cutter representative [to] discuss the matter further with him. The Board approved.

12. Finance.
Since the last Meeting the following amounts have been collected

Rates £0. 2s. 6d.
Acknowledgments £7. 13s. 6d.

Local Authorities Contributions
Uckfield R.D.C. £69. 19s. 3d.
E.S.C.C £349. 16s. 0d.
Uckfield R.D.C. £209. 17s. 7d.
East Grinstead U.D.C. £55. 19s. 3d. £685. 12s. 1d.

Miscellaneous
Church of England Building Society Interest. £15. 0s. 0d.
Hastings & Thanet Building Society Interest. £25. 0s. 9d.
Compensation Rates. £0. 19s. 10d.

Bank Accounts showing the following balances:
General Account £481. 0s. 6d.
Wages Account £23. 12s. 10d.
Petty Cash Account £14. 14s. 11d.

Accounts for Payment.
Mr. Williams two quarters
June 24th. 1953. £75. 0s. 0d.
Sept. 29th. 1953. £75. 0s. 0d. £150. 0s. 0d.
Mid Sussex Timber Co. (Refund of Deposit) £10. 0s. 0d.
F.W. Tyler £9. 0s. 0d.
Petty Cash Account (to bring float to Bal. at Bank. £45. 5s. 1d.
C.J. Thorne Co. Ltd. £92. 10s. 0d.

The Clerk asked the Board for permission to transfer £92. 10s. 0s. from the Deposit Account to the General Account to meet the cost of Thorne & Co.’s account for Restoration of the Forest.

Lt. Commander Hardy proposed and Mr. Innes seconded the proposal.

The Clerk reported that the following Licenses had been issued since the last meeting:

New Licenses Issued.
Rear Admiral Burghard. Water mains to Newbridge Cottage, Colemans Hatch.
T.C. Butler. Roadway to Myrtle Cottage, Fairwarp.
Countess Castle Stewart. Water pipes to Marlpit Farm, Nutley.
Manor Charitable Trustees. Water pipes to the House, Isle of Thorns.
Mrs. Motley. Roadway to Larkhill, Fairwarp.
Mrs. Michelson Polhill Water mains to Sunnyside, Poundgate.
Messrs. H. Pennett Ltd. 2 Direction Posts:-
A. Wych Cross.
B. Goat Crossroads.
A.E. McLaren. Water pipes to High Beeches, Forest Row.
J. Sullivan, Roadway to Sunnybrook Farm, Colemans Hatch.
Notre Dame Convent. 1. Water pipes to the Lodge.
2. Water pipes to the Priest House.
H.K. Symons. Direction Post to Ark Cottage, Colemans Hatch.
T. Dadswell. Water pipes to 3 Poundgate, Cottage, Poundgate.
South Eastern Electricity Board. Electric Mains to Sunnyside, Poundgate,

IN COMMITTEE.

14. Resignation of Ranger Stanton
The Chairman informed the Meeting that Stanton had for some time past showed a lack of interest in his duties, appearance and care of the Motor Cycle, in so much that the letter had been recently overhauled by the Ashdown Garage and they had informed him that owing to careless neglectful handling it would cost £32 8s. 6d. for repairs and parts to make it roadworthy. He had informed Stanton that he would have to improve considerably in his mark, and when after several weeks he saw no improvement he had to reprimand Stanton who then resigned, terminating his appointment on May 30th.

15. Appointment of a Second Ranger
Mr. Wolfson proposed that when appointing the next Ranger he should be a good and reliable man and be paid a wage accordingly.

Mr. Owen asked what wages the Rangers received at present. The Clerk replied the First Ranger received £6. per. week and the Second Ranger £6. 10s.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Special Purposes Committee had discussed the Ranger's Wages at their last meeting and wished to put before the Board a resolution to increase the wages to £6. 10s. and £6. 0s, respectively

Lt. Commander Hardy proposed and Mr. Owen seconded that the wages should be £6. 15s. and £6. 5s. respectively to bring them into line with the agricultural worker who had received a further increase in Wages since the Special Purposes Meeting.

It was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should advertise for a Second Ranger and that the wages should be increased to £6. 15s. for the first £6. 5s. for the Second Ranger and that the Chairman and Vice Chairman should interview the applicants and appoint a Second Ranger.

The Clerk read to the meeting the estimate amounting to £32. 8s. 6d. received from the Ashdown Garage for the repairs of the motor cycle used by the Second Ranger. The Board discussed whether it would be advisable to have the machine repaired or to purchase a new one.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the present motor cycle was five years old and that it was on the road six days a week and went over very rough ground.

Mr. Owen stated that the life of a motor cycle should be ten years and proposed that the estimate for repairs should be accepted, which was unanimously approved.
A Meeting of Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 21st October 1953 at 2.30 p.m.


2. Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read and confirmed and signed.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes.
   A. Encroachment by Mr. Spencer Ridley.
   The Clerk reported that since the last meeting Ranger Day had again visited the site and reported that this encroachment had not been removed but had been increased in size. He had, therefore, written Mr. Ridley again on September 11th. and suggested that he would extend the time previously given if Mr. Ridley would commence to remove the encroachment at once and give the Ranger an undertaking that same would be cleared.

   The Clerk instructed the Ranger to visit Mr. Ridley, which he did, and the result was that Mr. Ridley refused to comply with the Clerk's instructions and, furthermore, stated that he intended to add to the encroachment.

   The Clerk asked the Board for their instructions. It was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should proceed against Mr. Ridley under the Byelaws.

   B. Encroachment by Mr. H. Osborne.
   The Clerk reported that he had since the last meeting written to Mr. Osborne on July 25th, and again on August 28th. requesting the removal of this encroachment and also instructed Ranger Day to visit the site.

   The Clerk had received a report from the Ranger on October 14th, that same had act been removed and also Mr. Osborne had ignored his letters. The Clerk asked the Board for their instructions.

   It was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should proceed against Mr. Osborne under the Byelaws.

   The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the W.D. Land Agent asking for permission to metal the track from Kidds Hill to Thornhill Farm. He also requested the Board to waive the limitations on the type of military vehicles which might use this particular track. The Clerk informed the meeting that he had, with the Chairman's approval pointed out to the W.D. Land Agent that permission to metal was already provided for in the Act. The Conservators would not enforce rigidly the provisions of the Act regarding the class of vehicle to be used on this track, but the restrictions still held good for all other tracks.

   The Board unanimously approved the Clerk's action.

5. Rifle Range - Pippingford Park.
   The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the W.D. Land Agent asking permission to extend the danger area from a rifle range situate on its own property to a part of the Forest in the vicinity of Old Lodge and submitting a plan of the suggested site.

   The Chairman had instructed the Clerk to inform the W.D. Land Agent that the Board would strongly object to any such range. The Board unanimously approved.

The Clerk reported that when viewing the plans of the suggested By-Pass Road he had noticed that it would cross the Forest on either side of Hindleap Warren.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he felt that the Board would not raise any specific objections, but of course should insist on an equivalent area, for any parts of the Forest taken over and he had instructed the Clerk to inform the Ministry of Housing & Local Government of this.

The Clerk reported he had written, and had received an acknowledgment which he read to the meeting.

The Board unanimously approved.

7. Litter caused by paperchases over the Forest.

The Clerk reported that he had written to the National Camps Corporation informing them that their members at Wrens Warren Camp were causing litter by holding paperchases and requested that they discontinue this practice on the Forest.

The Clerk read the reply he had received, stating that the Camp Manager had issued instructions forbidding future paperchases.

Mr. Owen asked if the paper left by the paperchases was of a considerable amount. The Chairman informed the meeting that it was and that they already faced with a considerable amount of litter on the Forest especially that left by the coach parties that pulled in on the verge of the Wych Cross to Nutley Road.

The Vice Chairman proposed that if litter baskets were placed at this site it might help to solve the trouble. It was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should obtain three baskets.

8. Appointment of Second Ranger.

The Chairman informed the Board that since the last meeting the Vice Chairman and he had selected 8 likely applicants from over 25 that had applied for the position and after interviewing the 8 they had appointed J. Conley who commenced duties on September 7th. last.

9. Rangers’ Reports.

11th. October 1953

Ridley, Mill Brook, Nutley.
Mr. Spencer Ridley Jnr., Mill Brook, Nutley, has formed a dump on the Forest outside the property named as above. This consists of a stack of Forest litter, a manure heap, stacks of stumps and cordwood and a number of farming implements.

Osborne, Brown's Brook, Fairwarp.
Mr. Osborne has placed a portable engine and saw-bench on the Forest outside the above property.

White House, Crowborough.
Mr. R.V. Ravenshear is having a road made across the Forest leading to a garage on the above property.

Forest Rates.
I have collected a proportion of the Forest Rates, paying in monies received to the Office, notifying changes of ownership and divisions of property.

Access to the Forest, Londonderry Farm.
Ranger Conley and I have brushed out the track that gives access to the Forest, past Londonderry Farm, Nutley.

GILBERT DAY
Forest Ranger.

14th. October 1953.
Reeves, Yew Tree Hall. September.
Mrs. Reeves, Yew Tree Hall, Forest Row, Turfs removed from Forest and a dump of litter formed on Forest at the entrance to Yew Tree Hall. This has now been dealt with satisfactorily.

**Gills Lap.** September.
Strips of paper were littered all around this area caused by Wrens Warren Camp during a sports day that they held last month.

**Forest Rates** have been collected by me and monies collected paid to the office, informing them of property division and changes of ownership.

**Nutley.**
Ranger Day and I have cut and also cleared the track that gives access to the Forest leading past Londonderry Farm.

J. CONLEY.
Forest Ranger.

**10. Audit of 1952 Accounts.**
The Clerk reported that it was usual at this meeting to present the District Auditor's Report. The Audit usually took place in August each year, but so far this year he had not received any notification from the District Auditor as to when he would do this work.

The Board expressed their full confidence in the Clerk in this matter.

**11. Finance.**
Since the last meeting the following amounts have been collected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>£204.16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>£87.18.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous: Atcost Ltd. Deposits £5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Reed. Deposits £5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanton-Phone £1.2.6.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day-Phone £1.10.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£12.12.7</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bank Accounts.** Showing the following balances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£373.0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>£1.13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>£6.11.5</td>
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</table>

**Accounts for Payment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cullen's (Rate Demands &amp; Receipt Books &amp; Fire Leaflets)</td>
<td>£11.19.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashdown Garage Ltd. (Petrol &amp; Maintenance Aug &amp; Sept. Accounts)</td>
<td>£9.3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account (to bring float to £60.0.0.)</td>
<td>£53.8.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**11. Licences Issued.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Works. To lay water mains and drainage works at Kingstanding Wireless Station.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. R.P. Odell, Wych Warren, Forest Row</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. J.A.C. Rupert, Crabtree Farm, Crowborough.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. R.W. Ravenshean, White House, Poundgate.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A. The Chairman proposed that the Rangers should be provided with suitable weatherproof coats, as owing to their duties keeping them out in all weather it was necessary for them to be amply protected. He had asked the Rangers to visit Philpotts of Tunbridge Wells and obtain estimates. This they had done and the coats would cost £9.9s. each. The Board unanimously approved.

B. The Chairman informed the meeting that there was a lane at the side of Londonderry Farm that had always been a right of way between two portions of the Forest and had been used by the Commoners for taking their cattle through. He had recently discovered that the previous owners of Londonderry Farm had used this lane as a dumping ground for refuse from their land with the result that the lane was now impassable, blocked up and overgrown to such an extent that there was a danger of this right of way disappearing. He had, therefore, set the Rangers on clearing this lane in the interests of the Commoners.

The Board unanimously approved.

C. The Chairman proposed that the Tank Marker Posts and brick gun emplacements between Nutley and Kingstanding Wireless Station should now be removed and estimates be obtained from Messrs. Thorns & Co, for this work.

The Board unanimously approved.

[signed] S.J. Marsh
Chairman

The Annual General Meeting of the Commoners duly convened by Notices posted on the principal doors of the Churches of the Parishes and Ecclesiastical Districts to which the Forest extends, by advertisement in the "Sussex Express" and the "Kent and Sussex Courier" and by notice to each Commoner more than fourteen days prior to this date, and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row at 1.30 p.m.


1. Chairman. It was unanimously resolved that Mr. S.J. Marsh be elected Chairman for this Meeting.

2. Notice of Meeting. The Clerk read the Notice convening the Meeting.

3. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and signed.

4. Election of Conservators. The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill the three vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. A.K.L. Harvey, J. Rowe, and Lt. Cdr. H.R. Hardy.

On the proposal of Mr. S.J. Marsh, duly seconded by Mr. J.R. Owen, it was unanimously resolved that the three retiring Conservators be re-elected to hold office for the three years ending December 1956.

5. Election of Recreation Ground Superintendents. The Chairman expressed thanks to the Superintendents for their services during the past year.

On the proposal of Mr. John Rowe, seconded by Lt. Cmdr. H.R. Hardy, it was unanimously resolved that the following be re-elected:
Nutley     Mr. S.J. Marsh.
Chelwood Gate  Mr. Trevor Mountain.
Colemans Hatch  Mr. J.R. Owen, J.P.
Fairwarp    Mr. A.K.L. Harvey.
Forest Row    Mr. A.C. Wolfson.

6. General Business. Miss Walker asked if anything could be done to curtail litter on the Forest and stated that at present there was a lot of broken glass near the tennis courts at Forest Row Recreation Ground.

The Chairman replied that the Rangers would clear this glass away and went on to inform the Meeting that after the Forest fires this year ten lorry loads of old iron and other rubbish had been removed from the Forest at a cost of £9 0 0. This litter of course was of a kind that had no doubt been dumped over the past few years and only came in view when the fires had cleared the thick undergrowth. As regards ordinary litter such as ice cream and cigarette cartons etc., three litter baskets were being installed on the Forest at places where most of the litter was left, and should these baskets help to eliminate this trouble further baskets would be used.

Lt. Comdr. Hardy informed the meeting that at one time Voluntary Wardens patrolled the Forest and that they had official cards with the Byelaws printed on them.

Mr. Wolfson proposed that this system should again be adopted. The Chairman seconded the proposal and asked the Clerk to obtain estimates for the printing of these cards.

The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Tank Guide posts and also the large gun pit between Nutley and Kingstanding Wireless Station were now being removed from the Forest.

The Chairman gave a description of the work the Rangers had done in restoring a right of way between Forest land at the side of Londonderry Farm which was now completed and open for the Commoners to drive their cattle through. He had also had a bridge rebuilt that was destroyed by the Military at the end of this right of way across the stream.

Mr. Wolfson proposed that the Commoners might help to cut fire breaks on the Forest.

The Chairman reported to the Meeting that the Special Purposes Committee had met the Chief of the Fire Brigade and discussed all possible ways and means of fighting the Forest fires which had been very considerable during this year. He strongly advised all property owners whose houses adjoined the Forest to cut breaks around their holdings.

Mr. Smith stated that while he appreciated very much the useful work that had been done in rebuilding the bridge near Londonderry Farm he proposed that the sleeper bridge near the Ninth Tee at Colemans Hatch should be repaired. Mr. J. Card seconded the proposal.

Mr. J. Card also complained that Mr. Partridge of Brickyard Cottage was riding horses on the Forest to the detriment of the Forest tracks.

The Chairman instructed the Rangers to see Mr. Partridge on this matter.

Mr. Owen proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

[signed] S.J. Marsh

A meeting of Conservators duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday December 9th 1953 at 2.30 p.m.


2. Minutes. The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read and confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising from Minutes.
   A. Encroachment by Mr. Spencer Ridley. The Clerk reported that after numerous letters and visits to Mr. Ridley he was now able to report that this encroachment had been removed.

   The Chairman explained the seriousness of this encroachment and thought the Clerk should be congratulated on the way he had handled this matter and settled it without a prosecution. The Board unanimously approved.

   B. Encroachment by Mr. W. Osborne. The Clerk regretted that he had not been successful in settling this case. Mr. Osborne had ignored all the letters sent to him and also the personal requests both from himself and the Rangers and he had received a final report from Ranger Day that the encroachment was still there when he visited the site yesterday. The Clerk had therefore instituted proceedings and the case was to be heard at Uckfield Court on January 7th next. The Board unanimously approved.

   C. Litter on the Forest and Baskets. The Clerk reported he had now obtained three baskets which were delivered that day to the Village Hall. The Board inspected the baskets and approved them.

   D. Annual Audit. The Clerk reported that he had been in communication with the District Auditor and he had arranged for the 1952 and 1953 accounts to be audited early in 1954.

   E. Rangers Weatherproof Coats. The Clerk reported that the coats had now been obtained and the Rangers exhibited them for the Board's inspection. The Board unanimously approved.

   F. Tank Marker Posts between Nutley and Kingstanding Wireless Station. The Chairman informed the Meeting that there had been a delay in the removal of these posts owing to the intervention of the Ministry of Works, the Diplomatic Wireless Service of the Foreign Office and also the Manager of the Post Office Telephones.

   It had been pointed out that a very special Telephone Cable was laid immediately beneath these posts and that there was a danger of damaging this cable unless these posts were removed very carefully.

   The Clerk read the correspondence in connection with this matter and reported that he had arranged for the Contractor to meet the Chairman in company with representatives of the Departments concerned, on the site to discuss ways and means for the removal of the posts without causing damage to the cable. The Board unanimously approved.

   The Clerk suggested the following dates viz:- February 17th, April 21st, July 21st, October 20th and December 8th. The Board unanimously approved.

5. Rangers' Reports.
   2nd December, 1953.

   Access Road, Londonderry Farm. In company with Ranger Conley I have brushed and cleared the access track to the Forest near Londonderry Farm, Nutley.

   Blind Corners, Nutley. We have also brushed undergrowth from blind corners in the Nutley area.

   Forest Clumps. I have surveyed three Forest Clumps with Mr. Owen. These are the subject of a separate report.

   Playground, Fairwarp School. The contractors carrying out repairs to the playground at Fairwarp School caused deep ruts to the access track. These have now been filled in on completion of the work.

   Water Way Leaves. Water services are being carried in trenches across the Forest to Crabtree Farm and to the Radio Station at Duddleswell. These Way Leaves are under License from the Board.
Name Sign, Chuck Hatch. Mrs. Chas. Wheatley, Bank Cottage, Chuck Hatch, Hartfield, has erected a name sign on the Forest.

GILBERT DAY
Forest Ranger

3rd December, 1953.

Londonderry Track. This track is now passable and completed, both hedges being cut back, mounds of earth being levelled off and all rubbish buried.

Forest Roads, Nutley Area. Cutting, clearing, burning gorse and bracken at the blind sections of these roads to a depth of twelve feet.

Butlers Bank, Crowborough. Licence granted for the laying of water pipes across the Forest for the property of Mr. Cunningham at the "Deseret".

Parish Churches, 18th November, 1953. Putting up of notices in reference to today’s meeting of the Commoners.

Collection of Forest Rates.

RANGER CONLEY.

6. Finance. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been collected.

Rates.        £51. 6. 0.
Acknowledgements.      £7. 7. 9.
Miscellaneous Church of England Building Soc. £15. 0. 0.
                        Refund on Postage £0. 0. 10.

Bank Accounts. Showing the following balances:-
General Account £241. 16. 6.
Wages Account £23. 18. 1.
Petty Cash Account Dr. £5. 7. 6

Accounts for Payment.
Mr. P.A. Williams 1 quarter Salary to December 25th 1953. £75. 0. 0.

Petty Cash Account (To bring float up to £60) £65. 7. 6.

7. Matters arising from Rangers' Reports. Mr. Owen informed the meeting that he had in company with Ranger Day surveyed three Forest Clumps and asked the Clerk to obtain permission from the Manor Reeve to replant these clumps. This was approved.

8. Any other Business.
A. The Clerk presented an estimate from C.J. Thorne & Co., Ltd., for £47. 0. 0. The Chairman informed the Meeting that this was for a bridge for a cattle crossing of the stream below Londonderry Farm. The Board unanimously approved.

B. The Clerk presented an estimate from E.J. Gillham for £47. 0. 0. The Chairman informed the Meeting that this was in connection with Nutley Recreation Ground.

The Army had broken down the fence around the ground and the Members of the Cricket Club had volunteered to rebuild the fence if the Conservators provided the materials. The Members had already done considerable work in this direction with posts and rails provided by the Board. This estimate was for extra posts and galvanised tubes to
complete the work. The Chairman pointed out that the voluntary labour given by the members had resulted in a big saving in costs. The Board unanimously approved.

The Clerk asked the Board for their permission to transfer £94.0.0. from the Deposit Account to the General Account to meet the costs of Thorne & Co., Ltd., estimate of £47 and that of E.J. Gillham for £47. Mr. Griffin proposed, seconded by Mr. Owen.

[signed] S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of Conservators duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday February 17th 1954 at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for Absence were received from Col. R. Clarke M.P., Lord Lewes, Mrs. Ridley, Messrs. Gillham and Mitchell.

A. Election of Chairman. Proposed by Lt. Cmdr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Owen, it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Marsh be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

B. Election of Vice-Chairman. Proposed by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Harvey, it was unanimously resolved that Lt. Cmdr. Hardy be elected Vice-Chairman.

C. Election of Committees. Mr. Marsh proposed that owing to the valuable work the members had done during the past year the Committee Members be re-elected en bloc. Mr. Owen seconded this and it was unanimously approved.


Special Purposes Committee. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, the Chairman of the Forest Row and Maresfield Committee and Colonel R.S. Clarke M.P.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had received a letter informing him that Mr. W.M. Mitchell was unable to attend this meeting owing to illness and he felt certain that in expressing his own personal sympathy he would also be expressing that of all the members of the Board. He went on to say that Mr. Mitchell, being one of the longest serving members of the Board, had always rendered valuable assistance to the Conservators.

The Chairman proposed that the Clerk should write to Mr. Mitchell conveying the sympathies of all fellow members and their good wishes for his speedy recovery. This was seconded by Mr. Owen and unanimously approved.

1. Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising from Minutes.
   A. Mr. W. Osborne - prosecution. The Chairman reported that the case was heard at the Uckfield Magistrates Court on January 7th and that a fine of 30/- was imposed. The encroachment had now been removed.
   B. Tank Marker Posts between Nutley and Kingstanding Wireless Station.

The Chairman reported that he had visited this site with members of the Diplomatic Wireless Service, the Post Office Telephones and Mr. Thorne, Contractor, and had witnessed a trial demonstration by the Contractors endeavouring to remove the posts without causing damage to the telephone cable that ran beneath.

The first post was removed without difficulty but the next two posts, being set on concrete beds, snapped off in the centre, but still remained in a leaning position owing to there being an iron rod support down the centre of the posts.
The Contractor would be able to cut these posts at about two feet up from the ground level and remove the top portions and had submitted an estimate for this work and also for demolishing an AA Gun pit for £87.10.0.

Mr. Innes proposed that as these posts had been erected by the authorities they should be removed by them.

The Chairman pointed out that these posts were included in the compensation claim paid by the Government and it was the Conservators’ duty to have them removed.

The Vice-Chairman proposed that a second estimate should be obtained from another Contractor before agreeing to Thornes estimate.

Mr. Harvey seconded and it was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should obtain a further quotation.

3. Fire breaks and demonstration of cutter. The Chairman reported that he had watched the demonstration and apart from two of the machines used which failed to do the work required, the third machine known as a Rotovator was more successful but by no means perfect in as much as it seemed unable to cut the undergrowth when the ground was uneven. Furthermore, he understood that the cost of the machine was in the region of £1200. Mr. Card stated that he thought that this money could be spent to much better advantage on the Forest.

Lt. Cmdr. Hardy explained that the £1200 was not the cost of the Rotovator but was the cost of the tractor that pulled the Rotovator. The Rotovator cost only £200.

Mr. Mountain proposed that Messrs. Thorne & Co., should be invited to give a demonstration with a Disc Plough of cutting fire breaks, and this was seconded by Mr. Wolfson. It was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should arrange this with Thorne & Co. Ltd.

4. Anglo-Iranian Oil Company - permission to bore on Forest.

The Chairman read a letter received from the D'Arcy Exploration Company Ltd. The Vice-Chairman informed the Board that whilst the Chairman was on holiday he had received no less than three different requests over the phone from these people for permission to bore on the Forest and he informed them, both over the phone and through the Clerk by letter, that this request must come up at the next Board meeting. Mr. Innes informed the meeting that certain people in the Crowborough District were opposed to this boring.

Mr. Owen stated that this was of National Importance and that he had studied a very interesting booklet issued by the D'Arcy Exploration Company and had also read an article dealing with this matter in a recent edition of The Field and proposed that permission should be given for them to bore on the Forest, seconded by Mr. Warburton and unanimously resolved that the Clerk should give this permission subject to guarantees as set out in the D'Arcy Exploration Company's letter of the 5th January 1954.

5. Rangers’ Reports.  

9th February 1954.

Way Leaves  Work has commenced on the Reservoir at Wych Cross and the Water Trench. This is being done under Way Leave issued by the Board of Conservators.

Prosecution Browns Brook. I attended Uckfield Police Court in connection with the prosecution of William Osborne. The site has now been satisfactorily cleared.

Bridge, Londonderry Access. Messrs. Thorne have completed the construction of the bridge leading to the access track to the Forest, near Londonderry Form, Nutley.

Mechanical cutting. I attended the demonstration of mechanical cutting of fire breaks on 19th January.

Work, roadside cutting. In company with Ranger Conley, I have cut roadside gorse on Kidd's Kill and Coleman's Hatch. I supervised the burning under control of a section of the Forest near Spring Gardens, Fairwarp.

GILBERT DAY  
Forest Ranger.
17th January, 1954.

Kidds Hill. Ranger Day and I have cut and cleared a stretch of gorse 80ft x 20ft. at the top of Kidds Hill. This now gives a clear view to motorists approaching this road junction.

Refuse, Wire Baskets. These have now been placed in convenient positions on the Forest. One placed between Wych Cross and Forest Row at the side of the main road, the second between Pippingford and Mill Brook and the third at Kingstanding road junction.

Forest Foot Bridge. A new foot bridge has now been built over the stream at Birch Farm. Both Mr. and Mrs. Card expressed their appreciation when this was completed.

Nutley, Londonderry Farm. The bridge at Londonderry Track is also completed and gives complete access across the Forest. A good job has been made here.

Concrete Posts, Kidds Hill. Concrete posts, defining the army vehicle track across the Forest from Kidds Hill to Wrens Warren Camp have been removed. A total of 34 posts are missing. A rough estimate of time to remove one of these posts would be about twenty minutes. I understand the Clerk is dealing with this matter through Army Command.

Golf Course. A cinder road has been commenced between the 13th and 14th Tees. This road was put down by the workmen at the golf house but no prescriptive rights were applied for.

Notice Boards. Ranger Day and I are now employed in clearing an area around all notice boards on the Forest.

J. CONLEY.
Forest Ranger.

6. Finance. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been collected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
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<td>Compensation Rent</td>
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<td>Deposit Sir Lindsay Parkinson</td>
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Bank Accounts. Showing the following Balances.

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<thead>
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<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
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<td>Wages Account</td>
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<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>DR £35.9.3</td>
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Accounts for Payment

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. William's Salary to March quarter</td>
<td>£75.0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>E.J. Gillham</td>
<td>£17.13.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caffyns Ltd.</td>
<td>£9.3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account to bring balance to £60</td>
<td>£95.9.3</td>
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</table>

Any Other Business.

A. Concrete Posts marking Military Roads removed.
The Chairman reported that thirty four of these posts had mysteriously disappeared from the Forest. The Clerk had written the G.O.C. at Risborough Barracks, Shorncliffe, on the 2nd February and again on the 16th February but had not received a reply.

The Chairman stated that he would phone Col. Hogge G.S.O.I. Home Counties District.

B. **Kingstanding Wireless Station and plans of new buildings.**

The Chairman informed the Meeting that for some considerable time past now the Board had made requests to the Ministry of Works to improve the conditions of the buildings at the Wireless Station which at present were Nissen Huts. They had now submitted plans for new buildings to replace these huts. The original plans showed the roofs being of pantiles but at the Chairman's suggestion the Clerk wrote to the Ministry requesting that Sussex tiles should be used and today a letter from the Ministry had been received agreeing to this request.

The plans were produced and it was unanimously resolved to pass them.

C. **Proposed Housing Site - Fairwarp Village.** The Chairman submitted plans of the above and also of the equivalent area at Wych Cross, which would be transferred if the proposed scheme was adopted, he also read the letter accompanying the plans received from the Clerk of the Uckfield R.D.C. which stated that this matter was as yet in its earliest stages and it might well be that the Council, on further consideration, would decide not to proceed with the proposal, but he would like to know the Conservators' views on this matter.

Lt. Comdr. Hardy stated it was very gratifying to see that the Council was not proposing to build, on good agricultural ground, and in his opinion the site offered as the equivalent area was of greater value than the land they proposed to build upon. It was unanimously resolved to pass the plans.

D. **Proposed telephone kiosk at Highgate, Forest Row.** The Chairman submitted plans received from the Telephone Manager and it was resolved unanimously to pass the plans.

E. **Cullens estimate - Wardens Booklets.** The Chairman submitted estimates for the above and it was unanimously resolved to accept the estimate for the book cloth ease type at £3.13.0.

**IN COMMITTEE**

Mr. Owen referred to Item 5 of the Minutes of the previous meeting, Rangers’ Report, Forest Clumps, and asked if the transplanting of saplings had yet taken place.

The Chairman asked Ranger Day to reply. He stated that the very bad weather had held up the work which would be commenced next week if the weather improved.

The Clerk produced the estimates for the current year which were approved.

Mr. Wolfson asked if the decision to charge the Ashdown Forest Golf Club a Wayleave rental for putting down cinders between the thirteenth Green and the fourteenth Tee could be reviewed. He stated that the only reason the Club had laid the cinders was to keep the pathway between the green and the Tee in a usable condition and they considered it part of their maintenance of the Golf Course.

After considerable discussion it was decided that the cinders on the path in question could be treated as repairs to a pathway and part of the general maintenance by the Club of the Golf Course and it was resolved that no Wayleave rental be demanded.


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**A Meeting of Conservators duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday April 21st 1954 at 2.30 p.m.**

Apologies for Absence.
Miss M. Blount, Mrs. Ridley, Lt. Cmdr. Hardy and Mr. J.R. Owen J.P.

1. Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising from Minutes.
A. Tank Marker Posts between Nutley and Kingstanding Wireless Station.
The Clerk reported that he had been instructed at the last meeting to obtain estimates for the removal of these posts, to compare with C.J. Thorne's estimate of £87. 10. 0. He had received one from S.M. Tidy (Public Works) Ltd., Brighton, for £120 and another from Sir Lindsay Parkinson & Co. Ltd., for £150. It was unanimously resolved to accept C.J. Thorne & Co. Ltd, estimate for £97. 10. 0.

B. Fire Breaks and Demonstration Cutters.
The Clerk reported he had asked C.J. Thorne & Co, Ltd. to give an estimate for cutting fire breaks and had received a letter from them after they had inspected the proposed site stating that they had no machine that could do this work satisfactorily, neither did they know of any machine that would do the work required. They had in the past had considerable experience of clearing similar ground, and had always had to resort to hand labour.

It was unanimously resolved that the cutting of fire breaks be left to the owners of property adjoining the Forest.

C. Refuse - Wire Baskets.
The Chairman asked the Rangers to report on the use of these litter baskets by the Public during the Easter holidays. The Rangers replied that the baskets had been used very considerably and had curtailed the amount of litter usually left on the Forest before these baskets were installed.

It was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should obtain six further baskets.

D. Concrete Posts marking military roads.
The Clerk reported that since the last meeting he had been in communication with the G.O.C. Eastern Command and these posts had now been replaced.

The Chairman informed the meeting he had recently noticed that at the road junction at Kingstanding the surface of the Forest was badly rutted, caused by military vehicles leaving the road to turn on the Forest. He had taken this matter up with Home Counties District H.Q. and as a result a Colonel Williams had promised to take suitable action to avoid this practice in the future. In spite of this, some few days later, more vehicles appeared and caused further damage. The Clerk reported that he had since received a phone call from a Colonel Lewis who had promised that all the damage would be made good over the weekend, but this promise had not been kept.

The Chairman stated it was a flagrant breach of the Ashdown Forest Act 1949. It was unanimously resolved then that the Clerk should again take the matter up with Home Counties District Command.

E. Forest Clumps.
The Clerk reported this work of replanting had now been completed and it was covered in the Ranger's reports.

3. Road to Chapel Lane via Tompsetts Bank to Ashdown Place.
The Clerk read a letter received from Colonel J.H. Lowe acting for The Trustees of Tompsetts Bank Road Fund stating that these tracks were in a deplorable condition and had received no proper maintenance since the 1914-18 war with the result that traffic, to avoid the pot holes and bad surface, was continually encroaching on to the Forest to a distance of 15 feet to 20 feet and in very bad weather they were making diversions over the turf. The above Fund Trust had been formed by the residents using the tracks with a view to having them repaired, but as funds were very limited and the work was costly they proposed to provide a proper track of 10 ft. width, and felt that in doing this much land would again become part of the Forest. In view of this, they asked for the approval of the Conservators and also, if possible, the Conservators to contribute some sum within their means towards the project.

It was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should write to Colonel Lowe giving the Boards approval and inform him that the Conservators had no financial means at their disposal for road repairs of this description,
4. Forest Rate for 1954.
It was resolved that a rate of 6d. per acre be levied and the Rate Book was produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

5. Rangers' Reports.
1st. April 1954.
Forest Clumps.
Ranger Conley and I have planted young trees in the Camp Hill and Gills Lap Clumps. About 60 trees in each clump.
Controlled Burning.
We have burnt under control section of the Forest in the Fairwarp, Nutley and Kingstanding areas.
Fire Break, Press Ridge.
We have cut a Fire Break near Press Ridge Warren.
Fire Brooms.
We have cut and supplied to the Fire Service 350 Fire Brooms.
Fires.
Large fires have occurred recently in the Dodds Bank, Poundgate and the Old Lodge areas of the Forest.

GILBERT DAY.
Forest Ranger.
14/4/54.

Fire Brooms.
An estimated number of 350 fire brooms prepared and handed over to the Uckfield Fire Service,
Planting of Trees.
Young Fire Trees uprooted from the Forest, planted and staked at Gills Lap and Camp Hill Clumps.
Controlled Burning of sections on the Forest.
Army Track Marker Posts.
The concrete marker posts missing from "Newbridge" have now been replaced by the army from East Camp, Crowborough.
Fire Break.
Cleaning, burning and thinning out trees to provide a fire break near Wych Cross.
Bye Laws.
Bye Laws have been posted up at appointed positions on the Forest and varnished over for protection against wind and rain.
Heavy Army Vehicles.
A section of the Forest at "King Standing" is becoming a quagmire, on account of the army trucks consistently turning at this point.

RANGER J. CONLEY.

The Clerk produced plans and a letter received from Weir Wood Water Board requesting permission to lay a washout pipe from Wych Cross Reservoir across the Forest to the stream near the Isle of Thorns.

It was unanimously resolved that permission be given subject to the usual Licence and Acknowledgment fees being paid.

7. Temporary Telephone to Sir Lindsay Parkinson's Office Hut.
The Clerk reported that the Telephone Company had asked for permission to place poles on the Forest with overhead lines to the Contractor's Hat Office at Wych Cross Reservoir. This line was to be a temporary connection for no longer than six months - to lay an underground line would be extremely costly for so short a period.

It was unanimously resolved that permission be granted.

8. Finance.
Since the last meeting the following amounts have been collected.
Acknowledgments  70.3.4.
Compensation Rents.  0.16.8.
Miscellaneous (Tidy Deposit)  50.0.0.
Local Authority Contributions (East Grinstead U.D.C.) 80.19.11.

Bank Accounts, Showing the following Balances.

General Account  365.19.9.
Wages Account  1.0.7.
Petty Cash Account  5.4.5.

Accounts for Payment.
Caffyns Ltd., East Grinstead  13.7.11.
Hills & Dunn, Crowborough (refund deposit)  10.0.0.
C.J. Thorne & Co. Ltd., Uckfield  47.0.0.
Mr. P. Williams Salary (to June quarter)  75.0.0.
Petty Cash Account (to bring float to £60)  54.15.7.
C.J. Thorne & Co. Ltd., Uckfield  87.10.0.

£287.13.6.

9. Any Other Business
A. Letter received from D.A. Worrall.
The Clerk reported that the local Press had published a talk he had given on Ashdown Forest at a Chamber of Commerce Meeting, with the result that a Mr. D.A. Worrall had written asking for the Board to give him permission to cultivate a part of the Forest with a view to growing feed crops.

The Chairman stated that such experiments were attempted in the early part of the 1914-18 war and again during the last war and both were equally unsuccessful. He further stated that the experts had assured the Board that the land was so poor that even to improve the grazing by fertilisers and grass seed would entail a prohibitive outlay of money since the area to be cultivated must first be fenced in against deer, cattle, sheep and rabbits. Any fencing or enclosure would be not only an infringement of the Commoners rights but contrary to the Statute Law.

It was unanimously resolved that the Board was not in a position to grant the request.

B. Pavilion Cricket Ground, Withyham, St. Johns.
The Clerk read a letter stating that members of this Cricket Club asked for permission to erect a small pavilion.

It was unanimously resolved that permission be granted.

C. P.O.S. Book - Signatures.
The Clerk reported that at present the signature of the late Clerk, Mr. Fovargue, still remained as an authorised person to make withdrawals, and it would now be necessary for his name to replace Mr. Fovargue's. Mr. J.R. Owen's name also appeared in the P.O.S. Book and the Clerk suggested that whilst this matter was being adjusted it would be as well to have a third person's name registered. Mrs. Looker proposed and it was seconded by Mr. Warburton that Mr. Marsh should also be registered.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Special Purposes Committee duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row on Monday 5th July, 1954 at 10.30 a.m.

Apologies for Absence. Apologies were received from Mr. G.A. Warburton.
The Meeting was convened to consider what action should be taken against the Military Authorities for the continual contravention of the Ashdown Forest Act 1949.

The Clerk informed the meeting that since the beginning of the year he had received from the Rangers numerous reports regarding the Military misusing the Forest, and that on each and every occasion he had reported the complaints to Colonel Hogge, the officer commanding Home Counties District. He had always received replies from Colonel Hogge, who had attended to the complaints and where any damage had been done to the Forest it had been put in order.

The majority of complaints came from the fact that several different units were parking their vehicles on the Forest for the purposes of exercises. Colonel Hogge had promised that he would have orders issued to all units under his command giving them particulars of the authorised roads to be used, yet these complaints continued to come in.

It was noticed that the key to the map supplied by the Military to their own units concerning the use of the Forest and its tracks was possibly misleading and could be improved.

Colonel Clarke proposed that the General commanding the Home Counties District, in company with Colonel Hogge, should meet the Chairman the Clerk and himself at his house in London at 1.15 p.m. on Monday 19th instant to discuss points for overcoming these difficulties. It was resolved that the Clerk should arrange for the meeting.

S.J. Marsh.
Chairman.

Litter Baskets. All baskets have now been put on the Forest at various points where they were needed.

Londonderry Track. The new bridge erected across the stream withstood the heavy rainfalls we had last month.

Slit Trenches. Rubbish has been collected at various points on the Forest and put into these trenches, afterwards having a layer of soil put on the top a foot thick.

RANGER CONLEY.

8A. The Forest Rangers claim for Clothing Damaged by Forest Fires.
The Chairman informed the meeting that the Rangers had suffered hardships by their personal clothing being damaged by sparks while fighting Forest Fires and proposed that their claims for replacements be met by the Board.

Mr. Griffin raised the point that the Fire Insurance Policy should cover these claims.

The Chairman pointed out that no Insurance Company would cover claims of this description.

It was unanimously resolved that the Board should meet the claims of Ranger Day £7.5s.0d. and Ranger Conley £7.0.0.

Since the last Meeting the following amounts have been collected.

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<td>Acknowledgments</td>
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<td>Compensation Rents</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Interest on Investments</td>
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<td>Church of England Bldg. Soc.</td>
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<td>Hastings &amp; Thanet Bldg. Soc.</td>
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<td>Local Authorities Contributions</td>
<td>267.19.6</td>
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<td>Cuckfield R.D.C.</td>
<td>£66.19.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uckfield R.D.C.</td>
<td>£200.19.7</td>
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Bank Accounts, showing the following balances
General Account 349.7.4.
Wages Account 0.9.7.
Petty Cash Account 13.6.5.

Accounts for Payment
Goodwins, East Grinstead 10.10.0.
Mr. P.A. Williams Salary (to Sept. quarter) 75.0.0.
Caffyns Ltd., East Grinstead 6.3.6.
Petty Cash to bring to £60 Float - £46.13.7. 46.13.7.
TOTAL £138.7.1.

The Clerk asked the Board for permission to transfer £105.3s.4d. from the Deposit Account to the General Account to meet the following payments:

Thorne & Co. £87.10.0.
E.J. Gillham £17.13.4.

It was unanimously resolved that the Clerk transferred £105.3s.4d. from the Deposit Account to the General Account.

10. Any Other Business
A. Gypsum Mines and Pippingford Park.
The Clerk read a letter from the Uckfield R.D.C., which asked for the views of the Board of Conservators regarding the proposed mining for Gypsum at Pippingford Park.

Mr. Griffin proposed that the Board opposed the suggestion.

Mr. Owen proposed that as the Uckfield R.D.C. in conjunction with the East Sussex County Council were opposing and employing Counsel, the Board should join in with the County and Local Authorities in their opposition to the scheme.

It was resolved that the Clerk should lodge an objection to the Appeal and that he should brief Counsel to appear for the Board.

IN COMMITTEE
The Clerk informed the Board that after three years of holding office he found that the duties and work involved were considerably in excess of what he had anticipated when he accepted the appointment in 1951, and that the salary received for the appointment gave no scope for employing the services of a full time accounting Clerk which he now realised was necessary to cover all the accountancy work involved.

He also found that owing to the pressure of business in his private practice it was not always possible to call upon the staff to assist in the Conservators’ work. The book-keeping alone called for the services of a full time Clerk and he had discussed the system of the book-keeping with the District Auditor with the view to seeing if this could be streamlined in any way, and they had come to the conclusion that this could not be done.

Apart from accountancy, one other matter that entailed very considerable work was the collection of the Forest Rate; as the Board was aware several of the large Estates had been sold and split up into small lots. This meant that the Forest Rate had to be apportioned and charged to the various new owners apart from all records and maps being revised. It also often required many letters to the Agents, the Solicitors and others concerned in the sale of these properties, before the rate was definitely agreed. Whilst discussing this matter with the District Auditor the impression was given that he thought that as three local Authorities were interested in the Forest and as their Finance departments had first class machinery for dealing with rates and accountancy in general, it might be possible to get one of the Authorities to take over this work. Acting upon this suggestion unofficial approaches had been made to the East Grinstead U.D.C. to obtain their views on this suggestion, with the result that there were possibilities that it might be possible to arrive at a suitable arrangement.

Mrs. Looker proposed and Mr. Wolfson seconded that a sub-Committee be appointed to go into this matter and report their findings to the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Marsh, Mr. Owen and Mr. Wolfson were elected to the
A Meeting of the Sub-Committee as appointed by the Board at the meeting held on Wednesday, 21st July, 1954, was duly convened and held at the offices of Messrs. Whitley Hughes & Luscombe, 102 London Road, East Grinstead, on Wednesday 18th August, 1954 at 2.30 p.m.


The Clerk introduced Mr. Sharpe to the Members of the Sub-Committee and informed them that Mr. Sharpe had kindly attended the meeting with a view to giving any assistance he could regarding the accountancy system required by his Department in connection with the Conservators' accounts.

1. The matter of the Accountancy work was discussed at length and the Committee unanimously agreed it was in excess of the abilities of the staff that could be provided by the Clerk on an economical basis in relation to the salary received for the appointment.

2. The Clerk read a letter he had received from the Treasurer of the East Grinstead U.D.C. who stated he would require a remuneration of from £250 - £275 per annum to undertake this work and of course his services would be subject to the Urban Council agreeing to him taking on the work.

The Committee agreed that should the Services of the Treasurer be obtained and the remuneration agreed at £250, the question was how this extra cost could be met.

Mr. Wolfson proposed that the present investments of £5000 with the Building Societies should be withdrawn and re-invested in other Securities that would show a better return. Mr. Marsh seconded the proposal.

The Clerk informed the Meeting that he had discussed the matter of his salary with his partners, and in the event of the staff being relieved of some of the present work; the Clerk's salary could be reduced by £50 per annum. It was realised that if the new investments brought in £200 per annum, a further £100 would still have to be found.

Mr. Marsh suggested that the Local Authorities be asked to meet this £100 as follows:

East Sussex County Council £50
Uckfield R.D.C. £30
Cuckfield R.D.C. £10
East Grinstead U.D.C. £10

It was unanimously resolved to submit these proposals to the Board at the next meeting to be held on 20th October next.

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 20th October 1954 at 2.30 p.m.

Apologies for Absence
The Marquess of Abergavenny, Miss M. Blount M.B.E., Colonel R.S. Clarke M.P., Messrs, E.W. Pye and Wm. Gilham.

1. Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters arising from Minutes.
A. Damage caused by Military Vehicles on the Forest.
The Clerk reported that owing to Colonel Hogge being away and Colonel Clarke being in Russia, he had not been able to arrange the meeting as proposed at the last special purposes meeting. He had however received another visit from Lt. Col. Lewis and also received from him copies of the New Orders that have been issued to all units of the Eastern command. He had since received a further report from Ranger Day that army vehicles had rutted the Forest again at Kingstanding Cross Roads. The Chairman informed the meeting he had been to view this damage and whilst he was on the site an army lorry made a turn on the grass verge causing further ruts.

It was unanimously resolved that the Military Authorities be dealt with firmly and that the Clerk should arrange a meeting at an early date.

B. Relinquishment of 20 Acres of St. Johns Camp, Crowborough.
The Clerk reported that he had submitted Thorne & Co.’s estimate of £47.0.0. for the clearing of the site as agreed at the last Meeting, to the W.D. Land Agent who had requested that a second estimate be submitted. He had obtained this from Messrs. Tyler & Co. for the sum of £30 and this was accepted by the W.D. Land Agent. He had received from the Forest Rangers a report that Tyler & Co. had now completed the work satisfactorily.

C. Gypsum Mines and Pippingford Park.
The Clerk reported that he had attended the appeal and Counsel had put forward a very strong case on behalf of the Conservators but he would not care to forecast the result of the Appeal at this stage.

Mr. Owen raised a point as to the right of way over the access road into Pippingford Park with the view of this being used by Military Vehicles only.

The Clerk reported that permission had been given by the Board for this road to be made up metalled and widened without a Licence and from a legal point of view only Military vehicles could use this road.

4. Complaint received from Sir Gerald Creasy regarding Dumps of Old Iron on the Forest between Hindleap and Forest Row.
The Chairman informed the meeting that he had viewed the dump and had also visited Sir Gerald Creasy and had arranged with the Clerk to instruct Messrs. S.M. Tidy to deposit surplus soil accumulated from their work in connection with Weir Wood Water Board at this dump.

The Clerk reported that this work was at present being carried out.

5. Rangers’ Reports.
12th October, 1954.

Surplus Soil.
By arrangement with the Board, Sir Lindsay Parkinson Co. Ltd. have disposed of surplus soil from Wych Cross Reservoir by tipping it in the disused sand pit at Courtlands, Nutley.

Priory Pit.
In response to a complaint from Sir Gerald Creasy, Messrs. S.M. Tidy Ltd. have been asked to tip their surplus soil from way leave trenches in Priory Pit.

Milk Bottle recovery.
On instruction, from the Chairman, I met a representative of Milk Bottles Recovery Ltd. and made an arrangement with him whereby he could pick up empty bottles from litter baskets.

Military Vehicles.
Further rutting of the Forest caused by army vehicles drawing on to the Forest has occurred at Kingstanding cross roads.

GILBERT DAY
Forest Ranger.

11th October, 1954

Water Pipes to the Birches
Way leave granted for water pipes across the Forest to the above property has now been completed.

Collection of Rates.
The majority of rates in my area have now been collected for the year 1954.

Relinquished Camp Area Crow borough
The above area has now been cleared of barbed wire entanglements, assault courses cleaned of post erections and old sheets of corrugated iron. These have been buried in large pits found in this area and disturbed earth levelled over. This was completed on 7th October 1954 by F.W. Tyler, Nutley Contractor.

Organised Soil Tip Priory Road,
This is situated near Tylehurst School "S" Bend. All surplus soil from the Forest accumulated by contractors is now being tipped here.

RANGER J. CONLEY

6. Finance
The Chairman proposed that this item should be taken in Committee as it also dealt with item No.8 on the Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Owen.

7. Defaulters and non-payment of Forest Rate.
The Clerk reported that at the year ending December 31st 1953 the arrears of rates amounted to £176.16.6. but he had been successful in collecting to date £172.2s.6d. leaving a balance of only £4.14.0d. to be recovered. He felt confident that this balance would be collected in the near future with the exception of perhaps two amounts viz:-

A. 6/- from a debtor that had sold his property on the Forest and at present resided in London. Each letter that had been written to him, which amounted to a considerable number, always received a reply from his secretary stating that the Debtor was away and the matter must await his return.

B. £1.15.6. was for rateable land taken over by the Weir Wood Water Board and now submerged. The Acts of Parliament governing the rate did not deal with submerged lands of this nature, but he was at present discussing the position with the Clerk to the Weir Wood Water Board.

8. Report of Sub-Committee and Accountancy Arrangements.
The Chairman proposed and Mr. Wolfson seconded that this item be taken in Committee,

9. Any Other Business,
A. The Clerk read a letter he had received from Messrs. Caffyns regarding the mechanised condition of Ranger Conley's motor cycle. They were of opinion that repairs of a major nature would be required in the near future. He had discussed this matter with Caffyns maintenance engineer who had reported that the gear box was in very poor condition and any attempt to replace this would no doubt reveal other defects when the machine was dismantled. Mr. Harvey proposed that the Clerk obtain estimates for a new machine with the best allowance possible for the old cycle.

It was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should obtain estimates.

B. The Clerk reported that Mr. Ian Lumsden of Holly Cottage, Nutley was causing an encroachment on the Forest by continually parking cars outside his cottage. He received a visit from Mr. Lumsden early in September in reply to a letter warning him he was causing a breach of the Bye-laws. Mr. Lumsden explained that he was obtaining permission from his landlord to build a garage on the property.
Since that time the Rangers had reported that he had had as many as three cars on Forest land at weekends. The Clerk asked the Board's permission to proceed against Mr. Lumsden under the Bye-laws.

It was unanimously approved that the Clerk should give Mr. Lumsden final notice of his intentions.

C. Mr. Owen pointed out that there was a lot of dead gorse to be cut on the Forest Verges, and the Chairman promised that attention should be given to this.

IN COMMITTEE

The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Minutes of the Sub-Committee as appointed at the previous Board Meeting had been circulated and proposed that the action taken by the Committee be ratified.

Mr. Warburton proposed and Mr. Griffin seconded and it was unanimously resolved that the Sub-Committee's actions be ratified.

It was agreed that the Clerk should inform the Clerks of the four local Authorities of the findings of the sub-Committee, and seek their co-operation and support.

FINANCE

Since the last meeting the following amounts have been collected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RATES</td>
<td>£289.9.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>33.12.5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPENSATION RENTS</td>
<td>18.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£341.1.5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISCELLANEOUS</td>
<td>5061.17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Harris Bros Deposit</td>
<td>£1.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranger Conley Trunk Calls</td>
<td>0.7.3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powell &amp; Partner Deposit</td>
<td>0.10.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax Bldg. Socy. withdrawal</td>
<td>1037.10.5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church of Eng. Bldg. Soc. withdrawal</td>
<td>2010.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastings &amp; Thanet Bldg. Soc. withdrawal</td>
<td>2012.10.0.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total £5402.19.1.

Bank Accounts. Showing the following balances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£5515.7.10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>0.1.1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>0.18.3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total £5516.7.2

Accounts for Payment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cullens East Grinstead</td>
<td>23.0.2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caffyns Ltd., East Grinstead</td>
<td>15.4.4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.J. Gillham, Nutley</td>
<td>62.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>£60.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Float</td>
<td>£0.18.3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>59.1.9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillips &amp; Drew</td>
<td>5000.0.0.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total £5159.6.3
Permission was given to transfer £62.0.0. from the Deposit Account to the General Account to meet the payment of E.J. Gillham Account.

[signed] S.J. Marsh  
Chairman

The Annual General Meeting of the Commoners duly convened by notices posted on the principal doors of the churches of the Parishes and Ecclesiastical Districts to which the Forest extends and by advertisement in the "Sussex Express" and the "Kent and Sussex Courier" and by notice to each Commoner more than fourteen days prior to this date and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row at 1.30 p.m.


1. Chairman  On the proposal of Mr. John Rowe and seconded by Mr. J.R. Owen it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Marsh be elected Chairman.

2. Notice of Meeting. The Clerk read the notice convening the Meeting.

3. Minutes. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and signed.

4. Election of Conservators. The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill the vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. S.J. Marsh, Wm. Mitchell and Wm. Gillham and also a further vacancy caused by the death of Lt. Comdr. H.R. Hardy.

On the proposal of Mr. John Rowe duly seconded by Mr. J.R. Owen, it was unanimously resolved that the three retiring Conservators be re-elected to hold office for the three years ending December 31st 1957.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Board had the services of two Conservators from each of the following districts, namely, Nutley, Forest Row and Colemans Hatch, but had only one representative from the Fairwarp district and that Brigadier McNair had kindly offered his services to the Board to represent this district.

On the proposal of Dr. Curtis, duly seconded by Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, it was unanimously resolved that Brigadier J.K. McNair C.B.E. be elected to hold office for the three years ending December 31st 1957.

5. Election of Recreation Group Superintendents:

The Chairman expressed thanks to the Superintendents for their Services during the past year.

On the proposal of Mr. Rowe and seconded by Mr. Owen it was unanimously resolved that the following be re-elected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutley</td>
<td>Mr. S.J. Marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelwood Gate</td>
<td>Mr. Trevor Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colemans Hatch</td>
<td>Mr. J.R. Owen J.P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairwarp</td>
<td>Mr. A.K.L. Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Row</td>
<td>Mr. A.C. Wolfson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. General Business. The Chairman informed the meeting that during the past year the Board had had a very busy time in protecting the Commoner's interests on the Forest for the following reason:

Considerable and continuous damage had been caused by Military vehicles rutting the Forest by leaving the authorised Military roads and turning on Forest land. The Clerk had entered into endless correspondence with the G.O.C. Eastern Command on this matter and although each case was carefully investigated by the Army Authorities the damage continued.
He was now pleased to report that through the good offices of Col. Clarke a meeting was arranged at the House of Commons recently and attended by officers of Eastern Command, Colonel Clarke, the Clerk and himself, when they had the opportunity of discussing ways and means of ending their trouble. The Army authorities are now issuing new maps to all units under this Command, together with very definite orders and he felt that matters would now improve.

Various other matters of interest which had taken place during the year were reported.

The Meeting then closed.

[signed] S.J. Marsh
Chairman

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A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday December 8th 1954 at 2.30 p.m.


1. Apologies for Absence. Col. R.S. Clarke M.P. and Mr. T.R. Mountain

2. Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read and confirmed and signed.

3. Report of Commoner's Meeting. The Chairman gave the Board a report of the Commoners Meeting and introduced and welcomed Brigadier McNair to the Board.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes.
   A. Damages caused by Military Vehicles on the Forest.
   The Clerk reported that since the last meeting, through the good offices of Colonel Clarke, a meeting was arranged at the House of Commons recently and attended by officers of Eastern Command, Colonel Clarke the Chairman and the Clerk, when they had the opportunity of discussing ways and means of ending this trouble. The Army Authorities are now issuing new maps to all units under this Command, together with very definite orders.

   The Chairman informed the Meeting that most of the damage had occurred at the cross roads at Kingstanding Wireless Station. He had inspected the site in the Company of Lt. Col. Lewis of the Eastern Command who had now arranged to erect small concrete posts with cats eyes which will stop the army vehicles leaving the road.

   B. Complaint received from Sir Gerald Creasy regarding dumps of old iron on the Forest between Hindleap and Forest Row.
   The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Priory Pit had now been filled in with surplus soil and that Sir Gerald Creasy had thanked the Conservators at the Commoners’ meeting for the satisfactory way this work had been done.

   C. Report of Sub-Committee and Accountancy Arrangements.
   The Clerk reported that so far he had not received replies to his letters from all the Local Authorities concerned. It was unanimously resolved to postpone this matter until the next meeting.

   D. Ranger’s new motor cycle.
   The Clerk reported that acting on instructions received at the last meeting he had obtained four estimates and the one received from Messrs. Lewis Thirkall of East Grinstead proved the most favourable; they had made an allowance of £65 on the old machine. He had accordingly given the order and the new cycle had been delivered. Mr. Griffin proposed that a sinking fund should be set aside to meet the costs of the Ranger’s motor cycles as this was an expense that would have to be met every two or three years.

   The Clerk informed the meeting that a sum of approximately £130 was in the Post Office Savings account
Mr. Wolfson proposed, and it was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should withdraw this money and re-invest the same in Government Stock that would return 4% interest.

E. Mr. Ian Lumsden, Holly Cottage, Nutley and his cars on the Forest.
The Clerk reported that Mr. Lumsden had applied for a Licence to make a roadway across the Forest into Holly Cottage to enable him to park his cars inside his land, but as Lady Castle Stewart was the owner of this property the Licence would have to be taken out by her and he was at present negotiating with her Agents, Messrs. Wood and Walford. Mr. Lumsden had been informed that he must in the meantime discontinue parking his cars on the Forest land.

5. Dates of Meetings for 1955.
The Clerk suggested the following dates:
16th February, 20th April, 20th July, 19th October and 7th December. The Board unanimously approved.

6. Defaulters and non-payment of Rates.
The Clerk reported that he had now collected nearly all the arrears and also practically all the rates for the current year, and felt that the very few that remained unpaid would be collected in the near future.

7. New Licenses issued. The following Licenses have been granted since my last report.

Mrs. K. Edwards
Sewer pipes to Bungalow at Marden's Hill

Lt. Col. Hoare
Direction post at Woodlands Cottage, Duddleswell.

Mrs. Tomkinson
Road to Sinderhatche, Fairwarp

Weir Wood Water Board
Washout pipe from Wych Cross Reservoir.

J.R. Cunningham
Water pipes to Deseret, Forest Row.

Mrs. Chas. Wheatley.
Direction Post to Bank Cottage Chuck Hatch.

Girl Guides Association
Direction Post at Hindleap Warren Camp

Mr. Jack Card.
Water pipes to The Birches, Colemans Hatch.

Mr. B.G. Lees.
Road to land near Duddleswell Stores.

Mr. & Mrs. May
Water pipes to New Lodge, Colemans Hatch.

South Eastern Elec. Board.
U/G Cables to Bank Cottage, Colemans Hatch.
U/G Cables to Suntings Ghyll.
U/G Cables to Dodds Bottom, Nutley.
U/G Cables to Paynes Hill, Cherry Orchard, May Cottage, Glenwood & Lyndhurst.

8. Ranger's Reports.
23rd November 1954.

Turf, Duddleswell. Messrs. White, Eastbourne have temporary dumps of turf on the Forest near Duddleswell. This is being done under Licence.

Mr. Townsend's road. I assisted Ranger Conley to repair a road passing Yew Tree Cottage, Colemans Hatch.

Priory Pit. I have assisted Ranger Conley and County Council workmen in levelling tipped soil in Priory Pit.

Military Vehicles. I have had to report some cases of infringements of the Ashdown Forest Act by the military.

Roadside Gorse. With Ranger Conley I have cut a quantity of roadside Gorse, clearing up resulting litter and refuse.

Forest Rates. I have collected a quantity of Forest Rates, making inquiries about changes of ownership of properties.
GILBERT DAY
Forest Ranger.

24th November 1954.

Newbridge New Army Road. This road has now been completed and the Forest Land abounding either side cleaned and in a tidy condition.

Priory Road Pond, Forest Row. A rough estimate of 1000 tons of earth has been tipped here. Assisted by Ranger Day, we managed to cover tins and water tanks strewn around this area during the process of levelling the soil.

Blind Corners, Priory Road "S" Bend. Both sections of this bend in the road have now been cleared, offering better visibility for traffic.

Water Pipelines. Excavation of trenches on the Forest show signs of sinkage to the extent of 18 inches in places.

Forest Rates. A proportion of Rates have been collected by me. Paying in monies received to the office, notifying changes of ownership and divisions of property.

Bulletins. Notices were posted up in the various parishes, in reference to the Commoner's Meeting on Saturday 20th November, allowing three clear Sundays.

Cutting burnt gorse. Ranger Day and I are now cutting and disposing of a section of burnt gorse on the Forest near Kingstanding, burying tins and bottles that have been thrown on the Forest in this area.

RANGER CONLEY.

9. Finance. Since the last Meeting the following amounts have been collected:

Rates £131.0.
Acknowledgments £815.6.
Compensation (West Camp Crowborough) £30.0.0.
Local Authorities contributions (E.S.C.C.) 334.19.4.
Miscellaneous (Deposit White, Eastbourne Cutting turf) £1.0.0.

£387.15.10.

Bank Accounts. Showing the following balances:

General Account 699.5.0.
Wages Account 24.10.7.
Petty Cash Account £39.0.10.

£762.16.5.

Accounts for Payment.

F.W. Tyler Ltd 30.0.0.
F.R. Philpott 1818.0.
Mr. P.A. Williams (Salary) 75.0.0.

Petty Cash Account £60.0.0. Float

39.0.10. Balance
20.19.2.

£144.17.2.

10. Any Other Business. The Chairman informed the Meeting that he had inspected a part of the Forest near Morphew's Corner, Fairwarp, and that he had never seen the Forest so badly mutilated as at this spot; it appeared that Messrs. Turner of Lewes had a Contract to haul timber and had handed this on to sub Agents, Messrs. Brown of Crowborough, whose tractors had done this damage. The track leading to Mr. Morphew's Cottage was churned up to such an extent that Mr. Morphew could not move his vehicles in or out of his property.

The Clerk reported that immediately he received the Ranger's Report upon this matter he had phoned Messrs. Brown's office at Crowborough and insisted that they put this track in order without delay. They promised they would get clinkers put down on the track the next day and immediately the weather improved they would fill in all the ruts. He had also written to all Timber hauliers in the district, informing them he would proceed against them under the bye-laws without further warning if they attempted to haul across Forest land without first obtaining permission from the Conservators.
Natural Gas. The Clerk read a letter he had received from Messrs. Seismograph Service (England) Ltd. and also produced plans and photographs which showed how the survey was carried out and asked the Board's permission to enter on to the Forest.

The Chairman gave the meeting a report of an interview he had had with a representative of this Company who had assured him that all shot holes that it was necessary to make for boring purposes would be immediately filled in before the Surveyors left the Forest, and that any rutting or similar damage caused by their trucks would be made good immediately. Brigadier McNair suggested that rutting was bound to be caused by their trucks. Mr. Innes informed the meeting that this Company had already carried out similar surveys in the north of England and that they made good any damage and paid out the full compensation without question.

Mr. Griffin proposed and it was unanimously resolved that permission be given to survey the Forest.

[signed] S.J. Marsh
CHAIRMAN

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 16th February, 1955 at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for Absence were received from the Marquis of Abergavenny, Mrs. S.M. Looker, Messrs. Wm. Mitchell, R.T. Innes, J.H. Griffin, and J.R. Owen J.P.

A. Election of Chairman.
Proposed by Mr. Warburton and seconded by Mr. Gillham it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Marsh be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

B. Election of Vice-Chairman
Proposed by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Warburton it was unanimously resolved that Colonel Sir R.S. Clarke be elected Vice-Chairman.

C. Election of Committees.
Mr. Marsh proposed that owing to the valuable work the members had done during the past year the Committee members be re-elected en bloc. Mr. Gillham seconded this but raised the point that as Col. Sir R.S. Clarke was Vice-Chairman he would be entitled to serve (ex officio) on all Committees and that another member of the Board should be elected to the Maresfield Committee. Mr. Marsh proposed and Mr. Mountain seconded that Brigadier J.K. McNair be elected to the Maresfield Committee and it was unanimously resolved accordingly.

Special Purposes Committee
The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Board, the Chairman of the Forest Row and Maresfield Committees.

Forest Row Committee.

Maresfield Committee

The Clerk read a letter received from Mr. Griffin in which he stated that owing to Doctor’s orders he had to take a long rest from public duties and reluctantly had to resign his position on the Board.

The Chairman expressed the regrets of all members of the Board on the loss of Mr. Griffin's valuable serviced and it was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should write to Mr. Griffin and convey the Board's regrets and good wishes.
The Chairman informed the meeting that Mr. J.R. Owen was at present indisposed owing to injuries received in a motoring accident and proposed that the Clerk should write to Mr. Owen conveying the Board's sympathy. It was unanimously resolved this be done.

1. Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters arising from Minutes.
   A. Natural Gas and Seismograph Services. The Chairman reported that the undertakings given to him had not been carried out, that the damage to the surface by the very heavy vehicles employed was considerable and that the bore holes had remained unfilled to the danger of live stocks. In the circumstances he proposed that permission for further boring should be withdrawn. Mr. Warburton seconded this and it was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should inform the Company accordingly.

   B. Mr. Ian Lumsden, Holly Cottage, Nutley and his cars on the Forest. The Clerk reported that a Licence had been granted to the owner of this property for a metalled track which would enable Mr. Lumsden to run his cars on to his property.

   C. Timber hauling and damage to Forest by Messrs, Turners of Lewes. The Clerk reported that Turners had placed rubble on the track leading to Mr. Morphew's cottage and had given an undertaking that immediately the weather improved they would make good the damage caused.

3. Round Timber Co. Ltd. and damage to Forest at Kidds Hill, Coleman's Hatch. The Clerk reported that in 1940 this Company had paid a deposit of £50 against damage to the Forest caused by timber hauling. The Forest Ranger had informed him that the damage done had so far not been made good and he had accordingly informed the Round Timber Co. that unless they repaired the damage immediately their deposit would be used for this purpose. He had now received an undertaking they would carry out the work before the end of February.

4. Forest Rate for 1955. It was resolved that a rate of 6d. per acre be levied and the Rate Book was produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

5. Post Office Transformer at Tompsett's Bank. The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously resolved this be discussed in Committee.

6. Rangers' Reports.

7th February 1955.

Gas Drilling. The Seismograph Co. during their operations on the Forest drilled a series of holes to a depth of 50 feet. After their work was finished, these holes were left uncovered.

Track, Holly Cottage, Nutley. A Licence has now been taken out for the access track to Holly Cottage used by Mr. Ian Lumsden.

Army Vehicles, Kingstanding. Army Vehicles have again badly rutted the Forest near Kingstanding cross roads.

Fire Brooms. In company with Ranger Conley I have cut fire brooms for issue to the local Fire Services.

GILBERT DAY
Forest Ranger

6th February 1955

Fire Brooms. 300 fire brooms have been cut and stacked near Wych Cross. These are now ready for collection by the Fire Services.

Timber felled onto Forest. Permission was granted to "Stennings" timber merchants to fell three oak and two large beech trees onto the Forest. They were standing on the boundary property of Miss Sturdy, Shepherds Gate, Coleman's Hatch. These trees are not being dragged out until the spring owing to the wet nature of the ground in this area.

Forest Ground churned up. I have to report that the Forest has been churned up during the process of boring for natural gas and bore holes left open. These have caved in from ground level leaving an opening wide enough for sheep to fall into and be trapped.
Blind Corner, Chuck Hatch. As requested by Mr. Owen, this triangle measuring 50 yards x 20 yards has now been cut down to grass level. This will remain a danger spot owing to the high bank at the side of the road. No motorist can ever hope to see the flanking road I unless this bank is removed which is 7ft. 6ins. above road level.

RANGER CONLEY

7. Finance. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been collected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>£14.7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>18.17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous:-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Bank of England Investment</td>
<td>10.6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seismograph Service Ltd. Deposit</td>
<td>5.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawal P.O. Savings A/C</td>
<td>141.19.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Bank of England Investment</td>
<td>27.19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>185.5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£218.10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bank Accounts, showing the following balances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>649.18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>0.15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>7.17.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£658.10.8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Accounts for Payment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. P.A. Williams (Salary)</td>
<td>75.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>£60.0.0, float.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.17.7, Bal in Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£127.2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Clerk submitted the Estimates of Normal Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st December 1955 together with the Income and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 1954.

On the proposal of Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Wolfson it was unanimously resolved that the accounts be adopted and that the estimates be accepted.

The Clerk asked the Board for permission to transfer £47.0.0. for the amount paid to Messrs. Thorne & Co, in connection with the bridge near Londonderry Farm, from the Deposit Account to the General Account. It was unanimously resolved this be done.

8. Any Other Business.

A. Encroachment by Mr. Withy, The Rough, Coleman's Hatch.

The Clerk reported that Mr. Withy had a wooden shed which he used as a garage on Forest land. He had also a horse-box and trailer parked on the Forest outside his house.

It was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should give Mr. Withy fourteen days notice to remove this encroachment, failing which he was to proceed against him under the bye-laws.

IN COMMITTEE

A. Damage caused by Military Vehicles at Kingstanding cross roads. The Chairman informed the meeting that the proposal made by the military authorities to erect small concrete posts with cats eyes had not been accepted by the East Sussex County Council's Surveyor.

Mr. Harvey and Mr. Warburton informed the Board that that the Committee appointed by the East Sussex County Council, of which they were members, had this matter under review and it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Warburton should report to the Board when the Committee had arrived at a suitable decision.
B. Post Office Transformer at Tompsets Bank. This matter was discussed and on the proposal of Mr. Warburton, and seconded by Mr. Wolfson, it was unanimously resolved that permission be granted subject to a fence being erected and a hedge planted around the site.

C. Report of the Sub-Committee and Accountancy arrangements.
The Clerk reported that acting on instructions of the Board he had withdrawn the £5,000 from the Building Societies and reinvested the money in Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland 4% Stock and also in 4% Consolidated Stock but as these investments were subject to income tax at 9/- in the pound they would not show the returns anticipated. He was at present in correspondence with the Inspector of Taxes on the subject.

On the proposal of Mr. Marsh, and seconded by Mr. Warburton, it was unanimously resolved that this matter be left until the Clerk had heard further from the Inspector of Taxes.

D. Re-Investment of Post Office Savings Account.
The Clerk reported that on instructions of the Board at the last meeting he had withdrawn £141.19s.11d standing in the Post Office Savings Account and requested the Board's instructions on the re-investment of this money. On the proposal of Mr. Wolfson, seconded by Mr. Warburton it was Unanimously resolved to invest in a Building Society.

[signed] S.J. Marsh Chairman

CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

Estimates of Normal Income & Expenditure for the year ending 31st December, 1955

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1954 Estimated expenditure £</th>
<th>1954 Actual expenditure £</th>
<th>1955 Estimated expenditure £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>Clerk’s salary</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Postages &amp; telephone</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hire of room &amp; travelling</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bank charges and cheque books</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Insurances</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sundries (including Income Tax)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Printing &amp; stationery</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Audit Stamp Duty</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>364</td>
<td>Ranger Day</td>
<td>366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Ranger Kirby</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>338</td>
<td>Ranger Conley</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>Rangers’ motor cycle expenses, clothing, postage, phone, etc.</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Repairs &amp; maintenance</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Acknowledgement Rents &amp; Rates irrecoverable</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1420</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Estimated Normal Income:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>330</td>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>245</td>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>Sundry Receipts</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>720</td>
<td>Excess of Expenditure over normal income</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Under the Ashdown Forest Act, 1937, Section 15 (2), paragraph 2, the contribution of the Local Authorities for 1954 would have been limited to £301.6.8d. (£1000 less the normal income of £698.13.44), whilst for 1955 the
estimates indicate a contribution limited to £219 (£1000 less the estimated normal income of £781). However, the Local Authorities for some years now have usually agreed to defray the whole of the Excess of Expenditure over Income, which for 1954 is £813.2.10d, as provided for under the 1937 Act, Section 15 (2), paragraph 3, and it is suggested that the full estimated deficit £720 for 1955 might similarly be met by the Local Authorities. The position and allocations would then be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revised 1954 figures</td>
<td>813.2.10</td>
<td>406.11.5</td>
<td>81.6.4</td>
<td>81.6.4</td>
<td>243.18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As per 1955 estimates</td>
<td>720.0.0</td>
<td>360.0.0</td>
<td>72.0.0</td>
<td>72.0.0</td>
<td>216.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1533.2.10</td>
<td>766.11.5</td>
<td>153.6.4</td>
<td>153.6.4</td>
<td>459.18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid re. 1954</td>
<td>720.0.0</td>
<td>360.0.0</td>
<td>72.0.0</td>
<td>72.0.0</td>
<td>216.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>813.2.10</td>
<td>406.11.5</td>
<td>81.6.4</td>
<td>81.6.4</td>
<td>243.18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment of 1950 over-charge</td>
<td>30.14.11</td>
<td>15.12.5</td>
<td>3.0.6</td>
<td>3.0.6</td>
<td>9.1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>782.7.11</td>
<td>390.19.0</td>
<td>78.5.10</td>
<td>78.5.10</td>
<td>234.17.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 20th April 1955 at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for Absence. were received from Miss M. Blount M.B.E., Col. Sir Ralph Clarke K.B.E., Lady Dudley Gordon, Mr. A.K. Harvey, Mrs. S.M. Looker O.B.E. and Mr. G.A. Warburton.

1. Minutes
The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters arising from Minutes
(a) Timber hauling and Damage to Forest by Messrs. Turner of Lewes. The Clerk reported that the damage had now been repaired.
(b) Round Timber Co. Ltd. and damage to Forest at Kidds Hill. The Clerk reported that the damage had now been made good.
(c) Encroachment by Mr. Withy, The Rough, Coleman’s Hatch. The Clerk reported that this encroachment had now been removed.
(d) Damage caused by Military Vehicles at Kingstanding. The Clerk read a letter received from Lt. Col. Hogge G.S.O.I, in which he stated he had received a telephone message from the Officer commanding the T.A. Battalion concerned who had apologised profusely and promised to take appropriate action to ensure that further damage did not occur again. The G.S.O.I. also, stated that the Command was re-doubling its efforts to give the "Rules" further publicity. The Chairman reported that the East Sussex County Council were making alterations to the longstanding road junctions which when carried out should avoid damage to the Forest in the future.
(e) Re-investment of Post Office Savings Account. The Clerk reported that acting on the instructions of the Board at the last meeting he had withdrawn the £141.19.11. being the amount in the Post Office Savings account and had re-invested £140 in the Uckfield Permanent Benefit Building Society. This investment will bring in 21/2% free of income Tax.

3. The Automobile Association's request to erect pedestal giving direction to points of interest.
The Clerk read a letter from A.A. and produced plan and designs of the pedestal in connection with their request. The Board discussed the matter at length and came to the conclusion that the erection would cause a congestion of
traffic at the site suggested for the pedestal. It was unanimously resolved the Clerk should write to the Automobile Association refusing permission.

4. Pests Officer and Myxomatosis Mopping Up Campaign.
The Clerk read a letter which he had received from the Pests Officer of the East Sussex Agriculture Executive Committee and also informed the meeting that he had since received a visit from the Pests Officer together with a Member of the Ministry who had explained that they required the Conservators’ permission to carry out a mopping up Campaign of Rabbits on the Forest.

The Marques of Abergavenny proposed that as the sporting rights on the Forest were vested in the Lord of the Manor, the Conservators had no powers to grant permission. It was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should write to the Pests Officer to this effect.

5. Notice of Audit received to take place on Wednesday May 4th 1955. The Clerk read the notice received from the District Auditor.

6. Rangers’ Reports.

13th April 195
BLIND CORNER MARSH GREEN.
This parcel of Forest is opposite "Windy Low" and has been cleared grass level to a depth of 30 yards. This now gives a clear view of the road to all traffic.

WATER PIPE WYCH CROSS ROAD.
Way leave granted to the dwelling called "HIGHLAND" a distance of 50 yds. across the Forest for the purpose of supplying same with water.

MR. WITHY ENCROACHMENT
The 4 feet extension of a slab timber building onto the Forest has now been removed by Mr. Withy.

GOLF COURSE
The hoof marks recently seen on tees 4 and 13 were made by a child's pony leaping out of its compound and the hedge of this field has now been repaired.

BRICK WALL AND SLIT TRENCH Nr. OLD LODGE.
As directed by Mr. Marsh, Ranger Day and I knocked down a brick wall and buried the rubble in a large slit trench near by. This was filled in with soil. This I believe had been used by the army as a miniature range.

BANK COTTAGE MARSH GREEN.
A licence was granted to Miss Creek of Bank Cottage for the purpose of metalling a track across the Forest to her dwelling, the distance being 250 yds.

TIMBER EXTRACTION ASHDOWN PLACE
Permission was granted to the "Forest Row Lumber Co." to fell the trees standing on the above property onto the Forest. I now report with regret that 28 large oak trees were dragged by chain around the above property to a central loading base. The Forest is rutted to a depth of two feet. The distance from loading base around the above property is 480 yds. This is the worst type of timber extraction I have ever seen.

BYE LAWS
Pasted up at various points on the Forest.

Ranger J. Conley

10th April 1955

TYLEHURST FARM PRIORY ROAD
Trees have been-extracted across the Forest from the above property. Four tracks have been used. One of these rutted to a depth of two feet caused by tractors and trailers. I understand a firm by the name of "TRUELOVE" are
responsible for this damage. Another twelve trees, have yet to be hauled out and the position of the cord wood taken into consideration, and a deposit of at least £25 would not be overestimated.

Ranger Conley.

**WATER WAY LEAVE**
I have surveyed the water trench from Kidbrook to Millbrook is filled in by S.M. Tidy Ltd., and made this the subject of a report to the Clerk.

**FIRES**
Owing to the drying weather conditions that have existed for the last month, Forest fires have been frequent. The largest were as follows:

- Lisburn area, 100 acre
- Church Hill, Friar's Gate, 50 acres.

Gilbert Day.
Forest Ranger.

Arising out of Ranger Conley's report regarding "Timber Extraction Ashdown Place."
The Chairman proposed that in future the deposits required from Timber Haulage Co.'s. should be increased to larger amounts. It was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should act accordingly.

**FINANCE**

**IN COMMITTEE**
Since the last meeting the following amounts have been collected: Rates NIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>£7.16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Authority Contributions</td>
<td>469.4.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.S.C.C.</td>
<td>£390.19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Grinstead</td>
<td>£78.5.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(shot holes) Seismograph S.S. Ltd. 15.0.0
Miscellaneous (Deposit) F.G. Minter Ltd. 50.0.0, 65.0.0, £542.1.1.

Bank Accounts showing the following balances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£830.15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>£25.11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>£25.16.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

£882.3.6.

Accounts for Payment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round Timber Supply Co. Ltd.</td>
<td>£50.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Refund Deposit)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account (£60.0.0. Float )</td>
<td>34.3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(£25.16.3. Bal. in Bank)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

£84.3.9.

**IN COMMITTEE**

1. The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Sir Ralph Clarke on the telephone about Forest fires. Sir Ralph was concerned about the large number of fires that have taken place recently, and suggested that if the Board approved he would get into touch with the Home Secretary and ask that stronger police action should take place possibly through the C.I.D. and Scotland Yard. It was resolved that Colonel Clarke's proposed action be approved.
2. REPORT of Sub-Committee on Financial Arrangements
The Chairman reported that he and Sir Ralph Clarke had discussed this matter. In all probability a Royal Commission will be set up by the Government within the next 10 years to enquire into and, suggest changes for the Law relating to all Commons including Ashdown Forest. If a change in the Law were to take place the capital monies belonging to the Conservators should be taken from them and used for other purposes. It was suggested that this money should be utilised by the Conservators now and each year in making up any deficiency in the Conservators income. After a short discussion it was agreed that no further action be taken until the Clerk had talked the matter over with the District Auditor.

3. RIDING ON ASHDOWN FOREST
Mr. Wolfson mentioned that within recent months several cases had occurred of people riding horses over the fairways of the golf course and asked if a Warden's Card could be given to the Secretary of the Golf Club to enable him to take action in such cases. After a discussion it was agreed that a Warden's Card be issued by the Secretary of the Golf Club accordingly.

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 20th July 1955 at 2.30 p.m.


A

Apologies for Absence were received from The Marquess of Abergavenny O.B.E., Brigadier J.K. McNair C.B.E., Messrs. A.K.L. Harvey and R.T. Innes.

1. Minutes
The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters arising from Minutes.
The Clerk read the Auditor's Report for the year ending December 31st 1954 accounts.

TO. The Chairman and Members of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest

Ladies and Gentlemen,
I have to report the completion of the audit of your accounts and of those of your officers for the year ending 31st December 1954. Considerable improvement in the collection of rates during the year under audit resulted in the arrears being reduced to £17.5.7 at 31st December 1954, compared with £176.16.6. at 31st December 1953. Various matters concerning the accounts to which it is not considered necessary to direct your attention were discussed with your Clerk, to whom and to whose Staff my thanks are due for their courteous assistance.

I am Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant
A.W. Vale
District Auditor

3. Mrs. U.M. Ridley re-appointed to represent the Council on Board of Conservators.
The Clerk read a letter received from the Cuckfield R.D.C. informing the Board that Mrs. U.M. Ridley had been re-appointed to represent the Council on the Board of Conservators.

4. Uckfield R.D.C. re-appointed Messrs R.J. Innes, E.W. Pye and A.C. Wolfson to represent the Council on the Board of Conservators.
The Clerk read a letter received from the Uckfield R.D.C. informing the Board that Messrs. R.J. Innes, E.W. Pye and A.C. Wolfson had been re-appointed to represent the Council on the Board of Conservators.
The Clerk read a letter received from Mr. F. Mees, Chief Fire Officer East Sussex Fire Brigade enclosing details of a machine suitable for cutting Fire Breaks on the Forest.

It was unanimously resolved that the Special Purposes Committee should meet and arrange a demonstration with a similar machine known as the Mayfield Cutter at present used by the Manor Charitable Trust.

6. Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club, and to consider an increase of Acknowledgement rent.
The Clerk reported that in 1931 the Golf Club had entered into an Agreement to pay the Conservators an annual acknowledgement rent of £80.

The Conservators met the Committee of the Golf Club on the 9th October 1940 when it was agreed to reduce the Acknowledgment rent from £80 to £60 owing to the falling off of Membership due to the War. In October 1942 the Acknowledgment rent was again reduced from £60 to £40 per annum and from that date until the present day it had remained at £40.

The matter was discussed at length and Mr. Owen proposed that the rent now be charged at the original figure viz: - £80.

Mr. Wolfson informed the meeting that it was only now that the Club was out of the Red for the first time since the war and that by giving the Ladies Golf Course they were not using the same amount of Forest-Land as originally used. On the amendment of Mrs. Looker seconded by Miss Blount it was proposed that the rent be charged back to its original figure by easy stages over the next two years. This and a further amendment was lost and it was decided that the rent be charged at £80 per annum as from the year commencing the 1st January 1956.

7. Weir Wood Water Board and tour of inspection of pipe line.
The Clerk reported that in company with the Chairman the Forest Rangers and two officials of the Weir Wood Water Board he had made a tour of the pipe line and found that there were still several parts of the Forest yet to be reinstated to its natural state. He had given the Rangers a Summary of the work that required to be done and would again inspect the site when he received satisfactory reports from the Rangers. It was unanimously resolved to withhold Clearance Certificate until this work had been made good.

8. RANGERS REPORTS

13th July 1955
Blind Corners
In company with Ranger Conley, I have cut undergrowth from blind corners on the Forest near Hindleap.

Military Vehicles.
Since the previous trouble that has been experienced from military vehicles parking on the Forest there has been an improvement and necessary parking has been done on the tracks set apart for this purpose.

Advertisement Boards.
Unauthorized boards advertising various articles have been erected by different firms on the Forest at Forest Holmes and Duddleswell. Those have all now been removed.

Gilbert Day
Forest Ranger.

14th July 1955

Forest Row Lumber Company
I wish to report that this company have not yet cleaned up the mess that was made by thorn on the Forest after removing trees from Ashdown Place.

Licence Board
Permission was granted to Dr. Silby of Water Farm, Forest Row, for a direction board to be placed on the Forest.

Stone Quarry Gillslap.
This stone quarry is being worked by KIRBY & VINTON of Nutley who have erected three strands of barbed wire around the pit. The Office I understand is now dealing with this matter.
Blind Corners on Forest
Assisted by Ranger Day two blind corners in the Priory Road and Goat Cross Roads area have been cleared.

Litter Baskets
These baskets have not been emptied by the Council for at least two months. Ranger Day and I endeavour to
dispose of litter in the best possible way we can find, by burying the tins and bottles and burning the paper, but this
is a problem if wet and if very windy it blows away slight or otherwise.

Ranger Conley
Forest Ranger.

A. Arising from Ranger Conley’s report regarding the damage to the Forest caused by the Forest Row Lumber Co.

It was unanimously resolved that the Clerk give this Company a further reasonable time to repair the damage failing
which he had the Boards permission to take proceedings against them.

B. Arising from Ranger Conley’s report regarding the litter baskets not being emptied by the Uckfield R.D.C. The
Clerk informed the Meeting that the Surveyor had issued instructions to his workmen to do so, but of course the
Conservators had no powers to force the issue.

It was unanimously resolved that the matter be left to the members of the Board appointed by the Uckfield R.D.C.
to use their influence in getting this work done.


SINCE THE LAST MEETING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>57.13.6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>175.18.5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Authorities Contributions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuckfield R.D.C</td>
<td>£78.5.10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uckfield R.D.C</td>
<td>£234.17.3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Miscellaneous
Ranger Pay private telephone calls £1.14.11
New Cheque book lost by Whitley Hughes
& Luscombe staff £0.10.0

30.19.10.
£577.14.10.

Bank Accounts showing the following balance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>1,142.16.9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>16.8.7.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Accounts for Payment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whitley Hughes &amp; Luscombe Fees</td>
<td>10.8.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caffyns Ltd. May &amp; June a/cs</td>
<td>18.7.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. P.A. Williams Salary to June Qt.</td>
<td>75.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash A/C to Bring Float to £60. 0. 0.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at Bank £9.13.9.</td>
<td>50.6.3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

£154.1.11.

10. Any Other Business.
A. The Clerk read a letter received from the County Surveyor of the East Sussex County Council seeking permission to lay a footway up to 4 feet 6 ins. wide on the Friargate – Crowborough Road U.C. 474 at Warren Camp St. Johns.

It was unanimously resolved permission be granted subject to a Licence for the usual acknowledgment rent.

B. The Clerk informed the Meeting that Mr. M. Taite of Braberry Hatch Chelwood Gate wished to obtain a piece of Forest Land adjacent to his property upon which to breed mink and offered as an equivalent area a piece of land at the South End of his property near Millbrook Stream.

It was unanimously resolved permission could not be given.

C. The Clerk read the report of the accident to Ranger Day's motor cycle and informed the Meeting that he had written to the owner of the Car that caused the damage demanding £5 this being the amount the repairs will cost. The Clerk's action was unanimously approved.

D. The Clerk read a letter received from Messrs. Caffyn's Ltd. which stated that under their monthly Service Survey they advised obtaining replacements, spare parts etc., for Ranger Days motor cycle which amounted to £52.15a. 0d. This Cycle had done 33,000 miles and upon the assumption that further costs of repairs in the near future may be incurred he had ascertained that a new machine would cost £180, less £100 allowance on the old cycle.

The Board discussed this matter at length and it was unanimously resolved to purchase a new motor cycle.

IN COMMITTEE

The wages paid to the Forest Rangers were discussed and it was unanimously resolved that they be increased by 5/- to each as from week commencing July 25th 1955 making Ranger Day's wages £7.0.0 per week and Ranger Conley's wages £6.10.0 per week.

[signed] S.J. Marsh

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 19th October, 1955 at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for absence were received from The Marquess of Abergavenny O.B.E., Messrs. A.K.L. Harvey, R.T. Innes and W. Mitchell.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting after one amendment had been made were confirmed and signed.

2. Matters arising from Minutes

A. Machine for Cutting Firebreaks.

The Chairman reported that at the invitation of Mr. Brooke he went to the Isle of Thorns to see one of these machines which had been employed in maintaining a firebrook round the Estate. Unfortunately the cost of the tractor and grass cutter and the man power required to prepare the ground before use made it impracticable for the Board's purpose. Mr. Owen suggested that the Board should consider controlled burning. The matter was discussed at length and it was resolved that the Rangers should make suggestions to the Chairman as to where the burning should take place in the spring.

B. Weir Wood Water Board Pipeline.

The Clerk read reports from the Rangers and two reports from Mr. J. Mumford stating that part of this work had been carried out satisfactorily and that part had not. The Clerk also reported that he had a conversation with Mr. Higby of the Weir Wood Water Board that morning informing him that the outstanding work of reparation had now been completed. The Clerk said that he would be receiving a letter to this effect the following morning and that he would have copies of the letter made and given to the Rangers so that they could inspect the work and then report.
C. Damage to Ranger's motor cycle.
The Clerk reported that he had been successful in recovering £5 from Mr. W. Wenham for the damage done to Ranger Day's motor cycle.

D. Purchase of Ranger's new motor cycle
The Clerk reported that he had purchased a new motor cycle from Messrs. Lewis Thirkell Limited of East Grinstead the cost of which was £181.11.11. less £100 allowance on the old motor cycle so that in actual fact the new motor cycle had only cost £81.11.11d. The Clerk also reported that certain alterations had been made to the new motor cycle at a cost of £5.15.6d.

3. South Eastern Electricity Board - overhead supply
The Clerk rend a letter from the South Eastern Electricity Board in which the Board asked approval for the erection of short lengths of overhead wires across a narrow strip of the Forest in order to afford a supply of electricity to properties at St. Johns Withyham and Forest Holme, Withyham. In both cases no poles should be on Forest land. The Chairman suggested that the Board might regard this special case as not creating any precedent. It was proposed by Mrs. Looker and seconded by Mr. Wolfson that the Electricity Board be allowed to carry out this work.

4. Estate Agents boards on Forest
The Clerk reported that requests had been received from Estate Agents for permission to place notice boards on Forest Lane where a property was for sale or a furniture auction was pending, the properties in question being properties set back from the road. He had drafted a document giving permission to the Estate Agents in question to put a notice board on forest land at a rental of 10/- per month. The notice board, in the case of a sale, to be removed immediately after contracts for the sale of the property have been exchanged, and in the case of an auction, the notice board to be removed 3 days after the day of the auction. In no case are the boards to be permanent. This was approved by the Board.

5. Rangers' Reports
11th October 1955.
Priory Pit
In spite of a warning notice, persons have persisted in dumping refuse in to the Priory Pit. Acting on instructions from the Chairman, Ranger Conley and I have fenced this spot.

Water Trench.
The Way Leave Water Trench, excavated in connection with the Weir Wood scheme, is still in an unsatisfactory state. Very little reinstatement has been carried out, and further caving-in has occurred.

Forest Rates
I have collected a proportion of the Forest Rates.

Gilbert Day,
Forest Ranger.

12th October 1955
New Dwelling - Shalesbrook
A licence was granted to Mr. R.A.C. Brett to metal a track across the Forest to this dwelling, the Distance being 50 yards.

Water Wayleave - S.M. Tidy Ltd.
I surveyed the Water Trench from Kidbrook to Millbrook on the 22nd of September 1955 and it is far from being satisfactory. I have made this subject of a report to the Clerk.

Priory Pit Forest Row
Ranger Day and I have erected a three strand barbed wire fence around this pit to prevent continual dumping.

Wych Cross, Reservoir - Isle of Thorns
This work was carried out by Lindsay Parkinson Engineers. They sub-contracted the work of rehabilitation of the Forest to J. Mumford, Priors Hatch, Forest Row and the work in this respect appears satisfactory. Germination of grass seed sown is now visible.

Rates
I have collected a portion of Forest Rates and have paid in any monies received to the office and have reported any change of ownership.
Links Cottage, Forest Row.
Miss Tetlow applied for permission to cut gorse, blackberries and bracken on the Forest as these obscured the view from her dwelling of Ashdown Forest. This property does not carry a Forest right but permission was granted on the condition the litter be burnt as it is cleared.

Ranger Conley,
Forest Ranger.

B. Forest Row Lumber Company
The Clerk informed the Board that the Forest Row Lumber Company had now reinstated the Forest at Ashdown Place satisfactorily.

6. Finance

SINCE THE LAST MEETING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNT HAD BEEN COLLECTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>134.13.6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>11.19.6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>92.15.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compensation for damage to Rangers motor cycle paid by Mr. W. Wanham £5.0.0.
Bank of England interest on 4% stock £29.4.5d.
Inland Revenue Refund of I/Tax £37.5.2d.
Uckfield Permanent Building Soc. interest 1/2 year £1.6.2d

£239.8.9.

BANK ACCOUNTS showing the following balances:

GENERAL ACCOUNT 987.19.8.
WAGES ACCOUNT  11.11.1.
PETTY CASH ACCOUNT £1010.10.11.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Caffyns Limited August and September a/c/s 20.18.5.
Clerk's Salary to September Qtr. 75.0.0.
Cullens Printers n/c for 1954/55 18.16.0.
Petty Cash a/c to bring float to £60.0.0d. 49.9.10.
Balance at Bank £1010.10.2d.

£164.4.3.

It was suggested that £250 from the General Account could be invested or deposited with some Building Society. The Clerk said he would look into the matter.

7. Any Other Business

a. The Clerk read a letter from Messrs. Bernard Thorpe & Partners asking the Board, if they would grant permission for their client Mr. Samuel, to change the direction of part of the roadway landing from Twyford Lane into Wych Cross Place. The matter was discussed at great length by the Board. The Chairman did not think that the Board could grant permission but he suggested that the matter be placed before the Maresfield Committee and they could then deal with the matter as they thought fit.
b. The Clerk read a report from Ranger Conley with regard to blasting at Wych Cross Place in which he stated that the blasting was now very near to the Forest Boundary and that some of the debris was being blasted onto the Forest. This was very dangerous because some of the debris was about two foot long by about six inches thick. The Clerk said that he would look into the matter.

[signed] S.J. Marsh
side of the road. The catch pit to be covered by a suitable grating, the pipes to be set in at least two feet deep, filled in with hard core, and the surface of the road restored with gravel. The whole work to be done to the satisfaction of the Board.

On further instructions from Mr. Owen, I made enquiries with regard to the reaction of occupiers of land through which the resulting flood water would run, and I found no reason to think that there would be any opposition to this plan from them.

Gilbert Day,  
Forest Ranger.

The Clerk stated that provided he received a written consent from each of the occupiers of the property over which the resulting flood water would run he could see no objection to this matter if he received a written application from Mr. O. Witham to carry out the work required. The Chairman suggested that the Clerk be directed to write a letter to Mr. Owen thanking him for his good work in this matter.

The Clerk read a letter from the South Eastern Electricity Board asking permission to erect an overhead cable at Oldlands Hall, Buxted for an approximate distance of fifteen yards and to attach the conductors to the existing G.P.O. pole. In the first instance the Clerk said he had not received an application from the G.P.O. to erect their cable at this point. The Clerk was directed by the Board to write a letter to the G.P.O. Manager and ask him to remove the cable. Regarding the South Eastern Electricity Board's application, after a lengthy discussion it was resolved that this be rejected.

8. Rangers' Reports.
The Clerk read the Rangers' reports as follows:

Rangers Reports  
29th November 1955.

Flood Water, Tompsetts Bank.
With Mr. Owen I have enquired into the cases of properties being flooded by water from roads on the Forest in the Tompsetts Bank area.

Water Way leaves.
Uckfield Rural District Council are having a trench excavated on the Forest in the Fords Green area. This work is being done under Licence from the Board and will carry water pipes. S.M. Tidy's trench appears to still require some reinstatement.

Dangerous Trees.
I assisted Ranger Conley to cut and remove a birch tree that was threatening to fall across the Eastbourne road north of Cherry Orchard.

Forest Rates.
I have continued to collect a proportion of the Forest Rates.

Gilbert Day  
Forest Ranger

Ranger's Report  
29th November 1955.

Parish Church Bulletins (19th November 1955)
Putting up notices in reference to today's Meeting of the Commoners and allowing three clear Sundays.
Forest Rates
A proportion of Rates have been collected by me. Paying in monies received to the office, notifying changes of ownership and divisions of property.

Dangerous Tree.
Ranger Day and I cut down a large birch tree leaning over the Wych Cross Road. This was sawn up into lengths and cleared away.

Ranger Conley
Forest Ranger


SINCE THE LAST MEETING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>£71.10.6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgment Rents</td>
<td>£11.2.6.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

£82.13.0

Bank Accounts showing the following balances:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£541.0.11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>£20.0.2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts for payment</td>
<td>£588.2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk's salary to Dec. qtr.</td>
<td>£75.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account to bring float to £60.0.0.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at Bank</td>
<td>£39.11.10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£114.11.10.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Clerk said that this year there was only £26.10.7. to be collected for Rates and £30.7.6. for Acknowledgment Rents. On the instruction of the Board he had transferred £250 from the General Account into the Deposit Account making £629.6.8. in the Deposit Account.

10. Meetings for next year.
The Clerk suggested the following dates for next year's Meetings on the 15th February, 18th April, 18th July, 17th October and 12th December. These dates were approved by the Board. The Clerk said he would send each Member of the Board a small booklet with the dates in for their reference as soon as possible.

IN COMMITTEE

A discussion took place on the Clerk's letter to the Chairman and it was resolved that the Clerk's salary be increased by £100 per annum and that the Board undertake to pay the annual cost of the Chartered Accountant's charges for preparing the Books for Audit.

2. Royal Ashdown Forest Gold Club, Roadway.
The Clerk read a letter from the Secretary of the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club as follows:

Forest Row,
Sussex.

21st November, 1955

The Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest.

Dear Sir,
I should be grateful if you will bring the following to the notice of the Conservators at their next Meeting, which I understand is early in December.
As you are aware a new track has been made across the Forest opposite Holly Croft alongside the Fairway of the 5th hole of the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club and is presumably for vehicles to reach the cottages by the 16th tee.

Many unsuccessful efforts have been made by the Rangers to prevent this unauthorized track being used, which since the recent rain is being rapidly churned up. It is quite clear that vehicles must be able to deliver goods to the cottages mentioned, the proper access being by a track from Shalesbrook crossing the Golf course. This track is in very bad condition and fairly steep and too slippery in winter for cars or lorries to use. In order to assist the cottages and you yourselves by eliminating this constant nuisance, we are prepared at our own expense to put this track into such a condition that will enable vehicles to use it. This track is of no benefit or assistance to the Golf Club in any way, except in so far as it will stop the cutting up of the Forest and Golf course on the side of the 5th fairway; before carrying out this work we should like to hear from you that you will raise no objection to this proposal and that there would be no question of any charge or way leave being demanded by you.

Yours faithfully,
E.D. TRAIN,
Secretary.

It was felt that the Board could not make an exception in this case by permitting the metalling of a Forest track without the issue of any wayleave but that, in all the circumstances, a nominal charge of £2 to the Board and £2 to the Lord of the Manor should be made in place of the authorised scale.

[signed] S.J. Marsh

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened find hold at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 15th February 1956 at 2.30 p.m.


(b) Election of Chairman
Proposed by Mr. Owen and seconded by Col. Sir R.S. Clarke it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Marsh be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

(c) Election of Vice Chairman
Proposed by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Wolf son it was unanimously resolved that Col. Sir R.S. Clarke be elected Vice-Chairman.

(d) Election of Committees
The Chairman expressed his appreciation for the work done by Committee members during the year. He suggested that the Board should, if all were agreeable, re-elect the Committees as they now stood en bloc. It was proposed by Mr. Wolfson and seconded by Mr. Rowe that the respective Committees be re-elected en bloc and it was unanimously resolved accordingly.

**Special Purposes Committee**
The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Board, and the Chairmen of the Forest Row and Maresfield Committees.

**Forest Row Committee**
Maresfield Committee

2. Minutes
The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising from Minutes
(a) South Eastern Electricity Board - Overhead supply to Forest Holme. The Clerk reported he had had correspondence with the South Eastern Electricity Board on this matter. He said that the Board had now sent him an amended plan for a Way leave to put the supply in question underground. This action was approved by the Board.

(b) The Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club – Shalesbrook Track. The Clerk read a letter from the Secretary to the Golf Club as follows:

Forest Row, Sussex.
16th January 1956.

Dear Sir,
Thank you for your letter dated 29th December 1955 in which you say that an annual charge of £4 would be made on this Club if we repaired the road running across the second hole to the cottages near the 16th tee.

This matter was considered by the Clubs’ Committee last evening and it was unanimously decided not to proceed any further in the matter owing to the charge being made on the Club funds.

Yours faithfully,
E.D. Strain,
Secretary.

The Chairman reported that in conjunction with the Vice-Chairman he had directed the Clerk to write to the Golf Club asking them for a token payment of £2 each to the Conservators and the Lord per annum. There was a general discussion on this matter and Mr. Owen proposed that the token payment be reduced to 10/- each to the Conservators and the Lord, seconded by Mr. Wolfson. Col. Sir R.S. Clarke proposed an amendment to Mr. Owen’s proposal that the matter be again left to the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Clerk, this was seconded by the Chairman. The amendment to the proposal was defeated by a show of hands by 4 for to 5 against, and the proposal was carried by 5 for to 2 against. The Clerk was directed to write to the Golf Club accordingly.

4. Forest Rate for 1956.
It was resolved that a rate of 6d. per acre be levied and the Rate Book was produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

5. Rangers’ Reports.
7th February 1956.
 Builders Dump. Mr. A.S. Walter, Builder, Fairwarp his a quantity of building materials dumped on the Forest at Fairwarp. This has been permitted under Licence from the Board.
Campfield Rough Bridge. I have assisted Ranger Conley to replace the broken footbridge at Campfield Rough.
Fire Brooms. With Ranger Conley I have cut a quantity of fire brooms.
Water Trench. The Water Trench excavated by Messrs. King for the Uckfield R.D.C. has been left in an unsatisfactory state. Parts of it have caved in, a lot of earth is still littered on top, and brush wood that had to be cut has not been cleared up,

Gilbert Day,
Forest Ranger.

8th February 1956.
Fire Brooms. Fire brooms are now being cut in preparation for the dry season.

New Bridge Fairwarp. The bridge that recently collapsed at Campfield Rough has now been re-erected.

Dumping. Chocolate-boxes, newspapers and other items of rubbish dumped on the Forest recently is being dealt with by the office.

Clearing. Assisted by Ranger Day we have cleared all undergrowth and rubbish around a belt of trees at Wych Cross.

Dumping. The Lorry standing on the Forest during the past three weeks at "Newbridge" has now been removed by the owner.

Ranger Conley.

The Clerk reported that he had written to Messrs. Master of Linfield who had replied to the effect that their car men did not have occasion to go to Wych Cross and that it must have been a waste paper merchant who collects waste paper from them who dumped the litter at Wych Cross.

6. Finance

SINCE THE LAST MEETING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS HAD BEEN COLLECTED

Rates 28.3.0.
Acknowledgments 19.8.2.
Miscellaneous.
Bank of England interest on Investments of Govt. of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland 4% Stock £4919.10.
Bank of England interest on Investment of 4% Consolidated Stock 50.16.4.
A.S. Walter, Builder, Fairwarp deposit £5.0.0.
David Braxton & Co. "For Sale" Board £0.10.0.

106.6.2.
153.17.4.

Bank accounts showing the following balances:

General Account 447.8.6.
Wages Account 25.7.7.
Petty Cash Account 8.7.9.

431.2.10.

Account for payment:
Clerk's salary, for March. qtr. 100.0.0.
Petty Cash account to bring float to £60.0.0.
Balance at Bank 8.7.9.

5112.3.
£157.6.0.

7. New A.A. Box at Wych Cross. The Clerk reported that he had written to the A.A. with reference to their new site for a box at Wych Cross and he had received a reply from them as follows:

10th February 1956.

Dear Sir,
A.A. Box - Wych Cross
Your recent letter of the 6th instant - addressed to our Head Office, was passed here for attention having regard to the fact that all matters appertaining to the above telephone box are within our jurisdiction.

It is indeed with much regret we learn that quite unwittingly in seeking to re-position this telephone box on a fresh site, we failed first to secure the consent of the Conservators to our proposals. I would ask you to accept my sincere apologies for this omission with an assurance that no discourtesy was intended.
Frankly, when the project was first mooted, we were under the impression that the verge adjacent to the road at this point formed part of the highway. On this assumption, an approach was made to the East Sussex County Council and, with their ultimate agreement, it was, I am afraid, not appreciated that the land comprised part of Ashdown Forest.

It is sincerely hoped that in accepting the apology now tendered, the Board will also consider this letter as an application for their consent to the fresh site chosen. We have arranged to re-position our box, believing it to be desirable in the general interests of road safety as whenever possible, as a matter of principle, we now provide a lay-by in relation to every roadside telephone box. Facilities to this end did not exist on the old site whereon the box at present stands. It may be of interest to mention whilst writing that original permission for the use of the land was obtained in 1912 from the Right Hon. the Earl de la Warr. A token rental of 10/6d. per annum continues to be paid on the 1st July to the Buckhurst Estate Office.

Yours faithfully,
A.D.M. Williams,
Area Secretary.

There was a general discussion on this point and it was the opinion of the Board that the Clerk should write to the A.A. and inform them that the Board would grant the A.A. permission to proceed with the work necessary so long as the A.A. were willing to pay to the Conservators a way leave of 10/6d. per annum.

On the proposal of Col. Sir R.S. Clarke seconded by Mr. Wolfson the Board went into Committee.

IN COMMITTEE

The Clerk was asked whether any approach had been made by the Royal Commission on Common Lands asking for information about the Forest, and the Clerk replied that he had been approached by the County Agricultural Committee and by some official of the County Council for certain general information, which he had given.

[signed] S.J. Marsh

Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 18th April 1956 at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for absence were received from Lady Dudley Gordon and Colonel Sir R.S. Clarke K.B.E.

1. Minutes
The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters arising from Minutes
The Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club - Shalesbrook Track.
The Clerk read a letter from the Secretary of the Golf Club as follows:

Forest Row, Sussex
The Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 20th February advising us that at your Board Meeting it had been resolved that this Club should make a token annual payment of 10/- to the Conservators and a further 10/- to the Lord of the Manor should we wish to repair or make usable the road running across the Second hole to the cottages by the 16th tee.
My Committee considered this matter very seriously at their meeting last evening and came to the conclusion that they would not for the present take any action in regard to the road.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,
E.D. Strain
Secretary.

3. Notice of Audit
The Clerk road the Notice of Audit received from the District Auditor. The Audit is to commence on Monday 7th May 1956.

The Clerk submitted the Estimates of Normal Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st December 1956 together with the Income and Expenditure account and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December 1955.

There was a general discussion on the estimates for 1956 and on the proposal of Mr. Innes seconded by Mrs. Looker it was unanimously resolved that the accounts be adopted and that the estimates be accepted.

5. Rangers’ Reports
FIRES
There have been about the usual amount of fires on the Forest. The greatest number has been in the Fairwarp area. In two cases hedges to private property have been damaged but this was unavoidable as no fire cordon had been cut to protect them.

CONTROLLED BURNING
I have carried out several schemes of controlled burning of plots on the Forest in the Fairwarp area.

BLIND CORNER
In company with Ranger Conley I have cut undergrowth and cleared up litter from a blind corner at Wych Cross.

FIRE BROOMS
We have kept the Uckfield, Forest Row, Crowborough and East Grinstead Fire Services supplied with fire brooms.

Gilbert Day,
Forest Ranger.

OVERHANGING TREE LIMBS
Dangerous branches overhanging the Forest roads have been cut and cleared. This only includes soft timbers.

GREEN HALL TOLL
Assisted by Ranger Day we are now clearing round the above clump of Scotch Fir Trees.

THICK UNDERGROWTH
Small sections of dangerous undergrowth have been burnt under control on the Forest.

FOREST FIRES
I have attended a number of Forest Fires the worst being one at Kidds Hill.

FIRE BROOMS
A stock of fire brooms has always been at hand for the fire services.

J. Conley,
Forest Ranger.

6. Finance

SINCE THE LAST MEETING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>Nil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgement Rents</td>
<td>18.14.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uckfield Permanent Benefit Building Soc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest on holding of £140</td>
<td>12.2.0d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funnell &amp; Lane Deposit</td>
<td>5.0.0d.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Bank accounts showing the following balances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>186.15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>14.18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>39.9.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accounts for Payment:
- Petty Cash a/c to bring Float to £60.0.0d.
- Balance at Bank 39.9.9d.

An amount of £15.7.8d. came in for Acknowledgment Rents by this morning's post.

7. Any Other Business.
(a) Mr. A.C. Wolfson reported that there was a considerable amount of rubbish outside Mr. R.A.C. Brett's property in Primrose Lane, Forest Row. The Chairman asked Mr. Owen as Chairman of the Forest Row Committee to look into the matter and report to the Board.

IN COMMITTEE

The Clerk read a letter from Ranger Conley in which he asked for a cost of living rise. The Chairman did not think the Board could grant the Rangers another rise as they only had one last October. There was a general discussion on this matter and it was resolved that the Rangers' Wages be increased by 5/- per week making Ranger Day's wages £7.5.0d. per week and Ranger Conley's wages £6.15.0d.

The Chairman reported that he had instructed the Clerk to take out a Summons against a Mr. Thornton, Butcher of Crowborough, for dumping rubbish on the Forest near Stone Hill, Nutley.

There was a general discussion about litter on the Forest and the Clerk informed the Board that the Rangers were in the process of erecting three more litter baskets at strategic points on the Forest.

The Clerk read some correspondence that he had had with the Sussex District Advisory Committee and with Mr. R.H. Smith of the Forest Commission with regard to the Afforestation of Ashdown Forest in which Mr. Smith asked the Board's opinion on Afforestation. The Chairman said he had a discussion on this matter with Col. Sir R.S. Clarke, and Sir Ralph felt that the Board could not commit themselves to an opinion one way or the other. After a general discussion it was resolved that the Clerk be instructed to write to Mr. R.H. Smith end the Sussex Advisory Committee accordingly. [signed] S.J. Marsh

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 18th July at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. S.M. Looker O.B.E., Col. Sir R.S. Clarke K.B.E., Messrs. T.R. Mountain, A.C. Wolfson, R.T. Innes and Wm. Mitchell, Mrs. U.M. Ridley and Brigadier J.K. McNair C.B.E. The Board directed the Clerk to write letters of sympathy to Brigadier McNair and Mr. Innes as both of these gentlemen were ill.

1. Minutes
The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.
2. Matters arising from Minutes

(a) The Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club - Shalesbrook
The Clerk reported that he had had a meeting at his office with the Chairman and the new Captain of the Golf Club in regard to the track over the Golf Course which leads to the Hartfield Road. It was agreed at the Meeting that a Wayleave Rent of 5/- to the Lord and 5/- to the Conservators should be paid for the metalling of the track which had already taken place and that this would extend to the filling up of pot-holes on the track with hardcore. It was also agreed that in future no action requiring repairs to the surface of the Golf Course would be taken by the Secretary without prior consultation with the Clerk. There was a general discussion on this matter and it was resolved that the Board confirm the decision of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman.

(b) The Clerk reported that he had prosecuted Mr. Thornton for dumping rubbish on the Forest and that Mr. Thornton was brought before the Magistrates at Uckfield Police Court and was fined £1. The Clerk informed the Board that under the Bye-Laws the maximum penalty for an offence against the Bye-Laws was 40/- and suggested that this should be raised. The Board instructed the Clerk to look into the matter of raising the maximum penalty for an offence against the Bye-laws.

3. East Sussex County Council
The Clerk read a letter from the East Sussex County Council as follows:

Dear Sirs,

Re: Conservators of Ashdown Forest

With inference to my letter of the 16th November, 1955 as regards the Conservators appointed by the County Council for the three years commencing on the 1st January 1956, Mr. Warburton has resigned his membership of the Board, and the County Council have appointed Lord Rupert Nevill to succeed him.

Yours faithfully,
signed H.S. Martin
Clerk of the County Council

The Chairman suggested that the Clerk be directed to write to Mr. Warburton thanking him for his services during the years he had served on the Board. The Board approved this action.

The Clerk read a letter from the Cuckfield Rural District Council as follows:

Dear Sir,

Ashdown Forest Conservators

At the Annual Meeting held yesterday, Mrs. U.M. Ridley of the Manor House, West Hoathly, was re-appointed this Council's representative for the period expiring 31st December 1956.

Yours faithfully,
signed J.A. Churchill
Clerk of the Council

The Clerk read the District Auditors Report as follows:

No. 9 AUDIT DISTRICT
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1933, SECTION 227
REPORT OF THE DISTRICT AUDITOR ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

To The Chairman and Conservators of Ashdown Forest.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have to report the completion of the audit of your accounts and of those of your officers for the year ended at the 31st December 1955

No matters arose at the audit to which it is necessary to direct your attention. My thanks are due to your Clerk and his staff for their courteous assistance during the audit.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
signed F.R. Smith
Assistant District Auditor
Deputy to the District Auditor.

The Clark informed the Board that the District Auditor had questioned the transfer of monies from the General Account to the Wages Account by the Bank as need be, and had suggested the Board make a resolution directing the Bank to transfer £30 on alternate Fridays throughout the year. There was a general discussion on this matter and on the proposal of Mr. Harvey seconded by Mr. Owen it was resolved that the existing order to Barclays Bank Limited whereby the Wages Account is kept in credit by transfers of £30 from the General Account when necessary be cancelled and the Bank be instructed to transfer £30 on alternate Fridays throughout the year the first payment to be made on Friday the 20th July next.

7. Litter Baskets
The Clerk reported that three more litter baskets had been erected on the Forest but that the Rangers were having difficulty in emptying them. He also reported that although there were now quite a few litter baskets on the Forest at strategic points the Rangers still found a lot of litter on the Forest. Mr. Owen suggested that the Rangers should be directed to try and catch these people who persisted in dumping litter on the Forest and not in the litter baskets. He also suggested that the Rangers be instructed to spend a Sunday afternoon at a vantage point where a lot of people usually had a picnic to use if they could at least catch a few of the people who leave litter on the Forest after having a picnic. It was decided by the Board that this matter be left with the Chairman and the Clerk to discuss ways and means of catching people leaving litter on the Forest.

8. Uckfield Permanent Benefit Building Society - Investment
The Clerk reported that a sum of £140.0.0. was invested in this Society and that he could see little advantage of such an investment the Board resolved that this sum should be withdrawn and reinvested in some authorised investment to show a better return.

The Clerk reported that consequent on the retirement of Mr. Warburton it would be necessary to transfer the Bank of England Investments out of his name into some other person’s name. The Clerk suggested that he be directed to write to the Official Trustee of Charitable lands to ascertain whether all the Boards investments could in future stand, in his name. This was agreed to.

10. Rangers Reports
The Clerk read the Rangers Reports as follows:
Refuse on Forest
Ranger Conley and I have cleared several lorry loads of tins, bottles and other larger refuse from the Forest, these have been carried to a central dump and buried.

Litter Baskets
We are finding difficulty in disposing of tins and bottles collected from the Litter Baskets. I would suggest that we be empowered to hire a lorry to cart these to a dump, there to be buried.

Military Vehicles on Forest
I have reported a case of violation of the Ashdown Forest Act by Troops.

Encroachment Nutley
I have reported a case of suspected encroachment on the Forest at Little Birches, Nutley.
GILBERT DAY  
Forest Ranger.

Walter Pipe Line  
A wayleave granted to Mr. Jennings of Hindleap Farm, Wych Cross to lay water across the Forest to his property.

Refuse  
Seven lorry loads of tins, bottles and other junk have been collected on the Forest after the recent fires. This was put in a large hole Mr. Millbrook.

Litter Baskets  
These are being crushed and often found in this state after coach, parties have been in the area.

RANGER CONLEY  

SINCE THE LAST MEETING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgment Rents</td>
<td>228.7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rowland Gorringe &amp; Co. &quot;For Sale&quot; Notice Board 10/-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. P.A. Williams repayment of Christmas Bonus paid to Rangers £10.0.0d.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Authority Contributions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Sussex County Council £295.14.5d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Grinstead U.D.C. £51.13.1d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuckfield R.D.C. £51.18.11d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uckfield R.D.C £155.16.8d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank of England Investment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest due 6th June 1956 £49.19.10d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Revenue Refund of Income Tax £47.12.1d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank accounts showing the following balances</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>840.12.10.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debit balance of £6.7.11d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>Nil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts for payment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk’s Salary to June Quarter</td>
<td>100.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. A.S. Walter Refund of Deposit</td>
<td>5.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Messrs. Funnell &amp; Lane Refund of Deposit</td>
<td>5.0.0.</td>
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<tr>
<td>F.G. Minter Limited, Refund of Deposit</td>
<td>50.0.0.</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.M. Tidy Limited, Refund of Deposit</td>
<td>50.0.0.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petty Cash a/c to bring float to £60.0.0.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance at Bank 8.14.4.</td>
<td>51.5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caffyns Limited, May Account</td>
<td>7.16.4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>7.16.4.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any Other Business  

FIRES. Mr. Bollins informed the Board that he had seen a notice displayed by the A.A. with regard to fires on Commons and in Forests generally and on the proposal of Mr. Bollins seconded by Mr. Owen it was resolved that the Clerk be directed to acquire a number of these Fire Notices and erect one under each of the Bye Laws Boards.
Minutes of a meeting of the Special Purposes Committee held on Tuesday the 13th September 1956 at 5.45 p.m. at ***** Terrace, East Grinstead, Sussex.


A letter dated 31st August 1956 from the British Petroleum Exploration Company limited having been previously circulated to the Board of the Special Purposes Committee was considered.

Mr. Marsh recapitulated the position regarding the previous exploration by the D’Arcy Exploration Company and drew attention to the provisions of the 1886 Act and the responsibility of the Board for the care of the surface of the Forest.

The Conservators had been completely mislead by the D’Arcy Exploration Company as to what it proposed to do on the Forest and the type on vehicles it proposed to supply. It was not until permission had been granted and the work commenced that the Conservators realised how much damage the D’Arcy Exploration Company was doing to the surface of the Forest.

It was suggested that the Conservators had no power to grant permission, but after a general discussion and further reference to the 1888 Act and a reference to the Bye-Laws it was agreed that the Conservators had power to grant permission if they wished to do so.

It was also agreed that a copy of the B.P. Exploration Company’s letter should be forward to each member of the Board with the agenda of the next meeting and that the Chairman at the next meeting should explain to the members that they had power to grant permission but that they also had power to limit this permission to borings only. The Conservators could **** inform the B.P. Exploration Company that even if the boring had taken place, on the assumption that oil would be found in marketable quantities, the Conservators would resist any attempt to sink oil wells on the Forest.

If the Board of Conservators decided to grant permission the resolution should be in the following terms:-

That permission be given to the British Petroleum Exploration Company Limited to make a geophysical survey across part of Ashdown Forest and to make bore holes on the Forest in the positions shown on the plan created by the Company, subject, however, to the Company agreeing to restore the surface of the Forest to its original state doing as little damage as possible and paying the wages of one of the Rangers who should be attached to the survey party and to which reference should be made before any bore tales were made. The necessary restoration should be made under the supervision of the Board’s representative.

This Permission to be given on the strict understanding that it extends to a survey only and the Company be informed that should oil be discovered in marketable quantities the Conservators would resist with every possible means any sinking of wells on Ashdown Forest.

This permission to be given on the understanding that the work to be carried out (details of which so far have only been given to the Conservators in broad outline) conforms with the Conservators’ powers conferred on them by the Acts of Parliament and the Bye-Laws governing Ashdown Forest and subject to the restrictions imposed on the Conservators by these Acts and Bye-Laws.

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 17th October 1956 at 2.30 p.m.

Apologies for Absence were received from Miss M. Blount M.B.E., Lord Rupert Nevill, Messrs. A.K.L. Harvey, Wm. Mitchell and J.R. Owen.

1. Minutes
The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters arising from Minutes.
(a) Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club— Shalesbrook.
The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Secretary of the Golf Club agreeing to the terms of the resolution passed by the Board at the July Meeting.

(b) The Clerk reported that he had withdrawn the monies invested in the Uckfield Permanent Benefit Building Society and had invested it in £148.13.7. Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland 5% Stock 1975/80. The Board approved the Clerk's action.

(c) The Clerk reported that he had written to the Official Trustees in accordance with the Board's wishes and had received a reply that morning as follows:

Sir,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 13th September with enclosures.

While the Commissioners have no specific authority to determine the question, the legal status of the trusts or statutory direction derivable from the Acts of which you were so good as to supply copies (and which are now returned with the copy Award) is not such in their opinion as to accord to them jurisdiction to direct that the securities mentioned in your letter of the 2nd August should be held by the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
J. Mac L. Armstrong.

The Clerk went on to say that as the Official Trustees could not hold the securities in their name and as Mr. Warburton had left, the Board had to nominate some other member of the Board to take his place. There was, a short discussion and it was resolved that the securities should be held in the names of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Board for the time being.

(d) Military Vehicles on Forest
The Clerk read a letter from Col. A.S. Lewis as follows:

My Dear Williams

Further to my letter 26602 G of 19 Jul and yours of 9 Jul 56.

The explanation offered by the unit concerned was most unsatisfactory. EASTERN Command have, however, taken appropriate action not only with the unit but also with the formation to which they belong.

Best Wishes,
Yours
A.S. Lewis.

(e) The Clerk showed the Board one of the Fire Notices that he had purchased in accordance with the Board’s direction at the last Meeting and informed the Board that he had purchased six such Fire Notices.

The Clerk reported that he had written to the Home Office to raise the maximum penalty for offences against the Bye-Laws and had received a reply as follows:

Sir,

Bye Laws Ashdown Forest

In reply to your letter of the 24th July, I am directed by the Secretary of State to say that the Conservators’ power to impose penalties for offences against their Bye-Laws is derived from section 16 of the Commons Act, 1876, which expressly provides that the maximum penalty for any offence against Bye-Laws made in pursuance of the Act shall not exceed forty shillings. The Conservators have, therefore, no power to make a Bye-Law providing for a higher maximum penalty for an offence against any of the Bye-Laws.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
W.J. Bohan.

4. Rangers’ Reports.

Litter on Forest
In company with Ranger Conley I have cleared a large quantity of litter that it was impossible to burn, to a central dump where it was buried.

Burnt Gorse.
We have cut and burnt a portion of the burnt gorse stalks that fringe the King Standing - Duddleswell road.

Cord Wood Dump.
The dump of cord wood that encroached on to the Forest at Marl Pits Nutley has been cleared.

Forest Rates.
I have collected a proportion of the Forest Rates.

I took my annual holiday from the 24th September to the 8th October.

Gilbert Day.
Forest Ranger.

Water pipe line
The pipe line from Wych Cross to Hindleap Farm was inspected by Mr. Marsh on Thursday the 27th September. The Board were informed of the wayleave granted for this pipe line at the last Meeting.

Tompsetts Bank
The Electricity Transformer at Tompsetts Bank has now been in process of erection during the last two weeks.

Forest Rates.
A proportion of the Forest Rates have been collected by me, money being paid into the office.

Burnt dead gorse.
Assisted with Ranger Day I am now endeavouring to clear this gorse by burning it after collection on the Forest near the Radio Station and Kingstanding areas.

Ranger Conley.

5. Finance.

SINCE THE LAST MEETING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED

RATES 236.8.6.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT RENTS


MISCELLANEOUS

Bank of England Investment Interest
due 1st August 1956 £50.16.4.
Withdrawal from Uckfield Permanent Benefit
Building Society £141.12.0.
A.S. Walter. Deposit 5.0.0.
W.R. Taylor. Deposit 15.0.0.

212.8.4.
473.11.7.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bank of England Investment Interest
due 1st August 1956 £50.16.4.
Withdrawal from Uckfield Permanent Benefit
Building Society £141.12.0.
A.S. Walter. Deposit 5.0.0.
W.R. Taylor. Deposit 15.0.0.

212.8.4.
473.11.7.

BANK ACCOUNTS SHOWING THE FOLLOWING BALANCES

General Account 821.12.8.
Wages Account 43.2.10.
Petty Cash Account 1.18.4.

866.13.10.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Clerk’s Salary to September Qtr 100.0.0.
Sir Lindsay Parkinson Co. Ltd. Refund of deposit 50.0.0.
Caffyns Limited August & September accounts 16.16.3.
Raymond Wells Osborne & Co. Audit & refund of I/T 26.5.0.
Petty Cash Account to bring float to £60.0.0.
Balance at Bank £1.18.4.

392.14.11.

6. Any other Business.
The question was raised about the Conservators supplying brooms for fire fighting and the Clerk informed the Board that the Rangers cut quite a number of fire brooms every year. Lady Dudley Gordon suggested that instead of the Rangers cutting these brooms the Conservators should acquire a number of the new wire brooms which she thought would be more suitable for the job they had to do. Lady Dudley Gordon went on to suggest that perhaps the Fire Brigades in the district would help pay for the new brooms.

IN COMMITTEE

British Petroleum Company Limited — Permission to survey for oil
The Clerk reported that a Meeting of the Special Purposes Committee had been held at his office on the 13th September last. The Chairman informed the Board that in 1954 the D’Arcy Exploration Co. had asked for permission to survey the Forest for natural gas. They had not only grossly misled him but had failed to keep the undertakings which they had given. He feared that the same results might follow the new survey. The Clerk informed the Board that the B.P. Exploration Co. had stated that this in fact would not be so. There was a general discussion on the various aspects of this matter. Mr. John Rowe suggested that if permission were granted we should ask for a substantial deposit to safeguard against any damage to the Forest not reinstated by the Company. It was proposed by Lady Dudley Gordon seconded by Mr. Wolfson that permission be given to the B.P. Exploration Company Limited to make a geophysical survey across part of Ashdown Forest and to make bore holes on the Forest in the positions shown on the plan submitted by the Company, subject, however, to the Company agreeing to restore the surface of the Forest to its original state doing as little damage as possible and paying the wages of one of the Rangers who should be attached to the survey party and to whom reference should be made before any bore holes were made. The necessary restoration should be made under the supervision of the Board’s representative. This permission to be given on the strict understanding that it extends to a survey only and the Company be informed that should oil be discovered under the surface of Ashdown Forest permission is given without prejudice to any action which the Conservators may think fit to take in opposing subsequent application by the Company to extract the oil. This permission to be given on the understanding that the work to be carried out (details of which so far have only been given to the Conservators in broad outline) conforms with the Conservators’
powers conferred on them by the Acts of Parliament and the Bye-Laws governing Ashdown Forest and subject to the restrictions imposed on the Conservators by these Acts and Bye-Laws.

[signed] S.J. Marsh

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 12th December 1956 at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for Absence were received from Mrs. S.M. Looker O.B.E., Messrs. C.J. Bollins and R.T. Innes and Miss M. Blount M.B.E.

1. Minutes.
The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Chairman’s report on Commoner's Meeting.
The Chairman reported that he had attended the Annual General Meeting of Commoners. He informed the Board that various matters had been discussed and in particular that of litter baskets. It was the general feeling of the Commoners that more litter baskets should be placed at strategic points on the Forest and the Chairman suggested that he together with the Clerk should tour the Forest and make a note of those places where a litter basket could be erected so that it could be seen and used by the public. This action was unanimously approved by the Board.

The Chairman went on to say that the Commoners had approved the Stewardship of the Conservators during the past year.

It was also reported by the Chairman that the two retiring Conservators standing for re-election were duly re-elected and that Mr. Rupert F.J. Brooke had been elected to take the place of Mr. Wm. Mitchell who had retired owing to ill health. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Brooke to the Board.

He also welcomed Brigadier J.K. McNair back to the Board after his recent illness.

3. Rangers’ Reports.
The Clerk read the Rangers' Reports as follows:

Burnt gorse
In company with Ranger Conley I have cleared the side of the road, leading from Kingstanding to the Radio Station, of black gorse stalks. These have been cleared back to a considerable depth.

Road on Forest
Mr. Hoad of Duddleswell Cottage has made, under Licence, a road across the Forest giving access to a garage on his property.

Builders Materials
Mr. Walter of Fairwarp has satisfactorily cleared his dump on the Forest. This was permitted under Licence from the Board.

Forest Rates
With the exception of a few defaulters the whole of the Forest Rates have been collected.

Gilbert Day,
Forest Ranger.

Forest Rates
A proportion of Forest Rates have been collected by me which have been paid into the office, notifying changes of ownership and divisions of property.

Dead gorse.
I have assisted Ranger Day to clear and burn the dead gorse from the Forest bordering the road from the Radio Station to Kingstanding. This has been cleared to a depth of about 25 yards each side of the road.
Parish Church Bulletins.
Notices were put up at all local parishes in reference of today's Meeting of Commoners allowing three clear
Sundays to pass prior to the Meeting.

Fire Notices
These have been placed in prominent positions on the Forest. Two were pulled down the first night after being put
up. I now report them correct.

Transformer,
I now report that the Transformer at "Tompsetts Bank" erected on the Forest by the Electricity Board is
completed, but no shrubs or trees have yet been planted around this structure, as requested.

Ranger Conley.

The Clerk reported that he had written to the South Eastern Electricity Board with regard to the hedge to be
erected round the transformer at "Tompsetts Bank" but he had not yet received a reply.

4. Finance

SINCE THE LAST MEETING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED.

Rates 73.13.6.
Acknowledgment Rents 7.19.5.
Arrears of Rates 5.2.0.

Miscellaneous.
Messrs. Perrin & Comber. Permission to erect
a temporary direction board. 0.10.0.
Ranger Day. Private Trunk Calls 0.4.6.
Bank of England Investment Interest
due 6th December 1956 £49.19.10.

50.14.4.
£137.9.3.

Bank accounts showing the following balances:
General Account 479.0.6.
Wages Account 40.14.4.
Petty Cash Account 23.18.6.

543.13.4.

Accounts for Payment.
Clerk's Salary to December Qtr 100.0.0.
A.S. Walter, Esq. Refund of Deposit 5.0.0.
Petty Cash a/c to bring float to £60.0.0.
Balance at Bank £23.18.6.

361.6.
£141.16.

The Clerk also read out a summary as follows:

SUMMARY OF RATES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT RENT COLLECTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
TO DATE

Rates 308.15.0.
Arrears of Rates 28.5.0.
£337.0.0.
Acknowledgment Rents 282.1.3.
Arrears of Acknowledgment Rents £299.7.6.
Grand Total £636.7.6.
The Clerk reported that the figures for the Rates and Acknowledgment Rents collected to date this year were slightly higher than the estimate for the whole of the year. This was due to the fact that he had received quite a large amount of outstanding arrears.

5. Meetings for next year.
The Clerk suggested the following dates for next year’s Meetings on the 20th February, 17th April, 17th July, 16th October and the 11th December. These dates were approved by the Board.

6. Any other Business.
(a) South Eastern Electricity Board, Overhead Line on Main Road near Lewes Park Farm, Wych Cross.
The Clerk informed the Board that he had received a letter from the South-Eastern Electricity Board asking the Board’s approval to erect an overhead electricity cable with 6 poles on the grass verge of the Main Road near Lewes Park Farm, Wych Cross.

The Chairman informed the Board that it had always been the Board’s policy not to allow overhead cables. The usual practice was for the South Eastern Electricity Board to lay their cables underground along the grass verge. There was a general discussion on this matter and it was resolved that the South Eastern Electricity Board be informed that their request could not be granted.

(b) Rates
The Clerk informed the Board that he had three persons who had not paid their Forest Rates and that all the amounts involved were over £1. He asked leave of the Board, to apply to the Magistrates for Distress Warrants against the people concerned. The Board approved this action.

(c). Travelling Expenses.
The Clerk informed the Board that one member of the Board had approached him with regard to travelling expenses in attending the Conservators’ Meetings. The Clerk reported that he had written to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and that the reply he had received suggested that travelling expenses could not be claimed by those members of the Board who represented the Local Authorities unless a special application be inside to the Minister for the Board to be considered a Public Body to which section III (1) (h) of the Local Government Act 1948 should apply. Lady Dudley Gordon informed the Board that she served on several Boards in the locality and that she did not receive any travelling expenses. She thought it was a privilege and not a burden to serve on the Board of Conservators. It was resolved that no further action be taken in this matter.

[signed] S.J. Marsh

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 20th February 1957 at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for Absence were received from Mrs. S.M. Looker C.B.E., Lady Dudley Gordon, Mr. R.T. Innes and Brigadier J.K. McNair.

1. Election of Chairman
(a) Mr. Marsh was proposed by Sir Ralph Clarke and seconded by Mr. T.R. Mountain and unanimously elected.

Election of Vice Chairman
(b) Sir Ralph Clarke was proposed by Mr. J.R. Owen and seconded by Mr. A.C. Wolfson and was unanimously elected.

2. Election of Committees
Forest Row: It was resolved that Mr. Owen, Mr. Rowe, Mr. Wolfson and Mr. Card should serve on this Committee for another year.

Maresfield: It was resolved that Mr. Harvey, Mr. Mountain and Mr. Gillham should serve on this Committee for another year and that Mr. R.F.J. Brooke be elected as an additional member.

Special Purposes Committee.
It was resolved that the members be the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and the Chairmen of the Forest Row and Maresfield Committees.

3. Minutes
The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.


Litter baskets
The Clerk reported that the Chairman, Ranger Day and himself had toured Ashdown Forest and now recommend that seventeen new litter baskets be placed on the Forest at the following points.

- Duddleswell to Fairwarp Road: Two baskets
- New Road: Two baskets
- Comm Hill to King Standing: Two baskets
- King Standing to Friars Gate: Two baskets
- Gills Lap to Chuck Hatch: Three baskets
- Ridge Road: Two baskets
- Wych Cross to Goat: Two baskets
- Wych Cross to Nutley: Two baskets

The Clerk also read a Report from Ranger Day concerning the problem which would arise as to how the contents of the baskets could be disposed of, an estimate had been obtained from a Mr. Outen of Ashurst Wood who was prepared to empty each basket on a Monday morning for the sum of £1.15.0. a week, the total journey involving something like thirty-five miles. A similar estimate had been obtained from Messrs. Tyler of Nutley who wanted £3 a week. It was finally resolved that to save expense the Rangers should have a trial period of burning the rubbish from the litter baskets or burying it in trenches dug for the purpose if it could not be burnt.

Wire Fire Brooms
The Clerk reported that he had not been able to obtain particulars of these brooms as the Forestry Commission wore, as yet, unable to supply him with the name of the manufacturers. It was finally resolved to continue using the existing fire brooms cut by the Rangers. The Clerk was instructed to find out from the East Sussex Fire Brigade whether a type of flail made from old fire hoses was effective or not.

5. Ranger Conley's motor cycle.
The Clerk reported that there had been a serious engine failure on Ranger Conley's bicycle which was only about two and a quarter years old and its mileage did not exceed sixteen thousand miles. Messrs. Caffyns recommended that a replacement engine should be ordered which the Clerk had done and his action was confirmed.

The Clerk reported that he had instructed Messrs. Caffyns Limited to obtain a report on the old engine from the B.S.A. Company.

The Clerk read a letter received from the R.S.P.C.A. requesting that the Conservators should consider the erection of a warning notice to motorists about the dangers from sheep on the Forest Row - Wych Cross Road. After a discussion it was resolved that the Clerk inform to R.S.P.C.A. that the Board considered there was sufficient notices erected already but that it would have no objection to a sign depicting a sheep being placed on top of the existing notice "Unfenced road. Beware animals".

7. Forest Rate for 1957.
It was resolved that the Forest Rate should remain at sixpence per acre or part of an acre.

8. Rangers' Reports.
The Clerk read the Rangers Reports as follows:

Footpath Nutley
With Ranger Conley, I carried out repairs to a Forest footpath near Morrisfield, Nutley.

Forest roads
I have investigated and reported on damage to licensed roads on the Forest at Fairwarp and Nutley.
Petrol Rationing
Owing to shortage of patrol, patrols are now limited, time has been used in cutting and clearing underwood. This also produces fire brooms.
Gilbert Day
Forest Ranger.

Cutting, Wych Cross
Assisted by Ranger Day, a section of rough woodland has been cleared of undergrowth, the small Birch trees being put aside for collection by the fire services.
Ryst Wood, Clearing
Many dead trees have been cleared with undergrowth in this area during the past month.
School Lane, Nutley
A gateway loading on to the Forest was bridged with 4" socket pipes to dispose of surface water. This has proved very satisfactory and the area now remains dry.
Ranger Conley.

Mr. Owen suggested that a further programme should be made whereby the gorse at Kingstanding should be cut. Mr. Owen kindly offered to give a list of his suggestions.

9. Finance

SINCE THE LAST MEETING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>3.3.6.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrears of Rates</td>
<td>12.0.1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgment Rents</td>
<td>167.3.6.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Miscellaneous
Interest on £2540.17.0. 4%
Consolidated Stk 1.2.57 £50.16. 4.
Ranger Conley Private
Trunk Calls £0.0.10 50.17.2.
Total: 233.4.3.

Bank accounts showing the following balances:
General Account 400.18.5.
Clerk's Petty Cash 13.17.6.
Wages Account 41.1.10.
Balance at Bank 13.17.6.
Petty Cash £60. 0. 0.
Martin's Garage 3.4.4.
Total: 149.6.10.

10. Any Other Business
The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit would take place on the 11th March.

The Clerk informed the Board that he had received a letter from the East Sussex County Council asking the Board's approval to make alterations in the London-Eastbourne Road A.22 north of Wych Cross. This work would necessitate the removal of certain trees and the Clerk suggested that these should be replaced with birch willow & alder. After a discussion and a sight of the map showing the extent of the alterations the Board gave their consent provided the Council give back to the Conservators an equivalent area in exchange for that taken from the Forest.
In Committee

Rangers' clothing allowance

The Clerk reported that the Rangers had requested that an allowance should be made to them in respect of their clothing. The Clerk explained to the Board how the Rangers' clothes got charred and dirty while fighting Forest fires and after some discussion it was resolved that the Rangers be given an allowance of £10 a year for this purpose.

The salaries paid to the Rangers was raised by a member of the Board and after a discussion it was resolved that the wages should be raised at least to the minimum agricultural level. It was resolved that Ranger Conley should receive £7 a week an increase of 5/- and Ranger Day should receive £7.10.0. a week an increase of 5/-. The Clerk was asked to find out the scale of wages paid to Rangers employed in the New Forest and Epping Forest.

[signed] S.J. Marsh

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF A SPECIAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST HOLIDAY CHERRY ORCHARD, FOREST ROW, SUSSEX on Saturday the 30th March, 1957.

Present: S.J. MARSH Esq., Chairman
Sir Ralph S. Clarke
A.K.L. Harvey Esq.
J.R. Owen Esq.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Special Purpose Committee were approved and signed.

2. The Clerk reported that Ranger Conley had been given one month's notice of determination of his services as from the 16th March. Ranger Conley had for some time been not altogether satisfactory in his work as he was inclined to make adverse reports of incidents on the Forest and greatly exaggerate any minor happening with the result that trouble was sometimes caused which need not have arise. The Clerk put forward as an example the dispute with Royal Ashdown Golf Club over the roadway leading to Bank Farm Cottages. The Clerk also reported that Conley had handed in his official diary for production to the District Auditor and in the Army he had written some offensive remarks about the Clerk and the way in which he was conducting the Conservators' business and had suggested that Mr. Rupert Brooke was elected to the Board of Conservators although at the time he was not a Commoner.

The Committee considered these matters and resolved to support the Chairman's action at the next full meeting of the Board.

There being no other business the meeting was concluded.

A meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 17th April 1957 at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for Absence were received from Lady Dudley Gordon, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Innes and Lord Rupert Nevill.

1. Minutes.
The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters arising Fire Brooms
The Clerk read a letter from the East Sussex Fire Brigade concerning wire fire beaters; He informed the Board that he had had a long discussion with the Divisional Officer G.R.H. Payne and it was thought that the present method of birch beaters was far more satisfactory. In his letter Officer Payne stated as follows:
"(1) The Brigade do not consider that the Board would be justified in the expense involved in making either the wire netting or the canvas beaters.

(2) Those Brigade personnel who are used to dealing with fires on Ashdown Forest much prefer the birch broom beaters, as being more effective on the type of fire normally encountered, i.e. bracken. Further, the birch beater is felt to be lighter, less tiring, and more suitable for using collectively by teams of three or four men.

(3) The Brigade will be quite satisfied if the Board's Rangers will continue their practice of cutting and making birch beaters, and stacking them as hitherto in convenient locations for collection by the Brigade as necessary.

(4) He would be glad if Mr. Williams would send out with the next rate demand to some 900 ratepayers within the Board's jurisdiction, a similar leaflet on fire precautions to that which was sent out in 1955. The Brigade's advisory services on fire prevention are available to say of his ratepayers, on request from them. Only three responded to the 1955 invitation to seek our advice.

(5) He notes that the Board are conversant with, and endorse the policy of sending one appliance to calls on the Forest, and then only attacking the fire where it threatens either property or standing timber.

(6) He is assured that the Board will do all they can to assist in minimising the number of calls received, particularly from ratepayers."

The Clerk read a further letter he had received from the Forestry Commission about the wire fire-beaters. It was stated that there would be some delay in obtaining replicas of these wire fire-beaters as they involved some very tricky welding in their construction.

It was resolved that these letters were sufficient justification for the Board to continue using the birch broom fire beaters.

Ranger Conley’s motor cycle
The Clerk reported that the bicycle had been repaired. He informed the Board that on the 15th April he had received & letter from Messrs. Caffyns stating that the engine had been lost in the normal channels of reconditioning procedure. Messrs. Caffyns also enclosed copies of letters received from the B.S.A. Company stating that as the matter had been dealt with on a normal commercial basis and the old unit was stripped and re-conditioned on its arrival at their works it was impossible to give a Report. The Board expressed its disapproval of this but there was nothing that could be done about it.

3. Finance.

**SINCE THE LAST MEETING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED**

Acknowledgment Rents £85.7.9.
Arrears (Acknowledgment Rents) 0.17.0.

Misc.:
Unused Cheque Book £0.4.0.
Deposit - H.& E. Waters £5.0.0. 5.4.0.

£91.8.9.

Bank Accounts showing the following balances:

General Account £211.18.7.
Clerk’s Petty Cash 24.7.10.
Wages Account 44.14.7

£281.1.0.

Accounts for Payment
Petty Cash £60.0.0.
Less balance at Bank 24.7.10.

35.12.2.
The Clerk read a letter from the District Auditor expressing his approval on the recent Audit carried out at the Clerk's office. The Auditor in his letter thanked the Clerk and his staff for their kind co-operation.

5. East Grinstead Scout Group.
The Clerk read a letter from the 1st East Grinstead Scout Group asking the Board's permission to collect the litter on the Forest in view of the National Good Turn Week in which all Scouts took part. This suggestion met with great approval from the members of the Board and the Clerk was asked to thank the Group for being so public spirited. It was suggested by the Clerk that it would be a good idea if as much litter as possible were collected in one spot on the Forest and a large notice erected with the words "This was collected by the 1st East Grinstead Scout Group."

Burnt Gorse
"During the six weeks that Ranger Conley's motor cycle was out of commission I was engaged in cutting a strip of dead gorse between Kingstanding and Old Lodge entrance. Since the return of the cycle, Conley has assisted in this work.

Litter baskets
Eight additional litter baskets have been placed on the Forest and a trench has been dug to each. These trenches, dug by Ranger Conley and myself are to take the refuse that cannot be burnt.

Van, Little Garde, Nutley
A derelict motor van was placed on the Forest, near Little Garde, Nutley. This has now been removed.

Refuse, Summerford, Fairwarp.
Mr. Forbes, Arnolds, Fairwarp, complained of refuse strewn on the Forest to prevent passage of his cattle. This was done by a neighbour, and has now been removed.

Fires.
Fires have occurred on the Forest in the Boring Wheel, Dodds Bank and Mill Brook areas of Nutley, and Brown's Brook and Paines Hill areas of Fairwarp, about 100 acres in all.

Petrol
Patrols have had to be cut down as the allowance of petrol will only permit 100 miles a week, whereas, before rationing, I was averaging 250 miles per week.

Vehicles on Forest
I have had to remove a military vehicle from the Forest and a number of trailer caravans. Each weekend cars are brought back to the fifteen yard limit and on the recent fine Sundays traffic has been fairly heavy on the Forest."

Signed Gilbert Day,
Forest Ranger.

In Committee
The Clerk reported that Ranger Conley had been dismissed and given one months notice on the 16th March. There had been a meeting of the Special Purposes Committee approving of this course. Mr. Owen moved that the Chairman's action be approved and it was seconded by Sir Ralph Clarke.

At the last meeting the Clerk was asked to find out the wages paid to the keepers of the Epping Forest and the Verderers of the New Forest. The Clerk read a letter received from the Superintendent of Epping Forest stating that the Keepers received £8.2.10. per week, house rent, rates end uniform free. The Chairman remarked that the total cost of running Epping Forest was something like £29,000 per annum. The Verderers of the New Forest employ four Agisters whose duty it was to look after the Commoners' animals. The Senior Agister received a salary of £425 per annum and the remaining three Agisters received salaries of £350 per annum. The latter figure being slightly below the minimum agricultural wage. The basic agricultural wage is £7.1.9. plus 15s.9d. extra for Saturday afternoons and 13s.0d. for alternate Sundays, making a total of £8.15.6d. On Bank Holidays they are paid 4s. 6d. per hour extra.
Since Ranger Conley's dismissal the Clerk had advertised in a Local paper for another Ranger. Many applications had been received and had been tabulated owing to the long distance that some of the applicants lived. One of the applicants, a Mr. G. Roser was keen to get this post and he was interviewed by the members of the Special Purposes Committee. It was resolved that a meeting of the Special Purposes Committee should be held to interview other applicants on Saturday the 27th April and that the question of wages to be paid to Rangers generally should be left to the Special Purposes Committee with power to act.

The Clerk informed the Board that a Mr. David Markham of Lear Cottage, Coleman's Hatch had applied for Commoners' rights claiming that although no Forest Rate had been paid for many years, he had proof that the property formerly known as Brickyard Farm had enjoyed Forest Rights. The Clerk read out to the Board two signed Statements by local inhabitants in which it was claimed that for many years since 1885 the owner of Brickyard Farm had enjoyed Common Rights and had exercised them. After consideration it was resolved that Commoners' Rights should be accorded to Mr. Markham and that he be asked to submit to the Clerk a plan of his property showing the acreage to be rated.

[signed] S.J. Marsh

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A meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 17th July 1957 at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for Absence were received from Mrs. U.M. Ridley, Mr. Gillham, Mr. Owen, Mr. Innes, Lord Rupert Nevill, Sir Ralph Clarke, Mr. Harvey & Mr. Bollins.

The Clerk read a letter from Sir Ralph Clarke stating that he wished to resign from the Vice-Chairmanship owing to his increasing duties with the County Council. Mr. Rupert Brooke was proposed as Vice-Chairman to succeed Sir Ralph and this motion was seconded by Mrs. Looker and carried. Mr. Brooke automatically became a member of the Special Purposes Committee.

It was resolved that Sir Ralph Clarke should remain a member of the Special Purposes Committee.

1. Minutes
The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters arising
The Clerk reported to the Board that the East Grinstead Boy Scouts had done a very good job in collecting litter on the Forest and then drawing the Public's attention to it by writing on a board several remarks, as to where it had come from. There was still a considerable amount of rubble and bottles which had to be removed and as it was thought to be too far for the Scouts to carry it the Clerk asked the Board's permission to have it removed by a lorry. This was approved. The Clerk informed the Board that he had written and thanked the Boy Scouts on behalf of the Board.

3. The Clerk read letters from the War Department, East Sussex County Council and Uckfield Rural District Council concerning the disposal of Crowborough West Camp. The Board were told that when the site was acquired by the Military an equivalent area of land was purchased and handed over to the Conservators to be used as part of Ashdown Forest and it was not necessary for the site of the West Camp to revert to the Forest. The Board felt that although they were not now responsible for this land, they were of the opinion that the existing installations including buildings and concrete roads and areas should be removed and the site used for agricultural or forestry purposes. The Clerk was authorised to inform the War Department to this effect.

4. The Clerk read a letter from Messrs. Bernard Thorpe & Partners, of which the following is a copy.

“We are desirous of improving the area adjoining the new road to Wych Cross Place Farm buildings and in the past we did indicate to you that our Client proposed to plant flowering shrubs or trees. It was understood at the time
that there would be no objection to this, but on no account must they be in the form of a hedge, and that there would be no redress if Commoners damaged such shrubs or trees.

Our Client's proposal is to plant copper beech trees at fifteen yards intervals on either side of the road at ten yards back, and we shall be glad if you will let us have your approval. We have already written to the Agent to the Lord of the Manor on similar lines. The area between these two rows of beech trees and the road itself will be cultivated by farm tractor and sown with a grass mixture so that this should heal the area effectively in a short time."

After a discussion the Board decided that the matter be referred to the Maresfield Committee for consideration.

5. The Clerk reported that Mrs. U.M. Ridley had been reappointed by the Cuckfield Rural District Council as its representative for the ensuing year.

6. Ranger's Report

The Clerk read Ranger Day's report as follows:

Litter
The litter baskets are proving effective, the sites where they are situated are keeping much more tidy. These baskets are emptied every week, and some of them two and even three times in the week.

Blind corners
I have been engaged in cutting undergrowth from a blind corner to Fairwarp. I am now working on one near Chelwood Gate.

Acknowledgments
I have collected a number of these rents for the current year.

Tents and Caravans
There have been a very much larger number of these to be moved from the Forest this summer than in past years.

Fires
There have been six fires on the Forest since the last Board meeting. The largest burning a strip from Water Farm to the Ridge Road.

Gilbert Day
Forest Ranger.

Ranger Day was asked to leave the meeting for a while and the Clerk reported to the Board that since Ranger Conley's dismissal Ranger Day had worked extremely well and hard on his own since the 13th April including two Public Holidays. The Clerk asked the Board if they would give permission for Ranger Day to be given a bonus as a token of their appreciation of this loyal service. It was resolved that Ranger Day be given a bonus of £10.

7. Finance

SINCE THE LAST MEETING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Arrears</td>
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The Annual General Meeting of the Commoners duly convened by Notices posted on the principal doors of the churches of the parishes and Ecclesiastical Districts to which the Forest extends and by advertisement in the "Sussex Express" and the "Kent & Sussex Courier" and by notice to each Commoner more than fourteen days prior to this date and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, at 1.30 p.m.

1. Chairman. On the proposal of Mr. John Rowe and seconded by Mr. J.R. Coulthard it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Marsh be elected Chairman.

2. Notice of Meeting. The Clerk read the notice convening the Meeting.

3. Minutes. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and signed.

4. Miss Hett. The Chairman informed the Meeting that Miss Hett, who had attended the Meetings for a number of years, had died during the last few days and the Clerk was asked to write a letter to the Executors of Miss Hett's Estate expressing the sympathy of the Board.

5. Election of Conservators. The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill the vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. Trevor R. Mountain, J.R. Owen and Jack Card.

On the proposal of Mr. J.R. Coulthard duly seconded by Mr. W.D. Gillham, it was unanimously resolved that the three retiring Conservators be re-elected to hold office for the three years ending December 31st 1958.

6. Election of Recreation Ground Superintendents. The Chairman expressed thanks to the Superintendents for their Services during the past year.

On the proposal of Brigadier J.K. McNair and seconded by Mr. J.R. Coulthard it was unanimously resolved that the following be re-elected.

- Nutley: Mr. S.J. Marsh
- Chelswood Gate: Mr. Trevor R. Mountain
- Coleman's Hatch: Mr. J.R. Owen, J.P.
- Fairwarp: Mr. A.K.L. Harvey
- Forest Row: Mr. A.C. Wolfson

7. General Business. The Chairman informed the Meeting that during the past year the Board had had quite a busy time in protecting the Commoner's interests on the Forest.

A. Military Vehicles.
In company with Col. Sir R.S. Clarke and the Clerk to the Board he had had a Meeting with the Army Authorities at the House of Commons and since the Meeting there had been an improvement with regard to Military Vehicles using the Forest.

B. Litter Baskets
During the past year a number of litter baskets had been erected at strategic points around the Forest. There was a general discussion on this point and the general feeling of the Meeting was that there had been more garbage and litter dumped on the Forest this year than in previous years. It was suggested that there should be more litter baskets on the Forest and that suitable places for their erection would be: (a) Top of Priory Road, (b) Goat Crossroads, (c) Kidds Hill, (d) Camp Hill. The Chairman said he would pass this information on to the Conservators and that they would take into consideration the points raised.

C. Forest Fires
There was a general discussion on this matter and it was felt that the problem should be approached from an educational point of view. It was suggested that a campaign in the schools around the Forest should be started to point out the dangers of starting Forest Fires.

D. Fire Brooms
It was reported by certain persons that there was a lot of "cutting of holly for Christmas decoration" going on. It was suggested at the Meeting that the Clerk should write a letter to Mr. Kirby asking him to see that the persons who are given a Licence to cut holly should display the Licence on the front window of the lorry.

Various other matters of interest which had taken place during the year were reported.
A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 7th December, 1955 at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for absence were received from Mr. J.R. Owen.

1. Minutes
The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters arising from Minutes
A. Weir Wood Water Board Pipeline.
The Clerk read a letter from Mr. R.W. Jack in which he stated that in company with Ranger Conley he had walked the pipeline from Cherry Orchard to the bottom of Millbrook Hill and that Ranger Conley had pointed out several items which required attention before recommending a clearance certificate, these items were as follows:-

1. Cherry Orchard. Clear away lump of stones and fill in hole along side main road.
3. Opposite Pippingford. Remove large stones and bricks.
5. Millbrook Farm Road. Remove lumps of concrete sludge.

Mr. Jack also stated in his letter that he wished to report that all the above items had now been dealt with. The Clerk reported that there was only one hole still to be filled in before granting a clearance certificate.

B. Diversion of Road at Wych Cross.
The Chairman reported that with members of the Maresfield Committee he went up to see the road in question and the Committee decided that Mr. Samuel be allowed to alter the road so long as he made good that piece of the road which he wished to relinquish, the work to be carried out to the satisfaction of the Board.

3. Chairman’s report on Commoner’s Meeting.
The Chairman reported that he had attended the Annual General Meeting of the Commoners and that there had been a very encouraging attendance. Various matters were discussed including litter, litter baskets, Forest fires and fire brooms. The Commoners had asked the Board for more litter baskets to be erected at strategic points on the Forest and their erection was unanimously approved. It was reported that the three retiring Conservators had been duly re-elected.

The Clerk read a letter from the East Sussex County Council giving the names of Members appointed to serve on the Board for the next three years.
They were:
Miss M. Blount M.B.E., Tilkhurat, East Grinstead.
Mr. C.J. Bollins, Dil Pazir, Goldsmiths Avenue, Crowborough.
Mrs. S.M. Looker, O.B.E., Chapel Meadow, Forest Row.
Mr. G.A. Warburton, Shelford, Ridgewood, Uckfield.

5. Damage to Ranger Day’s Motorcycle
The Clerk read Ranger Day’s report as follows:

23rd October 1955.
**Accident to Motorcycle**

On the 22nd October I was riding motor cycle KNJ 483 from Forest Row up the Priory Road. At about 12 noon I was approaching the back entrance to Kidbrooke Park and when at about 10 yards distance I saw a woman riding a motor assisted cycle coming out from this entrance. She did not stop but came straight out on to the Priory Road. I was by this time about 20 feet away, and fearing a collision I applied my brakes. Owing to wet leaves on the road, the motor cycle went into a skid and I managed to pull it on to the extreme near side edge of the road. But the woman on seeing me had also pulled over to my side of the road. I therefore collided with her hitting her almost broadside, knocking her from her cycle. She was a student at Michael Hall School, name: Miss Diana Harris, age 42 years and staying at c/o Mrs. Spence, Brown House, Forest Row but whose home is in Croydon. She sustained a badly cut leg, was taken by ambulance to Hospital but not detained. My nose and lip were cut; and on the cycle bent handlebars, crumpled leg shield, bent foot rest and some electric wiring trouble.

Gilbert Day, Forest Ranger.

The Clerk also said that the cost of the repairs to the damaged Motorcycle amounted to £1.5.0. and had been recovered.

4. Flood Water from Tompsetts Bank to Ashdown Forest Hotel.

The Clerk read the Ranger's report.

Flood Water 1st November 1955.

Mr. O. Wilham, Dimsdale, Park Road, Forest Row, has made a complaint of flood water from Tompsetts Bank seeping down past the Ashdown Hotel on to his property. I was instructed by Mr. Owen to attend him on an inspection of this site.

Mr. Owen is of the opinion that the remedy for this flooding would be as follows:

That the Board should give Mr. Witham permission to install a catch pit on the south side of the road passing the Ashdown Hotel and put six inch pipes under this road to a ditch running down the north.

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**A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Bow, on Wednesday 21st July 1954 at 2.30 p.m.**


Apologies for Absence.


1. Minutes. The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. The Chairman announced that owing to the death of Lt. Commander Hardy it would be necessary to elect a Vice Chairman and went on to pay tribute to the very valuable and conscientious work Lt. Commander Hardy had done for the Conservators. Members stood in silent tribute and it was resolved that the Board place on record their appreciation of his services and regret at his passing.

3. Election of a Vice Chairman. On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Owen it was unanimously resolved that Col. Clarke be elected as Vice-Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes.

A. Refuse - Wire Baskets. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting 6 further baskets had been installed making a total of 9 now on the Forest and that he had arranged with the Uckfield R.D.C. to empty these baskets each week.

B. Damage caused by Military Vehicles on the Forest at Kingstanding.
The Clerk reported that the Special Purposes Committee had met on July 5th and it was suggested that a meeting should be arranged in London on July 19th to meet the General and the Officer Commanding the Home Counties District.

On July 12th the Clerk had received a visit from Colonel Lewis who informed him that Col. Hogge was at present away in Camp and it was left that upon his return he would arrange a Meeting to be held at Crowborough Camp.

It was unanimously resolved that the Clerk should follow the matter up and arrange the suggested meeting.

5. The Chairman announced that Mrs. U.M. Ridley had been reappointed to represent Cuckfield R.D.C. on the Board and expressed on behalf of the members their appreciation of the good work done by her.


REPORT OF THE DISTRICT AUDITOR ON THE ACCOUNTS
OF THE ASHDOWN FOREST CONSERVATORS.

To the Conservators of Ashdown Forest.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have to report the completion of the audit of your accounts and of those of your officers for the years which ended at the 31st December 1952 end at the 31st December 1953.

Rate Arrears. Arrears of rates increased considerably during the three years ended the 31st December 1953 and amounted at that date to £176.16.6d.

Although much of the difficulty of collection is caused by the division of large estates on sale, it is suggested that the Conservators should, in suitable cases, exercise their statutory powers for the recovery of rates.

General. Various other matters including the accounting arrangements were discussed with your Clerk, to whom and to whose staff my thanks are due for their courteous assistance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,
A.W. VALE
District Auditor.


The Clerk reported that Ranger Day had inspected the site and reported that there were quantities of barbed wire stapled to trees, coils of Danast Wire, sheets of rusted corrugated iron, old tins, and 6 wooden gates with their posts.

The Clerk reported he had obtained from Messrs. Thorne & Co. Ltd. an estimate for £47.0.0. for the work to clear the site.

It was unanimously resolved that a claim for this amount be made to the War Department Land Agent.

8. Rangers' Reports.

13th July, 1954.

Work. Ranger Conley and I have fixed litter baskets at some of the worst spots on the Forest. We have brushed out bushes at these places, clearing up and burying tins and bottles. We have also cut undergrowth from blind corners at several places.

Water Trenches. Water trenches excavated on the Forest this year show signs of being imperfectly filed in. Both those dug out by Sir Lindsay Parkinson's and S.M. Tidy's workmen are caving in.

Military Vehicles. I have had to report several cases of military vehicles encroaching on the Forest, contrary to the provisions of Ashdown Forest Act 1949.
Replacement of Turf. The Turf near Kingstanding Clump, replaced by the military after rutting by them, now appears to be growing satisfactorily.

GILBERT DAY
Forest Ranger.

19th July 1954.

Way leave granted for water piping to be connected to the above property from the Golf Course water main across the Forest.

Bank Accounts showing the following balances:

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<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£601.19.7d</td>
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<td>Clerk's Petty Cash</td>
<td>2.7.9d</td>
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<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>£114.3.10d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£718.11.2d</td>
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Accounts for Payment

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>£60.0.0d</td>
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<td>Less balance at Bank 2.7.9d</td>
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<td>Caffyns Limited</td>
<td>18.16.2d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martins Garage</td>
<td>2.14.5d</td>
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<td>Clerk's Salary for June quarter</td>
<td>100.0.0d</td>
</tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

It was resolved that in view of the fact that only one Ranger was at present employed Barclays Bank Limited be instructed that no further transfers be made from the General Account to Wages Account until the 1st November next.

8. The Clerk read a letter from the Tunbridge Wells Telephone Manager asking for permission to place one pole and one wire stay on the High gate Road, Forest Row. This permission was refused on the grounds that no poles or wire stays for the purpose of a telephone service are allowed on the Forest.

In Committee

9. The Clerk reported that there was still a vacancy for a second Ranger in spite of the fact that he had advertised in several local papers and written to the National Association for employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.

The Clerk told the Board that in his opinion they would never get another Ranger if the wages remained so low. After a discussion it was decided to pay a second Ranger £8.10.0d. per week, with a £10 clothing allowance per annum, and Ranger Day's wage should now be raised to £9.10. 0d. with Clothing Allowance of £10 per annum.

[signed] S.J. Marsh

A meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 16th October, 1957 at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for Absence were received from Mrs. U.M. Ridley, Mr. Harvey, Lord Rupert Nevill, Mr. Pye, Mr, Mountain and Sir R.S. Clarke.

1. Minutes
The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.
The Clerk read a further letter from Messrs. Bernard Thorpe & Partners concerning the planting of trees near Wych Cross Place, and informed the Board that the Maresfield Committee had already inspected the site and advised that permission should be refused. After consideration it was resolved that permission be refused and Messrs. Bernard Thorpe & Partners be informed accordingly.

3. The New Forest Ranger
The Clerk informed the Board that Ranger Stockley had been engaged to replace Ranger Conley on the 2nd September last, under the following conditions:
Two weeks holiday with pay.
Wages £8.10.0.
£10 annual clothing allowance.
The position was subject to one month's notice on either side.

The Clerk informed the Board that Ranger Stockley had been carrying out his work very satisfactorily.

4. The Forest Rate
The Clerk reported that recently he had been having some correspondence with the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the increase in the Forest Rate. The Ministry had cast some doubts on the powers of the Conservators to increase the rate.

In his correspondence with the Ministry, the Clerk had asked if there would be any objection to his taking Counsel's advice on the matter provided the Counsel was nominated by the Minister himself, the Ministry agreed to this course.

It was resolved therefore that Counsel's Opinion should be taken.

5. Rangers' Reports.
Litter Baskets
These have been regularly cleared. All at least once a week and those in the more popular sites more often. The trenches used for tins and bottles are full, these need filling in and more dug.
Byelaws
These have been posted on the Notice Boards. The Boards are in need of coats of paint.
Roads.
I have made inquiries in respect of tracks, to be metalled under Licence from the Board at Ashdown Place, Shalesbrook, Chuck Hatch and Ford's Green.
Forest Rates
I have collected a proportion of the Forest Rates in the Danehill, Nutley and Horney Common areas.

Signed (Gilbert Day)
Forest Ranger.

I have been employed as Forest Ranger commencing 2nd September 1957. The first few days I was with Ranger Day being shown areas, boundaries and my duties as a Ranger, since then I have been patrolling the north east areas of Ashdown Forest and reporting to Ranger Day about twice a week or as the case may need.

I have been emptying litter baskets and burning paper clearing and burning bad litter spots once or twice a week as needed. Cleaning notice boards filling gaps with putty erecting Ashdown Byelaws and in some places these boards need repairing, and painting.

I have also collected Forest Rates at the north and east areas in and around the Forest and reported changes to the office paying in the takings weekly.

Signed (F.P. Stockley)
Forest Ranger.

6. Finances
SINCE THE LAST MEETING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED

Rates £150.7.6d.
Arrears 2.12.0d.
Acknowledgegment Rents 9.12.6d.
Arrears 1.10.0d.

Miscellaneous
Bank of England 4% Consolidated Stock 50.16.4d.
Deposits 217.8.4d.

Bank accounts showing the following balances

General Account 637.1.4d.
Wages 61.5.8d. Dr.
Petty Cash 2.1.1d. Dr.

Accounts for payment.
Clerk's Salary to September Quarter 100.0.0.
Petty Cash Account 62.1.1d. Dr.
Float £60.0.0d.
Dr. balance 2.1.1d. 162.1.1d.

It was resolved

1. That In view of the fact that the Wages account is at present overdrawn the Manager of Barclays Bank Limited East Grinstead Branch be instructed to transfer from the General Account to the wages Account the sum of £77.5.86.

2. That the Manager should also be instructed to transfer monthly from the General Account to the Wages Account the sum of £75.0.0d. as two full time Rangers are now employed.

3. That a sum of £400 should be transferred from Current Account to Deposit Account for the time being.

7. Any Other Business
The Clerk informed the Board that during the fortnight Ranger Day was on holiday Ranger Kirby had been going around the Forest keeping an eye on things generally. It was resolved that Ranger Kirby be given the equivalent of two weeks wages at £8.10.0d. per week as an honorarium.

Mr. Brooke informed the Board that recently he had had the land surrounding the Isle of Thorns searched for mortar bombs and fifteen had been found. The Board felt that there might be other unexploded mortar bombs on the Forest which would constitute a danger to the public. It was therefore resolved that the Clerk should write to the War Department and ask then to send a clearance unit down to the area to search the suspected portions of the Forest.

The Clerk informed the Board that there might be a liability on the Conservators for injury to the Public and that as a matter of prudence the question of insuring against the risk should be investigated.

It was resolved that the Clerk obtain cover by insuring against this risk.

The Annual General Meeting of the Commoners duly convened by Notices posted on the principal doors of the Churches of the parishes and Ecclesiastical District to which the Forest extends and by advertisement in the "Sussex Express" and the "Kent & Sussex Courier" and by notice to each Commoner more than fourteen days prior to this date and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, at 1.30 p.m.

1. Chairman. On the proposal of Mr. J.R. Owen seconded by Col. Sir R.S. Clarke it was unanimously resolved that Mr. S.J. Marsh be elected Chairman.

2. Notice of the Meeting. The Clerk read the notice convening the Meeting.

3. Minutes. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and signed.

4. Election of Conservators. The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill the vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. A.K.L. Harvey and John Rowe who offered themselves for re-election and by the retirement of Mr. Wm. Mitchell owing to ill health.

On the proposal of Col. Sir R.S. Clarke duly seconded by Brigadier McNair it was unanimously resolved that Messrs. A.K.L. Harvey and John Rowe be re-elected and that Mr. Rupert F.J. Brooke be elected in place of Mr. Wm. Mitchell. All three Conservators to hold office for a term of three years ending December 1959.

5. Election of Recreation Ground Superintendents. The Chairman expressed thanks to the Superintendents for their Services during the past year.

On the proposal of Mr. John Rowe duly seconded by Mr. C.L.J. Squire it was unanimously resolved that the following be re-elected:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreation Ground</th>
<th>Superintendent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutley</td>
<td>Mr. S.J. Marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelwood Gate</td>
<td>Mr. Trevor R. Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coleman's Hatch</td>
<td>Mr. J.R. Owen, J.P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairwarp</td>
<td>Mr. A.K.L. Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Row</td>
<td>Mr. A.C. Wolfson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. General Business. The Chairman gave a short account of how the Commoners had acquired their rights over Ashdown Forest and how the Conservators had come into being. He informed the Meeting that the Conservators had been fully occupied during the past year in protecting the Commoners interest and that the Board had prosecuted a Mr. Thornton for dumping rubbish on the Forest. Lt. Col. Lowe asked if any Commoner had the Right to graze cattle on the Forest.

The Chairman replied that any Commoner could graze cattle on the Forest, He could not however graze more than he could winter on his own holding.

Mr. Markham asked the Chairman if persons had the Right to shoot over the Forest as a lot of people had been doing so round his property.

The Clerk informed the Meeting that the Conservators had nothing to do with the Shooting Rights over the Forest and that the Earl De La Warr's agent Mr. Spendlove of the Buckhurst Estate Office would deal with any queries on this matter.

Sir Gerald Creasey asked the Chairman what steps had been taken towards solving the litter problems. The Chairman informed the Meeting that another 6 litter baskets had been erected this year at strategic points on the Forest but that it would need many more to cope with the problem effectively. He said that the Board had great difficulty in emptying the baskets and that the Local Councils were not very helpful in this respect the Rangers had to go round every week to empty them. This entailed burning the paper rubbish and burying all the other rubbish that would not burn. Col. Sir R.S. Clarke asked the Commoners present if they could help with this problem by reporting anyone they saw leaving litter on the ground.
Sir Gerald Creasey went on to compliment the Rangers on the good work they were doing and suggested that perhaps a few more baskets could be erected. The Chairman said that he would pass on the suggestion to the Board.

Various other matters were reported and discussed. The Meeting then closed.

[signed] S.J. Marsh

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A meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 18th December 1957 at 2.30 p.m.


Apologies for absence were received from Lord Rupert Nevill and Sir Ralph Clarke.

1. Minutes
   The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

   Forest Rate. The Clerk reported that Counsel's Opinion had been taken and proceeded to read it to the members present. The gist of the Opinion was that Counsel considered that the rate could be increased and could be levied by the Board as often as it thought fit. The Clerk was instructed to bring the matter forward again at the next meeting when the estimates would be considered.

   Investment of Monies. The Clerk informed the Board that on the 8th November he had placed £400 on Deposit Account.

   Mortar bombs on the Forest. The Clerk informed the Board that he had written to the H.Q. Headquarters of the Home Counties District and asked them to make a survey of the Forest for Mortar bombs. The Clerk had received a letter saying that the matter was receiving attention.

3. The Clerk read a long letter from Mr. Blewett to the Uckfield R.D.C. complaining of cars parking on the driveway to Ashdown Place. It was discussed at great length and the Board agreed to place two Notice Boards with the words "No Parking by Order of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest" at each end of the fork leading to Ashdown Place. If the name and address could then be taken of anyone persisting in parking at this junction then proceedings would be commenced against them.

4. The Chairman reported that the Commoners Meeting had had a record attendance and he had been very pleased to see a large number of ladies present, as compared with other years.

5. Rangers' Reports
   Rates
   I have finished collecting my proportion of the Forest Rates, except for a few stragglers.
   Dead gorse.
   A large expanse of burnt gorse has been cut from the road verges in the Kingstanding area.
   Name sign
   Wych Cross Place Farm has had erected on the Forest, near Twyford Lane a large name sign.
   Road Chuck Hatch
   I attended the Chairman during his inspection of a proposed licensed road across the Forest to Bank Cottage; Chuck Hatch.

Signed Gilbert Day,
Forest Ranger.

I have been patrolling the north east areas of Ashdown Forest and reporting to Ranger Day and the Office at Judges Terrace East Grinstead weekly.
I have also collected the remaining rates in the area, other than a very few which are a job to obtain. Looking into changes etc. as necessary.
I have also cleared and levelled a blind entrance at Camphill Rough, Duddleswell and cleared another at Spring Gardens Fairwarp.
I have also cleared burnt gorse at Kingstanding, Friars Gate and Kidds Hill (on main roads)
I have also cleaned painted and repaired byelaw notice boards some of these boards needed attention badly.

Signed F. Stockley,
Forest Ranger.

6. Finance
Since the last meeting the following amounts have been collected.
Rates  £130.1.0.
Arrears of Rates  2.10.0.
Acknowledgment Rents  10.12.3.

Misc.:
Interest on Investment due
6th December  £(28.14.11.
Ranger Day for
Trunk Calls  0.12.5.

£172.10.7.

Bank Accounts show the following balances
General Account  £84.6.11. Cr.
Petty Cash  1.16.2. Dr.
Wages Account  31.12.10. Dr.

Accounts for Payment
Clerks Salary for December Quarter  £100.0.0.
Petty Cash
Float  £60.0.0.
Dr. Bal.  1.16.2.

6l.16.2.

Summary of Acknowledgement Rents and Rates
collected throughout the year to date.
Rates  £291.8.0.
Arrears of Rates  15.1.0.
Acknowledgment Rents  304.4.6.
Arrears of Rents  17.6.6.

The Clerk reported that he had not asked for sufficient monies to be transferred to the Wages Account from General Account and he asked the Board to pass a resolution authorising a transfer of £100; also in view of the small balance on General Account he would like a sum of £300 again to be transferred from Deposit Account. It was proposed and seconded and duly Resolved that the £300 be transferred from Deposit Account to General Account and that a sum of £100 be transferred from General Account to Wages Account.

7. The dates of the next meetings were arranged for:- February 19th, April 23rd, July 23rd, October 22nd and December 10th at 1.30.

It was resolved that the meeting go into Committee.

Crowborough Warren Camp
Mr. Owen reported that Crowborough Warren Camp was being put up for Auction and has to be used as a pig farm. It was resolved that the Board should be represented at any appeal or hearing connected with the use of Crowborough Warren Camp.
A meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 19th February 1953 at 2.30 p.m.


1. Apologies for absence were received from Lord Rupert Nevill, Sir R.S. Clarke, A.K.L. Harvey, J.R. Owen, C.J. Bollins and R.T. Innes.

2a. Election of Chairman.
Mr. Marsh said that it was twenty-seven years ago that he had first become a member of the Board. For the last twelve years he had had the privilege to set as Chairman but the time had come when he should make way for a younger man. He offered his grateful thanks for the sympathy and support that had been given him throughout his long service, especially in the earlier years and during the War. He said the Board were very fortunate in having the services of Ranger Day as their senior Ranger. He had served the Board for a great number of years and his knowledge of the Forest was always at the service of the Board. Mr. Marsh reported that Ranger Stockley had already fully justified his appointment as second Ranger. Mr. Marsh concluded by saying that so long as the Commoners continued to appoint him he would do all that he possibly could to serve the Board.

Mr. Wolfson proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Marsh in the following terms, seconded by Mr. Rowe and carried unanimously:

"It is going to be a great loss because no one had a greater love and knowledge of the Forest then Mr. Marsh. He has put in a fantastic amount of work, especially cleaning up after the War and all that has been done without any fuss and bother and, if I may say so, most efficiently. I want to record the fact that Mr. Marsh has been the Chairman for twelve years and for twenty seven years has been a Conservator.

Mr. Marsh, I am sure we all thank you for all that you have done and I am sorry we shall not see you in the Chair any more but we shall have the benefit of your advice still."

The Clerk said that he had been sent a nomination for the new Chairman. In future he suggested that anyone who wished to send in nominations for the Chairmanship should do so before the meeting.

Mr. R.F.J. Brooke was proposed by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. A Wolfson and unanimously elected.

Mr. Brooke said he would take on the Chairmanship but he did not know the amount of work involved and if it become too much he would retire at the end of a year. Mr. Brooke then took the Chair.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman.
Brigadier J.K. McNair was proposed by Mr. Marsh and seconded by J. Rowe and unanimously elected.

Brigadier McNair said he should willingly take on the job but he told the Board that he had a severe illness during the last year and his appointment would be experimental on his health.

2c. Election of Committees
Forest Row
It was resolved that Mr. Owen, Mr. Rowe, Mr. Wolfson and Mr. Card should serve on this Committee for another year.

Maresfield
It was resolved that Mr. Harvey, Mr. Mountain and Mr. Gillham should serve on this Committee for another year, with Mr. Marsh as an additional member.

2(d) Special Purposes Committee
It was resolved that the members be the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Chairmen of the Forest Row and Maresfield Committees, Sir Ralph Clarke end Mr. Marsh.

3. Minutes
The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

4. Matters arising

**Mortar bombs**
The Clerk reported that an Army Officer from the Home Counties District had visited him and he had shown him the areas the Board wanted surveyed for bombs. The Army Officer was then taken over the areas in question by Ranger Day and the Clerk was informed that the Army would deal with the matter as soon as they possibly could. The Clerk was instructed to inform the War Department Land Agent that the Board had no objection to the erection of Danger Warning notice boards provided that they were given the opportunity of approving the size and type of board.

5. Nutley War Memorial

The question of connecting the Nutley War Memorial Pavilion to the electric main by means of a pole to be pieced on Ashdown Forest was discussed at great length. It was proposed by Mr. Gillham and seconded by Mr. Marsh that the matter should be referred to the Maresfield Committee for inspection and report.

6. Rangers’ Reports

11th February 1958.

(1) **Mines Mortar Bombs.**
I have inspected with a Bomb Disposal Officer the two sections of Forest where mines and mortar bombs may still be found.

**Fire Brooms.** Ranger Stockley and I have prepared 500 fire brooms for the Fire Services. In addition we have erected stands of brooms to be used in an emergency at strategic points on the Forest.

**Obstruction.** Col. Hazlett Londonderry Farm, Nutley, had erected some poles, thus obstructing an entrance to the Forest.

**Road.** Mr. Best, Woodcock, Nutley, is licensing a road as an approach to some property he has purchased at Folders Green.

(Sgd.) Gilbert Day,
Forest Ranger.

12th February 1958

(2) I have been patrolling the north east areas of Ashdown Forest, reporting to Ranger Day and the office weekly on my activities, which have been as follows:

Emptying litter baskets and clearing up bad litter spots; Dealing with enquiries and complaints as they have arisen;

Clearing burnt gorse on the Kidds Hill at Kingstanding Road. Cutting fire beaters for the Fire Service (500 in bundles of ten). Cutting fire beaters and stakes for stands to be erected on all main roads carting these and distributing where none can be cut. Cutting back gorse on Junction Kidds Hill and Hartfield Road.

Making pathway to concrete bridge erected by the Board at bottom corner of Mr. J. Card's, The Birches, Coleman's Hatch. This had been cut up badly by horses using the bridge. I have spoken to a number of young riders.

After leaving the office at East Grinstead on Wednesday, 12th February, 1958, I went to the Crowborough Road. During the morning of the same day, Ranger Day and I erected a new litter basket and one stand of fire beaters at this point. After what he told me, I made a suggestion that I should come back later in the day and conceal myself. At this point, we have constantly cleared up broken glass, bottles tins and rubbish. It was at this point where, after returning a number of times, we found that the litter baskets had been stolen.

I arrived at about 4 o'clock, leaving the motor cycle some way off. I concealed myself in a pit about 25 yards from the basket. At about 5.4 p.m., a woman passed this point with a dog on a lead coming from the direction of Crowborough. Some few minutes later, she returned throwing the litter basket to the ground taking from it a bottle and throwing this at a point where litter has been thrown before. The woman's name is Mrs. A. Kurd, Poplar Farm, Crowborough. The time was 6 o'clock as I was talking to her asked her why she had done this and she replied that she did not know. There was at the time another man farther along the road exercising two Alsatian dogs. This seemed to me to provide a motive.

Since this conversation, the site has been clean for the first time for a long period.
7. Forest Rate for 1958
It was resolved that a rate of 2/- per acre be levied and the Rate Book was produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

8. Estimates
The Clerk submitted the Estimates of Normal Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st December 1958 together with the Income and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 1957. They were approved.

9. Finance

Bank Accounts show the following balances
- General Account: £185.19.5 Cr
- Wages Account: 47.4.4 Cr.
- Petty Cash: Dr. 4.11.5

Accounts for payment
- Clerk's Salary for March Quarter: 100.0.0.
- Petty cash a/c Float: 60.0.0. Plus Dr. 4.11.5
- Amount collected since last meeting:
  - Rates: 1.18.0.
  - Arrears of Rates: 12.0.6.
  - Acknowledgment Rents: £230.7.1.
  - Misc.
    - Bank of England Interest on 4% Cons. stk.: £29.4.5.
    - Official receiver in Bankruptcy re Sullivan: 0.0.6d.

Amount collected since last meeting: £273.10.6d.

10. Any other business

Fires on the Forest
The Clerk read a letter from the Chief Education Officer, saying that he would be pleased to include a note about fires in his next Bulletin, to schools in the County.

R.S.P.C.A.
The Clerk read a letter from the R.S.P.C.A., asking the Board's permission to erect on the Forest, during the weekends only, a Board depicting a white lamb on a blue background, worded "Caution Sheep & Lambs". The Board agreed to this, provided the R.S.P.C.A. provide their own Notice Boards.

A meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 23rd April 1958 at 2.30 p.m.


1. Apologies for absence were received from Lady Dudley Gordon, Miss M. Blount, Mrs. Ridley, J.R. Owen, Mr. Innes, Mrs. Looker and R.F.J. Brooke.

In the absence of Mr. Brooke Brigadier McNair the Vice Chairman took the Chair.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read confirmed and signed.
3. Matters arising
   (a) Mortar Bombs
   The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the War Department Home Counties District stating that work would commence in the Hindleap & Camp Hill district on the 8th April 1958 the work would take approximately six weeks to complete.

   (b) Nutley War Memorial Pavilion
   The Clerk reported that members of the Mansfield Committee had visited the site on different occasions, and they were not in favour of having the pole erected. The Clerk enumerated the various poles which do appear in that vicinity explaining their origin. The Board expressed their regret at having to come to the decision they had reached and the Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Fell Clarke in the same terms.

   (c) Forest Rate for 1958
   The Clerk read a letter he had received from some Solicitors in Uckfield who were acting for various local farmers who were alarmed at the increased Forest Rate. The Clerk reported that he had written several letters and had a telephone conversation also. The Solicitors wanted to know on what grounds the Conservators had power to increase the rate to a shilling per acre or part thereof. The Clerk had given them the necessary proof and he did not think the Board would hear any more of this matter until the Report of the Royal Commission on Common Lands was received.

4. The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit had taken place on the 14th April last, he read a letter received from the District Auditor expressing his approval of the recent Audit carried out, and thanking the Clerk and his staff for their kind co-operation.

5. Rangers’ Reports
   Ford's Green
   9th April, 1958.
   I attended a meeting of the Maresfield Committee in connection with the application for an overhead electricity line to the Cricket Pavilion.

   Fires
   A series of fires have occurred on the Forest in the Lisburn, Stone Hill and Dodd's Bank areas.

   Notice Boards
   The boards on which Bye-Laws are posted have all been painted. Bye-Laws were put up before the Easter holiday.

   Litter Baskets
   The baskets are being regularly cleared, the trenches for bottles and tins have been filled and covered in, and new trenches dug.

   Forest Rate
   I have collected a proportion of the arrears of the Forest Rates.

   Signed Gilbert Day.
   Forest Ringer.

Sheep, Fairwarp.
   21st April, 1958
   Mr. James Waters, 2 Upper Lodge, Ringmer has a flock of sheep ewes and lambs, some seventy in number turned on to the Forest in the Duddleswell, Fairwarp area. For some time these sheep have frequented the main road verges from Camp Hill to Fairwarp, but owing to accidents to them from cars on this road Water's sister who tends the sheep has driven them back from the road first to the Brown's Brook, and now to the Hermitage Spring Gardens areas; they have been a great nuisance breaking in to people's gardens. As these ewes and lambs live entirely on the Forest, getting no extra feed, they are always exceptionally hungry.

   Water's mother at one time rented Chestnut Farm, Dodd's Bank Nutley so there is no doubt that he pastured his sheep on the rights that this property carries. Mrs. Waters ceased to be a tenant of this holding some years ago now living in a cottage that has no rights. Waters himself lives at Ringmer, so that the turning of these sheep on to the Forest would appear to be unauthorised.

   Signed Gilbert Day,
   Forest Ranger.
23rd April. 1958

**Bomb Clearance**
The Bomb Disposal Unit commenced the clearing of the site of the Mortar Range on the Forest, North of Camp Hill on the 8th April. They worked on this until 22nd April and found one twenty-five pounder shell and one three inch mortar shell, both unexploded and these were satisfactorily blown up on 22nd April. This site is now declared to be clear. The unit commenced work on the mine site west of Hindleap on the same date, 22nd April.

Signed Gilbert Day,
Forest Ranger.

I have been patrolling the north east areas of Ashdown Forest and reporting to Ranger Day. Emptying lifter baskets and clearing up bad litter in this area. There are a number of tins, bottles etc. that need some transport. Fixing new litter baskets. Painting notice boards top coat twice. Digging pits at litter baskets for tins bottles etc. Cutting back undergrowth at Chuck Hatch, Newbridge, Splash Road junction Harts Lane at Stepy Corner. Cutting back overhanging branches and undergrowth of the Chapel Lane, Tompsetts Bank and Greenhill roadway. Cutting back, overhanging undergrowth on the Wych Warren entrance, burning and leaving tidy. Kept observation for Fire Lighters at the Vatchery, Isle of Thorns and Nutley areas. Putting up Bye-Law notices on all boards. Clearing up an area at pull-in at the top of Millbrook Hill some controlled burning.

Signed Ranger Stockley
Forest Ranger.

6. Finance

**Bank Accounts Show, the following balances**

- General Account £149.6.9.
- Petty Cash Account £11.0.8. Dr.
- Wages Account 34.13.10.

**Accounts for payment**

- Petty Cash a/c
  - Float £60.0.0.
  - Dr. Bal. 11.0.8. £71.0.8d.

**Amounts collected since last meeting**

- Arrears of Rates £24.17.6d.
- Acknowledgment Rents 53.15.9d.
- Arrears of Rents 2.10.0.

**Misc.**

- Repayment of Tax on Divs. 1956/57 1.11.7.
- Powell & Partner - permission for notice board 0.10.0d.
- H. & E. Waters deposit 5.0.0d.
- Repayment of Tax on Divs. 1957/58 46.0.0. 228.1.3. £309.4.6d.

There being no other business the meeting was concluded.
A meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 23rd July, 1958 at 2.30 p.m.


1. Apologies for absence were received from Lady Dudley Gordon, Mrs. Looker and Mr. Pye.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising
   (a) Bomb Clearance on the Forest
   The Clerk read the following letter which he had received from the War Department's Land Agent on the 4th June last:

   "I have to inform you that the two areas at Camp Hill and Hindleap, as requested by you and your Forest Ranger, Mr. Day, have now been cleared by mechanical means and all unexpected missiles found have been removed or destroyed.

   It is hoped that the clearance has been carried out to your entire satisfaction".

   The Clerk reported that three bombs in all had been found. It was resolved that the Insurance Policy be allowed to lapse when it expires.

   (b) Forest Rate
   The Clerk reported that since the last meeting he had received no further correspondence from Solicitors acting for local farmers in this matter, he reported that the Rate Demands had been sent out and already £285 had been collected.

4. Rangers’ Reports

   Track, Fairwarp 15th July, 1958

   I investigated a track at Paines Hill, Fairwarp. The rutting of this track was the subject of a complaint made by Mrs. Bland. These were caused by a tractor hauling cord wood. I got the ruts satisfactorily filled in by the person who caused them to be made.

   Sheep, Fairwarp.

   I inquired into the case of Mr. James Waters who was alleged to be turning sheep on to the Forest, he not having a right to do this. I found this to be true. He has now rented land at Nutley with Forest Rights and is now entitled to turn sheep on to the Forest.

   Forest Rates

   I have need to collect the now Forest Rate.

   Signed Gilbert Day
   Forest Ranger.

Care on the Forest

Owing to the increase of Cars bringing people on to the Forest at, weekends in the summer, Ranger Stocky and I were agreed that it was impossible for one ranger to handle these. We had been taking alternative Sundays off with the consent of the Chairman and the Clerk we changed this arrangement to one of taking a day off in the week. To keep control of motor vehicles we ask drivers not to park these more than 15 yards from the highway. This is not under a Bye law, but under a clause of the Road Traffic Act 1930. Motorists usually plead ignorance of this rule, some say that there are no notices warning people of this. The Clerk has had small notices printed for the rangers to put on the windscreen if the occupants cannot be found. Would it be possible for similarly worded but larger notices to be printed and posted at the more frequented points on the Forest?
Signed Gilbert Day Forest Ranger.

16th July. 1958

On the 6th July, 1958 on the Wych Warren Driveway approximately 300 yards from the main road just on the edge of the ladies golf course, all these entrances have now 'No parking' notices. The three persons named below wore parked. All three have been told several times of the 15 yards regulation. Also of the no parking area after complaint of the Golf Club of parking on the fairway and would not move for players.

Mr. Bucklam,
11a, The Pavements,
Redhill.
Car Number RPG.345 this number I have brought before.

Mr. E.A. Arton
111 Bryan Avenue,
Sanderstead.
I had told this man on the Sunday previously after the Wych Warren notice had been created.

Mr. Innis
19 Holme Thorpe
Reigate.
This man has been told on several occasions.

These all said at first they would make a test case but later moved. I gave them each a copy of the 15 yard regulation.

All other cars parked in this area have been well behaved and have moved when asked to
Signed Ranger Stockley

16th July, 1950

I have been patrolling the north east area of Ashdown Forest and reporting weekly.
Emptying litter baskets and clearing up bad litter.
Clearing up tins and rubbish with Tractor trailer on the Wych Cross, Clay wood Gate and Nutley Roads
Fires in this area have not been excessive the worst area being south of Wych Cross, Nutley Road,
Clearing burnt gorse on the Chelwood Gate Roadway not completed.
Clearing and burning undergrowth out by bomb disposal at the Hindleap site.
I have been patrolling the Golf Course area on Sundays after receiving a report from the Golf Course, the worst area being the Wych Warren, Ashdown Place and Green Hall areas.
Erecting a No Parking sign board on the Wych Warren entrance and collecting Forest Rates

Signed Ranger Stockley

The Clerk reported that both Rangers worked every Sunday and have their day off during the week.

The Clerk reported that he had had notices printed warning motorists not to park more than fifteen yards from the Highway, which the Rangers placed under the windshield wipers of parked cars, thus saving them having to wait until the occupants of the oars returned. It was decided that these notices should be over-printed with the words "By order of the Board of Conservators".

5. Finance

Bank Accounts show the following balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>£343.17.1 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash</td>
<td>9.8.7 dr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages</td>
<td>6.5.8 cr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accounts for payment
Clerk’s salary for June quarter £100.0.0
Petty Cash A/c £60.0.0
Float 69.8.7
Dr. Balance 9.8.7

Amounts collected since last meeting
Rates £285.0.0
Arrears of rates 15.8.0
Ack. Rents 18.5.3

Misc:
Powell & Partner permission 0.10.0
Half year's interest on £2499.12.0
Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland Stock 49.19.10
J.H. Tyler (Forest Row) Limited deposit 2.0.0

L.A. Contributions
E.G.U.D.C. 58.6.7
Cuckfield R.D.C. 58.6.7
East Sussex C.C. 291.12.9 470.16.9
£789.9.0

It was resolved to transfer £400 from General Account to Deposit Account.

6. Any other business
(a) The Clerk read the following letter he had received from the Royal Commission or Common Lands.

"You may recall that two years ago we had some correspondence about this and you informed me that the Board did not wish to recommend any changes in the existing law to the Royal Commission. You may, however, be interested to know that, in accordance with an answer given recently in Parliament, the commission expects to present its Report within the next fortnight. The report will be on sale through H.M.S.O. or any bookseller.

I am returning the copies of Acts of Parliament which you sent me with your letter of 2nd July 1956 May. I thank you for the loan and at the same time apologies for the delay in returning them"

It was resolved that if, when the report was received, there was anything especially affecting the Conservators a meeting of the Special Purposes Committee would be called.

(b) The Clerk read the following letter he had received from the R.S.P.C.A.

"Several instances have occurred of late when it has been necessary to trace the owners of sheep which have been killed, injured or had to be humanely destroyed.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in some cases where sheep have not been marked.

I would respectfully suggest that the Board consider a recommendation, that all sheep grazing on the Forest should be marked with a registered brand, a record being kept by the Conservators so that reference could be made when such accidents occur.

Whilst I fully realise difficulties may be involved in some cases, would the Board also consider a recommendation that all ewes be brought in during lambing?

Thanking you for your consideration in these matters"

The Board agreed that to help the R.S.P.C.A. in this matter a new Bye law would have to be passed without which it would have no jurisdiction at all and resolved the R.S.P.C.A. be informed that its request could not be complied with.
(c) The Clerk read the following letter he had received from the Automobile Association

"The Association is anxious to lay down ground signs in relation to selected telephone boxes to assist recognition from the air.

The policy attaching to this scheme has been fully discussed with the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, The County Councils Association and representatives of the principal Aero Clubs. The principle has been accepted and endorsed.

After a selective reconnaissance, we have felt that the site occupied by our box at Wych Cross would be ideal for the purpose of one of these ground signs, we should like if possible to position it on the East Grinstead side of the telephone box but realise, of course, that your permission and agreement is first essential, having regard to the control that you exercise. We attach an illustration of the type of sign that is in mind with the general specification in which connection, for the word concrete, we would substitute any similar material, paying stones, etc., if it is felt desirable. I await to hear from you when you have had an opportunity to consider your decision."

Permission was given for the erection of the sign on payment of an annual acknowledgement fee of £5.

(d) The Clerk read a letter he had received from Messrs P.H. & G.A. Davey requesting permission to erect a petrol pump on their land at Duddleswell.

The Board decided that, at the moment, they had no comment to make on the desirability or not of the petrol pump at Duddleswell, the Clerk was asked to write so Messrs. Davey pointing out that the pump could not be erected on Forest land nor could cars be permitted to draw in from the road across the Forest verge.

(e) The Clerk read a letter he had received from a Mr. D.R. Humphries applying for permission to have a mobile refreshment van parked on Ashdown Forest at Millbrook Hill, Nutley.

It was resolved that this application be refused as have similar applications received in the pant.

There being no other business the meeting was concluded.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke

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**CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST SPECIAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**A Meeting of the Committee was duly convened and held at the offices of the Clerk at Judges Terrace, East Grinstead on Friday 7th November 1958.**


1. Apologies for absence was received from Brig. McNair and Mr. R.F.J. Brooke.

2. The question of the contribution by the Conservators to the repair of the bridge at Quabrook over the stream leading to the 13th Tee on the Golf Course was considered and after a general discussion it was agreed that the Conservators should contribute half the cost of rebuilding the bridge, but their contribution should not exceed, in any case, the sum of £130. It was decided that the bridge should be built by the Golf Club but that the actual specification should receive prior approval of the Conservators.

The Clerk then reported that he had received a contribution of £25 from the Lord of the Manor towards the cost of the new bridge and it was decided that the Conservators would accept this £25, as a payment towards their contribution.

Later. The Captain of the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club, Mr. P.K. Harris and the Secretary, Mr. D. Strain, were invited to join the meeting and particulars of the Conservators’ offer of contribution was conveyed to them and on behalf of the Golf Club the contribution was gratefully received and the Club accepted responsibility for re-building
the bridge, and the Clerk offered to hand over the three estimates from F.& E. Waters, W.H. Price and R.W. Jack, which he had obtained.

Mr. Harris and Mr. Strain then withdrew.

3. Sleeper Bridge over the Quabrook just above Water Farm. The Clerk reported that owing to the possible danger of this bridge, which had been damaged during a storm, being swept down towards Water Farm and causing damage, the Rangers had dismantled it. After a discussion it was resolved that this bridge be not rebuilt as it really served no useful purpose and any cattle using this area could easily ford the stream.

4. There being no other business the meeting was closed.

The Annual General Meeting of the Commoners duly convened by Notices posted on the principal doors of the Churches of the parishes and Ecclesiastical District to which the Forest extends and by notice to the members of the Board more than fourteen days prior to this date and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, at 1.30 p.m.


1. Chairman
On the proposal of Mr. J.R. Owen seconded by Brigadier J.K, McNair it was unanimously resolved that Mr. S.J. Marsh be elected Chairman.

2. The Clerk read the notice convening the Meeting.

3. Minutes. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and signed.

4. Election of Recreation Ground Superintendents. The Chairman expressed thanks to the Superintendents for their Services during the past year.

On the proposal of Mr. John Rowe duly seconded by Mr. C.L.J. Squire it was unanimously resolved that the following be re-elected.

Nutley         Mr. S.J. Marsh
Chelwood Gate  Mr. T.R. Mountain
Coleman's Hatch Mr. J.R. Owen J.P.
Fairwarp       Mr. A.K.L. Harvey
Forest Row     Mr. A.C. Wolfson

6. General Business. The Chairman gave a short account of how the Commoners had acquired their rights over Ashdown Forest and how the Conservators had come into being. He informed the Meeting that the Conservators had been fully occupied during the past year in protecting the Commoners interests.

Mr. E.B. Worthington asked the Chairman if the number of fires in the past year had been greater than in previous years and if so what precautionary steps had been taken to prevent them. The Chairman replied that during the Spring of this year there was a long dry spell which gave rise to several large fires. The south side of the Forest had had more fires than usual, he also said that there was nothing that could be done to prevent these fires except by cutting a fire-break around the houses and calling the Fire Brigade.

Ranger Day was asked which were the worst months for fires he replied February, March and April up to the middle of May.

Colonel J.H.B. Lowe asked the Chairman if he thought that the fires were deliberately started. The Chairman replied that he thought half of the fires were started by carelessness on the part of motorists and half by children.
Mr. E.B. Worthington said that the National Conservancy want a campaign to reduce this evil of fires and there was plenty of evidence to show that the number of fires was very much greater today than what it was ten years ago.

It was suggested that the Clerk should write to the local schools asking the Masters to impress upon the children the danger and suffering to animals and wild birds of Forest fires, and asking them to appeal to their love of wild creatures. It was suggested that many fires seem to coincide with the school holiday period and it was thought that the children could be given a lesson on the subject of fire prevention.

Captain Hunt said that he thought that a lot of the fires were started deliberately by people living on the Forest to improve the grassland. The Chairman replied that this may have been so but there was no evidence to show for it.

The Clerk reported that three years ago the Conservators met the County Fire Officer and said that there was close cooperation with the fire brigade.

Sir Gerald Creasy asked if the litter baskets had been effective and he was told yes they had. He asked if there would be more. It was agreed that there would be one more on the Forest Row Wych Cross Road.

Various other matters were reported and discussed. The meeting was then closed.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday October 22nd 1958 at 2.30 p.m.


1. Apologies for absence were received from Brig. J. K. McNair and Col. Sir R. S. Clarke.

2. Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read confirmed and signed.

   The Clerk reported that at the last meeting it was resolved to transfer £400 from General Account to Deposit Account and this has been duly carried out.

4. The Clerk reported that when the pipe line was laid to Wych Cross Reservoir it was necessary to cut down certain trees and amongst these trees were a number of birch, willow and alder to the value of approx. £30 which the Lord of the Manor claimed belonged to him. It had been contended on behalf of the Conservators that as this timber was part of the Commoners Rights for Estovers the compensation belonged to the Conservators who represented the Commoners as a body. The Weir Wood Water Board stated that until a decision had been made they would not pay over the money.

   It was resolved, in order to get the matter disposed of and without prejudice to the legal rights of either side, that Colonel Adams’ suggestion that the compensation money should be shared equally between the Lord and Conservators be accepted and the Clerk was instructed accordingly.

5. The Clerk then reported that a certain amount of damage had been done to the Forest during the recent flooding, mainly to the private roadways constructed by various individuals and it was mainly up to them to repair them, but there were two bridges which were situated at the Golf Course which had been severely damaged. The bridge below the 13th Tee being left in a dangerous condition and something had to be done very quickly. Three estimates had been received as follows:

   (a) H. & E. Waters, Forest Row who estimated for an entirely new type of bridge of steel with wooden slats. Quotation £260.0.0
   (b) W. H. Price, East Grinstead Concrete bridge £400.0.0
Although the Conservators had paid a proportion of the cost when the previous bridge was built, it was not their liability. Two Notice Boards had been erected at the bridge informing the public and golfers that the bridge was unsafe and the Clerk reported that the Conservators would not be held responsible for injury to any member of the public using the bridge.

It was resolved that negotiations with the Golf Club should be left for the Special Purposes Committee to arrange as to the type of estimate to be accepted and the manner in which the cost was to be shared. The Committee would have power to act without reference back in view of the urgency but the Conservators’ contribution should not exceed the proportion of the cost contributed by them on the previous occasion. The Clerk was also requested to find cut if the Lord of the Manor would bear some of the cost.

With regard to the other bridge near Water Farm it was resolved to also leave the matter of its repair to the Special Purposes Committee.

6. Rangers’ Reports

14th October 1958

Builders Material
Brasiers, Builders, Rotherfield have placed building materials on the Forest in the Fairwarp area and have also placed a temporary shed there. This is being done under licence from the Board.

Notice Board. Miss Cowper, Duddleswell, has had a "No Parking" notice board erected on the Forest, outside her property.

Bridges, Water Farm. I attended Mr. Williams during his inspected of the bridges, near Water Farm, damaged by floods.

Rates. I have collected a portion of the Forest Rates.

signed Gilbert Day
Forest Ranger

I have been patrolling the north east areas of Ashdown Forest and reporting. Emptying litter baskets and cleaning up bad litter in this area. Litter has been a little less since the new law has been passed. The collection of the Ashdown Forest rates in and around the north east area is almost completed. I have been with Ranger Day in the south west areas learning my way around in that area. After heavy rains of September 5th and 7th two bridges have been damaged on the Golf Course area. Having reported this I made arrangements with H. & E. Waters and W.B. rice Builders to estimate cost of repairs. I have put up notices on both sides of bridge saying "This bridge is Dangerous". Cutting away undergrowth at car park on the Wych Cross and Nutley Road opposite Brooklands. Most open spaces are growing over fast.

signed Ranger Stockley

7. FINANCE

Bank Accounts show the following Balances

General Account £140.11.5 Cr
Petty Cash 1.4.9. Dr
Wages 20.9.10 Dr

Accounts for payment
Clerks Salary for September quarter 100.0.0
Petty Cash a/c Float £60.0.0
Dr. Bal. 1.4.9 61.4.9

Accounts collected since last Meeting
Rates 211.4.0
Ack. Rent 9.11.3

Misc.
Powell & Partner - Permission 0.10.0.
It was resolved to transfer £250 from Deposit Account to General Account and £75 from General Account to Wages Account.

8. Any other business
The Clerk read a resume of the points dealt with by the Royal Commission on Common Lands and a discussion took place. It was pointed out that the Conservators should have a scheme ready to put forward when the Act came into being. It was resolved, the matter be referred to the General Purposed Committee for further consideration.

9. The Clerk reported that the Chairman had received a letter marked "Confidential" from the War Office stating that the military requirements for the general training rights granted to the Department under the Ashdown Forest Act 1949 would come to an end in the near future, although there would be a continuing requirement for the track for access to the Department's training land at Pippingford Park. It was resolved that no motion should be taken but that when de-requisitioning actually took place the Board should instruct a Surveyor to prepare and settle a claim for dilapidation (if any).

There being no other business the meeting was concluded.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke

The Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday December 10th 1958 at 2.30 p.m.


1 Apologies for absence were received from Sir Ralph Clarke, Miss M. Blount, Mr. C.J. Bollins.

2 Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising
Storm damage to bridge over the Quabrook. The Chairman reported that the Special Purposes Committee had met on Nov. 7th and agreed that the Golf Club Committee should rebuild the bridge, and they agreed that the Conservators should pay 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £130. Later they had met two delegates of the Golf Club Committee and this decision was reported to them and three estimates for the repair of the bridge were handed to them. The Clerk then read a letter from the Secretary of the Golf Club which he had subsequently received and which stated "for your information the Committee of the Golf Club agreed to accept H. & E. Waters estimate of £260, and thanked the Conservators most warmly for their offer to pay 50% up to a maximum of £130."

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food stating that application had been made to the Minister in respect of acquisition of land for road widening. The land required for this purpose was at Cherry Orchard corner and the land we are given in exchange is a piece lying just to the south of the Roebuck Hotel.

4 Report on Commoners Meeting. The Chairman reported that this meeting had been very well attended and he had put before them various items which the Conservators had discussed during the year and which might be of interest to them. Naturally the chief topic for discussion was the increased rates from 6d to 1/- and numerous questions were asked. The reasons for the increase were explained to them in some detail and appeared to satisfy the majority.
Three names of Conservators representing commoners were put forward for re-election, i.e. Messrs. T.R. Mountain, J. Card and J.R. Owen and a further four names were proposed at the meeting, i.e., Messrs. Pendry, Frith, Cornwell and Cottingham. As a result of a ballot Messrs Frith, Cottingham and Cornwell were elected to the Board.

5 Rangers’ Reports


Roadside Trimming. I have assisted Ranger Stockley in trimming branches from overhanging trees, mostly birches on the Ridge and Legsheath roads.

Road at Cripps Corner. Mrs. Clarke, Hindleap Cottage, Cripps Corner, commenced to metal a track across the Forest to this residence. She was warned that a licence was necessary for such work. She has now applied for such a licence.

Rates. I have visited several properties subject to Forest Rates where divisions have been made, now owners have taken over or payment of Rates has been overlooked.

Gipsies. After freedom from Gipsies on the Forest for some years one named Roser Brazil has twice stayed a night at Goat cross-roads and at Coleman's Hatch. At this last place he left behind a considerable amount of litter, rags, tins, etc.

(Signed) Gilbert Day.
Forest Ranger.

I have been patrolling the North East Area of Ashdown Forest and reporting. Emptying litter baskets and clearing up bad litter. Completed collecting Forest Rates in the area.

Cutting back overhanging branches and undergrowth on Kidds Hill, Ridge Road, Hollies Down, Coleman's Hatch and the Goat cross-roads to Legsheath Road. Clearing up and leaving sites tidy. Keeping observation on bonfire boys cutting on Forest, Post Horn Lane area, previous to Nov. 5th and at the same time cutting back undergrowth and levelling footpath the continuation of Primrose Lane, Forest Row, which was badly washed away by storm, after some casualties on same.

Posting notices on church doers in the area.

(signed) Ranker Stockley

6. FINANCE. Bank accounts showed the following balances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>253.16.0 Cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>1.7.8 Cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>7.11.11 Dr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accounts for Payment
Clerk's Salary for December Quarter 100.0.0
Petty Cash Account Float 60.0.0
Dr. Balance 7.11.11 67.11.11

Amounts collected since last meeting
Rates 83.6.0
Arrears of Rates 0.14.0
Acknowledgement rents 1.5.6

Misc:
Lord De La Warr's contribution towards repair of footbridge 25.0.0
Messrs Ian G. Walker Deposit 5.0.0
Half-year's interest on £2499.12.0
Govt. of the Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland 4% Stock 49.19.10 79.19.10 £163.5.4
7 Dates fixed for meetings during the following year were Feb. 18th, April 15th, July 22nd, Oct. 21st and Dec. 9th.

8 The Clerk reported the names of two new members who had been appointed by East Sussex County Council to the Board and these were:-

Mr. T.M. Shelford,  
Selafield Place, Nr. East Grinstead.

Miss L.T. Toller,  
Ashdown Cottage, Fairwarp.

9 There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed.

[signed]  R.F.J. Brooke

The Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday February 16th 1959 at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Miss L.T. Toller; Mrs U. Ridley; Mrs. S.M. Looker; Messrs. D. Gillham; R. Brooke; A.C. Wolfson; C.J. Bollins; S.J. March; J. Rowe; F.B. Cornwell; E. Frith; E.W. Pye; Brig. J.K. McNair and Colonel Sir Ralph Clarke.

1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Innes, Mr. Shelford, Lady Dudley Gordon and Mr. Cottingham.

2 Election of Chairman  It was proposed and seconded that Mr. R. Brooke should take the Chair and this was unanimously agreed.

3 The Chairman then introduced the now numbers to the Board, Miss Toller representing East Sussex County Council, and Mr. Frith and Mr. Cornwell who were appointed at the Annual General Meeting. Unfortunately, two other new members, Mr. Shelford and Mr. Cottingham were unable to be present owing to previous engagements.

4. The election of the Vice Chairman then took place and Brig. J.K. McNair was proposed, seconded and duly elected.

5 Election of Committees.  
(a) Forest Row. Mr. Rowe, Mr. Wolfson and Mrs. Looker were elected to serve on this Committee with Mr. Wolfson as Chairman.  
(b) Maresfield. Mr. Harvey, Mr. Gillham, Mr. March and Mr. Cornwell were elected with Mr. Harvey as Chairman.  
(c) Special Purposes. It was resolved that the members be the Chairman, Mr. H. Brooke, and the Vice Chairman, Brig. McNair, Sir Ralph Clarke, Mr. Wolfson, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Marsh and Mr. Frith. In his absence Mr. Shelford was also purposed as a member and the Chairman was asked to get in touch with him with a view to co-opting him on to the Committee and this was agreed.

6 Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as road, confirmed and signed.

7 Matters arising. The Clerk reported that the re-building of the bridge over the Quabrook had now been completed and had been very well done. Ranger Stockley has put in place a handle made of willow at the bend just above the bridge and it was hoped that this would take root and help to retain the bank. Mr. Wolfson thanked the Board for their financial help in re-building the bridge on behalf of the Golf Club.

8 Rangers’ Reports  
Roads. Miss Binyon, Summervale, Fairwarp, is repairing, a track leading to how property under license from the Board. I have surveyed a track near Browns Brook that Mr. Burnham, Streets Farm, Duddleswell, proposes to license.

Fire. A fire broke out on the Forest near Lower Lisburn burning about 6 acres.

Forest Rates. I have collected a proportion of the arrears of Forest Rates and made several journeys enquiring details of change of ownership in connection with the rates and acknowledgements.
Patrols. Owing to the slippery state of the roads during this last six weeks I have made a large number of my patrols on foot.

Gilbert Day.
Forest Ranger.

I have been patrolling the north east areas of Ashdown Forest and reporting. Cutting back overhanging undergrowth at Chapel Lane and Golf House corner; Chuck Hatch; Hartfield Chapel Lane, entrance to Forest and Golf Course, and Yew Tree Hall driveway. Cutting back overhanging stream below Bank Cottages to Rystwood and cleaning cut waterway. Making a hurdle of willow on Bank under new bridge at the 13th Fairway to keep up bank and filling behind with green keepers. Cutting of birch, alder and willow, Forest Row area. A number of people cut this as they require, leaving the top to be cut later, and not leaving it tidy. Cutting fire beaters.

Ranger Stockley

The Clerk reported that the culvert at Highgate Green was in process of being repaired by the Rangers. The damage had caused flooding of the road in wet weather and it was undoubtedly part of Ashdown Forest and formed one of the many tracks leading thereto. As it appeared that neither the County Council nor the local authority wanted to have anything to do with it, he had given instructions to the Rangers to do this work and was satisfied that they would make a very good job of it.

9 Estimates. The Clerk then submitted the Estimates of Normal Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st December 1959 together with the Income and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 1958.

After some discussion it was agreed that the estimates be approved and the accounts and balance sheet accepted.

10 Forest Rates. It was resolved that a rate of 1/- per acre be levied and the rate book was produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman. The decision was unanimous except for Mr. Frith and Mr. Cornwell who voted against.

Mr. Frith objected to the increase in the rates stating that he, like many farmers and people who lived a long way from the Forest, felt that he received no benefit from even a sixpenny rate and that this should be payable by the people who benefited from the amenities of the Forest who were mostly day trippers from other parts of the country. Sir Ralph Clarke pointed out that although quite a number of the rate payers received no real benefit from the Forest this could be obtained if required.

Mr. Cornwell said he wished to associate himself with Mr. Frith's remarks and particularly objected to the high handed way in which the Board had increased the rate from 6d to 1/0 and he disagreed with Sir Ralph that they got anything whatever for it. It was uneconomic to cut litter and unsafe to graze cattle, and he therefore objected strongly to having his rates doubled from £8 to £16 for something for which he got no return at all, and there was very strong feeling amongst farmers over this especially amongst the larger land owners, who thought it particularly unfair to double the rate without any approach whatever being made and no indication that the rate might be doubled, or any trouble taken to point out why it was necessary to increase it.

The Chairman then said the Board had been appointed by the Commoners and local Councils to administer the Forest. The Councils for some years had been paying more than their limit under the Act and the only way at present to meet additional expenditure was to increase the rate.

He hoped that the Report of the Royal Commission on Common Land which was before the Special Purposes Committee would offer an opportunity for the Board to re-arrange the finances and reduce the rate.

11 Finance

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Bank Accounts show the following balances:-

General Account 177.8.0 Cr
Wages Account 41.5.0 Dr
Petty Cash 16.4.8 Dr

Accounts for Payment:-

Clerk's salary for March quarter 100.0.0
Petty Cash Float 60.0.0
Debit balance 16.4.8 76.4.8

Amounts collected since last meeting:

Acknowledgement Rents 200.14.7
Rate arrears 23.18.0

Miscellaneous
Bank of England Half Years interest on 4% Consols 50.16.4
Compensation re Weir Wood Water Board 5.9.6
Ranger Stockley for Trunk Calls 0.17.10

£281.16.6

It was proposed and seconded and duly resolved that the sum of £430 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the General Account.

12 The Clerk reported that from time to time problems arose concerning horse riders on the Forest. Horses created a great deal of damage to tracks and particularly to the fairways of the golf course. He had been in touch with the local Riding and Pony clubs but did not feel that he had got very far with them although he had suggested alternative parts of the Forest where riders could exercise their horses and gallop to their heart's content without creating any damage. Mr. Wolfson said that as much damage was done to the Forest by motor cars being driven over it and by car drivers making new tracks by parking and driving their cars on places other than established tracks.

It was finally resolved that this matter be left to the consideration of the Special Purposes Committee.

13 Any other business. The Clerk reported that by an oversight at the Annual General Meeting the Recreation Ground Superintendents were not elected and this should be rectified.

The following were then elected.
Mr. March - Nutley
Mr. Wolfson - Forest Row
Mr. Harvey - Fairwarp
Mr. Mountain - Chelwood Gate
Mr. Owen - Coleman's Hatch

The Clerk than read a letter from Nutley Sewage Disposal Works as follows:

"In 1956 I had correspondence with you about the Council's proposals for showering the village of Nutley, and you then informed me that the Conservators would object to the transfer to the Council of certain land on the Forest, to the cost of the village, suggested as the site for the sewage disposal works.

Finally, the Council decided to change the form of their scheme and to pump sewage to the north of the village planning permission was obtained for a site in Mill Wood for the disposal works, and the landowner was invited to agree terms with the District Value. The site is shown coloured pink on the enclosed plan. However, the owner's agents have suggested that the land shown hatched in pencil on the plan is more suitable for the Council's purpose, and have asked for it to be favourably considered. This alternative land is, according to my records, part of the Forest, and I would be grateful for the Conservator's views on the transfer of this land to the council (by way of exchange) for the purpose of sewage disposal".
After a great deal of discussion the matter was referred for a decision to the Maresfield Committee.

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke

Minutes of meeting held at Forest Row Village Hall on Wednesday, April 15th 1959.


1. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Looker, Mr. Rowe and Mrs. Ridley.

2. Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

The Chairman reported that the Maresfield Committee had met on the suggested site and had come to the conclusion that provided no building would be erected they could see no reason why the Council should not have the sewage plant on the Forest,

Following the Meeting the Chairman said he had ascertained from the Deputy Surveyor that single storey buildings and raised filter beds would be necessary on the site. He also learned that the site in Millbrook Wood was preferred both by the Planning Officer and the Council Engineer, and that the proposed road to it from the Eastbourne Road across grazing land would not be fenced. The Committee then reconsidered the matter and decided not to offer Forest land for the scheme.

4. Result of Audit. The Clerk read the following letter from the District Auditor:

"Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have to report the completion of the audit of your accounts and those of your officers for the year ended at the 31st December 1958. No matters arose at the audit to which it necessary to direct your attention. My thanks are due to your Clerk and his staff for their courteous assistance during the audit.

signed: A.V. Vale, District Auditor.

The District Auditor had, however, pointed out when auditing the books that it was lay down in the Standing Orders that all cheques should be signed by two members of the Board and counter-signed by the Clerk and not just one member of the Board end the Clerk as had been the custom. If the Board were to continue with the latter practice then it would be necessary to amend the Standing Order. It was, therefore, resolved that the rule about signing cheques as laid down is Standing Orders should stand and in future cheques would be signed by the members of the Board and the Clerk.

The following resolutions were then passed regarding the accounts:-

Resolved that Brig. J.K. McNair and Mr. A.C. Wolfson be authorised to sign cheques on the General Account.

Resolved that an immediate transfer of £72 from General Account to Wages Account be made to place this account in credit and thereafter commencing on the 18th of May next a monthly transfer from General Account to Wages Account of £85.

Further resolved that the Petty Cash Float be increased from £60 to £80 per month to avoid this account being overdrawn during the month.
5. The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Rex Evans regarding red deer on the Forest and their lack of numbers and after some discussion the Clerk was asked to reply to the letter stating that the Conservators had no jurisdiction over deer on the Forest and that Mr. Evans should write to the Lord of the Manor concerning them.

6. Two applications for licenses were brought to the notice of the Board - one to lay a water pipe from Wych Cross to Little Plawhatch and the other from the Electricity Board who wished to lay a new main cable from roughly north of the Red Lien Public House at Chelwood Gate along the edge of the Forest in front of Birch Grove House towards Horsted Keynes. It was resolved to grant both these licenses.

7. Rangers’ Reports.
   Fires. About twenty fires have occurred on the southern section of the Forest since the last Board meeting burning about 200 acres.
   Fire Brooms. I have out an additional supply of fire brooms for the use of Uckfield Fire Brigade.
   Car on Forest. I reported the case of a motor car being persistently parked on the Forest in the Nutley area. The lady owner involved is now entering into an acknowledgment for a road to her property.
   Horses on the Forest. Riding ponies have been using footpaths landing to properties. I approached the earner of one of these offenders and since that this nuisance has abated.
   Road at Fairwarp. A road license has been taken out for an entrance across the Forest to the property known as cast Cottage Fairwarp.

GILBERT DAY.
Forest Ranger.

I have been patrolling the north east area of Ashdown Forest and reporting. Cutting fire beaters for fire service - these have been collected. Cutting and making fire beaters and filling stands by major roads. Repairing culvert and making, up Roadway on Highgate Road. Emptying litter baskets and clearing up bed litter in this area. Keeping observation for fire lighters at various times of day. Fires in this area have not been excessive, as yet.

Ranger STOCKLEY.

Lady Dudley Gordon asked if there had been any prosecutions regarding fires and the Chairman replied "not by the Board".

Litter.
A long discussion took place regarding litter generally and especially the dumping of old iron bedsteads, bicycles and prams on the Forest and it was suggested that if certain places could be arranged for the dumping of this rubbish the Uckfield R.D.C. might be approached about their removal and burial, provided the Conservators were willing to allow this on certain parts of the Forest, such as disused quarries. It was finally decided that members of the Board who also served on Uckfield R.D.C. be asked to bring this matter forward at the next Council meeting to see if this could be done and they agreed to do this.

8. Finance. Bank accounts showed the following balances:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Name</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>746.2.11 Cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>44.6.0 Dr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>63.11.6 Dr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accounts for payment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rangers Clothing allowance for 1959: G. Day</td>
<td>10.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Stockley</td>
<td>10.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. P.A. Williams amount paid to General a/c. but due to A.F.</td>
<td>4.13.2 Peerless de Rougement &amp; Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>refund of Ack. Rents paid on behalf of the late Lord Cecil:</td>
<td>2.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Balance</td>
<td>63.11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Float</td>
<td>80.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Messrs Cullens for printing in 1957</td>
<td>22.8.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Amounts collected since last meeting:

Acknowledgment Rents: 77.5.3
Rate Arrears 4.1.0

Local Authority Contributions:-
Uckfield R.D.C. 177.12.7
East Grinstead U.D.C. 59.4.2 236.16.9

Misc. Deposits:
W.H. Price 5.0.0
Mrs. S. Clarke 20.0.0
Powell & Partner 0.10.0
" " 0.10.0 26.0.0

Colonel C.H.N. Adams cost of printing acknowledgment rent receipt books. 5.8.0
£349.11.0

9. Any other business.
The Clerk read a letter from the Assistant County Planning Officer of East Sussex County Council regarding proposed dwellings Forest Cottage and Budgeons, Nutley, for Miss H. H. Beale. It was understood that dwellings had previously existed on these sites and the Board saw no objection to these buildings, and the Clerk was asked to write accordingly.

Another letter was then read from Uckfield R.D.C. regarding a Mr. J. Toogood who had appealed against the Council’s refusal to allow the stationing of caravans in the Pippingford Park area. The Board were in favour of supporting the views of the Council at the Public Enquiry which would take place on April 28th. As the Clerk would be taxable to attend this meeting he was asked to write to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Inspector who would be holding the enquiry, setting forth the Board’s desire to support the R.D.C.

Report on Royal Commission re Common Land.
The Chairman reported that the Special Purposes Committee had held two meetings. At the first a general discussion on how to tackle the report took place. Also a proposal to set up car parks with Mobile Canteens was suggested as a means of obtaining income so that the rate could be reduced from 1/- to 6d or even less.

At the second meeting the car park proposal was discussed in detail and a number of possible sites considered. It was thought that the first experimental car park with canteen (the canteen to be put out to tender) could be made in the Kingstanding area and it was decided that the people who manage the can-teen could be responsible for the cleanliness of the car parks and the clearing away of any litter under the supervision of the Rangers.

The matter had not yet been put before the Lard of the Manor and he would have to be consulted before any definite steps could be taken, neither had the Committee consulted the County Council nor the police as the plan was very much in embryo at the moment.

The Chairman then asked the Board if, as the next meeting was not until July, they could give their approval to the Special Purposes Committee to go ahead with their plans and to make a capital expenditure of up to £250 to put the first car park in working order.

Mr. Cornwall proposed that the Board give the Special Purposes Committee power to proceed according to the plan set out. This was seconded by Mr. Shelford and received unanimous support.

There being no other business the meeting was then closed.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke
Minutes of Meeting held at Forest Row Village Hall on Wednesday 22nd July 1559.

Present: Mr. R.F.J. Brooke, Chairman, Mr. T.M. Shelford, Lady Dudley Gordon, Mr, S.J. Marsh, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Miss L.T. Toller, Brig. J.K. McNair, Mr. J. Rowe, Mr. W.D. Gillham, Mr. G. Frith, Mrs. S. Looker.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Sir Ralph Clarke, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Mr. C.J. Bollins, Mrs. Ridley, Mr. F.B. Cornwell, Mr. A.E. Cottingham, Mr. E.W. Pye and Mr. R.T. Innes.

2. MINUTES: The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING
   (1) Mobile Canteen
   The Chairman reported that it had been decided by the Special Purposes Committee to advertise in the "Caterer and Hotel Keeper". This they had done and had received a very poor response. They received one tender for £40 for the season and by the same post received an estimate of £40 for clearance of the site. The Chairman therefore instructed the Clerk to advertise in the local papers with the result that four more tenders were received. The Clerk would report on these. The Chairman said he had managed to get the heather on the site out and cleared at a cost of just under £10. They were now awaiting a reasonable offer for a license to have a canteen on the site. Unless they could get this very soon the project may have to be postponed until next year. The Special Purposes Committee would meet again in the very near future to discuss this. The Clerk said he thought there were two difficulties.
   (1) The Project had been started too late, as both the Easter and Whitsun holidays had already passed, there only remained the August Bank holiday.
   (2) The people who had tendered were all prepared to pay more for a site on the A.22 road. The Clerk had been to the Forest with the Rangers and there was still a certain amount of keenness to have a site on the A.22. Mrs. Kemp of Edenbridge had put in a tender of £10.10.0. per month and the Clerk read a letter he had received from her. She had also since telephoned and said she was still very interested in the project and would be willing to attend for an interview at any time. The Clerk also quoted from a letter received a day or two ago from a Mr. Hunter in this connection but said that Mrs. Kemp's offer was a better one. It was finally left in the hands of the Special Purposes Committee to do the best they could.

   (2) Mr. Wolfson referred to Minutes of last Meeting and reported he had approached the Rural District Council, who said they would dispose of litter if the Rangers could hire a lorry from time to time and take such litter to suggested dumps. The Clerk said he would be very loath to start new dumps of litter as recently, the litter in the Forest had been kept more or less under control and it would be a pity to create more dumps. It was agreed that the Rangers would be on the look out and if necessary the Conservators would have to arrange to collect such litter.

4. The Clerk read a letter to the meeting which he had received from the Solicitors acting for the executors of the late Miss L.M. Parsons stating that a legacy of £100 had been left to the Conservators and although it would be some little time before legacies could be distributed, this amount would be forwarded in due course. The Clerk had replied to this letter expressing deep appreciation and thanks for the generous gift Miss Parsons had made.

5. RANGERS' MOTOR CYCLES
   The Clerk reported that early in June one of the Rangers had taken his motor cycle in to Caffyns as it required new main big end bearing. He quoted Caffyn's estimate for repairs which, with extra costs for dismantling etc. would be more or less £34. He went on to say that Caffyns and also Lewis Thirkell had been asked why these cycles had become so unsatisfactory so quickly and was advised that the Motor Cycles used, BSA 350 cc, were not suitable for the jobs for which they were used as they ought to be driven much faster, and that a lighter weight motor cycle would be more suitable for the work involved. After consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman estimates were obtained from Lewis Thirkell and Redhill Motor Cycle Co. for trading in both Rangers' motor cycles and purchasing new. The offer made by the Redhill Motor Cycle Co. to allow £150 for the two machines was the best one and this was accepted. The net cost to the Board would be approximately £120. The Chairman asked for confirmation of the action taken. Mr. Marsh moved that this action be approved and this was seconded by Mr. Wolfson.

Referring to the report made by Ranger Stockley in connection with litter, Mr. Wolfson said that he had been to see
the Chairman of the Forest Row Recreation Ground about the litter which was continuously being left around and
had said that some action must be taken to clear this. There was some discussion as to the best means of settling
this matter and it was finally decided that two litter baskets be provided by the Conservators. Mr. Wolfson was
asked if he would kindly continue to deal with this matter, and if no action had been taken by the Chairman of the
Recreation Ground within a period of about 10 days to report to the Clerk so that steps would be taken by the
Board to see that the grounds were maintained in good order.

7. FINANCE
Bank Accounts showed the following balances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£524.9.11 Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>12.5.11 Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>£114.16.9 Cr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accounts for payment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Messrs. H. &amp; E. Waters - re: New Footbridge</td>
<td>£130.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. W.R. Taylor Refund of Deposit</td>
<td>10.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martins Garage - Account for May &amp; June</td>
<td>18.17.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.C.B. Earth Moving Co. Restoring Surface at Wrens Warren</td>
<td>12.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Surrey Timber Co. - Balance of Deposit after payment to B.C.B. Earth Moving Co.</td>
<td>8.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash. Float</td>
<td>£80.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk’s Salary for June 1959 Quarter</td>
<td>£100.0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Authority to sign cheques for purchase of Motor Cycles not exceeding £140.

Amounts collected since last meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgement Rents</td>
<td>£13.17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrears of Acknowledgement Rents</td>
<td>2.2.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Misc:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Sussex C.C. Contribution for 1959</td>
<td>£296.1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turner Edwards &amp; Co. permission to erect Notice Board</td>
<td>0.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half years interest due June 6th 1959 on Rhodesia &amp; Nyasaland Stock</td>
<td>49.19.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turner Edwards &amp; Co, deposit</td>
<td>2.2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Clerk stated that the Mid-Surrey Timber Company had deposited £20 for the clearing of part of the land at
Ashdown Forest but they had not restored the area to his satisfaction. (Explanation as to paying B.C.B. £12 for
restoring surface of the Forest and asked for authority to repay the balance of £8 to Mid-Surrey Timber Company.)

8. Birch, Willow & Alder
The Clerk reported that the suggestion originally came from Lord De La Warr that to dispose of this dispute a joint
opinion should be prepared for Counsel on behalf of the Conservators and of the Lord of the Manor. Col. Adams
said he would prepare a case and send it to the Clerk for approval, which he did. The Clerk did not entirely
approve of the case and made certain amendments which he considered quite reasonable, but Col. Adams insisted
that the case should be sent to Counsel as drawn. A discussion took place. It was decided that as the basic facts
were in dispute a joint case to Counsel was impracticable and Col. Adams be informed that the Conservators would
prepare their own case and that both cases should then be submitted to Counsel. The Chairman suggested that Mr.
Shelford might assist the Clerk in preparing the Conservators case, which he agreed to do, and the Clerk said he would welcome any help he could receive in this connection.

9. Other business
The Clerk reported that he had been in communication with the Solicitors of the owner of Shalesbrook in connection with a small piece of land adjoining the property and known as "The Loaf of Bread". It appeared that this piece of land had been included in the title of the property for some 70 years past but according to the Ordnance Survey it was actually part of the Forest. In the circumstances however the Clerk advised and the Board agreed that the matter should rest and no further action should be taken.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke

The Annual General Meeting of the Commoners duly convened by Notices posted on the principal doors of the Churches of the parishes end Ecclesiastical District to which the Forest extends and by notice to the members of the Board more than fourteen days prior to this date and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, at 1.30 p.m.


1. Mr. R.F.J. Brooke was proposed as Chairman of the meeting and unanimously elected.

2. The Clerk then read the notice convening the meeting.

3. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and signed.

4. Election of Conservators. The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill the vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. T.R, Mountain, J.R. Owen and J. Card and the following nominations were then submitted:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mr. Pendry</th>
<th>Proposed Mr. Grant</th>
<th>Seconded Mr. Bird</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Owen</td>
<td>Proposed Mr. Harvey</td>
<td>Seconded Brig. McNair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Mountain</td>
<td>Proposed Mr. Harvey</td>
<td>Seconded Brig. McNair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Card</td>
<td>Proposed Mr. Owen</td>
<td>Seconded Mr. Townsend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Frith</td>
<td>Proposed Mr. Cornwall</td>
<td>Seconded Mr. Cottingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Cornwell</td>
<td>Proposed Mr. Frith.</td>
<td>Seconded Mr. Barker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Cottingham</td>
<td>Proposed Mr. Cornwall</td>
<td>Seconded Mr. Holmes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Voting then took place by ballot and the following were elected to the Board: Messrs. Frith, Cottingham and Cornwall. As this result was only confirmed after the close of the meeting it was decided that the Clerk would circularise each person present of the outcome of the voting.

5. General Business. The Chairman said he would like to mention some of the items that the Board had been discussing over the past year which might be of interest to the meeting.

First, there was an item under the heading of Mortar Bombs. As a number of live mortar bombs had been found on private land adjoining the Forest, the Army had been asked to search the Hindleap and Camphill areas which had been used for range work. One 251b. shell and one 3” mortar bomb were traced and detonated. The crows were declared safe.

Secondly, although a number of electric cable and telephone poles had been erected on the Forest in the past, it was now the Board’s intention to disallow further poles to be erected. Cables must be put underground.

Litter baskets. Six trial baskets have been placed on the Forest this time last year and they had proved very successful and were constantly being emptied by the two Rangers. As a result of this six more had been ordered. Unfortunately, two of the twelve were missing and were believed to have been stolen. The baskets were expensive
but more will be ordered from time to time. Litter generally had been rather bad and was especially noticed after fires. Lorry loads of glass bottles, iron and rubbish had been collected and buried. Paper and cardboard had been burnt.

**Fires.** On the whole fires were rather less than in previous years particularly in the Forest Row area, although there were still too many and some off the Eastbourne Road seemed to have been deliberate.

In this respect it was mentioned that the Rangers had done very excellent work during the year and they had proposed, and the Board had agreed, that they should work Saturdays and Sundays and have a day off during the week instead. Most fires start at weekends so they will be available to help put them out also there are many more visitors to the Forest and they can see that motor cars are not parked on the Forest.

A certain amount of damage by floods had been damaged, especially to the bridge on the Golf course near the 13th over the Quabrook. This bridge in past years had twice been repaired or replaced and the Board had met 50% of the cost, the Golf Club the other 50%. The bridge now required rebuilding and estimates from £228 to £400 had been received. After discussions with the Golf Club the Board agreed to meet 50% of the cost of rebuilding, subject to a maximum expenditure of £130, and the Club would arrange for the rebuilding.

**Forest Rates.** The Chairman went on to say that the Conservators had found it necessary to increase the rates and apologised to the Commoners because they had not been circularised about these changes and the reasons for them, and he would like to give them now. There had not been an increase in Forest Rates since 1885 and obviously the administrative costs of the Forest had increased considerably. In 1957 the total expenditure was £1570 and Acknowledgment Rents and Rates amounted to £874 which left a balance of £693 which was paid by the East Sussex County Council, East Grinstead Urban District Council, Cuckfield Rural District Council and Uckfield Rural District Council in the proportions of 5/10ths, 1/10th, 1/10th and 3/10ths. The estimates for the following year were £1799, an increase of £220. The 1937 Act laid down that the Councils shall be responsible for assisting with the expenditure of the Forest to an extent not exceeding £500, and it appeared that this year the Councils would be asked for a figure of £920. Although the Councils had not up to now refused payment there had been ‘murmurings’ that it was increasing every year. Therefore, the Board had reluctantly decided to increase the rates by 6d.

**Report of Royal Commission on Common Lands 1955/58.** The Chairman said this was a lengthy document and that really very little of it affected Ashdown Forest. The booklet could be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office. The Board has referred the Report to their Special Purposes Committee for their views and recommendations. Any suggestions that the Commoners might wish to make would be welcome.

A question was that asked regarding expenditure and whether this could be cut down in army way. The Clerk reports that this was not possible and that actually the administration of the Forest was done very economically compared with the expenditure of other Forests. It has been compared with the expenditure of wages which had been far below the normal agricultural rates. Their motor bicycles too had to be renewed occasionally although these were well looked after and regularly serviced.

Another questioner asked whether the accounts should not be submitted for perusal and the Clerk said that these accounts were for the Conservators to agree and not Commoners, and when they had been approved by the Conservators were sent for audit.

It was pointed out that if car parks were made on the Forest and a charge made for cars parked there that would and to the revenue of the Forest. The Chairman said that this would receive consideration.

Mr. Townsend complained that something must be done about horse riders using paths on the Forest leading to houses. He gave the names of two people who repeatedly used the path to his cottage and had made it unable for the occupants. The Clerk said he would write to the persons concerned.

There being no other business the meeting was then closed.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke
Minutes of a Meeting held at Forest Row Village Hall on Wednesday, 21st. October, 1959.

Present: Mr. R.F.J. Brooke, Chairman, Mr. S.J. Marsh, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Misc. L.T. Toller, Brig. J.K. McNair, Mr. J. Rowe, Mrs. S. Looker, Col. Sir Ralph Clarke, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Mr. C.J. Bollins, Mrs. Ridley, Mr. F.E. Cornwall, Mr. E.W. Pye, Mr. L. Gilham.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Lady Dudley Gordon, Mr. H.T. Innes, Mr. T.K. Shelford, Mr. C. Frith.

2. MINUTES: The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING:
   (1) Motor Cycles. The Clerk reported that as a result of the last meeting the two motor cycles had been purchased. He had been authorised to spend up to £140, in fact both motor cycles, including windscreens and leg shields had only cost £121.17.4., allowing for part exchange of the old motor cycles which were in use and both Rangers found them very satisfactory.
   (2) Legacy from Miss L.M. Parsons. The Clerk read a letter from the Solicitors of the deceased on which it was stated that owing to the terms of the Will all the legacies would have to bear a proportion of Estate Duty which because payable on a settled estate over which the deceased had a Power of Appointment and all legacies would have to abate accordingly by about 9%. The payment on account amounting to £87.10.0. had been received and placed on deposit.
   (3) Litter. Mr. Wolfson asked if the Board could provide litter baskets for the Forest Row Memorial Playing Ground which was situated in the Forest and it was decided that Litter Baskets should be provided for all the Forest's Recreation Grounds. Mrs. Ridley informed the Board that it was possible to obtain litter baskets from the Wall's Ice Cream Company and it was decided that the Clerk should investigate this matter with a view to obtaining a supply. Ranger Day reported that there had been an unusual amount of litter this year and also that any cars were parking beyond the 15 yards limit from the roadside verge. After a discussion it was resolved that 25 notice boards and posts should be obtained warning motorists that under the road Traffic Regulations parking was not permitted more than 25 yards from the Highway.

4. CORRESPONDENCE
   (a) The Clerk read a letter from Mr. W.K. Smith about re-afforestation and it was resolved that this letter be passed on to the Steward of the Lord of the Manor.
   (b) The Clerk read a letter from Sir Gerald Creasey referring to the Commoners Meeting, and making several suggestions as to a proposed difference in procedure. The Clerk advised the Meeting that in his opinion the Board had no power to regulate the procedure at Commoners Meetings. It was therefore decided (1) No recommendation would be made in the change of procedure for notice at Commoners Meetings. (2) To recommend that the notices which were posted on the Parish Church Doors should contain notice to the effect that all nominations for the Commoners vacancies to the Board should be handed to the Clerk within 7 days and that the Clerk should post further notice 7 days before the date of the Commoners Meeting to be posted on the Church Doors stating the names of those who had been nominated to enable the Commoners to find out before the Meeting who they were, and any further information which they required to know. (3) It was decided not to recommend votes by proxy. (4) It was decided that it would be impracticable for the elected Conservators to represent their particular Parishes. (5) It was decided not to recommend that elected Conservators slight only be allowed to serve one or two terms of office and then have to stand down for a period. It was finally resolved that the recommendation about notice of nomination should be placed on the Agenda of the Commoners Meeting and Sir Gerald Creasey to be informed accordingly.
   (c) The Clerk read a letter from Mrs. L.K. Silverstone applying for permission to erect an Electric Lamp Standard on the private road way on the Forest leading from the main Lewes Road to her house known no Gale at Chelwood Gate. After a several discussion it was resolved that permission be granted subject to Mrs. Silverstone entering into a revocable license, and to pay £1 per annum for the Lamp Standard and the usual fee per hundred yard for the electric cable. The sitting of the standard and the type to be approved by the Chairman. The cable would have to be buried.
5. BIRCH WILLOW AND ALDER.
The Clerk reported that he had consulted with Mr. Shelford and that they had both agreed that a joint case to Counsel was impracticable. They had also discussed at some length generally the statutory powers of the Conservators and their relationship with the Lord of the Manor and they had come to the conclusion that the time was right for a general review of the Conservators Powers and a possible amendment of the Ashdown Forest Acts.

They felt that it would be a pity at this stage only to consult with the Lord of the Manor about birch, willow and alder, and they recommended that if the Conservators and the Lord of the Manor would agree to a division of the proceeds of sale of birch, willow and alder, as on the list occasion, at an early date discussions should take place on the whole subject of the Forest with a view to a possible change in the Law by means of a private Bill. This was agreed.

RANGERS REPORT Ranger Day.
Fires. Owing to the very dry weather some serious fires have occurred on the Forest. These have been difficult to deal with and as the soil in some cases has caught alight this has meant that water has had to be carried over quite a long period. Litter. A number of people have visited the Forest and although the litter baskets have been well used, there has been a large amount of litter left lying around. This has had to be cleared. 15 Yard Limit. Owing to the absence of any notices and the large amount of cars parking on the Forest it has been very difficult to confine this parking to the required limit of 15 yards from the Highway. Forest Rates.
I have collected a proportion of the Forest Rates.

Ranger Stockley.

I have been patrolling the north east of the Forest and have been emptying litter baskets and clearing up a lot of litter which has been laying about owing to the lack of litter baskets. I do not think the general public know about the 15 yard limit as lot of cars have been parking inside this limit. Owing to the very dry summer we have had a lot of bad fires. I have collected a proportion of the Forest Rates.

6. FINANCE

Bank Accounts show the following balances:

General Account £365.0.4. Cr.
Petty Cash Account 11.7.9. Cr.
Wages Account 92.0.9. Cr.

Amounts collected since the last meeting:

Rates £359.12.0.
Arrears 1.0.6.
Acknowledgment Rents 18.4.0.

Misc.
Turner Edwards & Co. Deposit 2.2.0.
St. John Smith & Son Poster Board 0.10.0.
Half years Interest on £2540. 17. 10. 4%
Consols due 1st Aug. 50.16.4.
Powell & Partner Sale Board 0.10.0.
E.J. Mitchell Deposit 15.0.0.
C.V. Dean Deposit 5.0.0.
W.R. Taylor Deposit 5.0.0.

Accounts for payment.
Clerks Salary for Sept. quarter £100.0.0.

Raymond Wells, Osborne & Co. 31.10.0.
THE BOARD THEN WENT INTO COMMITTEE.

(1) A22 Road Improvements.
The Chairman reported that he had an interest as he was connected with the Manor Charitable Trustees who owned the property known as "Cherry Orchard" and the Clerk reported his interest as tenant of "Cherry Orchard". It was unanimously decided that the Chairman should remain in the Chair. The Clerk then reported that the County Council were acquiring a small piece of road frontage of "Cherry Orchard" and that in lieu of the trees which were being removed, the County Council had offered to construct a 4’ high Devon Bank and to plant thereon a double row of hornbeam plants.

The Council had also agreed to replace the existing fence on the inside of the Devon Bank, as if replaced on the road side it might encroach for a few yards onto the Forest verge near to the entrance of “Cherry Orchard”. It was difficult at the moment to see on the site where the fence would be, but the encroachment would be very small and the Clerk started that if the fence were erected on the inside of the bank, in his opinion the sheep would trample the bank down and devour the hornbeam plants. The Clerk then asked the Board for permission for the fence to be erected on the road side of the Devon Bank and said he would as tenant enter into an acknowledgement in writing that the fence was an encroachment and would be removed at any time at the request of the Conservators. This was agreed.

(2) Mobile Canteen.
The Clerk made a full report on this matter and stated that owing to circumstances beyond the control of the Board and the Special Purposes Committee, delay in starting this project was inevitable. An advertisement first of all was inserted in the "Catering Weekly", but as the response was poor a further advertisement was inserted in the Kent and Sussex Courier, and there were several replies to this.

Most applicants wanted a site on the A22, but Mr. Barry Wood had finally agreed to rent the site near Kingstanding for two months at rental of £10 per month. He had not been a satisfactory Licensee and he still owed for one months rent, and the Clerk asked for authority to sue him. It was resolved that the Clerk take all necessary steps including legal actions, to recover £10 from Mr. Wood. Several members stated that the mobile canteen had been unsightly and it was agreed that this first attempt at letting a site had not been successful. After a general discussion the matter was referred to the Special Purposes Committee with a view to re-letting the site to an approved applicant next year.

The Clerk then reported to the Board on certain correspondence he had with the Clerk of the Uckfield R.D.C. and he read several letters to the Board from the Clerk of that Council. He also read to the Board the Minutes of the penultimate meeting of the Special Purposes Committee in which it was stated that the County Surveyor and Planning Officer had been present and Members of the Board stated that they were satisfied that proper consultations had been held with the public authorities.

It was decided, however, that in future, in the event of any mobile canteen being placed on the Forest by Licence of the Conservators, the Clerk to the Uckfield R.D.C. would be consulted.

There being no other business in Committee or any other business, the Meeting was concluded.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke

Minutes of meeting held at Forest Row Village Hall at Wednesday, 9th December 1959.

Mr. R.F.J. Brooke, Chairman, R.A.C. Wolfson, Mr. S.J. Marsh, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Brig. McNair, Mr. F.B. Cornwall, Mr. C.J. Bollins, Miss L.T. Toller, Mr. S.W. Pye, Mr. H.T. Innes, Mr. J. Rowe and Mr. A.K. Cottingham.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Lady Dudley Gordon, Mr. Frith, Mr. T.M. Shelford, Mrs. Looker, Sir Ralph Clarke and Mrs. Ridley.
The Chairman reported that Mr. Frith had been very unwell but he was glad to hear that he was recovering and there was the possibility that he would be able to attend the Board Meeting in February. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman should write to Mr. Frith expressing the Board's best wishes for a speedy recovery.

2. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING.
   (1) Mobile Canteen. The Clerk reported that he had issued a Summons against Mr. Wood who had not paid £10 due to the Conservators. Mr. Wood wrote a letter to the Clerk stating that he was unable to pay the amount in a lump sum as he was out of work and his total income was £1.5.6. per week. However he had offered to pay £1 per month until the whole amount was paid. The Clerk was authorised to accept this offer on behalf of the Conservators. The Clerk then read a letter forwarded to him by the Clerk of the Uckfield R.D.C. from Mr. D.J. Rogers in which he stated that tea facilities are unnecessary and superfluous as adequate accommodation was provided on his own property at Duddleswell Stores and Tea Gardens. The Clerk commented that Mr. Rogers did not advertise his business enough. The Chairman then stated that the whole matter was being discussed by the Special Purposes Committee. The Clerk then stated that he had a lot of correspondence with the Clerk to the Uckfield R.D.C. and was going to have a meeting with him and Mr. Jay on general matters affecting Ashdown Forest.

   (2) Estimates for Notice Boards. As a result of the last meeting the Clerk had obtained estimates for 25 notice boards and he had received two, one for £155.13.0 and the other £148.0.0. The Chairman stated that when the matter was suggested he had no idea that the boards would be so expensive. The members agreed that six notice boards should be purchased and erected. This was to be an experiment to ascertain whether they would be successful or not before purchasing another 19. The Clerk was also given the names and addresses of several other companies who right produce these boards more cheaply and was asked to obtain estimates.

4. The Clerk had been approached by Mr. Streeter ***** of Queen Mary College asking permission to take samples of the earth on the Forest and also to examine a stump of a birch tree. The Committee granted permission and the Clerk would instruct one of the Rangers to show Mr. Streeter where he could carry out his experiments.

5. The Chairman reported on what had taken place at the Commoners' Meeting and that Mr. Harvey and himself had been re-elected to the Board and Mr. J.R. Owen had been elected.

6. Birch, willow and alder.
   The Clerk read a letter which he wrote to Col. Adams and his reply. The Clerk stated that he had been unable to draw up the case for the Opinion at Counsel owing to pressure of work but he would attend to it as soon as possible.

7. RANGERS' REPORT – Ranger Day.
   Builders sheds on the Forest. Messrs, Perrin and Comber, West Hoathly, have erected a temporary shed on the Forest near Marl Pits, Nutley and have also dumped builders material. Mr. S. Pearce has also a shed on the Forest at Forest Bank, Nutley with a dump of materials.
   Derelict Car. Mr. Hodges of St. Johns, Withyham had allowed a derelict car to be kept on the Forest near Mardens Hill and I made arrangements and had it removed.
   Forest Rates. I have continued to collect Forest Rates.

Ranger Stockley
I have been patrolling the north east area of the Forest and reporting.
Collecting Rates. I have been collecting rates in the north east area of the Forest and making divisions.
Litter. I have cleared up a considerable amount of litter.

Bank Accounts show the following balances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£380.10.5. Cr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>62.14.3. Cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>53.12.7. Cr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Annual General Meeting of the Commoners duly convened by Notices posted on the principal doors of the Churches of the Parishes and Ecclesiastical district to which the Forest extends and by notice to the members of the Board more than fourteen days prior to this date and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, at 1.30 p.m.


1. Mr. R.F.J. Brooke was proposed as Chairman of the Meeting and unanimously elected.

2. The Clerk then read the notice convening the meeting.

3. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and signed.

4. Election of Conservators: The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill the vacancies occasioned by the represent of Messrs. R.F.J. Brooke, A.K.L. Harvey and J. Rowe and the following nominations were then submitted:

   - R.F.J. Brooke Proposed Brig. McNair Seconded Mr. Cornwell
   - A.K.L. Harvey Proposed Mr. Marsh Seconded Miss Toller
   - J.R. Owen Proposed Mr. Lloyd-Jones Seconded Brig. McNair

   There being no other nominations Messrs Brooke, Harvey and Owen were unanimously elected.

5. General Business. The Chairman expressed his personal regrets that Mr. Rowe had felt it necessary to retire and he asked Mr. Marsh to say a few words of appreciation. Mr. Marsh addressed the meeting. Mr. Rowe was then presented with a gift of a framed map of Ashdown Forest.

6. Nominations of Recreation Grounds Superintendents. Proposed by Mr. Gilham seconded by Sir Gerald Creasy that all members at present should be elected to stand except Mr. Mountain who is no longer a Conservator.

   It was proposed by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Miss Toller that Mr. Brooke be elected Superintendent of Chelwood Gate Recreation Ground in place of Mr. Mountain. He was unanimously elected.

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Amounted collected since the last Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>£170.17.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rate Arrears</td>
<td>1.6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgement Rents</td>
<td>1.8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgment Arrears</td>
<td>1.14.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Misc:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deposits</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curtis &amp; Co.</td>
<td>£100.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mullins &amp; Co.</td>
<td>20.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perrin &amp; Comber</td>
<td>5.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>125.0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£300.0.6.</td>
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Accounts for payment

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clerk’s Salary for December</td>
<td>£100.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash a/c. Float</td>
<td>£80.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Cr.</td>
<td>62.14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17.5.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There being no other business in Committee or any other business the Meeting was concluded.
7. The Chairman stated that after the last Commoners’ meeting he had received a letter concerning the procedure at Commoners’ Meetings over the Election of Conservators. The five points raised were:

1) Method of voting by acreage.
2) Prior notice of nominations of Candidates,
3) Votes by Proxy
4) Elected Conservators to represent their Parishes.
5) Term of Office to be restricted to certain periods.

These matters were discussed by the Board of Conservators who had decided to recommend to the Commoners that in the year 1960 and ensuing years the Clerk should include in the statutory notices which were affixed to the Doors of the Parish Churches a request that all nominations for the Election of Conservators should be handed in to his office within seven days of the date of the notice. The Clerk would within a further seven days cause fresh notice to be affixed to the Church Doors setting out the names of the Candidates with their proposers and seconders so that those attending the Meeting would have prior notice of the Candidates they would be voting for. If no nominations are received by the Clerk then those Conservators who are retiring but offer themselves for re-election in the printed notices which are first affixed to the Church Doors will be eligible for Election at the Commoners meeting in the usual way. This proposal was put in the form of a Resolution and was carried unanimously.

Litter Baskets: As the result of suggestions made at the last meeting six more litter baskets had been purchased and they were now in use.

Mobile Canteen: The Chairman reported that the Board had decided to try and raise additional revenue to enable the Forest Rate to be reduced to 6d. per acre and had advertised for tenders for the stationing of a mobile canteen on the Forest, the Licensee to pay a suitable rent and it had been hoped to obtain a suitable revenue from this source.

Owing to various difficulties which were encountered it had not been possible to make suitable arrangements for this year. A Licensee had been found who was granted a Licence for a Canteen for the months of August and September 4th, a rental of £10 per month. The Canteen had proved to be unsightly and unsatisfactory in more ways than one and several letters had been received from people living in and around Ashdown Forest objecting to it. The Board felt that the experiment had not been given a fair trial and discussion would take place with a view to giving the matter another trial in the following year.

There being no other business the Meeting was then closed.

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Minutes of Meeting held, at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday, 17th February, 1960.

Present: Mr. R.F.J. Brooke, Mr. B.W. Pye, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Mr. J.R. Owen, Miss. L.T. Toller, Mr. S.J. Marsh, Mr. C.J. Bollins, Mr. M.D. Gillham, Mr. F.B. Cornwell, Mr. A.B. Cottingham, Mrs. Ridley, Mr. C. Frith, Brig. J.K. McNair and Mr. R.T. Innes.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Lady Dudley Gordon, Mrs. L. Looker, Sir Ralph Clarke, Mr. T.M. Shelford and Mr. A.K.L. Harvey.

2. Election of Chairman: It was proposed by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Cottingham that Mr. R.F.J. Brooke should take the chair and this was unanimously agreed.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman: It was then proposed and seconded that Brig. McNair should be elected as Vice-Chairman and it was unanimously agreed.

4. Election of Committees:
(a) Forest Row: It was resolved that the members be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Mr. J.R. Owen, Mrs. Looker.
(b) Maresfield: It was resolved that the members be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Mr. M.D. Gillham, Mr. S.J. Marsh and Mr. P.B. Cornwell.

(c) Special Purposes: It was resolved that the members be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Chairmen of Forest Row and Maresfield Committees, Sir Ralph Clarke, Mr. C. Frith and Mr. S.J. Marsh.

5. Minutes: The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

6(a) Mobile Canteen: The Clerk reported that the offer made by Mr. Barry Wood to repay his debt by £1 per month has been accepted and judgement entered accordingly. He also stated that Mr. Barry Wood was residing with friends but he could still not afford to pay the Board £1 per month. Mr. Wolfson asked the Chairman if it would cost the Board a lot of money to try and recover the amount outstanding. The Clerk stated that the cost would be quite, small and he was instructed to do his best to recover the money.

(b) Birch, Willow & Alder: The Chairman stated that he had conferred with Sir Ralph Clarke about two weeks ago and they both thought that the amount involved was so small and that there would be other matters to be discussed with the Lord of the Manor it would be far better to leave this matter in abeyance for the time being. It was proposed by Brig. McNair and seconded by Mr. Marsh that this matter be deferred indefinitely.

7. RANGERS' REPORT: Ranger Day. I have been engaged in cutting Fire Brooms for the various Fire Brigades. Army Units still continue to take vehicles on to the Forest. I have had to report two cases this year. Investigating a complaint regarding large quantity of household refuse strewn about the Forest. On the instructions of the Clerk I have engaged a lorry to clear this and other large articles left on the Forest and have taken these to a central dump. Gypsies have a Caravan at Fairwarp and I have taken out Summonses against two encamped on the Forest but in spite of repeated requests they refused to move their Caravan. It was resolved that the Clerk's action in hiring a lorry to remove the refuse referred to above be confirmed.

Ranger Stockley: I have been patrolling the north east areas of Ashdown Forest and reporting. Cutting and clearing burnt undergrowth on the Chelwood Gate and Wych Cross Road. Repairing two foot bridges in the Forest Row area after being washed away. Cutting and burning burnt undergrowth on Kidd's Hill. Preparing Fire Brooms for the various Fire Services.

8. Estimates:
The Committee examined the estimates and accounts for 1560. It was proposed by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Owen that the estimates and accounts should be adopted.

9. Forest Rate - Resolution for 1960 Rate: Mr. Marsh proposed that the Forest Rate should now be reduced to 6d. per acre. This was seconded and the resolution duly passed with one contrary vote from Mrs. Ridley.

20. Finance
Bank Accounts show the following balances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£323.4.11. Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>2.17.9. Cr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amounts collected since the last Meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>44.13.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrears of Rates</td>
<td>10.0.6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrears of Rates collected</td>
<td>74.6.6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>6.12.3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgment Arrears</td>
<td>1.16.2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Misc:
Automobile Assn. for Road Signs 0.10.0.
Ranger Stockley re. Telephone Account 0.1.6.
Payne & Co. re: Sale Board 0.10.0.
1. Apologies for absence were received from Miss Toller, Mr. C.J. Bollins, Mr. T.H. Shelford, Mr. W. Gillham, Mr. S.J. Marsh, Mr. R.T. Innes and Mr. A.E. Cottingham.

2. Minutes: The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, but an error was painted out by Mr. Frith in that Mr. Frith's name had been inserted in the Forest Row Committee instead of Mrs. S.M. Looker. This error was amended and the Minutes were then confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising: (a) Mobile Canteen. The Clerk reported that Mr. Barry Wood still owed the Conservators £10. He stated that the canteen was at the time of the last Meeting in Crowborough and he had instructed Ranger Day to go to the site with a view to levying execution on the Canteen. The Clerk than read a report from Day stating that the Caravan had already been removed and setting out Mr. Wood's commitments, which showed that he owed a considerable amount of money to traders and other persons. The Board decided not to take any further proceedings against him and considered the matter closed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:
   (a) The Clerk read a letter from Birch Grove Estates Ltd. asking for permission to plant trees on the Forest at Chelwood Gate. The matter was discussed and it was decided that permission could not be given as the Board had no power to do so. The Chairman stated that he would call in upon Mr. Maurice MacMillan the Agent for Birch Grove Estates and suggest that the bracken should be cleared as this would give seedlings a chance to grow.
   (b) The Clerk reported that a precept for the Local Authorities' contributions had been sent to all the Councils concerned. The Cuckfield R.D.C. had replied that their Finance Committee did not consider that the Local Authorities should be called upon to subsidise the Commoners and they were recommending to the Council that, for the current year, and in future, the Council's contribution be limited to the statutory minimum under Section 15 of the Ashdown Forest Act 1937. Lady Dudley Gordon reported that the East Grinstead R.D.C. held the same
opinion and were considering reducing their contribution but she could do her best to persuade them to pay the contribution button as demanded. Mr. Frith stated that although the Councils had been paying more towards then keep of the Forest, they did not consider the change in the value of money and in fact they were contributing far less than before.

c) The Clerk then read a letter from Mr. Austin regarding granting a notice for a Forest track leading from Chapel Lane as he did not like the approach from Post Horn Lane. The Clerk stated that this gentleman had called at his office several times but he refused to grant him a Licence and he asked the Board for their approval to his action. The Board confirmed the Clerk’s action.

d) The Clerk then read a letter from a Mr. Balfour-Smith asking for permission to lay a twin track road to Payne's Hill Cottage which would be filled with 5" of hardcore and bound with tarmac carefully laid flush with ground level so that grass would encroach on and hide the tracks to a great degree. The Board approved and permission was granted.

e) It had been reported that there were some gun pits not filled in on the Forest at Stonehill Nutley and the Clerk had therefore obtained an estimate from Messrs. Tyler who would carry out the work of filling these pits for £5. It was resolved that the Clerk be permitted to withdraw £6.5.0. from the deposit account to pay this account when the work was completed.

(f) The Clerk then read an extract from the Minutes of the Uckfield Works & Planning Committee regarding Pippingford Park sent to him by the Clerk to the Uckfield R.D.C. The War Department had acquired 277 acres of Pippingford Park as a training area for troops. The War Office stated that they would not use live communication and other dangerous explosive but the Committee felt that as there were about 165 dwellings in that district this would cause disturbance over a wide area and there would be a serious fire risk. The Works & Planning Committee stated that they would like the Board's support in opposing this. It was proposed by Mr. Frith and seconded by Mr. Cornwell that the Uckfield Council be supported by the Board in this matter.

5. AUDIT: The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit had taken place.

6. NOTICE BOARDS: The Chairman read a letter from the LEWES Building Works stating that they were not at present able to give an estimate for the cost of Boards.

7. RANGERS' REPORTS - RANGER DAY.

Gypsies: On 25th February I attended Uckfield Police Court to prosecute the gypsies, Vincent and Smith, who had been encamped on the Forest at Fairwarp. Result, Vincent fined £1. Smith £2. 

Fires: Some twenty fires have occurred on the Forest in the Nutley Fairwarp and Crowborough areas. The worst of these broke out on 27th March and this amount on area from Crowborough Road to Spring Gardens, altogether about 480 acres. 

Fire Brooms: Fire Brooms have been supplied to the Fire Brigades and also a number have been placed at spots all round the Forest.

RANGER STOCKLEY

I have been patrolling the North East area of Ashdown Forest and reporting: 
Clearing up bad litter and emptying litter baskets. Filling all stands with fire beaters in areas. The Fire Service has collected about 100 of these. Erecting some concrete posts at some of the tracks used by the Public to get into the Forest. These Posts were left on Forest at Pippingford Boundary marking line. Repairing a bridge on Forest at Shepherds’ Gate, Coleman Hatch, using sleepers from the Bridge at Water Farm. Cleaning off Byelaws Boards and fixing new Bills. The Kingsstanding Board had been badly damaged, a car had hit it, this has been repaired. Attending a fire at Wrens Warren and the Hundreds, Chuck Hatch, burning some 400 acres. This was started by 6 youths camping on Forest. I have all names and addresses. They had had a fire for cooking their breakfast, being windy fire started. I have not seen these youths before. On 8th April I saw two boys aged 10 years lighting a fire on the Ladies Golf Course. I stopped them and got their names, later I saw their Fathers and told them what had happened.

8. FINANCE:

Bank Accounts show the following balances:
General Account 474.13.0 Cr
Wages Account 6.7.0 Cr.
Petty Cash Account 30.0.9 Cr

Amounts collected since last meeting
Acknowledgment Rents £268.7.0
Arrears 2.16.0
Arrears of Rates 15.3.0

Misc.
Uckfield R.D.C. Contribution for 1960 268.4.1 £554.10.1

Accounts for payment:
Petty cash a/c: Float £80.0.0
Less 30.0.9 Bal: 49.19.3

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
(a) Mr. Owen pointed out that the trees in some of the special clumps on the Forest were getting old and he thought a certain amount of re-afforestation should take place.

A discussion ensued and it was missed that the Chairman, Sir Ralph Clarke and Mr. Owen would inspect the clumps and report back.

(b) A Miss A. Brooke had pointed out that one of the small bridges Forest near Brown's Brook has become unsafe and had offered free of charge to have the bridge repaired with Railway Sleepers. Resolved that Miss Brooke's offer be accepted.

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke
(a) The Clerk read a letter from the Cuckfield R.D.C. re-appointing Mrs. Ridley as its representative. (b) The Clerk had a letter from the East Sussex County Council regarding Pippingford park. In this letter it was stated that the proposal by the War Department to use parts of Pippingford Park had been considered by the appropriate Area Planning Committee. The War Department Land Agent had been informed that the Local Planning Authority and the Conservators wish to support the views that the Rural District Council had put forward. (c) The Clerk read a letter from Messrs Bernard Thorpe & Partners requesting permission to plant flowering shrubs or trees alongside the new farm known as Wych Cross Place Farm. It was unanimously agreed that permission should not be granted. (d) The Clerk then read a letter from Mr. Richardson-Gardner stating that he would like to construct a foot bridge over the stream between his property and the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Links. The Board granted permission and it was agreed that Mr. Richardson-Gardner should pay an acknowledgement rent of 10/- per annum. (e) The Clerk read a letter from the District Auditor's Office reporting the completion of the Audit of the accounts. No matters arose at the Audit and he thanked the Clerk and his staff for their courteous assistance during the Audit. (f) The Clerk read a report by Ranger Day on the accident which occurred on the 14th May. Ranger Day reported that while he was patrolling the Nutley Road from Wych Cross to the Vachery, approaching the entrance to the Vachery, he saw a blue motor was parked on the road leading to this property. There were two signs at the entrance indicating that no parking was permitted. He intended to enter the road and ask the driver to bring the van out. He put his right arm out and made the turning signs, but as he did so he saw that the van was moving out. By this time he had got to the centre white line and decided that as the van was pulling out it was not necessary to enter the road. He slowed, closed the throttles and stalled the engine. He swerved over to the rear side of the white line and was hit by a motor cycle combination that was following him. The cycle's front wheel struck his near side leg shield and the rider's arm struck the shoulder. His cycle as far as can be seen sustained the following damage: crumpled leg shield, bent front mud guard, foot rest, handle and number plate are also bent. He hurt his heel and the cycle driver injured his leg slightly. They exchanged names and addresses. (g) The Clerk than read a report by Ranger Stockley. On the 2nd June last his motor cycle was parked at the kerb side outside 75 Hartfield Road. On looking out he saw the motor cycle lying on the ground, which apparently had been backed into by a car. He took all particulars from the driver of the car. The motor cycle had been taken to Martins Garage and they had taken a note of the damages, which is windscreen, forks, stand and lamp glass. They exchanged names and addresses. The Clerk reported that the damage to both motor cycles had been made good and the insurance company in each case had met the cost.

5. RANGERS' REPORTS . Ranger Day
I have assisted in surveys of Forest Clumps, obtaining measurements in connection with estimates of cost of fencing, etc. For seven days in June certain persons from Baddersley near Southampton placed stalls on the Forest at Millbrook Hill. In spite of persistent warnings they continued with this practice. In company with Ranger Stockley I have carried out surveys of areas suitable for the cutting of extensive fire brakes. I have made enquiries in the Millbrook area of Nutley owing to a report of a suspected encroachment. This was a small area fenced to give cattle access to a stream. It had been erected owing to a misunderstanding of the boundary line. The fence has since been removed.

Ranger Stockley.
I have been patrolling the north east areas and emptying litter baskets. Clearing away tins, bottles etc, after fires. Digging litter pits fit each basket. Fires have been numerous burning large areas particularly in the Hartfield area. Trimming bad corners and bends, cutting back others.

6. FINANCE:
Bank Accounts show the following balances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£757.11.8 Cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>29.4.0 Cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>89.14.10 Cr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amounts collected, since last meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgement rents</td>
<td>25.9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>1.11.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rates arrears</td>
<td>1.17.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Miscellaneous:

Deposits
E. J. Gillham 10.0.0
J. Waters  5.0.0
Thorne & Co. 10.0.0
Seeboard 100.0.0
A. Walter  5.0.0

Temporary Boards:
Powell & Partner 0.10.0
J. Waters 0.10.0
R. Brooke 0.10.0
Powell & Partner 0.10.0
Beating & Vent. Ltd. 0.10.0
Ranger Stockley – Tel. 0.14.1
East Sussex C.C.
(contribution) 447.0.1

£580.4.2
£617.2.7

Accounts for payment
Petty Cash Account float 80.0.0
Less Cr. Bal. 29.4.0 50.16.0
F.A. Williams, Salary for June 100.0.0
Raymond Wells, Osborne & Co.
Accountancy fees 31.10.0
Curtis & Co., refund of deposit 100.0.0

7. The Clerk reported that there was £500 surplus capital, in the Bank and that as the Rate Demands has been sent out there ought to be sufficient revenue for normal purposes and that the Board should consider placing £230 on temporary deposit. Proposed by Mr. Cornwell seconded by Mr. Marsh and resolved that £250 be transferred from General Account to Deposit Account temporarily.

STALL HOLDERS: (a) The Clerk reported that two men had been found selling strawberries from stalls either side of the Nutley Road. The stall on the east aide was placed on part of Ashdown Forest contrary to the Bye-laws of the Forest. The stall on the west side was situate on land owned by the County Council. The offender on the east side was Terence Edward Scivier of Westborough Road, East Leigh. Resolved that the Clerk prosecute the said T.E. Scivier for contravening the Bye-laws of Ashdown Forest.

(b) The Clerk reported that a obtain Caleb Barney had on four executive days erected a stall on Ashdown Forest on the side of the Nutley Road for the purpose of selling strawberries. Barney refused to move his stall after being requested to do so by the Rangers. Resolved that the Clerk prosecute the said Caleb Barney for contravening the Bye-laws of Ashdown Forest.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:
(a) The Clerk reported that Military Units were on the Forest last Saturday afternoon and were turned off by one of the Rangers. The Clerk stated that he had written to the Commanding Officer at Crowborough Warren Camp telling him that training rights had been relinquished by the War Department and a copy of his letter had been sent to Colonel Lewis, Home Counties District. Apparently these troops had come from Bromley but they had not reported at Crowborough.
(b) Miss Toller stated that she had been asked by the Fairwarp Parish Council to approach the Board with a view to obtaining permission for a small piece of land 10' x 10' situated on the side of the Fairwarp/Uckfield Road near the Parish Church to be levelled off and made into a small lay-by for the use of school children while waiting for the school bus. Miss Toller was told that the Board would have no objection and that she should report the matter back to the Parish Council and they should approach the Local Authority.

There being no other business the Dieting was closed.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke
Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 19th October, 1960

Present: Mr. R.F.J. Brooke, Brig. J.K. McNair, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Miss L. Toller, Mr. J.R. Owen, Mr. S.J. Marsh, Mr. R.T. Innes, Mr. E.W. Pye, Mrs. U. Ridley, Mr. F.J. Cornwell and Sir Ralph Clarke.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. S.M. Looker and Mr. W.D. Gillham.

2. Minutes: The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, approved and signed. Miss Toller reported that her Council were very grateful for the assistance given by the Board in respect of a piece of land at Fairwarp for a small lay-by.

3. MATTERS ARISING:
   (a) Re-afforestation of clumps.
   The Chairman reported that he had been in touch with the Lord of the Manor on this subject and he had agreed to co-operate in every way. He had suggested that his own Forester might undertake the work of re-planting and Chairman had told him that the Board would assist by the erection of fencing. A further meeting has been arrived with Lord De la Warr in December when the Chairman returned from his holiday.
   (b) Persecution of T.E. Scivier.
   The Clerk reported that in accordance with the Board's instructions T.E. Scivier has been prosecuted in the Uckfield Magistrates Court for (a) placing a stall on the Forest (b) placing notices on the Forest without permission. He was convicted on both charges and fined £2 on the first charge and £1 an the second charge.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:
   (a) The Clerk read a letter from Mr. B.I. Hammer about litter.
   (b) The Clerk read parts of a letter from Mr. D.I. Streeter about his discoveries of flora and fauna on the Forest.

5. Application for Letter Box. The Clerk reported on an application by Lewes Head Postmaster for permission to place a letter box, attached to pole, on Ashdown Forest at Fairwarp near the Putlands cross roads and informed the Board that the Post Office had no power to pay any licences.

It was resolved that permission for the erection of the letter box be granted and the Post Master be requested to place a sufficiently large box to take full size letters.

6. The Clerk reported that distress proceedings had been commenced against Mr. R.T. Dicks for non payment of rates but he paid up in full before the case came before the Magistrate.

7. RANGERS' REPORTS - RANGER DAY
On the 17th August 1960 a large load of refuse was dumped on the Forest in the Duddleswell area. I found on enquiry that this had been carted from Claret Service Station by a contractor. Assisted by Ranger Stockley, I disposed of the refuse by burning. A quantity of broken glass was dumped on the Forest by the side of the Crowborough road. The glass was composed of broken milk bottles, and I am of the opinion that this was deposited by a dairy rounds man. The glass has been buried. On August Bank Holiday a youth from Penge made a fire in Gill's Lap Clump. As this was built against a Scotch Fir Tree the bark of this tree was severely scorched. I raked out the fire and thoroughly extinguished with water.

RANGER STOCKLEY
I have been patrolling the North East areas of Ashdown Forest and Reporting emptying Litter Baskets end clearing up bad litter. Collecting Forest Rates, have almost completed this. I have kept considerable observation on Kidd's. Hill, Greenwood Gate and Kingstanding areas for Sheep worrying. Five sheep have been worried in this way and remainder of them have been in constant movement and five have been killed on the Road. On 16th September I saw two dogs on Forest, and later saw one chasing sheep owned by Mr. Humphreys, Coleman's Hatch. I told Mr. Humphrey and later the Police saw the owners of both dogs. I have now heard from Mr. Humphreys and the Police are taking no action. There are a large number of Dogs on the Forest unattended in pairs.

8. FINANCE

Bank accounts show the following balances:
General Account  507.6.1. Cr
Petty Cash  41.10.3. Cr
Wages  37.4. 4. Cr

Amounts collected since last meeting:
Rates  247.13.6
Rates Arrears  27.0.6
Acknowledgement Rents  3.10.6 Acknowledgement Arrears  2.0.0

Misc:
E.G.U.D.O  89.8.0
Cuckfield R.D.C.  5.18.0
R.W. Jack - Deposit  25.0.0
Official Receiver re: Sullivan  0.0.9
H. & W. Waters Ltd  0.10.0

120.16.9
401.1.3

Accounts for payment:
P.A. Williams - Salary for September  100.0.0
Petty Cash Account – Float 80.0.0
Less credit 41.10.3  38.9.0
R.W. Jack - Refund of Deposit  25.0.0

The Clerk reported that the Cuckfield Council had made the following contribution:
1/10th of Statutory Contribution  8.10.0
Less amount overpaid during 1955  2.12.0

5.18.0

He informed the Board that he had written to the Uckfield R.D.C. asking if that Council would make up the deficit which had been caused and the Clerk of that Council had asked him first of all to contact the County Council to see if that Council would bear any part of the deficit. A discussion ensued as to the reasons for the Cuckfield Council refusing to make their contribution as demanded which amounted to £89.10.0 and the Clerk offered to Mrs. Ridley, the Representative from that Council, to attend a Meeting of that Council's Finance Committee to explain the position. Mrs. Ridley promised to report to her Council.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
Ranger Stockley reported a case of sheep worrying by dogs. The Clerk informed the Board that the Board was in no position to institute any proceedings and this was a matter for the Police or the owner of the Dog.

The Clerk reported that he had received notification from the East Grinstead Police that a prosecution against William Awcock of 53 Maypole Road, Ashurst Wood, East Grinstead was pending for carrying a gun on the Forest without a current licence.

The Clerk advised the Board that Awcock had contravened Bye Law 3 of the Ashdown Forest Bye-laws and after discussion on the matter it was Resolved that the Clerk should prosecute the offender for this breach of the Bye-Laws.

THE BOARD THEN WENT INTO COMMITTEE

The Clerk reported that Ranger Stockley had submitted an application for an increase in wages. He had also asked if he could be paid rent for garaging his motorcycle. Until September 1959 the Board had paid 2/6d a week for a garage in Forest Row and Ranger Stockley had since then erected a shed at his own expense in his garden to house the cycle. Ranger Day's Wages were £9.10.0 a week and Ranger Stockley £8.10.0 a week. After a general discussion it was resolved that Ranger Days' wages be increased to £9.15.0 per week and Ranger Stockley to £9.5.0 per week, but no payment should be made to him for garaging the motorcycle.
Minutes of a Meeting held at Forest Row, Village Hall on Wednesday, 7th December, 1960.

Present: Mr. R.P.J. Brooke, Mr. A.E. Cottingham, Mr. F.B. Cornwell, Mr. O. Frith, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Mrs. S.M. Looker, Miss L.T. Toller, Mr. W.D. Gillham, Brig. J.K. McNair, Mr. C.J. Bollins, Mr. H.T. Innes, Mr. E.W. Pye and Mrs. O. Ridley.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Sir Ralph Clarke, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Mr. S.J. Marsh, Mr. T.M. Shelford and Mr. J.H. Owen.

2. Minutes: The Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising:
   (a) Report on prosecution of W. Awcock for infringing the Bye-Laws.
   The Clerk reported that W. Awcock was duly prosecuted and fined £1, 10/- costs, Advocate's fees £2.2.0. for contravening Bye-Law 3 of the Ashdown Forest Bye-Laws.

   (b) Cuckfield Rural District Council statutory contributions
   The Clerk reported that he had had a Meeting with the Clerk to the Cuckfield R.D.C. and the Chairman of that Council's Finance Committee and had explained to them that in the opinion of the Board the Local Authorities were not subsidising the Ratepayers, many of whom lived a considerable distance from the Forest and could make no use of it. Times had changed and the Commoners' Rights were in most cases now completely valueless. It was regretted that the Clerk to the Cuckfield R.D.C. did not accept this point of view and intimated that his Council will continue only to contribute the statutory maximum. Mrs. Ridley stated that although the Cuckfield Council would not pay more than the statutory contribution, they would be willing to contribute for any special purposes.

4. Correspondence: The Clerk read a letter from the Area Planning Officer of the East Sussex C.C. regarding a proposal to acquire "Lavender Platt" for a camping and caravan site for the Camping Club of Great Britain. The Clerk pointed out that the approach road to this site was very bad and as the site was surrounded by bracken, which had not been burnt for many years, there was a considerable fire risk. It was considered also that tents and caravans in this particular site would look to the public as if they were actually situate on the Forest and would cause confusion to others wishing to camp there, The Board decided that in their opinion it would not be a suitable site for the Camping Club and the Clerk was authorised to inform the Area Planning Officer accordingly.

5. The Chairman reported on what had taken place at the Commoners' Meeting and that Brig. J.K. McNair and Mr. W.D. Gillham had been re-elected and that Mr. S.J. Marsh had sent his resignation from the Board. Col. J.H. Lowe was elected in his stead. The Chairman paid tribute to the long service of Mr. Marsh to the Board of Conservators and the great assistance he had given to the Board for a great many years.

6. Rangers Reports - Ranger Day
   Culvert Spring Gardens - This culvert was damaged by floods and has been repaired by Mr. Gillham Road to Pleasant Farm - Mr. Abbott of Pleasant Farm, Fairwarp complained of flooding of this road. I met him and inspected the road. I advised deepening and widening roadside ditches. This has eased the situation but owing to the excessive amount of water all the road users should co-operate in tending ditches.
   Forest Rate - I have continued to collect arrears of Forest Rates. Forest Clumps - I have been engaged in cutting a fire cordon round Camp Hill Clump.

   Ranger Stockley
   I have been patrolling the North East area of Forest and reporting: Clearing up bad litter; a car body had been dumped on Forest near the Vatchery, Chelwood Gate, on the A.22 Road; Sheep worrying on Forest. Another sheep had been mauled in this way since last report. Forest Row Fire Service was called to a Fire on Forest on November 5th on the Priory Road to Goat Cross Road. This was a dump of women’s clothing etc. which had been set alight. Trimming at Gills Lap Clump.

7. Finance

Bank Accounts show the following balances
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£222.15.7 Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>17.8.6 Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>34.10.0 Cr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Amounts collected since last Meeting:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>£48.16.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrear of Rates</td>
<td>3.6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>3.18.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Accounts for payment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.A. Williams - Salary for December Quarter</td>
<td>£100.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash A/c - float</td>
<td>£80.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less credit bal. 17.3.6</td>
<td>62.11.6.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Dates of Meeting for the ensuing year.

- 15th February 1961
- 19th April 1961
- 18th October 1961
- 13th December 1961

These dates were duly approved by the Board.

9. Any other business: (1) The Clerk reported on the Meeting which had taken place at his Office between Lord De La Warr, the Clerks to all the local Council who contribute towards the revenue of the Forest, and Members of the Special Purposes Committee. This Meeting was called to discuss the possibility of eliminating fires on the Forest by cutting fire breaks at certain points. Lord De La Warr gave his approval to the scheme and on the financial aspect the Clerks to the various councils were of the opinion that although their Councils would give their approval in principle they would require more details information about the cost of the scheme and it had been decided that the Clerk should first of all contact the Chief Fire Brigades Officer and obtain some estimates of the initial cost of making the fire breaks.

(2) The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from a Mr. Nicholas Cranfield who was proposing to form a Deer Observation Society and Mr. Cranfield had asked for the general approval of the Board to such a Society being formed, the general objects of this Society were to control the number of Deer and to keep a record as far as possible of the number of herds in and around the area and the number of those shot or killed by one means or another. After discussion it was decided that while general approval is given to the scheme the Board have no control of the shooting rights over the Forest.

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke

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**Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall; Forest Row on Wednesday 15th February, 1961 at 2.30 p.m.**

Present: Mr. R.P.J. Brooke, Brig. J.K. McNair. Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Mr. W.D. Gillham, Mr. J.H. Owen, Mr. R.T. Innes, Col. J.H. Lowe, Sir Ralph Clarke, Mrs N. Ridley, Mr. A.E. Cottingham, Mr. T.M. Shelford and Mr. P.J. Cornwell.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Mrs. S.A. Looker, Miss L.T. Teller, Mr. C. J. Bollins, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey and Lady Dudley Gordon.

2. **Election of Chairman.** It was proposed by Mr. Owen and seconded by Mr. Wolfson that Mr. R.P.J. Brooke should be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year and this was unanimously agreed.

3. **Election of Vice-Chairman.** It was proposed by Sir Ralph Clarke and seconded by Mr. Innes that Brig. McNair should be elected as Vice-Chairman and this was unanimously agreed.
4. **Election of Committees.**
(a) **Forest Row:** It was resolved that the Members be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Mrs. S.M. Looker, Mr. J.R. Owen and Col. J. Lowe.
(b) **Maresfield:** It was resolved that the members be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey and Mr. W.D. Gillham.
(c) **Special Purposes Committee:** It was resolved that the Members be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Chairmen of the Forest Row and Maresfield Committees, Sir Ralph Clarke, Mr. C. Frith and Col. J.H. Lowe.

5. **The Minutes** of the last Meeting as printed as circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

6. **Matters arising:**
(a) **Fire Breaks.**
The Chairman stated that at the last Meeting he reported on the Meeting held with Lord De La Warr, the Clerks to the Local Authorities and the Members of the Special Purposes Committee, which is set out in the Minutes. The Clerk had written to the Chief Fire Officer and in his reply he stated that Fire-Breaks would not cut down the number of fires on the Forest, but only increase them as the public would penetrate further into the Forest and this would cause more fires and thus the Fire Brigade would be called out more frequently to attend to small fires. The Clerk also reported on a letter received from the Clerk to the East Grinstead U.D.C. giving him full information on how fire breaks could be achieved. It was resolved to refer this matter case again to the Special Purposes Committee for further discussions.

(b) **Clumps.**
The Chairman reported that the sub-Committee looking into the question of replanting the Clumps had arranged for three Clumps, King Standing, Gill's Lap and Camp Hill to be fenced and planted. This action was taken as the Lord of the Manor, who was providing the trees and Forester to plant them, had advised that the young trees which had been ordered would be arriving in the middle of February. The Board confirmed the Sub Committee's action.

7. **Correspondence.**
The Clerk read a letter from the Ashdown Forest Golf Club asking if the Board would contribute towards the cost of repairing the Bridge at the 13th Hole, which was frequently used by the Commoners. At this point the Clerk reported that Ranger Stockley had repaired a Bridge near the Golf Club Cottages at a cost of £3 and the Clerk had written to the Golf Club asking them if they would contribute half the cost of this repair, which they promptly did. After a discussion the Board resolved that the Conservators would contribute £6.5.0 towards the cost of the Bridge and Mrs. Ridley proposed that the repairs of Bridges and fencing etc. should come out of capital account and this was unanimously agreed.

8. **Rangers Reports - Ranger Day.**
**Forest Clumps** - Fire Cordons have now been out round Camp Hill, King Standing and Gill's Lap Clumps. The old fencing has been taken down and removed.

**Road Licences.** Mr. Morphew of Nutley and Mrs Tompkinson of Fairwarp have made applications to Licence tracks on the Forest.

**Horses on the Forest.** Mr. Stevenson, Lanark, Nutley has made a complaint of horses cutting up the track leading from Nutley Windmill to Old Lodge.

**Ranger Stockley:**
I have been clearing undergrowth and taking down old, fencing leaving both sites tidy - Kings Standing and Gill's Lap Clumps. Measuring the same areas for proposed new fencing. Trimming and clearing out stream above Shalesbrook and leaving site tidy. Repairing a wooden Bridge below Broad stone Warren and above the Golf house Cottages. Repairing the River bed and the banks of stream washed away just below a track by the 5th Green on Golf Course. Sheep are still being killed on Forest, one an Christmas Day and another this week, having been mauled badly

9. **Estimates.**
The Committee then examined the Estimates.

The Clerk explained that as he had received no intimation from the Uckfield R.D.C and East Sussex County Council as to whether they were prepared to make up the deficit caused by the parent of its statutory contribution only by the Uckfield R.D.C., he had worded estimates as if the Cuckfield R.D.C. might still change its mind and pay
the whole contribution, which had been demanded from it. Mrs. Ridley stated that she was asked to report to the Meeting that the Cuckfield Council would reconsider their contribution this year. During the discussion on this matter it was suggested that perhaps the Forest Rate might be levied in a different way - i.e. those with small ratable areas might pay more per more than those with larger acreages away from the Forest. The Special Purposes Committee were asked to consider this suggestion and report back to the Board. It was proposed by Brig. McNair and seconded by Mr. Owen that the estimates and accounts should be adopted.

10. Forest Rate for 1961. Mr. Cornwall proposed that the Forest Rate should remain 6d per acre. This was seconded by Sir Ralph Clarke and it was resolved that a Rate of Sixpence per acre be levied and the Rate Book was produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

11. Finance.

Financial Statement
Bank Accounts show the following balances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£80.6.0 Cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>2.9.4 Cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>4.10.3 Cr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amounts collected since last Meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>17.5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate Arrears</td>
<td>5.11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgement Rents</td>
<td>27.9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgement Arrears</td>
<td>1.15.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Misc:
- F.P. Stockley - telephone calls 0.19.6
- Seaboard - memo stamps 0.1.0
- Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club part cost for repair of bridge 1.10.0
- Powell & Partner, for notice board 0.10.0
- E & E Waters - deposit 25.0.0

Accounts for Payment:

- P. A. Williams - Salary for March 1961 quarter 100.0.0
- Petty Cash Accounts – Float 80.0.0
- Less Credit Balance 2.9.4 77.10.8
- G. Day - clothing allowances for 1961 10.0.0
- P.P. Stockley - ditto 10.0.0

The Clerk, stated that to ensure that the General Account would not be overdrawn it would fee necessary to transfer £250 from Deposit to General Account. This sum of money had been placed on Deposit from General Account in July 1960, when there had been a substantial balance. Proposed by Col. Lowe and seconded by Mr. Wolfson that the sum of £250 be withdrawn from Deposit and credited to General Account. It was resolved that the sum of £250 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to General Account.

12. There being no other business the meeting was closed.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke
Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday, 19th April 1961 at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. R.F.J. Brooke, Mr. J.R. Owen, Mr. W.D. Gillham, Mr. T.M. Shelford, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Mr. R.T. Innes, Miss L.T. Toller, Lady Dudley Gordon, Brig. J.K. McNair, Col. J.H. Lowe, Mr. B.W. Pye, Mr. G. Frith, Mr. F.B. Cornwall and Sir Ralph Clarke.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. S.M. Looker, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey and MRS. U. Ridley.

2. Minutes of last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising - (a) Clumps
The Clerk reported that the Clumps had been planted at Lord De La Warr's expense by his Forester. The Chairman said that he would inspect the site to see that the young trees were dense enough.

(b) Local Authorities Contribution
The Clerk reported that he had written on several occasions to the County Council regarding the Cuckfield R.D.C. refusing to pay more that its statutory contribution and he had that previous morning telephoned to the Clerk, who informed him that his report had missed the County Council's Finance Committee April Meeting and this matter would not therefore come before the Committee until its next Meeting in May. The Clerk to the County Council had stated, as his personal opinion, that the Finance Committee would not increase its contribution merely to make up for the deficit caused by Cuckfield R.D.C.'s action. The Clerk then stated that he had a word with the Clerk to the Uckfield R.D.C, and he had stated that he would report to his Council as soon as the County Council's attitude was definitely known. He then suggested that the Clerks of the Local Authorities should meet with the Clerk to the Conservators to discuss the matter of Local Authorities contributions and the matter was left in abeyance until the County Council's decision was known. (c) Forest Fires
The Chairman stated that there had been fewer fires this year. Mr. Gillham was convinced that the fires were lit by older people living on the Forest and not by children. The Clerk read reports from the Rangers and this matter was left to be discussed by the Special Purposes Committee.

4. Correspondence: (1) The Clerk read a letter from the District Auditor reporting satisfactory conclusion of the Annual Audit. (2) The Clerk read a letter from the County Council stating that Mr. C.J. Bollins would cease to be a Conservator as his term of office as a Councillor would expire and he was not seeking re-election. (3) The Clerk reported on a letter from the Cuckfield R.D.C. regarding overhead electric cables and pylons and stating that the Council was opposed to the erection of overhead lines generally through the Weald of Sussex. Proposed by Mr. Shelford and unanimously agreed that no action be taken.

5. Rangers Reports - Day
Ranger Stockley and I fenced the three clumps on the Forest, having first assisted Manor Workman to out the dead trees. The Clumps at Camp Hill, Kingstanding and Gill's Lap have now been replanted. I have assisted Ranger Stockley to erect 12 Notices on the Forest, warning drivers that cars are not permitted more than 15 yards on to the Forest. Within a week of their erection, two of these boards were wrenched from the posts and one post taken away. These Boards and posts have now been replaced. I have been engaged in clearing litter from the Forest, digging pits to receive this, but roadside fires have opened up a lot of dumped material, especially on Mill Brook Hill. A number of fires have occurred on the Forest and time has been spent on observation for possible fire lighters.

Ranger Stockley
I have been patrolling the North East area of Ashdown Forest and reporting: Fencing at the Clumps - Camp Hill, Kingstanding, and Gill's Lap with Ranger Day. Cutting and Baking fire heaters for roadside stands in area. The dumping of litter has been bad this spring on all roads, mainly unwanted materials by scrap dealers. Fires in the area have not burst more that 130 acres, two large ones 50 acres at the Vatchery Chelwood Gate and 60 acres at the top of Kidd's Hill to Tile Lodge and Old Lodge. The 15 yards Notice Boards are being very effective and helpful. The Clerk read a report from Ranger Stockley stating that Mrs. Sinclair had been riding her horse near the Golf Course. Mr. Wolfson had asked her to keep to the Forest Tracks but she had replied that she had every right to be there and then rode away. Lady Dudley Gordon suggested that the tracks should be marked, so that people in future would know where to ride. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mrs. Sinclair asking her to avoid riding across the Golf Club fairways and keep to recognised tracks.
6. FINANCE:

Bank Accounts show the following Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potty Cash Account</td>
<td>4.16.2. Cr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>1.1.5 Cr</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Amounts collected since last Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>0.11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate Arrears</td>
<td>0.5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgement Bents</td>
<td>259.18.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgment Arrears</td>
<td>4.5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exor., of T. Martin deceased</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amount overpaid in 1960</td>
<td>1.18.4</td>
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Accounts for Payment

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account - Float</td>
<td>80.0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans cr. balance</td>
<td>4.16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seebord - refund of deposit</td>
<td>100.0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accounts for Payment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amounts collected since last Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was resolved that the man of £106.5.0. should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the General Account.

7. The Clerk reported that successive District Auditors had commented unfavourably on the fact that some of the Board's investments were held in the names of individual members of the Board and some in the names of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. In one case Mr. S.J. Marsh who was now no longer a member of the Board was a Registered Holder. If all investments were held on behalf of the Board by Barclays Bank Nominees this would meet with the approval of the District Auditor.

Resolved that the Clerk be instructed to take steps to transfer all the Board's investments to Barclays Bank Nominees.

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 26th July at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. R.F.J. Brooke, Mr. P.B. Cornwell, Miss. L.T. Toller, Mr. A.L. Harvey, Brig. J.K. McNair, Mr. W.G. Gillham, Mr. E.W. Pye, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Miss O.N. Vaughan, Mr. R. Innes, Mrs. U. Ridley, and Col. J.H. Lowe

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. A.H. Looker, Lady Dudley Gordon, Mr. J.R. Owen, Sir Ralph Clarke, Mr. C. Frith, Mr. Cottingham and Mr. T.H. Shelford.

2. Minutes of last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising:
   (a) Horse riding on the Forest
   The Clerk read a letter from Mrs. Sinclair in reply to his letter which he was authorised to write at the last meeting.
   (b) Investments
   The Clerk referred to the previous decision to transfer all Capital Investments into the name of Barclays Bank Nominees and reported that this had now been carried out.
   (c) Clumps
   The Clerk reported that three clumps had been replanted and fenced. Lord De La Warr had suggested that a board should be erected stating the reason for the fencing. It was agreed to erect the Boards.

4. Correspondence
   (a) The Clerk read a letter from the Clerk to the Uckfield Council stating that Mr. Pye, Mr. Innes and Mr. Wolfson had been re-appointed.
   (b) The Clerk read a letter from the Clerk to the County Council
stating that the County Council had decided not to make up any part of the deficiency due to any other Authority not paying its share of the Local Authority’s contributions.

(c) The Clerk had a letter from a Mr. Ben Darby. Mr Darby wanted to write an article on Ashdown Forest which would probably be published in ‘The Field’. The Clerk had supplied Mr. Darby with all information he required which was not confidential. The Board gave their approval.

(d) The Clerk read a letter from Mr. F. Brandon who intended to write an Official Guide of Ashdown Forest. The Cleric was instructed to write to the North Eastern Polytechnic to enquire into his credentials. It was agreed that if the Conservators were to give their consent and official sanction to the Guide they should receive 25% of the profits.

(e) The Clerk read a letter from the East Sussex Constabulary expressing thanks to the Rangers for the help and assistance they had given when thefts occurred to unattended cars on the Forest.

(f) The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Tolley of Fairwarp in which he stated that he would like to exchange a piece of his land for a part of the Forest of equal size. The Board instructed the Clerk to find out the legal position and to write to Mr. Tolley asking him whether he would be prepared to pay for all the costs which would be incurred. It was agreed that the matter should be left in the hands of the Maresfield Committee to inspect the land and give their report at the next meeting. Proposed by Miss Toller and unanimously agreed.

5. Trespass by Army units on the Forest.
The Rangers had reported constant trespassing by Army Units on the Forest and the Clerk therefore had written to Col. Lewis (Home Counties District). Col. Lewis called at his office. He stated that the Army Map did not show clearly the way to Pippingford Park and he therefore had the map clearly marked for future use.

6. Strawberry Sellers on the Forest
The Clerk stated that he had taken action against a Mr. Carman after reading a report by Ranger Day. Mr Carman was fined £2. The Clerk stated that Ranger Day had conducted the case all on his own and he had done extremely well.

7. Repairs on a Bridge
The Clerk produced a bill from Mr. Gillham for work carried out to a Bridge at Spring Garden Fairwarp. It was unanimously agreed that the monies for payment of this Amount should be drawn from capital. It was resolved that the sum of £72.6.10. be transferred from Deposit Account to Petty Cash Account to defray this charge.

8. Ranger’s Reports. Ranger Day
A large amount of old iron, tins, bottles etc., had accumulated on the Forest roadsides, and this had been left bare by the fires. Ranger Stockley and I, with Mr. Brooke’s tractor trailer and driver, spent six evenings in collecting this rubbish and carting it to a central dump. Army Vehicles on Forest. There have been many cases of army vehicles being driven on to the Forest this summer. The majority of these cases seem to be Territorial Army Units using Crowborough Warren Camp. Traders on Forest. On the 20th May, Francis Carman of Southampton was selling strawberries on the County Council lay-by on Millbrook. He had placed notices advertising the sale of these on the Forest and refused to remove them when requested. He was prosecuted at Uckfield Police Court on 20th July, convicted of an offence against Bye-Law 14, and fined £2. On 1st July a man was selling chicken at about the same spot. On 10th July two ladies were selling strawberries, little to the north of this. Both were displaying notices, but removed these and left the sites when requested.

Ranger Stockley
I have been patrolling the north east area of Ashdown Forest and reporting: Emptying litter baskets and cleaning up bad litter. Ranger Day and I have been clearing up the Forest with a tractor, trailer and driver on six evenings, on each evening we had a large load, this was mainly after fires, and other articles of all descriptions. Fires in area have not been excessive. Trimming at Gills Lap and Kingstanding clumps and Fire breaks around. Litter is and has been bad this season. Clearing this up and waiting upon visitors to the Forest is taking more and more time.

9. Finance
Accounts show the following balances

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£470.16.8. Cr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petty Cash</td>
<td>0.85. Cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages</td>
<td>52.19.9. Cr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Amounts collected since last meeting

Acknowledgement rents 40.7.2
Acknowledgement arrears 3.7.2
Uckfield R.D.C. Contribution 248.4.8
East Grinstead U.D.C. 82.14.11
Cuckfield R.D.C. 7.13.2
East Sussex R.D.C. (half) 206.17.3
Ashdown Golf Club 2.2.6
Powell & Partner, Temporary Board 0.10.0
G.W. Beeney - Deposit 20.0.0
J.H. Tyler (Forest Row) Ltd. - Temporary Board 0.10.0
J.E. Nye Ltd. Temporary Board 0.10.0
F. P. Stockley - Telephone A/c 0.10.0
W.R. Taylor - Deposit 5.0.0
Official Receiver in Bankruptcy, re J. P.C. Sullivan 0.0.7
Rhodesia & Nyasaland Stock half year's interest due June 6th 1961 30.12.5 605.10.6 649.4.10

Accounts for payment
Clerk's Salary for June 1961 quarter 100.0.0
Raymond Wells Osborne & Co., Accountancy Fees 31.10.0
G.W. Beeney, Refund of deposit 20.0.0
H.E. Waters Ltd., refund of deposit 25.0.0
J. Waters & Son Ltd., refund of deposit 5.0.0
Petty Cash A/c £80.0.0
less Credit balance 0.8.5 79.11.7
£261.1.7.

Mr. Wolfson proposed that the sum of £24.10.0 for the fencing of the clumps should be taken from capital. It was resolved that the sum of £24.10.0 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Petty Cash Account to defray this charge. It was further resolved that the sum of £81.14.0 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Petty Cash Account to defray the charge of 12 Notice Boards. It was suggested by Mr. Pye and agreed that the Clerk should seek further advice on the investments of the Board. It was further agreed that any changes of investment on the advice of the Board's Stockbrokers should be decided by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

10. Any other business
The Clerk reported that there was no official appointment of the Chairman of the Forest Row Committee. Resolved that Mr. Wolfson be appointed Chairman.

The Clerk then reported that a Meeting held by the Special Purposes Committee on the 13th July at his Office.

He had received Counsel's Opinion on the subject of a differential Forest Rate which he read and explained in detail. He also reported the outcome of his meeting on the 11th instant with the Clerks of all the Local Authorities concerned. He reported that the discussion had been very frank and he was of the opinion that if the Board of Conservators could show that they were endeavouring in some way to increase their income the Local Authorities could be more willing to help and in particular the Cuckfield R.D.C. who were having second thoughts on the refusal to pay more than the Statutory Contribution. A further meeting was to be convened by the Clerk of the East Sussex County Council on 12th October 1961 at Lewes and it had been suggested that 4 members of the Board should be asked to attend. Mr. Shelford pointed out that the expenses of the Conservators were very shortly bound to increase as he felt that the Clerk's salary was too low and also the Rangers' wages were not sufficient for the amount of work they put in and he did not think that increasing the Rate was going to be much help but that the Local Authorities would have to be asked to pay more and in particular East Sussex County Council and Uckfield. In fact he thought that as Cuckfield and East Grinstead had so few Commoners the other two authorities should
pay any deficit between them. He further added that he thought we were coming to the stage where there should be a Private Bill for Ashdown Forest.

The Chairman reported that he had had a telephone conversation with Mr. Lumsden who was keenly interested that some financial assistance might be given privately - the Committee agreed that this course of motion would be undesirable. The Chairman then suggested to the Committee that letters for voluntary contributions be circulated but after discussion this too was thought undesirable. Mr. Owen suggested that to cut down the cost of collection of the Rate might it not be possible for the East Sussex County Council to incorporate the Forest Rate with the General Rate but the Clerk reported that he had raised this point with the Clerk of the E.S.C.C. who had informed him that this could not be done. Various suggestions regarding the Forest Rate ware then made - the rate varying with distance as suggested in Counsel's Opinion was thought to be impracticable - a rate of 1/- per acre with a 2/6 minimum was suggested but Mr. Frith pointed out that the larger landowners were again to be the hardest hit. After further discussion it was decided that the following recommendation be made to the Board at the next meeting to be held on the 26th instant that the Forest Rate for 1962 should be 2/6d. for the first acre or part thereof and 6d, for every acre thereafter. The Chairman then proposed that the four member to attend the meeting in October should be named and the following were nominated and agreed to attend:

Messrs Frith, McNair, Brooke and Owen.

It was decided that the Conservators case should be put forward bearing in and the increase in future expenditure.

Note: 2/6d minimum rate will lead to an increase in revenue of about £110 per annum.

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke

The Annual General Meeting of the Commoners duty convened by Notices posted on the principal doors of the Churches of the Parishes and Ecclesiastical District to which the Forest extends and by notice to the Members of the Board more than fourteen days prior to this date and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row at 1.30 p.m.

Present: Mrs. I.G. French, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Mr. J. Card, E. Bridgewater, Mr. W.D. Gillham, Miss L.T. Toller, Brig. J.K. McNair, Mr. & Mrs. E. Lloyd-Jones, Mr. J. Rose, Col. J.H. Lowe, Mr. A.B. Cottingham, Mr. C. Frith, Mr. P.B. Cornwell, Mr. B.P.J. Brooke, Mr. A. Macpherson, Mr. & Mrs. G. Everleigh, H. Creasy, Mr. D. Evatt and Mr. C. Squire.

1. Mr. R.P.J. Brooke was proposed as Chairman of the meeting and unanimously elected.

2. The Clerk then read the notice convening the Meeting.

3. The Minutes The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and signed.

4. Election of Conservators The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill the vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. W.D. Gillham and Brig. J.K. McNair retiring Conservators who offer themselves for re-election and Mr. S.J. Marsh who wished to retire from the Board.

The Clerk stated that he had received one nomination, namely Col. J.H. Lowe, who was proposed by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Sir Gerald Creasy.

It was proposed by Mr. Rowe and seconded by Mr. Wolfson that all three nominations be elected, and this was unanimously agreed.

Mr. Rowe proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Marsh for his long and loyal service to the Board for so many years. The Clerk also paid tribute to Mrs. Marsh's services and particularly for the great assistance he had given to the Clerk...
on his appointment. The vote of thanks was carried unanimously, and the Chairman said he had pleasure in announcing that Mr. Marsh was still willing to give assistance in every way.

5. NOMINATION OF RECREATION GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENTS.
It was unanimously proposed that all Members at present should be elected to stand for the coming year. It was proposed that Mr. Marsh continue to be Superintendent of the Nutley Recreation Ground. Proposed by Mr. Wolfson, seconded by Mr. Gillham and carried.

6. The Chairman then reported on what had happened during the year.

LITTER: Litter baskets which were asked for at the last General Meeting had been increased and altogether 36 were now in use. He stated that these had helped considerably in keeping the Forest clear of litter.

Mobile Canteen: The Chairman stated that in order to raise sufficient revenue, so as not to increase the Rate, the Board had rented out a site for a Mobile Canteen on the Forest. Unfortunately, this was not a success and the Board had now given up the idea of raising revenue this way.

A Meeting had taken place between Lord De La Warr, the Clerks to all the Local Authorities who contribute towards Ashdown Forest and certain Members of the Board. The purpose of this Meeting was to discuss the matters in general regarding Ashdown Forest and also to work out a scheme to try and reduce fires on the Forest.

Sometime ago the War Department were considering the acquisition of 227 acres of Pippingford Park for the purpose of weapon training. The Clerk had received a letter from the Uckfield R.D.C. asking for the Board’s comments on the proposal. The Board had considered that weapon training in this area and the use of pyrotechnics would result in danger to those using the Forest and had informed the Clerk to the Uckfield R.D.C. that it would support that Council in any appeal the Council made to prevent the use of the land for this purpose.

A Mr. T. Scivier had been prosecuted by the Clerk for selling fruit on the Forest verge on the A.22 Road and the man had been convicted and fined.

7. General Business:
Mrs. French reported that she was amazed to see so many cars 15 yards within Ashdown Forest and the considerable amount of litter thrown about. The Chairman stated that the only way to prevent this was to prosecute the owners of cars.

There being no other business the Meeting was closed.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 18th October 1961 at 2.30 p.m.

Mr R.P.J. Brooke, Brig. J.K. McNair, Miss L.M. Toller, Mrs. S.M. Looker, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Miss O.H. Vaughan, Mr. J.R. Owen, Mr. L.T. Innes, Mrs. U. Ridley, Lady Dudley Gordon, Mr. A.S. Cottingham, Sir Ralph Clarke and Mr. R.W. Pye, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Col. J.H. Lowe, Mr. C. Frith, Mr. F.J. Cornwell and Mr. T.H. Shelford.

2. Minutes of last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising: (a) Investments.
The Clerk reported that he was still waiting to hear from the District Auditor about the possibility of investing half of the Trust Capital in Equities. It was resolved that when the District Auditor had given his advice the matter of investments should be left to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Pye to decide.

(b) Fencing round the clumps.
The Clerk reported that the Rangers had offered to undertake the work of making the notice boards which would save considerable cost. He had purchased a set of stencils which would come in useful on future occasions. Resolved the Clerk's action be confirmed.
The Clerk read out a letter from Mr. Brandon confirming that the Guide would be supported by advertisements and that he was willing to give the Conservators 25% of his profits if he could print on the Guide the official sanction of the Board. The Clerk reported that he had received a satisfactory reference from Mr. Brandon. Resolved that approval to the Guide be given provided proofs were submitted to the Chairman for approval before the book was finally published.

(d) Exchange of land with Mr. Tolley.
Clerk reported that Mr. Tolley was prepared to pay all the Board's legal and other costs and that the matter was now before Counsel for his Opinion. Proposed by Lady Dudley Gordon seconded and resolved that if Counsel's Opinion was favourable the Clerk should proceed with the matter without further reference back.

4. CORRESPONDENCE
(a) The Clerk read a letter from a Mr. Mc Sweeney asking for permission to have a Mobile Canteen and his reply to the letter stating that the Conservators would not give permission.
(b) The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from a Mr. Fox of the Castle Tea Rooms, Nutley and had subsequently had an interview with him concerning his application to rent a small area of land to the east of the A.22 Road near Pippingford Park for the purpose of constructing permanent Tea Rooms. Mr. Fox was willing to pay a rent of £300 per annum. After discussion it was resolved that as this would not meet with the approval of the Uckfield R.D.C. and as there was doubt that the Board had power to grant such a Lease, Mr. Box's application be refused.

5. REPORT OF THE SUSSEX NATURALISTS TRUST
The full report had been circulated to each Member previous to the Board Meeting. A general discussion took place, and it was resolved (1) the recommendations in Part 5 of the Report should be agreed to forthwith, subject only to the consent and agreement of the Lord of the Manor (2) the remainder of the report to be referred to the Special Purposes Committee for consideration and Lady Dudley Gordon was co-opted on that Committee for this particular purpose.

6. MEETING CONVENED BY THE EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.
The Chairman gave a report of the Meeting held at Lewes on the 12th October at which were present Representative of the Board of each Local Authority interested in the Forest. The County Council and Uckfield R.D.C. were content to go on paying their contribution as before. The Cuckfield R.D.C. stated that if the Conservators made some attempt to increase their revenue by an increase in the Forest Rate that Council would continue to make the contribution demanded of it. Some of the East Grinstead U.D.C. Members had expressed opinion that the Forest was of no value to East Grinstead and that there had been a lack of liaison by the Clerk of the Conservators to the Council. Lady Dudley Gordon had disassociated herself with these opinions, but the Chairman considered that by the end of the Meeting, although no hard and fast decisions had had been taken, there was a better understanding of the Board's position in everyone minds. Mr. Wolfson congratulated the Clerk on the memorandum which had been prepared by him concerning Ashdown Forest which had been sent to all Members attending that meeting.

7. Rangers Reports: Ranger Day
Prosecutions - On the 20th July I attended Uckfield Police Court in connection with the prosecution of F. Carman for displaying notices on the Forest. These were advertising the sale of strawberries on Millbrook Hill. Carman was fined £2. On 10th August I again, attended the same Court to give evidence in the Police Prosecution of four lads for setting alight the Forest near Old Lodge. The three elder lads were fined £3 and the younger one £1.
Parking on Licensed roads - Mrs. Sidebottom, Crofts, Fairwarp complained to me of picnickers parking on the licensed track leading to her residence. This track is also used by eight other residents in this neighbourhood of Duddleswell. Acting on the Chairman's instructions I have advised this lady to supply and have erected a 15 yard notice board. Forest Rates -I have collected a proportion of the Forest Rates.

Ranger Stockley
I have been patrolling the North East areas of Ashdown Forest and reporting: Emptying Litter Baskets and clearing up bad litter. Trimming at bad corners and at Bye-Law Notice Boards. Repair Posts at two of the 15 yard Notice Boards, that had been broken off at ground level. Collecting Forest Rates in the area.
People trading with Mr. Everest’s and others at Holmes Cottages, Colemans Hatch are using the Fairways 7 and 8 to get to these Cottages, in their cars. I have asked these men if they would be prepared to help with labour on a track which is at present not fit for motor vehicles (this is just off the Upper Quabrook entrance and the most direct entrance to these Cottages and also used by others using the Forest from Colemans Hatch). Other cars and motor vehicles getting to and from Bank Farm and Bank Cottages Forest Row, from Holly Croft Colemans Hatch through Fairways 2, 3, 4 and 5 after wet weather is almost impossible - getting worse each year. It is becoming very difficult to stop other crossings on Fairways. The track from Bank Cottages direct to Post Horn Lane has a natural fall and would not need a lot to put in order. After talking to the Secretary of the Golf Club he said he was sure they would help with layout. After general discussion it was Resolved this matter be referred to the Forest Row Committee.

8. FINANCE
Accounts show the following balance:

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<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>24.1.11 Cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>15.17.3 Cr</td>
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</tbody>
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Amounts collected since last Meeting:

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>173.11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrears of Rates</td>
<td>0.5.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acknowledgement Rents</td>
<td>1.1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L.A. Contribution - EAST S.C.C.</td>
<td>Bal: 206.17.2</td>
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Miscellaneous:

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<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Press &amp; Banks - Temporary Board</td>
<td>0.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justices Clerk - Expenses for 2 attendances at Uckfield Court &amp; Police Station</td>
<td>0.9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powell &amp; Partner, Temporary Board</td>
<td>0.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide Films –Donation</td>
<td>10.0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. P. Witney - Temporary Notice</td>
<td>0.2.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amounts paid direct to Barclays Bank Ltd.,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Half year's interest on £148.13.7.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% Rhodesia &amp; Nyasaland Stock</td>
<td>2.5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half year's interest on £2540 4% Consols</td>
<td>31.2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accounts for payment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clerk’s Salary for Sept. 1961 quarter</td>
<td>100.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account Float</td>
<td>80.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LESS Cr. Balance</td>
<td>24.1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. G. Wright - Counsel's Fees</td>
<td>16.5.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was resolved that the monthly amount transferred from General Account to Wages Account should be increased to £95 forthwith. It was further resolved that the sum of £48.17.3 should be transferred from General Account to Wages Account.

9. Any other business:

1. The Clerk reported that he had received an Application from the Border Centre for Arthritis to lay a sewer under the Forest with two manholes. The Board granted permission provided that the manholes were made properly secure.

2. Award Map: The Clerk reported that the Award Map was now out of date as it did not show the equivalent areas in those parts of the Forest which had been acquired by other Authorities under compulsory powers. The Clerk asked the Board for permission to have a new Map prepared. Resolved that the Clerk should obtain estimates of the cost of making such a map and should Report at the next Meeting.

3. Mrs. Ridley asked it would be possible to form an Association known as "The Friends of Ashdown Forest" for the purposes of raising additional revenue. Resolved that the Board would welcome such a proposal, but that the Association would have to formed along similar lines to the Friends of the Queen Victoria Hospital and that the
Board's estimates for the future could take no account for any money which might be received from the new Association and it would have to be formed completely voluntary and separate from the Board of Conservators.

The Board then went into Committee

The Clerk read out a Report of the Special Purposes Committee Meeting convened on the 6th August to consider the Rangers' Wages. After hearing the Report of the Special Purposes Committee it was resolved that the Wages of both Rangers should be increased to £11 per week and back-dated to the 11th August. The Clerk also reported that Ranger Day was now 67 years of age and would probably wish to retire in a few years' time, and he thought it essential that before this took place a third Ranger should be appointed, to learn the duties and Forest Law from Ranger Day. The Clerk further stated that in his opinion Ranger Day was really no longer capable of riding his motor cycle in all weathers and that in any case, in view of the large amount of litter the Rangers had to collect and destroy, a small motor van was far more useful and safer than a motorcycle. Resolved that this matter be further considered at the next Board Meeting.

The Board went out of Committee and there being no other business the Meeting was concluded.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke

The Annual General Meeting of the Commoners duly convened by Notices posted on the principal doors of the Churches of the Parishes and Ecclesiastical Districts to which the Forest extends and by notices to the Members of the Board more than fourteen days prior to this date and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row at 1.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. J. Card, Mr. R.F.J. Brooke, Miss Bridgwater, Miss Hammer, Mr. P. Shaw, Mr. G. Waters, Mr. P.A. Mosse, Mr. A.J. Hunt, Mr. C.J. Squire, Miss P.J. Walker, Mrs. P. Phillips, Miss B. Willard, Lady Creasey, Mrs. A.A.D. Ryder, Mr. D.W. Castle, Mrs. W.A. Smith, Miss A. MacPherson, Mr. D. Evatt, Col. J.H. Lowe, Mr. J.H. Drew, Mr. C. Frith, Mr. F.B. Cornwell, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Mr. & Mrs. C.W. Maudslay, Mr. W.D. Gillham, Mr. J.R. Owen and Mrs. C.W. Owen.

1. Mr. R.P.J. Brooke was proposed as Chairman of the Meeting and unanimously elected.

2. The Clerk then read the notice convening the Meeting.

3. The Minutes: The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and signed.

4. Election of Conservators: The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill the vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs C. Frith, A.E. Cottingham, P.B. Cornwell who all offered themselves for re-election and by J.R. Owen who wished to retire from the Board. The Clerk stated that he had received two nominations, namely Mr. J.H. Drew and Miss B. Willard. An election there took place and the results were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nomination</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. C. Frith</td>
<td>958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. J.H. Drew</td>
<td>955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. A.E. Cottingham</td>
<td>943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. F.B. Cornwell</td>
<td>656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss. B. Willard</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Owen for his long and loyal service to the Board which was supported by all those present.


The following nominations were made for the coming year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Superintendent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutley</td>
<td>W. Gillham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Row</td>
<td>A.C. Wolfson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colemans Hatch</td>
<td>A.C. Wolfson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairwarp</td>
<td>A.K.L. Harvey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. General Business

(a) The Chairman reported that twelve notice boards had been erected pointing out that people are not allowed to
take or park their cars more than 15 yards on to the Forest from the roadway and the Rangers had reported that
these had helped in keeping the Forest clear of fires.

(b) Fire breaks.
The Chairman reported that there had been fewer fires on the Forest this year although one or two of them were
rather big ones. The Board had decided that some firebreaks should be out on the Forest, so that large fires could
be controlled. He stated that a meeting had been held with the Chief Fire Brigade Officer and the County and
Local Councils and although they thought firebreaks were a good idea they did not think that the number of fires
would be reduced as people would penetrate deeper into the Forest. The Local Authorities would not contribute
anything towards the cost of cutting the firebreaks at the present.

(c) Clumps.
The Chairman stated that clumps had been replanted at Kings Standing, Gills Lap and Camp Hill. The Lord of the
Manor had supplied the trees and the Conservators had provided the fencing around the clumps in order to
preserve the growth of the trees.

(d) Sussex Naturalist Trust.
The Chairman made a brief statement on the Report of the Sussex Naturalist Trust in which it was stated that there
were some very rare plants and birds on the Forest and that certain arrangements for firebreaks should be made to
preserve them. He also stated that the Conservators would help the Trust as much as possible in carrying out
certain experiments on the Forest.

(e) Finance.
The Chairman reported a Meeting was held with the various Local Authorities concerned with the Forest to discuss
the Conservators’ finances as a result of Cuckfield’s refusal to pay more than the statutory maximum contribution.
The Cuckfield Council did not understand why the Conservators had reduced the rate from 1/- to 6d. It has been
suggested that a differential rate should be adopted whereby the minimum rate would be 2/6. for the first acre and
thereafter the rate should be 6d. per acre this would increase two rates by about £100 and this was coming before
the Board as a recommendation at its next meeting.

(f) Friends of Ashdown Forest Society.
As many people living in and around the Forest who were not Commoners but enjoyed the amenities of the Forest
felt that they should contribute something towards the upkeep of the Forest, Mrs. Ridley had thought that a Society
should be formed whereby people could contribute towards the cost of financing the Forest. A Meeting had been
hold at Mrs. Ridley’s house and a Society was formed which was to be known as the Friends of Ashdown Forest.
Mr. S.J. Lumsden had been elected Chairman, Mr. Derek Evatt, Secretary and Lord Dudley Gordon, Treasurer. A
Committee had also been elected. Mr. Evatt said that there had been a good response to the appeal and he was
sure that the Society would collect a considerable sum of money and would be able to be of great assistance to the
Board.

(g) Riding on the Forest.
One of the Commoners asked why the Conservators could not charge a tax on people riding on the Forest and
asked the Conservators whether they had such power to impose such a tax. The Chairman said that they had no
such power but they would do all they could to keep riders off Forest tracks which were footpaths to Cottages.
The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to each of the Riding Schools asking them to keep away from certain tracks.

(h) Voting by Proxy:
Mr. Owen stated that as very few people could get to the Meeting and vote, he suggested Voting by Proxy. The
Chairman stated that Notices could be placed with the Assessments asking people who wanted to vote to write to
him for a form. This would be the easiest and least expensive method of voting. A proposal by Mr. Wolfson and
seconded by Mr. Evatt that Voting by Proxy be permitted in the future was carried.

(i) Commoners’ Meeting.
It was suggested that the Commoners’ Meeting should be held in September and a discussion then took place. It
was finally decided that the Commoners’ Meeting should be held at about 8 p.m. in July, August or September next
year as an experiment.

There being no other business the Meeting was closed.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke
Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 6th December, 1961 at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. W.D. Gilham, Col. J.H. Lowe, Mr. C. Frith, Mr. E.W. Pye, Mr. A.C. Wolfson. Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Mr. F.B.C. Cornwell, Mr. R.F.J. Brooke, Lady Dudley Cordon, and Mrs. U. Ridley.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Sir Ralph Clarke, Mr. E.T. Innes, Brig. J.K. McNair, Mrs. S.M. Looker and Mr. J.R. Owen.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed, but an alteration was made as Mr. A.K.L. Harvey had been omitted in the attendance.

3. Matters arising: (a) Investments.
   The Clerk reported that the Board had power to invest in equities and the procedure was to instruct a firm of Stockbrokers to advise the Board on how the investments should be made. Lady Dudley Cordon proposed that Messrs Helbert Wagg & Company should be the firm to advise the Conservators. This was agreed.

(b) Exchange of land - Mr. Tolley.
   The Clerk reported that he had received Counsel's Opinion and it was just possible to exchange land. He had sent the Opinion to Mr. Tolley accompanied by a letter in which the Clerk had asked Mr. Tolley to forward a cheque for £100 on account of legal and other costs, but as yet had heard nothing. Mr. Harvey said that he would see Mr. Tolley and explain the position.

(c) The Award Map:
   The Clerk stated that he had instructed Messrs. Turner Rudge & Turner to prepare a Map, the cost of which would be £10. He had taken the liberty of doing this and stated that if the Conservators did not approve he would be willing to pay for it himself. The cost of preparing three linen maps and 47 paper maps would amount to roughly £50. Proposed by Lady Dudley Cordon and seconded by Col. J.H. Lowe that the Clerk's action so far be confirmed and he instructed to order all fifty copies.

   The Chairman reported on what had taken place at the Commoners' Meeting and that Mr. C. Frith, Mr. A.E. Cottingham and Mr. F.H. Cornwell had been re-elected and that Mr. J.R. Owen had retired from the Board and in his place Mr. J. Drew has been elected. The Chairman paid tribute to the long service of Mr. Owen to the Board and the great assistance he had given to the Board for a great many years.

5. Correspondence.
   The Clerk read a letter from Mrs. Irene French of Upper Hartfield stating that she was concerned with the increase of riding on Forest tracks. Col. Lowe suggested that they should be told ride away from the middle of the track in order to keep the tracks free of mud. Mr. Frith stated that it was in their own interests that they should stop riding on the paths. The Chairman suggested writing to the Riding Schools and asked the Clerk to do so. A lengthy discussion took place about the tracks leading to Bank Farm cottages and it was decided to ask Mr. Wolfson and the Rangers to go to Shalesbrook, inspect the paths which were churned up and report. It was also suggested that a Surveyor or Builder be found to go over the site and an estimate for the construction of a concrete splash under the water.

   Forest Survey. Ranger Stockley and I met Mr. Streeter of the Sussex Naturalist Trust and with him surveyed sections of the Forest. These were situate on the Nutley Road at Kidds Hill and near Lavender Platt. We discussed positions for firebreaks and other clearances, in connection with making of these breaks. We later took a representative of Thornes round these areas to make an estimate of the cost of clearance.

   Forest Rate. I have continued to collect a proportion of the Forest Rates.

   Work on Blind Corners. I have cleared undergrowth from a blind corner near the entrance to Putlands, Fairwarp.

   Derelict Cars. Two derelict cars have been recently dumped on the Forest, one at the Goat Cross Roads, one west of the Crow and Gate Public House, and a third car has been left on the County Council property on the east side of Millbrook Hill.

   Ranger Stockley.
   I have been patrolling the north and east areas of Ashdown Forest and reporting. Emptying litter baskets and clearing up bad litter. Collecting Forest Rates in the area. Painting and erecting notice boards at Gills Lap,
Kingstanding and Camp Hill Clumps that were fenced last winter. Clearing and making up a track at Upper Quabrook, Coleman Hatch to Holmes Cottages.

7. Finance

Accounts show the following balances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£132.11.5 Cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patty Cash Account</td>
<td>6.4.8 Cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>39.15.9 Cr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amounts collected since last meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>89.15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrears</td>
<td>5.8.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cheques for payments

- Clerk's salary for December quarter: 100.0.0
- Petty Cash Account: £80.0.0
- Float: 0.0
- Less credit balance: 6.4.8

    | Amount   |
    |----------|
    | 73.15.4  |

8. Transport for Rangers.

The Clerk reported that in order to carry out some of the suggestions made by the Sussex Naturalist Trust it was necessary to purchase a van so that the Ranger could carry certain tools and equipment. The Clerk also reported that in his opinion motor cycles were not a suitable means of conveyance round the Forest for the Rangers in winter and in certain circumstances e.g. the carrying of equipment, motor cycles were both dangerous and inadequate.

It was agreed that Morris Van J.4. Pick-Up be purchased. Lady Dudley Gordon proposed that the van should be purchased out of capital and it was unanimously agreed. The van should be green in colour with “CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST” painted in red on both sides.


The Clerk stated that he had instructed a firm of Contractors to estimate the cost of clearing the site as suggested by the Trust. The Contractors stated that it was impossible to estimate unless a certain specified area was shown to them. The Board then went into the question of purchasing a Mayfield Autoscythe, but Mr. Frith thought that the work was too heavy for the Rangers.

It was decided to write to the Nature Conservancy asking them to send a detailed report showing the areas where they thought firebreaks should be cut and the Clerk would obtain estimates. Lady Dudley Gordon suggested that when the estimates arrived they should be presented to the Friends of Ashdown Forest Society to see whether they could finance the scheme. Mrs Ridley agreed and stated that the Society would be pleased to help and all they were waiting for were some concrete proposals on which to work.


February 14th 2.30 p.m.
April 18th 2.30 p.m.
July 18th 2.30 p.m.
October 17th 2.30 p.m.
December 5th 2.30 p.m.

There being no other business the Meeting was closed [signed] R.F.J. Brooke

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday, 14th February 1962 at 2.30 p.m.

Before the commencement of business the Clerk reported the death of Mr. John Rowe who had served on the Board for more than thirty years before his retirement two years before. After a short tribute to Mr. Rowe all those present stood for one minute in silence.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Sir Ralph Clarke, Mr. T.H. Shelford, Col. John Lowe, Mrs. U.M. Ridley, and Brig. Scott.

2. Election of Chairman
The Clerk called for nominations for Chairman for the ensuing year. Proposed by Lady Dudley Gordon and seconded by Mr Frith that Mr. R.F.J. Brooke should be Chairman for the ensuing year. There being no other nominations the proposal was put to the vote and carried unanimously. Mr. Brooke then took the Chair. Mr. Brooke thanked Members for re-electing him to the Chair and stated that he thought he should warn members of the Board that he may not be able to offer himself for re-election after his present year of Office had expired.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman
The Chairman called for nominations for Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. Proposed by Mr. Harvey and seconded by Lady Dudley Gordon that Mr. A.C. Wolfson should be Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. The Chairman welcomed Mr. J.H. Drew the new member of the Board who had been elected at the Com. Meeting. Before the Board went on to consider the election of Committees the question of the Term of Office of Chairman and Vice Chairman was considered. A maximum three year period [was] suggested for anyone holding the Office of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Clerk advised that it would necessitate a change of the Standing Orders and it was finally agreed that this matter should be deferred to the next Meeting.

4. Election of Committees:
(a) Forest Row It was resolved that the members be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs J.H. Drew, Mrs. S.M. Looker and Col. J.H. Lowe.
(b) Maresfield It was resolved that the members be the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board, Messrs A.K.L. Harvey, W. Gillham and F.J. Cornwell.
(c) Special Purposes It was resolved that the Members be the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs C. Frith, T.H. Shelford, Sir Ralph Clarke and Col. J.H. Lowe and the Chairmen of the Maresfield and Forest Row Committees.

5. Minutes of last Meeting as printed and circulated were confirmed and signed.

6. Matters arising: (A) AWARD MAP
The Clerk produced one copy of the Award Map for the approval by the Board. The map was approved and he was authorised to order fifty copies. It was decided that any member of the Board who wanted a copy should write to the Clerk for a copy enclosing £1 and a copy would be supplied. The Clerk was authorised to use his discretion as to the sale of the remaining copies and as to the price to be charged for them.

(b) Investments
The Clerk reported on the change of the Board's & investments as follows:

Messrs Helbert Wagg & Company Limited has sold

£2499.12.0 Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland 4% Stock 1972/74 which has realised £1596.4.5
£148.13.7 Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland 5% Stock 1975/80 which had realised £96.15.6

and had purchased;

£600.0.0 Hawker Siddley Group Ltd.
5% Convertible Debenture Stock 1979/94 for the sum of £569.8.7
£500.0.0 Exchanger 5 1/2% stock 1966 for £501.0.2

The Clerk reported that he had not received on Account from Messrs Helbert Wagg Co. but that there would be a balance of cash due in excess of £600. The Clerk reminded the Meeting that at the last Meeting the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Pye had been authorised to take the advice of Messrs. Helbert Wagg & Co and to act accordingly. The change of investments was now formally approved.
The Clerk reported that Mr. Tolley had decided not to proceed with this matter and had paid all the Conservators’ expenses in connection therewith.

The Clerk reported that he had written some thirty or so letters requesting people to take care not to ride on tracks leading to dwelling houses.

The Clerk reported that the van had been purchased and the total cost was £510.19.6d., and the Road Fund Licence was £18. The Van was awaiting collection and as soon as the funds were to hand it could be delivered.

Resolved that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign a cheque for £528.19.6d to cover the cost of the van and Road Fund Licence without further reference to the Board. The Clerk then reported that the temporary arrangement for garaging the van had fallen through and he had arranged with the Manor Charitable Trustees for a small piece of land at Cherry Orchard, Forest Row to be leased to the Board of Conservators at the rent of 5/- per annum, on a three monthly basis. As the Clerk lived at Cherry Orchard himself he felt that the Conservators could expect to be able to lease this land so long as he remained their Clerk. Particulars of portable garages were then laid on the table and it was resolved to purchase a Redruth garage type No. 10 18' x 10' the approximate period of which was £74.15.0. The Clerk reported that there would be sufficient capital funds over from the sale of investments to cover the cost of the garage. Resolved that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk be authorised to sign a cheque covering the cost of the garage without further reference to the Board.

(f) Sussex Naturalist Trust - Fire Breaks
The Clerk imported on a demonstration of various types of machinery. The Mayfield cutter kindly demonstrated by the Manor Charitable Trustees have proved ineffective. The Hedge Cutter operated by a Tractor and kindly demonstrated by Mr. Clark of Colemans Hatch has been effective, but was uneconomical and cut too little at a time. A Massey-Ferguson Forage Harvester kindly demonstrated by Mr. Lumsden had proved most effective and it was thought that this was the type of machinery required. Provided Mr. Clark was assured that he would receive at least work to the value of £200. from the Conservators for two years, he was willing to purchase one of these machines. Mr. Drew reported that there was a new machine of a similar type, which was much more effective. This machine could be demonstrated by Mr. D.A. Young of Edenbridge and it was resolved that no further action should be taken until a demonstration of the new machine had been arranged.

7. Correspondence
(a) A letter had been received from the R.S.P.C.A. requesting the Conservators to adopt a Bye-law for the compulsory marking of sheep. After discussion it was resolved that that in the first instance the Rangers should enquire of all owners of sheep grazing on the Forest if they would mark the sheep voluntarily.
(b) A letter had been received from Miss Constance Smith about the maiming of sheep on the A.22 by traffic. After discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should write to the County Council asked the Council to exchange the existing Notice Boards "Beware of stray animals" for new notice boards which would state "Danger Sheep and Wild Deer" and which would incorporate a picture of a Deer.
(c) A notification had been received from the District Auditor that the Annual Audit would take place on the 12th March 1962.

8. Rangers Reports, Ranger Day
Fallen Trees During the snow trees fell across the highway on the Priory Road and Twyford Lane. These I cut up and removed.

Derelict Cars A Vauxhall car was dumped on the Forest near the Goat Crossroads. This has been removed by Mr. R. Jack, Forest Row, assisted by the Rangers.

Ditches near the Goat had been trodden in by cars during the snow, these I cleaned out.

Blind Corners Putlands. A corner had become overgrown by undergrowth where the Putlands track joins the B2026 Road west of Fairwarp. This growth I have cut back.

Ranger Stockley
I have been patrolling the north and east areas of ash down Forest and Reporting.

Working on a track at Upper Quabrook, Coleman Hatch with the Golf Club Green keepers and transport, to divert traffic to Holmes Cottages on the direct route rather that the Seventh Fairway. This track still needs some more hardcore. After being called to Cherry Orchard Hill, Forest Row by the Police on the 30th and 31st December, where Birch Trees had fallen and others were hanging dangerously over the road being heavy with snow, I helped
in cutting these up with the assistance of Mr. Kirby and the Police. Working on a track used by the Golf Club to get their machinery on the course through Shalesbrook and on to Bank Cottages. This was cut up badly and impassible, all drains and water courses being useless. After complaints from a number of people on the condition of this, this is now in order.

9. Estimates
The estimates were laid on the table and the Clerk went through that in detail. He was assisted by Mr. Mepham of Messrs Raymond Wells Osborne & Company. It was finally resolved that the estimates be adopted.

10. Forest Rate
The Chairman reported on the recommendation of the special Purposes Sub-Committee that the rate for 1962 should be 2/6d. for the first acre and 6d. for every acre there after. This would provide an additional £ 115. per annum in revenue and would go in some way towards the cost of collection. If there was any particular hardship in the case of any old age pensioners, the Chairman thought the Friends of Ashdown Forest might wish to help the Ratepayer. It was resolved that a Rate of 2/6d. for the first more or part there of and six pence per more thereafter be levied and the Rate Book was produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

11. Finance

Account show the following balances:
General Account £144.4.6 Cr.
Petty Cash 16.8.10 Cr.
Wages 34.1.7 Dr.

Amounts collected since last Meeting
Rates 37.0.0
Rate Arrears 0.13.0
Acknowledgement Rents 25.15.1
Rent Arrears 0.6.0
F.P. Stockley - Telephone Calls 0.10.0

£64.4.1

Accounts for payment:
P.A. Williams - Salary for March 1962 Quarter 100.0.0
Petty Cash Account Flat £80.0.0
Less Cr. 16.8.10 63.11.2
G. Day Clothing allowance 1962 10.0.0
F.P. Stockley Clothing allowance 1962 10.0.0

The Clerk pointed out that the General Account would be insufficient to see all the cheques which were presented for payment and a further £57.0.7d. would have to be transferred from General Account to Wages Account to put that account into credit and meet the wages cheque which would be presented on the following Friday. To assist the Board the Clerk reported that he would remain from presenting his salary cheque until the 25th March. The Clerk also reported that the transfer from General Account and Wages Account was at present £95 and this was insufficient to keep the account in credit with the increase in the Rangers’ salary. It was resolved that the sum of £57.0.7d. be transferred from the General Account to the Wages Account forthwith. It was further resolved that the sum of £102 be transferred from the General Account to the Wages Account every month instead of the present sum of £95.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
Mr. Gillham reported about a track which was being badly cut up around Ford's Green, resolved that this matter be referred to the Maresfield Committee. There was no other general business and the Board want into Committee.

In Committee
The Scheme prepared by the Clerk for the future of Ashdown Forest was briefly considered. It was resolved that this matter be referred to the Special Purposes Committee for report and it be further considered by the board at a special meeting to be convened and for this purpose. The Board then went out of Committee and there being no further business the meeting was concluded.
Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday, 18th April at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. B.F.J. Brooke, Brig. L.B. Scott, Mr. C. Frith, Brig. J.K. McNair, Mr. W.D. Gillham, Lady Dudley Gordon, Mrs. S.M. Looker, Mrs. U. Ridley, Mr. J. H. Drew, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Col. J.H. Lowe, Mr. E.W. Pye, Sir Ralph Clarke and Mr. F.B. Cornwell.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Miss Toller, Mr. Wolfson, Mr. Innes and Mr. Shelford.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting as circulated were duly confirmed and signed.

3.(a) Standing Orders.
The Clerk reported that at the last meeting he had been instructed to investigate the possibility of an amendment to Standing Order No.6, so that no person could hold the Office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman for a period of more than three years without the elapse of an interval of one year between re-appointment. After a discussion it was decided that the word "normally" should be included and it was finally resolved that an amendment should be made to Standing Order No. 6 in the following terms: "after the word re-election in line three add: "but so that normally no person holding the Office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman shall remain in that Office for more than three consecutive years. After an interval of one year a former Chairman or Vice-Chairman may again be elected to the Office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman as the case may be."

This was carried unanimously.

(b) Forest Rate: The Clerk reports that the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and food had asked him to inform them whether the resolution to vary the rate by a rate of 2/6d. for the first acre and 6d. per acre thereafter had been carried unanimously by the Board and he had reported to the Minister that this was so.

(c) Award Map.
The Clerk reported that copies of the amended Award Map were now available and could be purchased by Members for the sum of £1. Several Members agreed to purchase copies.

(d) Morris Van and Garage.
The Clerk reported that the Morris Van had been purchased and paid for. He further reported that he had been authorised to purchase a Redruth Garage in the sum of £74. He had subsequently discovered on examine the particulars and dimensions for this garage that there was insufficient clearance between the ground level and the top of the door to take the van. He had made enquiries to several firms selling pre-fabricated garages and there was only one Messrs. Betherate, who made a garage with sufficient space and the cost of it was £85. He had therefore purchased the garage for £85 and asked that his action be confirmed. The Clerk also reported that the Rangers had purchased some cement, sand and beach and had constructed the concrete floor for the garage themselves. Resolved that the Clerk's action be approved.

(e) Firebreaks.
The Clerk reported that as a result of the demonstration arranged by Mr. Drew, and referred to in the Minutes of the previous Meeting, at which members of the Board had attended together with Representatives of the Friends of Ashdown Forest, the Friends had agreed to hand over to the Board the sum of £200 for cutting of firebreaks, if the work could be commence forthwith, during the current year. Mr. Colin Clark, the Contractor of Colemans Hatch, had agreed to purchase a Forage Harvester of the type demonstrated if he could be assured of two hundred hours work during the current year and the next. The Friends had agreed to contribute £200 for the next year. As a result of this agreement, Mr. Clark had purchased a Forage Harvester and had cut already approximately 25 miles of firebreaks, the cost of which it was thought would amount to £200. The fire breaks were marked on a copy of the amended Award Map laid on the table. All members present confirmed that this was satisfactory.

(f) Report of Maresfield Committee on Fords Green.
The following letter, from Mr. A.K.L. Harvey was read out by the Clerk:

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke
“Mr. Gillham, Mr. Cornwall and I met at Nutley this morning, Ranger Day was present. After inspection of the Footpath in question, at the North side of Fords’ Green it was decided that to prevent traffic of cars and motorcycles using the footpath and thus causing great inconvenience to owners of the properties adjoining, the existing notice board near the main road A22 should be re-painted "Footpath only Bye-Law 19" and that a similar board should be erected near an existing tree at the south and of the footpath. In addition, a pole with the same notice should be erected adjacent to a private garage approximately half way along said footpath. This would be private land, just off the path thus not interfering with ***** on the path. Mr. Gillham having undertaken to arrange for permission for erection. No doubt you will kindly instruct Mr. Gillham to provide the necessary two posts. It was also decided that should any vehicle ignore the said notice their registration number should be taken and reported to you for action to be taken by the Conservators."

As a result of this report it was resolved that the Notice Boards be purchased and erected and Mr. Gillham's estimate of £5 be accepted.

4. Auditor’s Report
The Clerk read out a letter received from the District Auditor as follows:

I have to report the completion of the audit of your accounts and of those of your officers for the year ended at the 31st December 1961. No matters arose at the audit to which it is necessary to direct your attention. My thanks are due to your Clerk and his staff for their courteous assistance during the audit.”

5. Correspondence:
(a) The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Godfrey Neal complaining about un-authorised persons digging up trees and taking leaf mould from the Forest. Mr. Neal pointed out that there were no notice boards which clearly indicated that such activities were not permitted and offered to pay for the cost of suitable boards and their erection if the Conservators agreed. After a discussion it was resolved that suitable boards be erected and Mr. Neal's kind offer be accepted. It was further resolved that the wording on the notice boards be left for decision to the Chairman and the Clerk in consultation with Mr. Neal.

(b) The Clerk read a letter from the County Surveyor in which it was stated that the County Council did not approve of notices on the roadside depicting a sheep and a deer and he further stated that the County Council had no power to erect unauthorised signs. Sir Ralph Clarke offered to take the matter up with the County Council Surveyor and asked the Clerk to send him the papers.

(c) The Clerk read a letter from Col. C.H.N. Adams reporting that he would no longer be acting as the Lord of the Manor's Steward and that he had handed his duties over to Lord De La Warr's solicitors. The Clerk went on to say that he had met Mr. Ouvry and discussed various matters with him and Mr. Ouvry had intimated that although he could not be present at this meeting at such short notice he would like to attend future meetings of the Board as the Lord’s Representative.

6. Rangers Reports - Ranger Day:
Garage: I have assisted in preparing the concrete base for the garage, at Cherry Orchard, and we, have metalled a track to lead. to it.
Fire Brooms: We have placed stands of fire brooms round most of the roads on the Forest.
Firebreaks: We have surveyed and marked tracks suitable to be enlarged by cutting as firebreaks. The Lord of the Manor's Land Agent had assisted by clearing tracks in the Five Hundred Acre Wood and Greenwood Gate areas.
Litter: We have cleared a considerable amount of litter from the Forest with the van.

Ranger Stockley.
I have been patrolling the North/East of Ashdown Forest and reporting. Making pull in and concreting garage floor at Cherry Orchards clearing up litter on all major roads and taking to dump. Cutting birch and stakes and making up roadside stands and filling with fire beaters. Cutting out large shrubs and trees on proposed firebreaks. Marking out after surveying levels on firebreaks and leading machine in. Some breaks have been out in the following areas:
Chelwood Gate (south of A22), Kidds Hill and Chuck Hatch, Kidbrooke Park and Hindleap, Legsheath and Priory Road, Twyford Lane and Cripps Corner.

7. FINANCE:

Accounts show the following balances:
General Account £267.3.9d. Cr.
Petty Cash 1.9.3d. Cr.
Wages 19.3.0d. Cr.

Amounts collected since last Meeting:

Acknowledgment Rents 294.3.0d.
Arrears 13.3.6d.
Rates 0.6.0d.
Arrears 7.11.0d.
L.A. Contributions (E.G.U.D.C.) 128.8.5d.

Misc.
Sale of securities £622.11.2d.
Mr. Tolley - refund of fees 3.3.0d.
Seebard Memo Stamps 0.1.0d.
Sale of 1 Award Map 1.0.0d.

£626.15.2d.
£1,070.7.1d.

Accounts for payment:
Betherate Ltd for Garage £85.0.0d.
Petty Cash A/C Float £80.0.0d.
LESS CR BAL: 1.9.3.34.

£78.10.9d.

There being no other business the Board went into Committee

The Clerk reported that at his meeting with Mr. Ouvry he had discussed the scheme for the future of Ashdown Forest and the question as to whether in principle Lord De La Warr would be prepared to grant a Lease of Ashdown Forest to a new Board of Conservators for 999 years. Mr. Ouvry stated that he had consulted Lord De La Warr on this point and although he was not definitely against the proposal he felt that before giving any expression of approval he would like to know what the other proposals were in the Scheme. The Clerk stated that in the circumstances he thought that the previous decision to show the Scheme to the County Council before anyone else should be reversed. The Chairman also reported to the Board the results of the meeting of the Special Purposes Committee to consider the Scheme and stated that it was clear that there was considerable disagreement between members. The Chairman recommended therefore that the Scheme should not be propounded by the Conservators, but that the Clerk after showing it to Lord De La Warr should send it to the County Council informing the Clerk to the County Council that the Board did not feel that it could endorse the Scheme in view of the conflicting interests between the Commoners’ Representatives and the Representatives of the Local Authorities. This course of action was agreed.

The Board went out of Committee and the meeting was closed.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Bell, Forest Row on Wednesday, 18th July at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. R.F.J. Brooke, Miss L.T. Toller, Mr. A.K.L Harvey, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Brig. J.E. McNair, Col. J.H. Lowe, Mr. W.D. Gillham, Brig. L.M. Scott, Mr. R.T. Innes, Mrs U. Ridley, Mr. E.W. Pye, Mr. J.H. Drew and Major B. Richards.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Looker, Sir Ralph Clarks, Mr. T.M. Shelford and Mr. Cornwell.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting as circulated were duly confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising:  (a) Forest Rate.

The Clerk reported that the Forest Rate had been confirmed by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.
(b) Garage
The Clerk reported that the garage had been erected by the Forest Rangers and the cost of materials had amounted to £21.14.8. The Clerk produced a form of agreement between the Manor Charitable Trustees (Registered) to let the site of the rent of £5 per annum. Resolved the agreement be signed on behalf of the Conservators.

(c) Animal Sign
The Clerk read the following letter from Sir Ralph Clarke:

“I had a talk with the Surveyor this morning about animal signs. He is not very keen on making any change, and says that, except for our representations, he has heard nothing from road users or others about the danger to the animals themselves, or to motorists form deer and sheep on the Forest. He feels, therefore, unwilling to make substantial changes, but I think if approached might be prepared to change the position of the existing signs “Beware Stray Animals” provided the actual number of them was not increased.”

Resolved – no further action be taken.

(d) Firebreaks
The Clerk read the following report received from Ranger Day:

The Firebreaks out on the Forest have in my opinion been of great help. The Commoners I know have given then a mixed reception. Some think that they are useless because they do not, of themselves, stop fires. I do not think that many people thought that they would. I have found them of great assistance at fires that I have attended notably at Hindleap, King-Standing and Duddleswell; firemen have also remarked on this. The firebreaks have also been useful in providing tracks for the exercise of horses, thereby saving foot tracks that have been previously cut up. One drawback to these breaks is caused by cars travelling down them, in some places to a considerable distance. We have attempted to stop this by making and erecting concrete posts, and more of these are needed. More firebreaks out in the Kingstanding, Millbrook and Chelwood Gate areas would be valuable. The breaks that have been out are in some areas getting grown up with bracken; this could be cleared with little expense.

(e) Notice Boards
The Clerk reported that Mr. Godfrey Neal had most kindly supplied ten Notice Boards warning the public against digging up trees and removing turf, leaf mould and other materials from the Forest. Those boards have now been erected.

4. CORRESPONDENCE.
One letter had been received from the Cuckfield R.D.C reporting that Mrs. Ridley had been appointed to serve for a further year on the Board of Conservators.

5. RANGERS REPORTS.
Litter: Ranger Stockley and I have cleared litter from the Forest with the van and recently have found it necessary to do this twice weekly. We have put out an additional 12 litter baskets to those already on too Forest. Notice Boards: We have erected a further 10 Notice Boards on the Forest. Clearing undergrowth: We have cleared undergrowth from roadside at Twyford Lane, Hindleap, Kidds Hill and Stone Hill. Caravans: We have had three cases lately of encampment of caravans on the Forest near Hindleap, Wych Cross Reservoir and Duddleswell.

Stockley
I have been patrolling the North East areas of Ashdown Forest and reporting: Erecting garage at Cherry Orchard and painting same. Emptying litter baskets and clearing up bad litter. The Morris pick-up is a great help clearing litter to dump at Millbrook. Erecting 12 new litter baskets as required. Making and erecting concrete posts and placing them on firebreaks where motor vehicles have been driving into Forest. More of these posts required. Clearing burnt trees and undergrowth at Twyford Lane and junction with Wych Cross Road and at Kidds Hill. Fixing and erecting Notice Boards supplied by Mr. Noel. Army Units from Crowborough Warren Camp have been very troublesome on Forest.

6. FINANCE:

Accounts show the following balances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£225.5.1 CR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>2.12.4 CR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>14.14.8 CR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accounts collected since last Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>60.17.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate Arrears</td>
<td>1.2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. A. Contribution (E.S.C.C first half)</td>
<td>321.1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>26.9.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Misc.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 maps</td>
<td>£5.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Morphew Deposit</td>
<td>10.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powell &amp; Partner-Temporary Board</td>
<td>0.10.0  15.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>425.0.1</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Accounts for payment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clerk’s Salary for June 1962 Quarter</td>
<td>100.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash A/C –Float £80.0.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Credit bal 2.12.4</td>
<td>77.7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turner Rudge &amp; Turner for 50 maps</td>
<td>60.9.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cash to disburse as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S. Bishops &amp; Son</td>
<td>0.18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. &amp; E. Waters</td>
<td>16.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F.W. Tyler Ltd.</td>
<td>4.16.3  21.14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(All in connection with Garage)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A resolution was duly passed for the cheques to be signed.

7. COMMONERS’ MEETING:

The Clerk reported that the Commoners’ Meeting would be held in the Village Hall, Forest Row on the 29th August 1962 at 8 p.m.

Any other business

Mrs. Ridley reported that the Verderers of the New Forest were using a new kind of litter container which has a covered top and which prevented foxes, crows and magpies from reaching the basket and scattering the contents. The Clerk was asked to write to the Verderers for further details about these litter containers.

THE BOARD THEN WENT INTO COMMITTEE

1) The Clerk reported that the Lord of the Manor’s Representative had returned the Scheme to him and told him that the Lord approved of it in principle, but reserved the right to re-open discussions on two points, namely, the length of the Lease which he thought should be 99 years and not 999 years and the amount of the compensating annuity which he had thought should be more elastic to take into account the principal of increase in the value of money.

2) The Clerk reported that in his opinion the time has now arrived to appoint a third Ranger. Day was approaching his 68th year, the work of the Rangers was increasing every year owing to the increased use of the Forest and that as both Rangers were on duty all Saturday and Sunday and both were allowed a day one week and two days the following week to compensate them for working at weekends, this had resulted in the fact that on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, there was only one Ranger on duty. A discussion issued as to where the additional Revenue would be obtained to pay for the third Ranger, whose wages would probably amount to at least £10 a week. It was finally decided to instruct the Clerk to write to the Clerk of each of the Local Authorities informing them that the Board considered it necessary to appoint a third Ranger in view of all the circumstances that the Board would not be able to meet the cost out of its normal revenue, that the cost would inevitably fall on the Local Authorities and ask them for their views. The Clerk reported that the Finances of the Conservators were in a low state and that if he presented all the cheques to the Bank, which had been signed that day an overdraft would be created. It was resolved that the Clerk write to the Local Authorities as soon as they received the precept.
3) The Chairman reported that he and the Vice-Chairman had had conversations with the Chairman and Secretary of the Friends of Ashdown Forest. They had been informed that the Friends had a further sum of approximately £500 which they wished to offer to the Conservators, but before doing so they wished the Board to put forward suggestions how the money might be spent. After a discussion it was decided that the Friends should be informed of the following purpose for which their donation could be used:

(a) The supply of more litter baskets of a new and improved type, which would bear the name of “The Conservators of Ashdown Forest” and the words “given by The Friends of Ashdown Forest.”

(b) More firebreaks were needed and those which had already been out were now needing cutting again.

(c) It was proposed to appoint a Third Ranger and his salary for the first year would amount to some £500 which at present the Conservators could not afford unless the Local Authorities agreed to increase their contributions.

(d) The new van had been purchased for a sum of approximately £650 at a time when the Friend of Ashdown Forest had not collected sufficient funds to pay for it, but if they liked to pay for it now or part pay for it, it was considered that the money could be used for any other purpose mentioned above. The words “Given by the Friends of Ashdown Forest” would be painted on the van.

There being no other business the Board went out of Committee and the Board Meeting was concluded.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday, 17th October 1962 at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. A.C. Wolfson (in the Chair in the absence of the Chairman on holiday) Col. J.H. Lowe, Mr. E.W. Pye, Mrs. S.M. Looker, Mr. W.D. Gilham, Sir William Garrett, Mrs. U. Ridley, Major B. Richards and Mr. J.H. Drew.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Major Grubb, Brig. Scott, Mr. R. Innes, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Mr T.M. Shelford and Mr. C. Frith.

The Chairman welcomed Sir William Garrett as a new Member to the Board who had been elected at the previous Commoners’ meeting in place of Brig. J.K. McNair who had retired.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting as circulated were duly confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising:

(a) Cutting of Firebreaks
The Clerk reported that the Friends of Ashdown Forest had kindly offered to hand over another £200 for the cutting of firebreaks. After consultation with the Rangers, the Clerk had decided that in the first instance and as bracken had grown up all along the breaks previously out they should be cut again and instructions had been given to Mr. Clark to carry this out. When this work was completed and Mr. Clark had submitted a statement of the cost of carrying it out, the balance would be expended on cutting new breaks and the Rangers would survey fresh areas of the Forest for this purpose. The Board unanimously approved of the Clerk’s action. The Clerk confirmed that the three areas recommended by the Sussex Naturalist Trust as being in particular need of protection were now surrounded by firebreaks.

(b) Appointment of third Ranger
In accordance with instruction received at the last Meeting, the Clerk reported that he had written to the four Local Authorities concerned with the Forest asking them for their views on the appointment of a third Ranger and asking whether they would contribute towards the additional cost of the wages. Satisfactory replies had been received from the East Sussex County council, the Uckfield R.D.C and the Cuckfield R.D.C, but the East Grinstead U.D.C had replied that it did not wish to commit itself financially any further. The Clerk reported that he had written a further letter to the East Grinstead Council giving more details and he was informed that this letter would be placed before the council at their Meeting next month. After a general discussion on the matter it was resolved unanimously (i) that in spite of the refusal of the East Grinstead U.D.C. to commit itself any further the Board should proceed to appoint a third Ranger as it was a matter of vital importance to the Forest (ii) the appointment of the Ranger be left...
to a sub-Committee of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, the Clerk and one of the Rangers, (iii) the commencing salary of £10 a week plus the normal clothing allowance should be offered subject to periodic review.

The Board realised that if the East Grinstead U.D.C. persisted in the refusal to contribute towards the cost of the wages there might be a deficit on the Annual accounts, but Sir Williams Garrett offered personally to make up 10% of this deficit and it was generally agreed that it should be possible to raise the necessary funds from outside sources. The Chairman thanked Sir William Garrett for his kind offer.

4. Chairman’s Report on Commoners’ Meeting
The Chairman reported on the Commoners’ Meeting held on the 29th August last. He paid a tribute to Brig. J.K. McNair who had retired. The Chairman then proceeded to thank the Friends of Ashdown Forest for their generosity and financial assistance to the Conservators and this was generally applauded by the rest of the Members present.

5. Correspondence.
(a) The Clerk read a Letter from Miss L.T. Toller giving her reasons for resigning from the Board and confirmed that he had written a letter of thanks to her.
(b) The Clerk read a Letter from the East Sussex County council in which it was stated that Major Grubb had been appointed by the Board in place of Miss Toller.
(c) The Clerk read a letter from the Friends of Ashdown Forest offering to contribute the sum of £60 for further litter baskets. In this respect the Clerk reported that a number of baskets had been ordered with spring lids and with tablets affixed to them stating that they had been presented by the Friends of Ashdown Forest. A discussion took place on this point on litter baskets and the Clerk read a letter from the Forestry Commission about the type or basket which was used at camping cites. It was agreed that this type of basket was not suitable for the Forest, but it was suggested that paper containers might be placed in the wire mesh baskets to prevent birds and animals pilfering the contents and spreading paper round about. It was finally agreed that nothing further should be done until it had ascertained what effect the spring lid would have on the situation.

6. Rangers’ Reports.

Ranger Stockley
I have been patrolling the north east areas of Ashdown Forest and reporting: Emptying litter baskets and clearing away bad litter. There are four motor vehicles dumped on Forest which need removing to dump. Collecting Forest Rates in the area. Trimming at bad corner on Forest. Trimming at clumps that were fenced and planted two years ago. These young trees have not grown too well and need making up. Cutting away and burning large undergrowth at Gills Lap at a site a few yards south of this clump where a number of young scotch trees are doing quite well but should a fire start here it would be a long time before a plant like this develops.

A discussion took place on the subject of derelict cars and the Clerk pointed out to the Board the danger of the Conservators moving derelict cars which still had some value in them as they might be the property of a hire purchase company. It was finally resolved that after 30 days the Clerk should attempt to have all cars towed away by a scrap merchant and that any car without number plates or Road Fund License should be towed away immediately.

The Clerk was instructed to contact a firm of scrap merchants at Goudhurst. With regard to the trees in the clumps which had died, Ranger Stockley reported that there was a clump of young scotch growing on the fairway of 18th hole on the Golf club and it was suggested that he and Ranger Day should remove them now and re-use them for planting the clumps. The Secretary of the Golf Club had been consulted and was in favour of the suggestion. Resolved that the Rangers remove these trees from the fairway of the 18th hole and use them for replanting the clumps as necessary.

7. Finance

Accounts show the following balances
General Account  £829.19.1 cr
Petty Cash Account  2.7.4 cr
Wages Account  20.11.0 cr

Amounts collected since last Meeting
Rates  277.3.0
Rate Arrears  4.4.6
Acknowledgements  2.8.0

Contributions
Uckfield R.D.C  £385.5.4
ESCC 2nd Instalment  321.1.2
Cuckfield R D C  118.5.8  824.12.2

Misc
Powell & Partner  1.0.0
Lewes – Deposit  30.0.0
Automobile Assoc.  2.10.0
Copy Map  1.0.0
Official Receiver of Bankruptcy 0.3.0
Braxton & Son  0.10.0  35.3.0  £1143.10.8

Accounts for payment:
Clerk’s salary for Sept. 1962 quarter  100.0.0
P.A. Williams – loan made to Petty Cash Account  33.0.0
Petty Cash A/c:
Float  £160.0.0
Less Cr Balance 2.7.4  157.12.8
W.J. Morphew refund of deposit  10.0.0

The Clerk reported that owing to the retirement of Brig. J.K. McNair there were only two Members of the Board who were authorised to sign cheques and he did not think this was sufficient. It was resolved that the following Members of the Board should be allowed to sign cheques as the General Account in addition to the two Members who had been previously authorised so to do: Colonel J.H.B. Lowe and Sir William Garrett. Specimen signatures were duly obtained.

8. The Clerk to ask for an increase in the General Float on the Petty Cash Account from £80 to £160.

The Clerk reported that the Petty Cash float of £80 was now insufficient. This was due to the rising costs of general administration of the Forest and the extra expense of the van. After the last Meeting, three months ago, there was insufficient money in the Petty Cash Account to meet expenses and the Clerk himself had advanced the Board £33. It was necessary in the Clerk’s opinion to increase the float to £160. It was resolved (a) to repay the Clerk the advance by him of £33 (b) to increase the Float in the Petty Cash Account from £80 to £160.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk stated that the Rangers had from time to time complained that when litter and particularly paper was buried in the pit used for this purpose on the Forest, it was frequently blown out of the pit during windy weather and it would be of assistance to them if some easily handled material were available to cover the pit on each occasion after the litter had been dumped into it. The Research Unit at the Queen Victoria Hospital East Grinstead was having difficulty in disposing large quantities of sawdust which were used in connection with that Unit.

The Clerk informed the Board of his interest here as he was Vice-Chairman of the House Committee at the Hospital. He stated that he had made a tentative arrangement with the Hospital Authorities that they would pay the Board of Conservators 10/- a week if the Rangers would attend on a Friday, after they had been to the Clerk’s office to collect their wages, and remove up to 14 sacks of sawdust, the sacks being provided by the Hospital Authorities. The Clerk stated that he thought this would be a satisfactory arrangement to all concerned, but particularly to the Conservators as 10/- would more than cover the cost of the van proceeding to and from the Hospital and the sawdust would be of great assistance to the Rangers. Ranger Day confirmed this. It was resolved
that the Clerk should forthwith complete arrangements with the Queen Victoria Hospital and the payment of 10/-
per week was agreed.

There being NO OTHER BUSINESS the Meeting was concluded.

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village hall, Forest row on Wednesday, 5th December at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. R.P.J. Brooks, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Mr. W.D. Gilham, Mr. J.H. Drew, Col. J.H.B.
Lowe, Mr. W.E. Pye, Major Grubb and Mr. P.B. Cornwell.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Frith, Mr. Ridley, Brig. Scott, Sir Ralph Clarke, Mrs. Looker, Mr.
Innes, Major Richards and Mr. T.M. Shelford.

Before the Formal business of the Meeting commenced, the Chairman announced the death of Mr. Jack Card who
for several years had been a Member of the Board and who had been a Commoner and had taken a great interest in
the affairs of the Forest. Members of the Board stood in silence for a short period as a tribute to Mr. Card's
memory.

2. The Minutes of the last Meeting as circulated were duly confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising:
   (a) Firebreaks
   The Clerk reported that the Friends of Ashdown Forest having offered a further £200 contribution, all the existing
   firebreaks had been cut again by Mr. Clark, some had been widened and a few short certain lengths had been cut
   for the first time. Mr. Clarke had rendered a bill for £144 worked out on the agreed basis of 37/6 an hour. The
   Clerk had asked Mr Clark to call and see him and after a discussion Mr. Clark agreed that charges for a second
cutting should be reduced from 37/6d to 32/6d per hour and in future for a third cutting a further 2/6d per hour
would be deducted. It had also been agreed that time for stoppages and breakages should not be charged. It had
further been agreed that in future Mr. Clark would give the Conservators priority in the hay making and harvesting
seasons. As a result of this agreement Mr Clark’s bill had been reduced to £117 and when weather permitted he
would start cutting fresh firebreaks up to a total cost of £200.
   (b) Third Ranger
   The Chairman reported that ten applications had been received for this post and eight persons had been
interviewed during the morning by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, his Clerk and Ranger Day. The recommendation
was that Mr. K.J. Draper of 8 Buckhurst Mead, East Grinstead, should be offered the position at a salary of £10 per
week with the usual clothing and other allowances including an allowance for travelling between his place of
residence and Cherry Orchard, the term of office to be subject to one month’s notice on either side. It was resolved
that Mr. Draper be appointed on the terms already mentioned.
   (c) Disposal of Sawdust
   The Clerk reported that as a result of representations by the Rodent Officer to the County Council he had given
instructions for the refuse pit to be disinfested at the cost of approximately £3. The Clerk’s action was confirmed.

4. Correspondence
   The Clerk read two letters from the Secretary of the Friends of Ashdown Forest concerning (a) an offer to provide
five new notice boards similar to those provided by Mr. Geoffrey Neal. This offer was gratefully accepted and it
was agreed that the Boards should be erected in places chosen by the Friends.
   (b) A suggestion by the Friends that the Boards should purchase a tractor and forage harvester to carry out the
work of cutting firebreaks and that the Friends would contribute towards the cost and maintenance of machinery.
The Clerk pointed out that if this suggestion were adopted, it would involve the Conservators in considerable
expense and that there was no central depot available for the storage of machinery. Resolved that no action should
be taken, but that the matter be reviewed in 12 months’ time and the Friends to be informed accordingly.

5. Rangers Reports: Ranger Day
   Firebreaks – I have assisted in re-cutting the Fire breaks on the Forest. Forest Clumps – Ranger Stockley and I have
planted Forest Clumps at Kingstanding and Gills Lap. The young scotch Fir Trees for this have been lifted from
the Forest bordering the Golf Course at Forest Row. Trees, Gill’s Lap – a considerable clump of self sown Scotch
Fir Trees near Gill’s lap had become overgrown by undergrowth of gorse and heather. This we have cleared. Litter – we have continued to clear the litter baskets, and other rubbish from the Forest and I have obtained soil to cover in the pit litter that we could not burn.

**Ranger Stockley**

I have been patrolling the north east area of Ashdown Forest; Emptying litter baskets, and bad litter of Forest. Completed trimming young Scotch Trees south of Gill’s Lap Clump and planted 20 young trees. Planted clump at Kingstanding with 20 young Scotch trees.

6. Finance

**Accounts show the following balances:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>381.7.11 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>95.12.1 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>56.5.4 cr</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Accounts collected since last meeting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>35.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate Arrears</td>
<td>0.12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc Wood, Son &amp; Gardner, Notice Board</td>
<td>0.10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Accounts for payment:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.A. Williams – Salary for December 1962 Quarter</td>
<td>100.0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Petty Cash Account:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Float</td>
<td>160.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Cr Bal</td>
<td>95.12.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Brass Plate

The Clerk reported that several people coming to Office for various reasons connected with the Forest had complained that there was no indication that his office was the Office of the Conservators and he therefore suggested that the Conservators should purchase a Brass Plate, suitable size, which could be affixed to the wall of his office on which would be inserted “CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST CLERK’S OFFICE”. Resolved that this be done.

7. Dates of Meeting for 1963

13th February: 17th April; 17th July 16th October and the 18th December. Commoner’s Meeting on the 9th October 1963 at 8 o’clock in the evening.

8. Parking of disused cars

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Clerk to the Forest Row Parish Council about a firm in Goudhurst who would remove derelict cars, but he was informed that this firm was of no use for this purpose. The Clerk also stated that he believed that there was a fairly recent Statutory Regulation concerning cars now in force and he was trying to obtain a copy.

There being no other business the Meeting was closed and the Board went into Committee.

**Rangers’ Wages**

The Clerk reported that there has been an increase in the agricultural wage of 8/- taking effect in November last. He also reported that he would in future bring the Rangers’ wages forward for review at the December meeting each year. After a discussion it was resolved that the wages of Ranger Day and Ranger Stockley be increased by 10/- a week to take effect from the next pay day.

THE BOARD WENT OUT OF COMMITTEE

[signed] R.F.J. Brooke
Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 13th February, 1963 at 2.30
p.m.

Present: Mr. J.H. Drew, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Mr. E.W. Pye, F.J. Cornwell, Major Grubb, Mr. C. Frith, Major

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. W. Gillham, Mrs. U. Ridley, Mrs. S.M. Looker, Mr. R.T. Innes,
Mr. A.K.L. Harvey and Mr. R.F.J. Brooke.

2. Election of Chairman:
The Clerk called for nominations. Mr J.H. Drew was proposed by Mr. A.C. Wolfson, seconded by Sir Ralph Clarke
and there being no other nominations was unanimously elected.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman:
Sir William Garrett was proposed by Col. J.H. Lowe, seconded by Mr. C. Frith and there being no other
nominations was unanimously elected.

4. Election of Committees:
(a) Forest Row It was resolved that the Members be the Chairman and Vice and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Mrs.
(b) Maresfield It was resolved that the Members be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs. A.K.L.
Harvey, W. Gilham and F.J. Cornwell.
(c) Special Purposes Committee It was resolved that the Members be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the
Board, Messrs. C. Frith, T.M. Shelford, Sir Ralph Clarke and Col. J.H. Lowe and the Chairmen of the Maresfield
and Forest Row Committees.

5. Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were confirmed and signed.

6. Matters arising:
(a) The Clerk reported that Ranger Draper had taken up his duties as from the 31st December last.

7. Correspondence
The Clerk read out a letter from Mrs Card thanking the Board for their sympathy and flowers.
The Clerk reported that the Brass Plate which he had been instructed to order at the last Board Meeting had now
been delivered and was affixed to the front of his office and the cost of it was only £3.18.6 inclusive.

8. Rangers' Reports

RANGER DAY
Fire Brooms: With Rangers Stockley and Draper, we have cut birch for fire brooms, stakes for broom stands and
for litter baskets. Concrete stumps: we have removed concrete posts from disused playground at St. John’s,
Crowborough. These will be used at other sites on the Forest. Forest Rates: I have collected arrears of Forest Rate
in Maresfield, Piltdown, Fletching and Crowborough areas. Ranger Draper: I have patrolled areas of the Forest with
Ranger Draper, instructing him in duties. Notice Boards: we have taken delivery of five new Notice Boards from
Mr. Neal of Legsheath.

RANGER STOCKLEY
I have been patrolling the north/east areas of Ashdown Forest and reporting: Making firebeaters and stacking them
at Cherry Orchard. Cutting and pointing stakes for litter baskets and fire beater stands. Digging out a fence at St
John’s, Crowborough, opposite the Horder Arthritic Centre and transporting concrete posts from same to Cherry
Orchard to be used later as staggered posts where required. Total 29. Collecting arrears of Rates. Weather
conditions not being good cutting the fire breaks has not been completed.

RANGER DRAPER
I commenced my employment as a Forest Ranger on 31st December 1962. Owing to the bad weather it has been
impossible for me to walk very far round the Forest boundaries. I have however been shown the main points of the
boundaries close to the main roads, this will enable me to walk the boundaries with my map when the weather
improves. I have helped with the collection of arrears of Forest Rates, also in the making of fire brooms at Cherry
Orchard. I helped to remove a wire fence from the price of land opposite the Crowborough West Camp. The
concrete posts from this fence have been taken to Cherry Orchard, these will later be used as staggered posts on the Forest. I have nothing further to report.

REPORT ON ACCIDENT BY RANGER STOCKLEY
Accident with an Austin Mini Car WPN 767 Grey Driven by Mrs J Tolley Bukit Serens, Fairwarp While patrolling the Forest with Ranger Day we were proceeding up Cackle Street from Fairwarp towards Nutley at a bend in road at the Junction to Huggets Lane on Saturday last the 9th February, 1963 at 11.40 am when we collided with the Austin Mini. The first I knew that a car was coming round the bend was hearing it skidding on the road turning broadside, the rear end hitting the front offside corner badly denting this and breaking lamp glass, after riding bumper of WAP 723 Morris Pick-up. I had almost stopped as Mini hit us and I was within 6’ off nearside road. Total width of Road 13’. Mini was going too fast when applying brakes – no need to have stopped only have slowed down.

The Clerk reported that a notice of claim had been made against Mrs. Tolley and the Board’s Insurance Company had been informed. He was waiting for an estimate from Messrs. Caffyns Limited for the repair of the damage.

9. Estimates:
The estimates were laid on the table and the Clerk went through then in detail. He was assisted by Mr. Mepham of Messrs. Raymond Wells Osborne & Company. It was finally resolved that the estimates be adopted.

10. Finance.

Accounts show the following balances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£173.7.8 cr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>13.19.3 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>36.10.2 dr</td>
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</table>

Amounts collected since last Meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>14.1.6</td>
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<td>Rate Arrears</td>
<td>13.8.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>8.0.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ack. Arrears</td>
<td>3.2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc: Tax refund on Divs.</td>
<td>79.11.6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£118.4.5</td>
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Accounts for payment:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.A. Williams – Salary for March 1963 Quarter</td>
<td>£100.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rangers Clothing Allowances:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Day</td>
<td>10.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Stockley</td>
<td>10.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Draper</td>
<td>10.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account:</td>
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<td>Float</td>
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<td>Less or/bal</td>
<td>13.19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>146.0.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Clerk pointed out that the wages account was in debit owing to the fact that a month’s wages had already been paid to the new Ranger. Resolved that £36.10.2. be transferred from General Account to Wages Account to place the account in credit and that the monthly transfer from General Account to Wages Account be increased to £148 per month forthwith. Further resolved that the cheques for payment set out above should be paid. The Clerk reported that although he would not present the cheque for his salary until March 25th the General Account would probably be in debit and this was caused by the fact that with rising costs of running the Forest and the revenue only being received at irregular intervals of the year there were bound to be occasions when the account would be in debit unless some different method of managing the Conservators’ finances could be arranged. Resolved that an
overdraft would have to be incurred but that the Clerk should issue precepts to the Local Authorities the following day and ask them to expedite payment of their contributions.

11. Forest Rate
Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. C. Frith and resolved that the Forest Rate remain unchanged at 2/6d for the first acre or part thereof and 6d. per acre thereafter be levied and the Rate Book was produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

12. Retiring Members:
Col. J.H. Lowe and Sir William Garrett both expressed willingness to stand again for election to the Board at the next Commoners’ Meeting.

The Clerk reported that the Rangers had informed him that there were three discussed car near the Ridge Road, Kidds Hill and Kingstanding Radio Station. One car had a number plate and the Clerk was instructed to write to the legal owner requiring him to remove it forthwith. A discussion then took place concerning the removal of the other two cars and it was resolved that the matter be left to their discretion of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk with power to expend up to £4 per car on removal. Two estimates were produced by the Clerk from Mr. Jack and Mr. Clarke, but they were both thought to be excessive.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.
(1) The Clerk reported that Mr. R.T. Dicks was two years in arrears with his Rates in spite of repeated applications. Resolved that the Clerk institute proceedings for distress.
(2) Mr. Wolfson read a report from the East Grinstead Courier of a statement made by Cr. Adams Jones that the Conservators were not running the Forest in a workmanlike manner. Several Members of the Board took exception to this remark and it was resolved that a Meeting of the Special Purposes Committee be convened and the Clerk should invite Cr. Adams Jones to attend to explain to Members the substance of his charges and to offer suggestions as to how the Conservators should run the Forest in a workmanlike manner.

There being no other business, the Meeting was concluded.

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 17th April, 1963 at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. J.H. Drew, Mr. R.F.J. Brooke, F. Cornwell, Mr. C. Frith, Mr. W. Gillham, Major Grubb, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Col. J.H. Lowe, Mrs. S.M. Looker, Major Richards, Mrs. U. Ridley, Brigadier L. Scott, Mr. E.W. Pye, Mr. A.C. Wolfson.

Before commencing the Meeting the Board stood in silence for one minute in tribute to the memory of the late Ranger Day.

1. Apologies for absence were received from, Sir Ralph Clarke, Mr. Innes, and Sir William Garrett.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting as printed and circulated were duly confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising:
A Vote of Thanks to the retiring Chairman, Mr. R.F.J. Brooks was proposed by Mrs. Looker, seconded by Mr. Drew, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Looker also proposed a Vote of Thanks to the retiring Vice-Chairman, Mr. Wolfson and suggested that he be asked to continue to serve on the Special Purposes and Forest Row Committees. This was seconded by Mr. Brooke and carries unanimously.

Mr. Wolfson in thanking the Board for the invitation said he was unable to serve on the Special Purposes Committee but would be happy to serve on the Forest Row Committee.
(a) Accident to van: The Clerk reported that an estimate for the repair had been received from Messrs. Caffyns in the sum of £18.15.0. After discussion on the advisability of attempting to preserve the Board’s No-Claim Bonus it was decided that the estimate should be accepted and a claim be put in to the Board’s insurance company.

(b) Disused cars on the Forest: The Clerk reported that the Board was indebted to Major Grubb for suggesting Mr. Russell of Crowborough as a scrap merchant. Mr. Russell had already removed five cars from the Forest at a cost of £1 each. This was approved.

(c) Arrears of Rates: The Clerk reported that he had now received the arrears of Rates from Mr. Dicks and asked permission to consider this matter as now closed. This was agreed.

4. Statement on the death of Ranger Day:
The Clerk explained that on the day of the accident Rangers Draper and Stockley had been felling trees under the direction of Ranger Day. They had commenced to fell a Scots fir with a power saw and, when last seen by Rangers Draper and Stockley, Ranger Day was standing in a safe position. After the tree had fallen Ranger Stockley saw that Ranger Day was lying under the top of the tree. After lifting the tree off Day’s body Ranger Draper took the van and drove to the Radio Station to summon an ambulance and the Police, while Ranger Stockley did what he could to make Day comfortable.

The Clerk reported that he himself had seen Ranger Day in hospital within three-quarters of an hour. He was very seriously injured and although attended by two surgeons at the Queen Victoria Hospital and operated on by one of the finest brain surgeons in the country, who was summoned from Haywards Heath, Ranger Day dies that afternoon.

The Clerk stated that he had interviewed both Rangers Draper and Stockley on the day of the accident and he felt certain that there had been no negligence on their part. This opinion had been endorsed at the Inquest when the Coroner has returned a verdict of Death by Misadventure.

The question of compensation to the Widow was raised by Mr. Brooke who asked if such an accident was covered by the Board’s insurance policy. The clerk explained that the Policy did cover sick accidents but the Company would of course only make a payment if negligence could be proved and in this case, it could not be proved and he felt certain in his own mind that no blame could be attributed to either Ranger Draper of Stockley.

The Clerk mentioned that Mrs. Day has been represented at the Inquest by another solicitor.

The question of some form of annuity to Mrs. Day was discussed later during the meeting.

5. Chairman’s Report:
The Chairman said that one of the first things which had been brought to his notice on taking office was the considerable number of dead trees on the Forest which were very unsightly. He had given instructions for these to be felled and removed and to date about 110 dead Scots firs had been felled and 3 acres of birch. Much of this felling had taken place in the Wych Cross, Kidds Hill and Kingsstanding areas.

Regarding the litter problem, the Chairman said than in an attempt to combat this, the B.B.C. Television Service had been invited to send a film unit to the Forest on Bank Holiday Monday and this the B.B.C. had done. The programme item had actually appeared in the television news the previous evening. Ranger Stockley’s remarks had “come through” well and it was hoped that the programme would have some effect on those who used the Forest.

Speaking about the new van, the Chairman said that the tyres fitted, while being quite suitable for the work very unsuitable for going over grass verges because on damp ground wheel-spin developed, and he suggested that two Town and Country types be purchased for use on the near wheels. The cost of these would be £18.10.0. After discussion, and being assured that this type of tyre would in fact be adequate for the work required of the van, the Board agreed to the purchase at the cost of £18.10.0

The Chairman reported that he had been given six tea chests from Woolworths. These served the purpose of emptying rubbish from the baskets on the Forest. The tea chests were then emptied from the van, which was much easier. Ranger Stockley was going to construct two small boxes over the rear wheels of the van to contain ballast as,
when unloaded, the van was too light. It was Resolved that the necessary materials and timber be purchased to enable the boxes to be made.

In connection with fire-breaks, the Chairman reported that in March twelve miles of new fire-breaks had been cut. These were situated in the areas of Kings Standing, Kidds Hill, Green Wood Gate, Pound Gate, Crows Nest, on both sides of Millbrook Hill running parallel to the main Eastbourne Road, the Coleman’s Hatch area, Chelwood Gate/Wych Cross and Kingstanding/Wych Cross. He mentioned that on April 7th a considerable fire in the Chelwood Vetchery area, which had destroyed about 30 to 40 acres of gorse and scrub, had been contained by the fire-breaks out in this area.

The Chairman asked the Board to consider a proposal connected with both fire-breaks and riders on the Forest. He said that fire-breaks were ideal for horse riders, and there was an advantage in their use for this purpose in that the horses cut up the ground, so preventing the fire-breaks from becoming overgrown. It was, however, necessary to warn riders not to use, and thereby cut up, paths leading to dwellings on the Forest. To overcome this he suggested that the Rangers be instructed to mark with a band of yellow paint a stick, stump or birch tree bordering these paths. He knew this operation would be lengthy but he felt, if adopted, it would reduce the number of complaints about paths being churned up.

It was decided that the areas first to be dealt with should be Forest Row and Fairwarp, and that Riding Schools, Pony Clubs, etc. should be circularised regarding these restrictions. It was also suggested (Mrs. Looker) that the Press would probably help in publicising this instruction to riders but it was agreed, on Major Grubb’s suggestion, that the Press be asked not to report the matter at the present meeting.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Press at the appropriate time. Major Grubb said he would like to thank the Chairman for having “tidied up” the Forest in respect of the dead trees.

Concern was expressed about the felling of large numbers of birch trees on the Forest, and Ranger Stockley reported that a Mr. Brooker had received licence from the Lord of the Manor to fell certain areas. The Clerk mentioned that this was “rather unusual” and suggested he would contact the Lord of the Manor on the matter. This was agreed.

Mr. Harvey raised the question of parked cars at the entrance to the private road leading to the houses of Commoners, and it was agreed that more “no parking” notices could be erected at these entrances at the cost of those concerned.

6. Date of Audit by District Auditor:-
The Clerk reported that the annual Audit would take place on the 13th May and before that date the Accounts would be open to inspection.

7. Correspondence:
The Clerk said that he had written to Messrs. J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. for an up-to-date valuation of the investments held, and to enquire if they considered any changes should be made in the investment holdings. He read a letter in reply in which Messrs. J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. gave the present valuation of investments held by the Conservators as £2,827, and recommended that the holdings be left undisturbed.

The Clerk said he had received a letter from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food giving approval to the levying of a rate of two shillings and sixpence for the first acre or part there of and sixpence for each acre thereafter for defraying the expenses of the Conservators

The Clerk reported also receipt of a letter from the South Eastern Gas Board in connection with a scheme for the improvement of gas supplies in the East Grinstead and Forest Row areas and seeking approval from the Conservators to lay gas mains through sections of the Forest. He said that Col. Lowe and “another gentleman” and his own Clerk, Mr. Field, had met a representative of the Gas Board in Forest Row recently to discuss the matter, as a result of which he saw no reason why he should not recommend the Conservators to agree to the Gas Board’s proposals, subject to the usual safeguards.

8. Proposed Meeting With Mr. Adams-Jones:
The Clerk reported that he had written Mr. Adams-Jones inviting him to a meeting of the Special Purposes Committee at his offices, and received a reply in which Mr. Adams-Jones said he was unable to come on the date suggested, but “would be prepared in certain to meet your Committee at some other time”. Mr. Adams-Jones, this letter went on, said that he had “never at any time questioned the manner in which the Forest is run, a matter on which I claim no specific knowledge”. Mr. Wolfson suggested that in view of this statement made in a letter Mr. Adams-Jones should repeat it in a public statement. The Chairman said he felt it would be difficult to persuade Mr. Adams-Jones to make such a public statement. The Clerk pointed out that owing to the time Mr. Adams-Jones wanted for the meeting it would be extremely difficult to arrange for members to attend a meeting of the Special Purposes Committee.

After some discussion it was agreed to let this matter drop.

Major Richards asked to be disassociated from the views expressed by Mr. Adams-Jones.

9. Minutes of Meeting of The Special Purposes Committee - See separate Confidential Minute.

10. Rangers’ Reports:
The Clerk read reports from each Ranger. Ranger Stockley reported as follows:

“Ranger Draper and I have been cutting dead Scotch fir trees on the Forest and burning these if we could. Erecting fire beaters in stands on all main roads. Clearing litter dumped on Forest, this is still a major job. The cutting of fire breaks has been completed, 44 hours cutting about another 12 miles of new ones. 5 dumped cars on Forest have been cleared away by Mr. Russell of Crowborough. Litter baskets have been damaged badly by machines moving snow. Ten new ones have been erected, those given by the Friends of the Forest. We saw a man light a fire on the Forest near Birch Wood at Nutley, and reported this to the police at Nutley. Gypsies on Forest at the top of Millbrook Hill and later at Wych Cross. We were assisted by the police to get these moved.

New Entrances under Licence
At Chuck Hatch to Lane Oak Hall
At or above Putlands, Fairwarp, near the Old Fox House.
And at Brown’s Brook Fairwarp.

Two fires:

A fire at Colemans Hatch Cricket Ground on Sunday 7.4.63. Members of the club were clearing the ground. This was in order. We had been asked during winter months. It was very dry and windy on this day and this could have been a very big fire. The Secretary’s name is Mr. E. Pollard, 2 Jacksons Cottages, Colemans Hatch.

Another fire at the Isle of Thorns and the Vatchery, Chelwood Gate. About 40 acres was held in by fire breaks. Had it not have been for the fire breaks in this area, this fire would have been very large, probably burning the total area.

We are meeting B.B.C. News today.”

Ranger Draper’s report was as follows:-

“Since the last Board meeting I have patrolled the Forest and made reports where necessary. I have also carried out the following:-

1. Helped to make fire beaters and place them in stands around the Forest.
2. Helped to erect notice boards at Friends Gate, Camp Hill Corner and Fairwarp.
3. Erected stagger posts along Ridge Road.
4. Felled dead trees in the Kingstanding, Kidds Hill and Wych Cross areas.
5. Helped to mark out new fire breaks.
6. Helped to plant your Scotch firs at Gills Lap and Camp Hill.
7. Set a watch with Ranger Stockley in the Fairwarp area to try and catch fire raisers. We caught one man and made all necessary statements to the police.
8. I have attended five Forest Fires. One at Fairwarp, two on the Stonehill Road, one at Colemans Hatch Cricket Ground and one close to the Vatchery.
9. Toured the Forest with Mr. Drew.
10. Cleared litter.
11. Attend the funeral and Inquest on Ranger Day.
12. Helped to clear gypsies from the top of Millbrook Hill.
13. Turned two men with guns away from the Forest in the Kingstanding Area.
14. Posted up new Bye-Law notices."

The Clerk mentioned that on his instructions the Rangers had made statement to the police in connotation with the fire raising incident. The question was raised as to whether, if the police did not prosecute this man, the Conservators should, and, after discussions, it was agreed that the Board should institute proceedings.

11. Finance:

The Clerk reported credit balances as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General account</td>
<td>£482.7.9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages account</td>
<td>£95.13.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>£94.3.0.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

He reported that Uckfield Rural District Council had paid its contribution of £553.17.0. in full.

He said he required the sum of £65.17.0. to bring the Petty Cash account up to the normal float of £160. This was proposed by Mr. Brooke, seconded by Col. Lowe and carried unanimously.

The Board then went in to Committee.


The Clerk read the Minutes of the Special Purpose Committee held on the 7th March.

Matters arising:

1) The Clerk reported that Ranger Day had left very little estate, and, that after payment of the funeral expenses, etc. the assets were £2.17.0. of this 17s. was the estimated value of garden tools which he owned. Against this there were debts amounting to £150. This debt was, in fact, owing to one tradesman - a grocer.

The Clerk said he had interviewed the widow, the daughter and the son, and had come to the conclusion that Ranger Day himself knew nothing about this debt. He had been 35 years in the service of the Conservators.

Mrs. Day would get a widow’s pension, but she had little else. It seemed she would be quite unable to pay off a debt of £150.

The daughter, who was married had offered that she and her husband would try to pay the debt by instalments, but they were not well off and they had children. The Clerk said he felt the payment of this debt even by instalments would be a very heavy burden indeed.

He said he had been in touch with the Equity & Law Life Assurance Society and had ascertained that for a sum of £500 it would be possible to purchase a capital protected annuity for Mrs. Day, who was sixty seven years of age, £46.1.4. per annum, but he asked the Board to consider whether it was worthwhile to purchase such an annuity for Mrs. Day while leaving this debt unpaid.

After a lengthy discussions it was resolved to authorise the expenditure of £500 on the purchase of a capital protected annuity for Mrs. Day and the payment of the debt to the grocer, but that this creditor should be asked if, in view of the circumstances, he would waive a portion of the debt.

The Clerk asked the Board if it would care to purchase the garden tools owned by Ranger Day for 17s which was the valuation given by Messrs. Turner, Rudge & Turner. It was resolved they be purchased.
After discussing the appointment of an additional Ranger, the Chairman raised the question of the Clerk’s salary. The Clerk had informed him that his salary was inadequate and that although he had been prepared to continue on the present basis until there was a change in the law and administration of the Forest, it now appeared that no change would come about in the foreseeable future. The Chairman, supported by Major Grubb, considered that the time had arrived for the Clerk’s salary to be put on a proper basis.

It was resolved for the time being to defer the appointment of a third Ranger.

The Clerk then referred to a letter he had received from the Clerk to the County Council which stated that the Council, although approving of the Clerk’s scheme for the future of Ashdown Forest in some respects, felt that the time for legislation by a Private Bill had not yet arrived and the council would prefer to leave the matter over until the government enacted some fresh legislation on Commons generally. The Council were, however, sympathetic to the financial difficulties of the Conservators, and had suggested that the County Council and the Uckfield Rural District Council should resume responsibility for the entire financial liability of the Conservators beyond the statutory maximum contributions which should still be demanded from East Grinstead and Uckfield. Estimates would have to be sent in to the County Council by October of each year.

The Clerk reported conversations he had with the County Council, and that the Council was willing to met delegates of the Conservators to review the financial position generally.

Resolved that the Chairman, Sir William Garrett and the Clerk should meet representatives of the County Council to discuss this proposition, and that a review of the Clerk’s salary should be included on the Agenda.

There being no other business the Board went out of Committee and the Meeting was concluded.

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Minutes of Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 17th July, 1963 at 2.40 p.m.

Present : Mr. J.H. Drew, Mr. R.P.J. Brooke, Sir William Garrett, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Mrs. S.N. Looker, Col. J.H.B. Lowe, Mrs. U.M. Ridley, Mr. A.C. Wolfson

1. Apologies for the absence were received from Mr. C. Frith, Brigadier L.N. Scott and Mr. T.M. Shelford. Major R. Grubb

2. The Minutes of the last Meeting, as printed and circulated, were confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising:
   (a) Report on audit: The Clerk said the Accounts had been audited by the District Auditor who had reported as follows:

   “In compliance with the statutory requirement I have to report that the Accounts of the officers for the year ended the 31st December, 1962 have been completed.

   No matters arose at the audit to which it is necessary to direct your attention. My thanks are you due to your Clerk and his staff for their courteous assistance during the audit.”

   (b) Annuity for Mrs. Day: The Clerk reported that, in accordance with the Board’s instructions given at the last meeting, a total sum of £575 had been handed to Mrs. Day. This was in the form of an annuity, the cost of which was £500, and which would produce for Mrs. Day an annual amount of £44.7.0. It would be paid monthly in arrear in instalments of £3.13.11. The Clerk added that the policy was a “protected” one, and explained that this meant that should the recipient of such an annuity die before the cost of the annuity had been expended the balance would be paid back to the purchaser, i.e., in this case, the Board. The odd £75 was accounted by a debt which he had discharged. The Clerk mentioned that in actual fact the debt was such larger, but he had succeeded in arranging settlement at this figure. The Day family was most grateful for what had been done, and Mrs. Day’s daughter, in particular, had asked him to convey her thanks to the Board.
The Chairman reported that since the last meeting the balance of the money given by the Friends of the Forest, together with a further contribution, making a total of £211, had been expended in cutting more firebreaks. The total mileage of fire-breaks was now 59 miles. He said he would refer to this matter of firebreaks again in his Report.

(d) Accident to Vans The Clerk reported that the damage to the van had been repaired, and a claim had been submitted to the Insurance Company. It appeared, however, that the Company had mislaid the claim and a fresh one was being submitted.

4. Correspondence
(a) Road widening at Fairwarp: The Clerk reported that a letter had been received, from the County Council Surveyor which read as follows:

Maresfield-Hartfield Road, B2026

The County Council propose to harden out a width of 4'6" on the east side of the above road, to be used as a footway between the road to Fairwarp and the track leading to Putlands Farm.

I enclose herewith copy of drawing No.11779/1/1 showing coloured pink the length of the proposed footway in the various areas.

The dimensions indicate the overall width of the footway inclusive of banks, and it is understood that only sufficient excavation would be done, as necessary, to obtain suitable gradients for the footway, which will, as far as possible, follow the existing ground.

In view of the comparatively small area affected, I should be glad to know whether the Conservators would agree to this proposal without the formality of acquiring the land.

It is understood that the maintenance of the footway would be carried out by the County Council.

The Clerk said that in replying to this letter he had stated that he did not think the Conservators had power to give away any part of the Forest for any purpose whatever as the freehold of the Forest, was vested in the Lord of the Manor. He had written to Lord de la Warr's solicitors and had received a reply from them saying it was such a small matter that they felt Lord De La Warr should not be troubled with it. He had again written to Mr. Ouvry asking for a final and definite decision but had, to date, received no reply, and he had just heard that Mr. Ouvry was in hospital about to undergo an operation. The Clerk added that he felt he must advise the Board that it could not comply with this request.

A general discussion on footpaths ensued, during the course of which a member (Mrs. Looker) stated it was understood the County Council had asked for this land in order to make a footpath to a local school but that this school was to be closed at the end of July. After further discussion, the Chairman suggested the Clerk be asked to write to the County Council saying it was to serve, would be closed in July, and, if this was correct, would it alter the situation regarding the County Council request.

(b) Fencing of pits and old quarries: The Clerk reported that there were on the Forest number of pits and old quarries which the Rangers felt were a danger to the public and which ought to be fenced. The question arose as to who should bear the cost of fencing. Licenses for quarrying were not issued by the Conservators, but by the Lord of the Manor, and it was felt that, this being so, it was the Lord's responsibility to fence these areas. He had written to Lord De La Warr's Solicitors on these lines, but had received no reply to date, and, in view of Mr. Ouvry's illness, to suggested that this matter be brought up again at the next meeting. This was agreed.

In this meantime the Rangers were to be instructed to estimate the length of fencing which would be required.

In connection with this matter Mr. Brooke raised the question of Army trenches which still existed in the vicinity of his house. The Chairman suggested that Ranger Stockley should meet Mr. Brooke, who would show him these trenches, and Ranger Stockley would try to arrange for them to be filled in.

(c) Letter from Mr. David Streeter: The Clerk said a letter had been received from Mr. David Streeter of the Department of Botany, King's College, London, which read as follows:
“I felt that the Board of Conservators would be interested to know that on Friday of this week (June 14th) the Society Botanique de France are visiting Ashdown Forest as part of their week’s field trip in Northern France and S.E. England. The party will be led by Dr. Frances Rose and myself.

A party from the Nature Conservancy will be visiting the Forest this year at the beginning of next month.

I shall be taking a party of university student to the Forest later this week.”

(d) Fairwarp Recreation Ground: The Clerk read a letter which had been received from Mr. Harvey, as follows:

“You will remember that some years ago Fairwarp playground, near the Beacon, was exchanged for a site nearer to the village.

Now the Village Hall Committee has asked me if the land adjoining the Village Hall was Forest and if so could they clear an area for a car park and put down hardcore to park on.

I went to see the land, taking my map, and got Rangers Stockley and Draper to meet me there.

The land in question is “Forest” and Stockley measured the area required. Will you put this on the Agenda for the next meeting so that the decision can be given”.

The Chairman suggested that a licence should be granted at a fee of £1 per annum, and this was agreed by the Board on the understanding that the car park was not to be tarmac-ed. The Clerk asked Mr. Harvey to tell the Secretary to make a formal approach to him.

(e) East Grinstead & District Motor Cycle Club: The Clerk read a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the East Grinstead & District Motor Cycle Club asking if a piece of land on the forest could be rented for the purpose of a motor-cycle scramble “once or twice a year”. He said he had replied to this letter starting that the matter would have to be put before the Board at its next meeting (in July) and requesting further information. He had received an answer from the Club Secretary in which he had stated that the area of land required would be 15 to 20 acres, for which the Club would be prepared to pay up to £20 for each meeting. The average number of competitors was one hundred and spectators two thousand. Other facilities required would be permission for Club members to go on the ground and prepare, and rope off, the course previous to the meetings. The use of the land during the summer months would be preferred. The Club Secretary had also supplied much detailed information regarding the organisation of a scramble, together with instructions to riders, and this the Clerk read to the meeting.

He pointed out that it would be necessary to obtain the permission of the County Council, Uckfield R.D.C. and also of the Lord of the Manor before sanction for such a scramble could be given. The agreement of the first two would required as such an event would constitution a change of use of the Forest.

After considerable discussion the matter was adjourned to the next meeting pending receipt of the views of the various local authorities, and of the Lord of the Manor.

5. Chairman’s Report: The Chairman reported that just before the last meeting he had received a letter from the Secretary of the Friends of Ashdown Forest intimating that an individual Friend had offered the Board a Lundel forage harvester for the outing of fire breaks. He had been extremely grateful for the offer, but, with only two Rangers, and no tractor with which to operate the machine, had felt obliged to refuse it since there was virtually no possibility of using the machine in the present circumstances. He said he had been to see the Secretary of the Friends, explained the situation and asked if they would be kind enough to renew the offer when the Board was in a better financial position. He thought that the offer might well be renewed.

He said that the licensee of the Lone Oak Hall, to whom the Conservators had granted a licence for an access road, appeared to have failed to carry out some of the conditions of the licence. There was, however, no cause for concern as the licensee had deposited £100, as requested, and this would be sufficient to rectify matters should it be necessary.
He reported that the yellow band plan, to which he had referred at the April meeting, had now been put into effect in the Forest Row area, and he had received favourable comments from Commoners. In connection with this plan 150 duplicated letters had been sent to people known to ride on the Forest.

With regard to fire-breaks the Chairman said that in the past two months 14 miles of new fire breaks had been out, the chief work being done in the area east of Gill Lap and bordering Five Hundred Acre Wood and just to the north-east of Nutley. There was approximately 50 hours of work still to be done with the cutter, and he felt that no further new fire breaks should be cut, but that time should be spent in re-cutting existing fire breaks which were beginning to get overgrown.

In connection with rabbit clearance, the Chairman said that the Pest Control Officer, who operates with a pack of terriers and two Guns, did excellent work throughout the year, but it had recently been suggested that he should not be allowed to come on the Forest between 1st April and 1st July as his activities disturbed a number of birds.

During the ensuing discussion the question was raised as to who gave permission for private shoots on the Forest and the Clerk explained that licences to shoot were given by the Lord of the Manor. It was agreed that it would be advisable if shoots could be banned between 1st April and 1st July and the Clerk was asked to write to the Lord of the Manor expressing the views of the Conservators.

The Chairman mentioned that magpies had recently become a menace on the Forest, and this view being endorsed by other members of the board, his suggestion that Ranger Stockley be supplied with cartridges for the purpose of shooting these birds was agreed.

6. Rangers’ Reports: The Clerk read reports from each Ranger. Ranger Stockley reported as follows:

“Ranger Draper and I have been patrolling the forest and reporting, clearing burnt gorse and undergrowth; clearing tins, etc. at Dump with soil; trimming bed corners and (erecting) notice boards; Painting notice boards; Digging in staggered posts and ditches. Marking out new fire breaks at Five Hundred Acre area, Old Lodge at Vatchery, Leggs Heath at Lavender Platt.

Marking tracks for and against Riding. Fencing around stone holes on Forest need repairing and one renewing. Ice cream is being sold on the Forest. Most of (the vendors) are prepared to pay.

Two boys were caught lighting a fire on the Forest; the Police have prosecuted one.

Crows are very troublesome on Forest in the Spring before any cover has grown; they are continually nesting, and are now making a lot of noise around litter baskets”.

Ranger Draper’s report was as follows:

“Since the last Board meeting I have also carried out the following:-

1. Cleared litter whenever necessary.
2. Erected staggered post and dug ditches to stop vehicles from parking too far from main road on various parts of the Forest.
3. Cleared and burned burnt gorse along the Ridge road, Stonehill and Camp Hill corner, also out undergrowth on blind corners to assist motorists.
4. Helped to erect coloured posts in the Forest Row area to control horse riding.
5. Painted notice boards.
6. Helped to mark new fire breaks.
7. Closed private roads during the visit of President Kennedy to prevent demonstrators from blocking them with their cars.

7. Finances: The Clerk reported that the financial position was rather better than usual, the actual figures being as following:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>1246.8.1.cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>10.4.3 cr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wages Account

Amounts collected since last meeting

Acknowledgment rents 65.12.2
Acknowledgment rent arrears 0.15.0
Rate Arrears 2.3.6

Miscellaneous

East Grinstead U.D.C Contribution £128.8.5
East Sussex C.C. 923.1.8
Forest Row Baptist Church Donation 1.1.0
Sussex Agricultural Society -3 Boards 1.10.0
Powell & Partner – Board 0.10.0
Branton & Co,-Board 0.10.0
Sale of 1 Map 1.0 0
Repayment of income tax 66.11.0
S.E Gas Board – deposit 25.0.0

1147.12.1

The Clerk explained that this improved financial position could be accounted for by the fact that all the Authorities had now paid their agreed contribution, and, whereas the estimates had included salaries for three Rangers, in fact, since March last, owing to the death of Ranger Day, only two Rangers had been on the Wages List. He suggested that £700 be placed on deposit as this sum would not be required before the next meeting. It was suggested (by Sir William Garrett) that the money should be put on short term loan which would earn 4 to 4 1/2 % and could be withdrawn at 7 days’ notice. The Chairman suggested that J. Henry Schroder Wagg be instructed to carry out this investment and it was Resolved by the Board that The Clerk should act accordingly.

The Clerk mentioned that there were only two items outstanding for payment, one being his salary, and the other the Petty Cash float which needed £149.15.9 to bring it up to the authorised amount of £160. It was Resolved that these two cheques be drawn.

The Board then went into Committee.

8. The Clerk’s Report on Meeting with the East Sussex County Council and the Uckfield Rural District Council on Finances:

The Clerk said the Board would recall that at the last meeting it had been agreed that be should meet the Clerks to the County Council and the Uckfield R.D.C. to discuss finances, and he, with his Clerk, Mr. Field, had duly met Mr. Atkinson, the Clerk to the County Council and Mr. Durrant, Clerk to the Uckfield R.D.C., with their respective Finance Officers, on 4th July. A very frank, “off-the-cuff” discussion had taken place. No Minutes had been taken, but the following decisions had been reached:

1. The County Council and Uckfield will approach directly Cuckfield and East Grinstead to see if they will continue to pay in future a contribution limited to that which they have paid this year.

2. The County and Uckfield will in future contribute between them any balance which is shown as due by the estimates.

3. In future the estimates are to be submitted in the months of September or October to enable the County Council to assess them before the month of November when the County’s own estimates are prepared.

4. The Conservators will in future be restricted fairly strictly to their estimates, i.e. if an item of £100 for sundries is included, except in extreme emergency this sum must not be exceeded.

5. Both Council officials agreed
   (a) that a third Ranger is necessary and should be appointed;
(b) that if The Friends of Ashdown Forest present a Forage Harvester and Tractor to the Board a sum for maintenance of the same of £200 in the first year should be included;
(c) all Rangers in future should be pensioned and included in the County Superannuation Scheme;
(d) The Clerk’s Salary including the fee to Messrs Raymond, Wells & Osborne for preparing the Accounts should be increased to £800 per annum.

The Clerk explained that he felt it would not be too difficult to prepare the estimate the estimates in time for submission to the County Council in September/October. It would, however, mean that they must be gone into very thoroughly as no interim expenditure would be permitted, and a credit balance would be carried forward to the following year.

After a brief discussion, during which the Clerk was congratulated on his successful meeting with the Council’s representatives, the following Resolutions were passed:

It was directed that this be incorporated in the Minutes

1. It having been agreed that two Rangers were inadequate to cope with the work it was Resolved that a third Ranger be appointed.

2. Resolved that as from 1st January, 1964 the Office of Ranger should carry a pension, and it was left to the Clerk to negotiate for the best type of pension as between the Local Government’s Superannuation Schemes and Private Pension Schemes.

3. Resolved that the Clerk’s salary be increased to £200 p.a. inclusive of all fees paid by him to his staff and the Accountants for the preparation of the annual accounts and estimates but not including the cost of stationery, postage, telephone, advertising, travelling expenses and other out-of-pocket expenses.

4. Resolved that the estimates should be submitted to the Board in October 1963 and in every subsequent year in October, and that the Forest Rate for the year 1st January to the 31st December, 1964 and for every ensuing year should be made at the October meetings and it was further Resolved that in 1964 and in ensuing years, the October meeting should be held on the first Wednesday of October if possible.

In connection with (4) it was agreed that, as the first Wednesday in October was inconvenient to a number of members, the next meeting of the Board should be hold on Wednesday, 9th October at 6 p.m.

The Clerk the road a letter from Ranger Draper in which he stated that he wished to resign as from August 10th next. It was Resolved that the resignation of Ranger Draper be accepted and also that a second Ranger be employed to replace him.

It was Further Resolved that a Committee be appointed to interview and select the two new Rangers as follows:

(a) The Chairman
(b) The Vice-Chairman
(c) Mr. R.F.J. Brooke
(d) The Clerk

It was resolved that the appointments be taken up as soon as possible, the Committee being empowered to advertise the posts in the local press, the commencing salary in each case to be £10.10.0 and the age limit forty.

The Clerk asked for permission to employ casual labour until such time as a replacement could be found for Ranger Draper. This request was granted, the Clerk being authorised to spend a weekly amount on casual labour equivalent to the weekly wage of Ranger Draper.

There being no other business the Board went out of Committee and the Meeting was concluded.
The Annual General Meeting of the Commoners duly convened by Notices Posted On The Principal doors of the Churches of the Parishes and ecclesiastical districts and Post Office to Which the Forest Extends and by Notices to the members of the Board More Than Fourteen Days Prior to this date and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row at 8 p.m.


1. Mr. R.F.J. Brooke was proposed as Chairman of the meeting and unanimously elected.

2. The Clerk read the notice convening the meeting.

3. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and signed.

4. Election of Conservators: The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill the vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. A.K.L. Harvey, R.F.J. Brooke and J.H. Drew who all offered themselves for re-election and by Brigadier J.K. McNair who wished to retire from the Board, The Clerk stated that he had received one nomination namely Sir William Garrett. It was unanimously agreed that the three retiring members and Sir William Garrett be elected to the Board. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Brigadier McNair for his long and loyal service to the Board which was supported by all present. The Chairman stated that he would write to Brigadier McNair to place on record everyone’s appreciation.

5. Nomination of Recreation Grounds Superintendents:
The following nominations were made for the coming year:-
- Nutley: W. Gilham
- Forest Row: A.C. Wolfson
- Colemans Hatch: J.H. Drew
- Fairwarp: A.K.L. Harvey
- Chelwood Gate: R.F.J. Brooke

6. General Business
The Chairman reported as follows:-
(a) The Friends of Ashdown Forest had subscribed most generously towards the cutting of new firebreaks which would undoubtedly help considerably in cutting down the damage caused by fire. Further new breaks were to be cut as well as the ones in existence being re-cut. The Friends had again promised money for this.
(b) The Clumps which had been re-planted had not turned out as successful as had been hoped.
(c) The increase in the Forest rate which had been approved by the Board had now come into force. He stated that the Board felt that the increase would cause no hardship to Commoners and it would help to cover the cost of collection of the Rates. Cuckfield R.D.C. were now paying the whole of their contribution due to the increase made in the Rate.
(d) People riding on the Forest were being more considerate this being due no doubt to the letters that were written by the Clerk to the various Riding Schools in the area.
(e) The Purchase of the new van had taken place during the year in question. It was most necessary to assist with the collection of litter.
(f) New Notice Boards had been erected on the Forest showing the 15 yard limit for vehicles and these were proving very successful.
(g) The litter baskets were being used more but a lot of trouble was being caused by either birds or foxes pulling the litter through the mesh and leaving it on the ground around the baskets. More baskets were being purchased and these were to be paid for by the Friends.

7. Nominations for elections to Board: The Clerk read the Minute referring to this matter from the Minutes of the Commoners’ Meeting held on the 9th December 1959 and which was included in the Rate demands. Various suggestions were made and after discussion the following resolution was made: “The Clerk should ensure that Statutory Notices are posted in Post Offices in the area of the Forest as well as being affixed to the Church doors and they should be affixed five weeks before the Commoners Meeting. Nominations should be sent to the Clerk.
within three weeks of the date of the Notice and the Nomination Notice will then be affixed two weeks Before the Meeting.

If no nominations are received by the Clerk then those Conservators who are retiring by rotation but offer themselves for re-election in the printed Notices which are first affixed will be eligible for election at he Commoners’ Meeting in the usual way”. The Clerk should also ensure that the Commoners’ Meeting is advertised in the local newspapers.

8. The Chairman then asked if anyone had any other business to discuss and the following points were raised:-

(a) It was reported that American serviceman had been shooting on the Forest and the Clerk stated that he had already dealt with this matter.

(b) It was suggested that to save a lot damage to the Forest the whole area should be fenced but it was pointed out by the Clerk that fencing was not allowed and even if it were it would be far too costly a job.

9. The Commoners’ Meeting for 1963 was arranged to be held on Wednesday October 9th in the Village Hall at 8 p.m.

Being no further business the Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the Meeting.

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 9th October 1963 at 6 p.m.


1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Pye, Mr. Ouvry, Sir William Garrett and Mr. R.B. Cornwell. Mrs. Looker had been in ill-health and unable to write to make her apology.

2. The Minutes of the last Meeting, as printed and circulated were confirmed and signed. Attention was drawn to a typographical error, item 7. ‘Finances’, the total of Miscellaneous to read £1147.12.1d., and not £317.12.1d.

3. Matters arising:

(a) East Grinstead & District Motor Cycle Club. The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Solicitor of the Lord of the Manor, stating that the Lord would not object to motor cycle scrambles taking place on the Forest. However, the Clerk of the [East] Sussex County Council and the Clerk of Uckfield R.D.C. had intimated that from the Highways point of view, the Councils would deplore large numbers of motor cycles congregating on the roads in the area of the Forest where the scrambles were to be held. The Clerk had received numerous telephone calls from persons stating their objections. Letters of objection had also been received. The Clerk proceeded to read those from the Surrey Naturalists’ Trust Ltd., Friends of Ashdown Forest, Field Studies Council and Mrs. French. Mr. Pye had telephoned his disapproval, and Sir W. Garrett had telephoned that he would approve, but for one year only. A discussion took place and it was finally resolved that scrambles should not be permitted on the Forest, a motion passed by eight votes to three. In view of the dissensions of Sir W. Garrett, Brig. L.M. Scott and Col. J. Lowe., the Chairman said that he would arrange a meeting with the secretary of the Motor Cycling Club, to explain the decision to him.

(b) Road Widening at Fairwarp. The Clerk reported that as there was no longer the possibility of the school being used the problem of the road widening would not arise.

(c) Fencing of Pits and Old Quarries. The Clerk reported that as the Steward to the Lord of the Manor had been ill, it probably accounted for the fact that only an acknowledgment had been received to the letters that the Clerk had written to him on the subject. The matter would receive further attention.

(d) Fairwarp Recreation Ground. The Clerk reported that no approach had been made to him by the Secretary on this matter.

(e) Rabbit Clearance. The Clerk reported that he had not received any reply to date from the Lord of the Manor.

(f) Finance - Placing of money on Deposit. The Clerk stated that £700 had been loaned to the Borough of Chingford, at a rate of 3¼%.

(g) The Clerk’s Meeting with the East Sussex C.C and Uckfield R.D.C. The Clerk referred to his meeting with the officers of the County Council and Uckfield R.D.C. concerning the Finances of the Conservators and reported that unofficially the Clerk of both these Councils had assured him that
their Councils would implement the agreement already reached. The Clerk further reported that East Grinstead U.D.C had agreed to contribute a fixed sum of £200 per annum and that Cuckfield R.D.C. were proposing to continue to pay their full contribution according to the Estimates.

(h) Employment of rangers. The Board went into Committee. The Clerk reported that the Sub-Committee appointed to choose two new Rangers at a wage of £10.15.0. per week had not been able to find any suitable application owing to the fact that the wage offered was not high enough. After consultation with all Members of the Board by letter when it was agreed that the wage of the two new Rangers should be £11.15.0. the post was re-advertised at this wage and a large number of applications had been received. Finally two new rangers had been chosen namely Branagan and Rogers. The Board was asked to confirm the sub-Committee’s action in raising the wages of the new Rangers from £10.15.0. to £11.15.0. Resolved that the Sub-Committee’s action be confirmed. The Clerk then pointed out that Ranger Stockley’s wages were only £11.10.0. per week and that he felt as a senior Ranger his wages should be increased, and the increase to date back to the Friday pay day before Ranger Branagan took up his Duties on September 16th 1963. Resolved that Ranger Stockley be paid a wage of £13.0.0d. per week to back date from September 13th 1963. The Clerk next drew attention to the cost of the Rangers’ clothing and their allowance. The present allowance was £10 per annum which was fixed in 1950. After discussion it was Resolved that the allowance be increased to £15 per annum as from January 1965 for Rangers Branagan and Rogers and 1964 for Ranger Stockley, as his coat was getting old and worn out. The Chairman pointed out that the ordinary coat was only suitable to be worn either on the motor-cycle or when doing manual work and that at weekends when the Rangers were patrolling the Forest and interviewing the public the should be properly dressed in a uniform. Resolved that all three Rangers be supplied with a jacket after the style of a keeper’s jacket of a uniform type to be chosen by the Chairman and Clerk. The Board then came out of Committee.

5. Rangers’ Reports:
The Clerk read reports from each Ranger. Ranger Stockley reported as follows:
“I have been patrolling the Forest and reporting. Emptying litter baskets and clearing up the Forest and keeping it tidy.
Collecting Forest Rates.
Notices of Commoners’ Meeting have been posted at all churches and post offices in the Forest area.
Trimming undergrowth on bad bends and junctions and where it badly overhangs the main road.
Trimming undergrowth on tracks to the east of the eighth fairway at Colemans Hatch where riding is permitted.
My son assisted me with the litter problem during his holidays.”

Ranger Branagan reported as follows:
“Following complaints from residents in Fairwarp area that motor cycles were being raced on Forest tracks, chiefly in late evenings, I accompanied Ranger Stockley to the approximate position at 5 p.m. On Monday September 16th at 7.20 p.m. we stopped a youth riding a machine on track near “Little Gassons” house, with a pillion passenger. He gave his name as S. Chubb of “Larkhill”. The machine was a Triumph, no front number plate, back plate showing number KKK 22, no Road Tax, and Chubb had no licence. He was given a severe warning after the Forest Rules, boundaries, personalities etc. Collected rates and patrolled all sections. Repaired banks of stream on Forest Row golf course, and stone slides under bridge. Repaired and painted motor cycle.
Made Sunday patrols and moved encroaching cars.

6. Finance. The Clerk stated that the Bank balances were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£355.10.3d. Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>£381.11.0d. Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>£52.18.2d. Dr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Clerk Presented the following accounts for payment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. S. Brunton</td>
<td>£100 Return of deposit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Clerk’s and Lord of Manor’s Fees</td>
<td>£89.7.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resolved that the above cheques be duly signed. The Clerk reported that the reason for the overdraft on Petty Cash Account was that a cheque for £85.6.3d., should have been received from the Friends of Ashdown Forest in respect of an account for a similar amount due to Mr. Colin Clarke, the contractor who cut the Fire Breaks. The Clerk said that he would contact the Treasurer of the Friends of Ashdown Forest (he had been abroad several weeks), as soon as possible. The Clerk reported that the Wages Account balance was due to the fact that only one Ranger had been employed for some time and there had only been two Rangers since Ranger Day’s death.

The Clerk asked that £200 be transferred from Wages Account to General Account and it was Resolved accordingly. The Clerk further reported that he thought that the £700 on loan to the Borough of Chingford should be withdrawn and paid into the General Account, and it was Resolved accordingly.

7. Estimates. The Clerk submitted the estimates and went through them item by item. He pointed out that on the engagement of the third Ranger it might be necessary to purchase a new motor cycle in the coming year. He also pointed out that if the fire breaks were to be maintained the continued generosity of the Friends of Ashdown Forest could not be taken for granted and it was proposed therefore for the Board to include the cost of maintaining the fire breaks in their Estimate (although this might not necessarily mean that expenditure would actually take place on this item). He also pointed out that the Conservators had received a powered saw, and that maintenance for this was included in the Estimate and for other equipment which might be necessary if the Board were presented with more machinery.

Resolved that the Estimates be accepted as presented.

8. Forest Rate For 1964. The Clerk reported that it was necessary in view of the changed procedure for the presenting of Estimates to make the Forest rate for 1964, and the Estimates were based on the Rate of two Shillings and sixpence per acre and sixpence for every succeeding acre.

Resolved unanimously that the rate for 1964 be two shillings and sixpence an acre and sixpence for every succeeding acre.

9. The Clerk reported that he was very short of copies of the Bye-Laws, in book form and in sheet form.

Resolved that 150 copies of the Bye-Laws be printed in book form and 150 sheets for posting on the Notice Boards be printed. There being no other business the Meeting was concluded.
1. The Clerk called for nominations for a Chairman and Mr. J.H. Drew was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

2. The Clerk then read the Notice Convening the Meeting.

3. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and signed.

4. **Election of Conservators:** The Clerk reported that Sir William Garrett, Mr. Gilham and Colonel Lowe were retiring by rotation but despite the wide publicity which had been given to the Elections, no nominations had been received to date. The Chairman said that he had ascertained that all three Commoners were willing to stand again for election to the Board and he proposed, therefore, that all three be re-elected en bloc. This Proposal was seconded and carried unanimously.

5. **Nominations for Recreation Ground Superintendents:** The following nominations were made for the coming year:

   - Nutley: W. Gilham
   - Forest Row: Col. Lowe
   - Coleman’s Hatch: J.H. Drew
   - Fairwarp: A.K.L. Harvey
   - Chelwood Gate: R.P.J. Brooke

6. **General Business**

   The Chairman said that the past year had been a good one, mainly due to the Friends of Ashdown Forest, who had supplied the funds to enable the cutting of firebreaks to be continued. There were now fifty-nine miles of firebreaks with an average width of 20ft. and the Conservators proposed to keep these breaks cut and to widen them where practicable. The value of these breaks had already been proved, as a fire on the Isle of Thorns had definitely been contained by one such break.

   The Chairman said there was an increasing number of motorists who, during the summer months, parked cars on the Forest for the purpose of having a picnic but added that, although this might be a disadvantage to the Commoner, in this day and age the motorist must be accepted.

   In mentioning that the Conservators had decided to employ three Rangers and the work which they would do, the Chairman referred to the tragic accident that had befallen Ranger Gilbert Day in February last. He said that Gilbert Day had been a Ranger for thirty-five years and his knowledge of the Commoners, the terrain, the laws and the Customs of the Forest had seldom been equalled and his death was a great loss to all concerned.

   The Chairman reported that last Spring clumps of trees which had been planted during the last 15 Months had been cleared of undergrowth and replanted where necessary, and many dead birch and pine trees had been cut and cleared away. He estimated that during the Spring of this year no less than 120 dead pines had been felled and sawn. This work, which it was intended should continue, had been speeded considerably by the chain saw which The Friends of Ashdown [Forest] had so kindly given the Conservators.

   With regard to shooting rights on the Forest the Chairman pointed out that these were in the hands of the Lord of the Manor, only he being able to grant licences to shoot. The Chairman said he mentioned this as there had been an increase in the number of unauthorized persons found on the Forest with guns, and this winter instructions had been given to the Rangers to be particularly vigilant.

   He went on to say that Commoners may have noticed a number of new boards on the Forest pointing out some of the important bye-laws, such as “no shooting; “no removal of earth”, etc. and would be interested to know that these boards had been supplied free of charge by Mr. Neal of Leggs Heath.

   The Chairman concluded his remarks by saying he hoped that with three Rangers to Patrol and work on the Forest it would be possible during the coming year to preserve and maintain the Forest as the Commoners wanted it kept, and he trusted that they would give the Board and the Rangers their full co-operation.

The Chairman then declared the meeting open and the following points were raised:
(a) The Clerk explained that on occasion he had given permission for people who lived in very narrow roads to park their cars on the Forest verge curing the day, but he stipulated that these cars must be put in their garages at night.

(b) Mr. Derek Evett asked if the meeting could be informed as to the outcome of the decision of the Conservators regarding the proposed motorcycle scrambles, and the Chairman replied that at the Conservators’ meeting held at 6 O’clock it had been decided to refuse the application.

(c) The question was raised regarding a war-time weapons dump at Nutley recreation ground, which was now full of rubbish, and a request was made that this be filled in and levelled. In answer to the Clerk’s question as to whether the dump constituted a danger, a Commoner replied that it was approximately 15 ft, across and 3 to 4 ft, deep. The Chairman said he would meet Ranger Branagan on the site and ascertain what could be done about filling in and levelling.

(d) Mr. Derek Evett said he would like to thank the Conservators and the Clerk for the very efficient way in which the Forest was now being looked after. He said he felt the Chairman had “put a new spirit into the Forest” and, as secretary of The Friends of Ashdown Forest he would like to thank him.

The Commoners’ Meeting for 1964 was arranged for Wednesday, October 7th at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked all those who had attended the Meeting and introduced the two new Rangers, Lancelot Branagan and Peter Rogers.

There being no further business the Meeting was Concluded.

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Minutes of Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 18th December, 1963 at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. J.H. Drew, Mr. R.F.J. Brooks, Mr. W. Gilham, Major R.E.W. Grubb, Col. J.H.B. Lowe, Mrs. J.M. Ridley, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Mr. F.B. Cornwall, Major B.T. Richards, C. Frith, Sir William Garrett.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Col. Sir Ralph Clarke, K.B.E., A.K.L. Harway, T.M. Shelford, Brig. L.M. Scott, E.W. Pye, Mrs. Looker had been in ill health and unable to write to make her apology.

2. The Minutes of the last Meeting, as printed and circulated were confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising:

(a) Application for car park at Fairwarp Village Hall. The clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Chairman of the Management Committee of the Fairwarp Village Hall, in which he stated that he would be contacting the Board of Conservators again, as soon as the cost of preparing the site was settled, and the availability of grant towards the cost, was known.

(b) Loan to Chingford Borough Council. The Clerk reported that the £700 loaned to the Chingford Borough Council had been re-called and paid into the General Account, with interest.

4. Forest Clumps. The Chairman reported the urgency of the need for fencing the young trees. He stated that there was no point in re-planting the Clumps without fencing, as the sheep would eat the young trees, and in fact had eaten this year’s growth. “Gills Lap” in particular needed immediate fencing, and “Greenwood Gate”. The Chairman requested authority from the Board to purchase the barbed wire for the fencing. Resolved that 2 miles of barbed wire be purchased, but only one mile to start with, and progress report made on the first mile, the second mile to be purchased if and when required.

5. Rangers’ Reports. The Clerk read reports from each Ranger. Ranger Stockley reported as follows:

“We have been patrolling the Forest and reporting.
I have shot 11 crows on the Forest. I believe Mr. Cranfield has shot same too.
We have cleared and planted clumps on the Forest at

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of trees planted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gunhall Toll</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wych Cross</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Crows Nest  Number of trees planted  101
Greenwood Gate  Number of trees planted  100
Millbrook  (Some self generated)  13 Large

The sheep have eaten young trees at Greenwood Gate. These clumps need fencing, all of these trees have been lifted near the Club house in rough on the 18th fairway. The crossing of the fairway from cars and tradesman from bank cottages and farm is badly cut up, some users have been avoiding this and crossing at any convenient place. We believe this is not stopped”.

Ranger Branagan reported as follows:

The following items of work were carried out by all three Rangers.

Roads – During October several blind corners and bends on Council Roads through the forest were cleared of brush and bracken in the interest of public safety. Several patches of old burnt gorse were cleared and all rubbish burnt on site.

Clumps – The clearing and replanting of clumps began in November. These clumps are approx. ¼ acre in extend inside surrounding banks -about 1260 sq. yards, with a circumference of 130 yards. With an outside fire-break about 24 feet in width, the area to clear is ½ acre - about 2460 sq. yards. Some were heavily overgrown with bracken, gorse and saplings. In cutting a new fire-break over Payne’s Hill, with side branches a contractor’s machine was used to splendid advantage, completing the work in a few hours that would have taken the three Rangers from 7 to 10 days, working to exclusion of all other duties to complete. Miscellaneous – To carry out more maintenance and improvement work, patrols in this period were some what reduced. Traffic and parking were controlled as necessary. Army officers with troop trainees, very kindly agreed to keep transport vehicles within prescribed limits. Gypsies, Campers, Cyclists, and shooting parties etc. were interrogated, and/or moved on if necessary. Several queries regarding rating assessments were cleared up. Horse riding tracks were checked and re-marked. Contractors on Council road works were followed up by inspections. During wet weather in November, (prohibiting outside work) various jobs were carried out at Cherry Orchard Depot, under very cramped conditions. The great need was again evident for more space, a strong work bench with a vice, and tools for repair work. Litter baskets were repaired, and fire-brooms and crow traps were made. The Rangers’ truck received a regular week-end overhaul and check-up. Motor-cycles were kept in as good as possible condition. Local November Bonfire celebration sites were attended before, during and after November 5th. General conditions remain satisfactory.

Ranger Rogers reported as follows:

I have been assisting the other Rangers in the usual duties required, which included the moving of gypsies with two caravans between Duddleswell and Fairwarp. I also had the occasion to caution the local milk delivery man driving his vehicle across the Fairways on Ashdown Golf Course. It was considered essential if we are to further the continuation of what is known as the Clumps on the Forest that they were to be cleared of all dead and burnt Scotch Fir trees and other undergrowth. Therefore with the aid of the power saw we have felled in the "Millbrook" clump and surrounding area alone, over 100 derelict trees. The Wych Cross clump, which was badly overgrown with birch has now been cleared, plus 34 Scotch Fir trees south of the A22 road. Crows Nest clump, Greenhall Toll, and clumps near the Lodge have also been cleared of all dead and dangerously laying trees. At the request of the East Sussex Naturalist Society we have felled all the birch standing at Lavender Platt bog.

I would like to add how impressed I have been by the fact that how much more efficiently we could not only maintain the Forest, but improve it, with more machinery available. On several occasions we have been dictated by ground conditions being unable to get in on the Forest with the van loaded with young trees for re-planting, with a tractor available this would have presented no problem. Also the desirability of being able to cut our fire-breaks when and where the opportunity arises, does seem to me essential.

6. Chairman’s Report. The Chairman reported that a great many trees had been planted in the last three months and he stated that he would like to continue. He thought consideration might be given to a new Clump situated between Wych Cross and Chelwood Gate and suggested that it might be called "The President Kennedy Clump". No clump had been planted in that area in living memory and he pointed out that it was a site which afforded an excellent view. It was in a commanding position, and the Chairman recalled that it was only last July that the President went down that very road to Birch Grove. The Chairman also stated that approval would have to be obtained from the Lord of the Manor. Sir William Garrett suggested that if a decision was made to plant the new clump, a letter could be written to the Mayor of Boston, the birthplace of President Kennedy, and it might be possible that the Mayor of Boston would donate young trees in commemoration; the soil in New England being
similar to the site considered, the trees should grow successfully. The Clerk was instructed to consult the Forestry Commission to ascertain which trees would be most suitable for the soil, and to discover whether the Commoners would have any objection. It was Resolved that the matter would be investigated further. The Chairman also reported that it was necessary that a number of concrete posts be available to block the passage of vehicles going more than 15 yards from the road. Provided that the materials were available, the Rangers could make them.

It was Resolved that 20 concrete posts be made.

The Friends of Ashdown Forest had informed the Chairman that £300 would be available during 1964 for the widening Fire-breaks, for which the Chairman expressed great appreciation.

The Chairman stated that work would start shortly on re-cutting the old fire-breaks, and the £250 allowed in the Estimates for 1964 would be allocated for the purpose. He further stated that it was not anticipated that any new breaks would be made except around the Forest Clumps.

The Chairman reported that the Friends of Ashdown Forest had allocated £50 for new litter baskets, and would like consideration to be given to a new type, which had a disposable sack. This such would save the Rangers a great deal of time normally spent cm disposal of litter, and he suggested that the Eastbourne Road would be the most suitable place for their erection.

It was Resolved that the matter be investigated further.

7. Finance. The Clark stated that the Bank Balances were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£619.13.7d. Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>80.4.7d. Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>146.6.1d. Cr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Clerk presented the following accounts for payment.

Raymond Wells, Osborne & Co.  Accountancy fees for 1963. £31.10.0.
Clerk’s salary  For December quarter 100.0.0.
Kennard Bros. (Rotherfield) Ltd. Return of Deposit 10.0.0.
J.H. Tyler (Forest Row) Ltd. Return of Deposit 20.0.0.
Petty Cash Balance required to bring to float total of £160 13.13.11.

Resolved that the above cheques be duly signed.

The Clerk stated that the monies received as and from the 17th July, 1963, were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates for 1963</td>
<td>380.6.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrears of Rates</td>
<td>11.15.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgment rents</td>
<td>23.12.9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgment rent arrears</td>
<td>2.13.0.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

£418.7.3d.

The amount of rates and arrears outstanding were £77.7.0d.

Acknowledgment rent and arrears outstanding £33.11.10d.

The Clerk stated that he hoped to reduce those arrears considerably before the end of the Financial year 31st December, 1963.
The Clerk requested, that in view of the fact that the next meeting of the Conservators was not until 19th February, 1964 the cheque amounting to £135.9.6d. in favour of the Redhill Motor & Cycle Works Ltd., for the new motor cycle for the third Ranger be signed by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk, so that delivery of the motor cycle could take place on the 1st January, 1964.

Resolved. That in 1964 the Conservators purchase a motor cycle for the use of the third Ranger, and that the Chairman Vice-Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign the cheque amounting to £135.9.6d, for the purpose thereof.

The Clerk stated that on the advice of Messrs. Schroder Wagg & Co. Ltd., in view of the fact that aircraft shares continued to be a weak and uncertain market, the £600 Hawker Siddeley Group 5% Convertible Debenture Stock was sold, and Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. 61/2% Convertible Loan Stock was purchased. The Clerk then read the correspondence which had passed between him and Messrs. Schroder Wagg & Co. Ltd., and produced the contract notes. The advice and consent of the Chairman had been obtained at the time. The Clerk pointed out that the transaction had resulted in a profit to the Conservators of £55.12.1ld. Net.

Resolved. The action of the Chairman and Clerk be confirmed.

8. Manor Trust Ltd. Garage used for vehicles owned by Conservators.

The Clerk requested that in view of the smallness of the amount of rent per annum, i.e. 5/-, payment could be made through Petty Cash.

Resolved unanimously that payment of rent to Manor Trust Ltd., for the Garage, be made through Petty Cash.

9. Confirmation of dates for Hire of Village Hall.

Acceptance was made for Meetings of Conservators in 1964 as follows:

- February 19th.
- April 15th.
- June 17th.
- October 7th. 2.30 p.m.
- October 7th. 8.00 p.m. Commoners.
- December 16th.

10. The Clerk reported that confirmation of the Forest Rate for 1964. had been received from the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

11. Any other Business. The Clerk reported that he had been notified that Lord de la Warr had decided to hand over the Lord of the Manor to his son Viscount Buckhurst as from 1st January, 1964. The Steward acting for the now Lord of the Manor would be Mr. James Buckley, of Messrs. MacFarlane and Company, Solicitors. The Clerk further stated that he had corresponded with Mr. Buckley and hoped to meet him very shortly.

There being no other business it was moved that the Board go into Committee.

The Clerk expressed his wish to bring to the notice of the Board of Conservators the urgent need for a Workshop/garage. He pointed out that the work of the Forest was increasing a great deal, that never before had three really good Rangers been employed. Some time ago the Secretary of the Friends of Ashdown Forest and the Clerk had agreed that the work normally carried out by Mr. Clarke could be done by the Rangers, if the Friends of Ashdown Forest purchased a tractor and Forage Harvester machine, unfortunately there was no place at present where the machines or equipment could be kept, or maintenance work carried out. The Clerk stressed that what was needed was a Depot, where the Rangers could work in wet weather, and which could garage the machines such as a harvester, tractor, etc. One part of this Depot to be the Workshop for the Rangers, containing a work bench and Vice. Storage space would also be necessary for wire netting, barbed wire, and fencing etc. The Clerk requested that enquiries be made for a suitable site, to be large enough to incorporate a cottage, which might be built at some future date to house a Ranger. It was agreed that the matter would be investigated.

The Board then came out of Committee. There being no further business the Meeting was concluded.
Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, the 19th February. 1964

Present: Mr. J.H. Drew, Mr. R.P.J. Brooke, Mr. W. Gilham, Major R.E.W. Grubb, Col. J.H.B. Lowe, Mrs. U.M. Ridley, Mr. A.C. Wolfson, Mr. F.B. Cornwell, Major B.T. Richards, Mr. C. Frith, Mr. B.W. Pye, Brig. L.M. Scott, Sir William Garrett, Col. Sir Ralph Clarke, K.B.E., T.D., D.L., Mr. A.S. Cottingham, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey.

Before the commencement of business the Clerk reported with deep regret, the death of Mrs. S.M. Looker who for several years had been a Member of the Board, and who had been a Commoner, and had taken great interest in the affairs of the Forest. The Clerk had taken upon himself to purchase a wreath on behalf of the Members of the Board, and read a letter of thanks from the daughter of Mrs. Looker.

Members of the Board stood in silence for a short period as a tribute to the memory of Mrs. Looker.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. H.T. Innes and Mr. T.M. Shelford.

2. (a) Election of Chairman.
The Clerk called for nominations for Chairman for the ensuing year. Mr. J.H. Drew was proposed for re-election by Sir Ralph Clarke, who spoke highly of the work carried out by Mr. Drew in the past year. Mr. A.K.L. Harvey seconded, there being no other nominations the proposal was put to the vote and carried unanimously. Mr. Drew then took the Chair, and thanked Members for re-electing him and said that he would endeavour next year to go on with the good work.

(b) Election of Vice-Chairman.
The Chairman called for nominations for Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. Mr. Brooke proposed the re-election of Sir William Garrett and Sir Ralph Clarke seconded, there being no other nominations, the proposal was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

(c) Election of Forest Row Committee.
It was resolved that the Members be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Col. J.H. Lowe and Major R.H.W. Grubb.

(d) Election of Maresfield Committee.
It was resolved that the Members be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board. Messrs. A.K.L. Harvey, W. Gillham and F.J. Cornwall.

(e) Special Purposes Committee.
It was resolved that the Members be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs. C. Frith, T.K. Shelford, Sir Ralph Clarke and Col. J.H. Lowe and the Chairmen of the Maresfield and Forest Row Committees.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were confirmed and signed.

4. Matters arising:
(a) Forest Clumps. The Clerk reported that one mile of barbed wire has been used to fence in the clumps but a further 1½ clumps had been posted up, but not wired.

Resolved. That purchase should be made of a further mile of barbed wise.

(b) President Kennedy Clump. The Chairman spoke of the difficulties in finding a suitable site, the main problem being that of a site with sufficient top soil, and after discussion with the Forestry Commission, the site most favourable to suit all requirements would be that between Gale and Wych Cross. He stated that the Lord of the Manor had agreed to the planting of the clump, and had asked the Chairman to inform the Board that he would be prepared to bear the major cost of planting, cultivating and fencing this clump. A discussion then followed on the type of tree to be planted, and the width and shape of the clump.
Resolved. That the site for the President Kennedy Clump be situated between Gale and Wych Cross, to be planted with Scotch Pine, 50% of which should be 4' when purchased, and all trees to be staked. The clump to be 25 to 30 yards in diameter, the clump being circular in shape.

(c) New Motor Cycle for Rangers. The Clerk reported that the new motor cycle had been purchased for the total sum of £135.9.6d. and was now in use by the Rangers.

(d) Taken in Committee, and reported at end of Minutes.

5. Public School Field Days on Ashdown Forest. The Clerk reported the growing number of requests for the use of the Forest for Field Day events, for which in the past he had given consent, because apart from an isolated letter of complaint, the Forest had not been damaged in any way, nor had the Field days caused any annoyance. The Clerk read letters he had also received, requesting use of the Forest for Dog tracking events and Dog Trials. As the shortage of suitable open spaces became more acute, he envisaged that more request for the use of the Forest would be made, and as long as the Forest continued to be undisturbed, he could see no reason for any objection, provided as in the case of Field Days, the schools making the requests were within a comparatively local area, i.e. between Ardingly and Tonbridge, so that the demand should not become too great. As a Ranger had to be present at these events, he considered that a charge should be made to the various Authorities and Societies. It was RESOLVED that a fee of £5.5.0d., be charged, in each instance, permission to use the Forest to be at the Clerk’s discretion.

6. Rating Assessment on Garage. The Clerk reported that a Rating Assessment on the Garage at Cherry Orchard had been received. £18 gross, and £10 rateable. As the garage had not letting value whatsoever, he considered this excessive, and had notified the Valuation Officer, of his appeal. The Board expressed their approval of the action taken by the Clerk.

7. Letter from the Clerk to Cuckfield R.D.C, on the Conservators’ Revenue
The Clerk read to the Board the following letter from the Clerk of Cuckfield Rural District Council:
““My Council have considered the estimate of the Conservators’ expenditure in 1964 and have noted the considerable increase in expected expenditure.

My Council have notified the County Council that for 1964 they are prepared to pay their contribution amounting to one tenth of the Conservators expenditure but my Council ask that the Conservators should give careful consideration to all possible ways of increasing their revenue and particularly by increasing the charges which they make for wayleaves for various purposes across the Forest.””

The Clerk then read to the Board his reply:

“Thank you for your letter of the 17th instant, which I will place before the Conservators at their next meeting in February. I think perhaps I should mention, however, that the only methods of increasing the Conservators’ income are:

1. By increasing the Forest Rate.
2. By increasing acknowledgment rents, or payment for wayleaves.
3. By making car parks on Ashdown Forest and charging for admission.

The acknowledgment rents were doubled about ten years ago. These rents are payable for the right to make up an existing grass track into a roadway at the Licensee’s own expense, or the right to lay public services, including telephone wires under the Forest at the Licensee’s own expense, or at the expense of the Government Department concerned. In some cases these rents are quite considerable, and bearing in the mind that according to the Law, the Licensee has to pay an equivalent rent to the Lord of the Manor, it constitutes quite a heavy extra burden on the owner of the property. If the property is in a very favourable position this is probably already taken into account by the Rural District Council, and the Valuation Officer, in assessing the property to General Rate.

The Conservators have from time to time considered the question of car parks, but I think I can say that the County Planning Officer and the County Surveyor are not in favour of the collection of large number of motor vehicles at points on the main traffic highways which cross the Forest, as these obviously would cause other problems in themselves. I will write to you again after the next Committee Meeting”. The Clerk stated that no doubt the Cuckfield R.D.C. would be pleased that additional revenue would be achieved by the fees to be charged
for the request for the use of Ashdown Forest, as item 5, but that he was averse to the increase of in charges in respect of wayleaves, as he considered that in some cases, for example that a road way, the rent payable to the Conservators and the Lord of the Manor, was quite a considerable amount each year, and if increased he anticipated many justifiable complaints. He stated however, that he was quite prepared to contact other Authorities, i.e. Epping Forest and the New Forest, so that comparison of charges could be made.

The Chairman stated that the Clerk in his letter had covered the main points most adequately, and the meeting generally agreed.

8. Rangers’ Reports. The Clerk read to the Board reports received from the Rangers, as follows:

**Ranger Stockley.** Patrolling Forest and reporting. Clearing up litter. Collecting arrears of Forest Rates. 2 caravans on Forest at Fairwarp, Kingstanding, and again on the Crowborough, Nutley Road, at each of these we told the owners this was not permitted. On the 21st January, I went with the police to get their correct names, after being told by Mr. Williams that we should prosecute them. On arrival at site they had gone. After taking police advice, (we may not have these men’s names right) it was decided to take this in hand should these people come back again, and at once. Since the last meeting of the Conservators’ and winter months we have been working together and are each making reports on different aspects of our work. Myself, fencing at clumps near Broadstone Warren, Crows Nest, The Lodge, Greenwood Gate, posts and stakes at Wych Cross. Making fire beaters and putting in roadside stands”.

**Ranger Branagan.** “In addition to work on various other sections of Forest maintenance, considerable progress has been made recently in improving fire-breaks. Existing ones have been widened to approx. 30 feet where possible, corners have been straightened out, and access from Council roads to all breaks has been improved, to expedite arrival at any trouble spot. New breaks are being made in all areas where unopened Forest is somewhat too large for safety or convenient approach. To date, areas dealt with, and in some cases completed, are:- Wych Cross, Isle of Thorns, Vatchery, Millbrook, east and west of A.22; north and south sides of Nutley/Crowborough road, Kidds Hill, Camp Hill north to Hartfield Road, King’s Standing to Crow’s Nest, and Greenwood Gate, Gill’s Lap to Wren’s Warren. A large circle has also been cleared immediately north of Birch Grove for a prospective Kennedy Memorial Clump. Existing clumps are having wide breaks cut around them. A contractor’s Forest Harvester machine has been used throughout with excellent results. Rangers have been in attendance, removing stones and rocks, or marking those too large to move without a crane, and rooting out stumps from previous cuttings. All these constructions are potential dangers to the flails of the Harvester machine. Banks are being removed, and holes and ditches filled as necessary to enable machine to complete a proposed cutting”.

**Ranger Rogers.** “Apart from the usual duties, my main concern has been the felling of dead trees on the Forest. 120 have been felled in the Greenwood Gate Lodge area, also the Kidds Hill area is now cleared. We have now started in 500 Acre Wood valley in which there must be several hundred need felling. We have found it necessary to use the van, rather than a motor bike for weekend patrolling to collect the vast amount of rubbish dumped by the public on the Forest, to find old beds, mattresses and the kitchen sink is a common occurrence”.

9. Chairman’s Report. The Chairman stated that 6 miles of new fire breaks had been cut, and the widening of old fire breaks had been carried out to a considerable extent. He hoped to have an aerial photograph taken, so that the firebreaks could be accurately mapped. The Chairman spoke of his meeting with Lord Buckhurst, who stated that he would be attending the meeting of the Board on April 15th. Lord Buckhurst had expressed great interest in the firebreaks and proposed taking a great interest in the Forest in the future. The Lord of the Manor had stated that he intended to survey the whole of the common waste, and whilst the Chairman thought that no doubt there would be a certain amount of dispute about which is Forest and which is common waste, we could reply on the Award map for complete accuracy. The Chairman then spoke of the necessity in the future for the Rangers to do more patrolling. In the past they been carrying out a great deal of manual work, so that it could not be anticipated that so many reports could be made of progress done. The Chairman brought to the attention of the Board the fact that some fire breaks come very close to the roads, and that it would be necessary to erect posts to stop cars crossing off the roads and going into the fire breaks. These posts could be made up by the Rangers. It was RESOLVED that posts be placed where necessary. The Chairman proposed that two pairs of cutters be purchased for cutting gorse and it was RESOLVED that purchase be made of two cutters at £5.12.6d. each

10. FINANCE. The Clerk stated that the Bank Balances were as follows:
The Clerk presented the following accounts for payment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clerk’s salary</td>
<td>£200.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin’s Garages, Petrol account</td>
<td>13.0.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. &amp; E. Waters</td>
<td>5.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giles (Crawley) Ltd</td>
<td>18.2.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty cash account, Balance</td>
<td>£160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£210.0.0.</td>
<td>£464.16.7.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resolved that the above cheques be duly signed.

Monies received as from 18th December, 1963:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest rates 1963</td>
<td>17.12.9d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrears of Rates</td>
<td>27.14.6d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgment rents</td>
<td>250.19.9d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgment rent arrears</td>
<td>12.17.6d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£309.4.3d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amount of rate arrears outstanding: 32.0.0d.
Amount of acknowledgment rents outstanding (1963) 28.7.10d.

£60.7.10d.

The Clerk pointed out that the Petty Cash Account was in debit owing to large cheques having been drawn, one in payment for three jackets for the Rangers, and the other in respect of the tax for the van.

The Clerk requested that owing to the increase in the Wages account, as there are now three Rangers employed, the transfer from General Account to wages, at present £148, be increased to £172, and a RESOLUTION was passed to this effect.

The Clerk then pointed out to the Board, that owing to the difference in financial years, i.e. that of that Board of Conservators commencing on January 1st, and that of the Local Authorities on April 1st, no payment could be received until after April from Local Authorities, and with rising costs of running the Forest, and the revenue being received at irregular intervals, the commencement of the financial year of the Board of Conservators would always be a difficult period.

RESOLVED that a permanent overdraft of up £500 be incurred.

The Clerk stated that unfortunately the Accounts were not ready for presentation to the Board, but that they would be ready by the end of February. He therefore requested that a special meeting be held on the 18th March, for the presentation of Accounts. He stated that the Chairman would like to take advantage of this Meeting, to be held at Shepherd’s Gate, so that following the approval of the accounts he could take the Members of the Board on a tour of the Forest to see what had been achieved. Invitations to be extended to Clerks of the Councils who have interest in the Forest, and Members of the Friends of Ashdown Forest.

RESOLVED that a special meeting be held at Shepherd’s Gate, Coleman’s Hatch, at 2.30 p.m., Wednesday 18th March, 1964.
11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Pole, and spoke of a donation Mr. Pole had made of £4.15.0d. The Board approved the suggestion of the Clerk that the donation be spent on the purchase of litter baskets. The Clerk then drew attention to the samples of litter baskets and requested that the Board decide which type should be purchased. After due discussion, it was RESOLVED that 10 litter basket holders and 200 sacks be purchased from Messrs. Reed Hideway Ltd., at a cost £21.10.5d., the holders and sacks to be placed at intervals between Forest Row and Nutley, to await further purchase after success or otherwise is known of the new type.

The Board then went into Committee.

The Clerk stated that he had received notification from the Rangers that four old age pensioners who were genuine hardship cases had been unable to pay their Forest Rates for the years 1962 and 1963, and he had taken upon himself to write to the Friends of the Forest for their assistance which they had kindly done, but he felt that this problem would occur again in the future, and the Rangers stated that there are about ten genuine cases of hardship. The Members of Board agreed that if any case of genuine hardship occur again, then the Members of the Board themselves would assist.

**Site for Proposed Workshop.** The Clerk reported that he had made certain enquiries regarding the site for the proposed workshop. He had approached Mr. A.R. Wagg, one of the Trustees of the Manor Charitable Trust, who had stated that he would be prepared to lease half an acre or so of Broadstone Warren, near a cottage known as “Spikey Brown’s”, and further he would be prepared to build a cottage thereon for a Ranger, and include it in the lease. The actual site could be determined by agreement between representatives of the Manor Charitable Trust and the Board of Conservators. Mr. Brooke stated that owing to the cost of an electricity supply to Spikey Brown’s cottage a site near Colemans Hatch would be most suitable, i.e. near the entrance to Broadstone Farm. The Chairman and Members of the Board expressed their deep gratitude for the generous offer and the Clerk was instructed to accept in principle. The Board then went out of Committee. There being no other business, the Meeting was Concluded.
c) Site for proposed Workshop: The Clerk stated that as he was still waiting for further information from Local Authorities and the Mid-Sussex Water Board, he would postpone a discussion on this matter until the next Board Meeting when he hoped favourable and definite information would be to hand.

4. To Approve the Accounts for 1963. – The Clerk took the Accounts and Balance Sheet item by item and it was RESOLVED unanimously that the accounts be approved and adopted.

Proposed by Mr. A.K.L. Harvey and seconded by Mr. R.F.J. Brooke.

5. Superannuation for Rangers: The Clerk read a letter from the East Sussex County Council as follows:

I thank you for your letter dated 24th February, 1964. I confirm that as Ranger Branagan has no previous Local Government service and, therefore, would be unable to complete ten years service before attaining the age of 65 he cannot be subject to the Local Government Superannuation Acts 1937-1953.

With regard to Rangers Stockley and Rogers I assume that they do not work overtime so that their wages would not exceed £14.10.0. a week for more than half the weeks in any period of twelve months. If this is correct they would not be covered by the Certificate of Non-Participation in the State Graduated Pension Scheme under the National Insurance Act 1959, a copy of which I enclosed for you information.

Under these circumstances these two Rangers would continue to participate in the State Graduated Pension Scheme. The superannuation contributions which would be payable by them under the Local Government Superannuation Acts basic wages. In the case of Stockley this would be 10/5d per week (4% of £13) and in the case of Rogers 9/5d. a week (4% of £11.15.0d). The superannuation contributions which would be payable by the Conservators as employers, would be of an equivalent amount, in addition to which they may be liable to pay an equal annual charge of such amount as may be certified by the County Council’s Actuary as being necessary to liquidate any liability imposed on the County Council’s Superannuation Fund by the admission thereto of these two Rangers, mainly on account of their previous employed with the Conservators which would be reckonable as non-contributing service. This question would be referred to the Actuary at the next valuation of the superannuation fund as at 31st March, 1964. To enable these two rangers to participate in the County Council’s Superannuation Fund it would be necessary for the Conservators to pass a statutory resolution under section 3(2)(0) of the Act of 1937, specifying these two employees as contributory employees. A statutory resolution as defined by the Act is “a resolution passed in the manner in which an ordinary resolution of the authority may be passed, except that twenty-eight days’ notice of meeting at which the resolution is passed and of the terms of the resolution and of the fact that it is to be proposed at that meeting, must have been given in the manner in which notice for convening ordinary meetings of the authority may be given”. You may consider that resolution in the following terms would be appropriate “That, in accordance with Section 3(2)(0) of the Local Government Act, 1937, the following range be specified as contributory employees:

Frederick Peter Stockley
Peter Alan Rogers”

The County Council’s policy concerning the admission of their manual workers to the superannuation fund is to require each employee to pass a medical examination and this condition is incorporated in the relevant statutory resolution. The Conservators may, therefore, wish to consider whether such condition should be incorporated in any statutory resolution they may pass in relation to these two Rangers. If so you may consider that the following addition to the suggested resolution would be appropriate: “subject to their passing a medical examination to the satisfaction of the Conservators”.

In the event of the Conservators passing a statutory resolution under Section 3(2)(0) will you please let me have a certified copy, and I would then let you have the necessary forms for completion.

Superannuation contributions would be payable as from the date of the resolution or, if the requirement to pass a medical examination is incorporated in the resolution, as from the commencement of the pay week in which they pass the medical, whichever is the later.

The Clerk stated that due notice would be forwarded to all Members of the Board, twenty eight days prior to the Board Meeting on the 17th June, 1964.
6. Request for permission to erect a Building by Nutley Memorial Pavilion Committee

The Clerk stated that as further information as required, before permission could be requested, he would like to defer this item until the next Board Meeting, when he hoped that the necessary information would be to hand.

7. Rangers’ Reports

**Ranger Stockley.** – Forest Row and Colemans Hatch area. ‘I have been patrolling area, main roads, and reporting, walking boundaries, emptying litter baskets, and clearing up bad litter. Fixing new sack holders on A22, Eastbourne Road, animals have been troublesome at these. 54 new concrete posts have been made. We are at present digging these in as staggered posts, where the public drive in much too far. Horse riding has been troublesome on the golf course, and at other places, on personal and other tracks marked with yellow posts. The fencing at Wych Cross and other clumps have now been completed. During bad weather new notice boards have been made. I have been making late patrols for the purpose of observing any attempts to start fires.”

**Ranger Branagan.**

Work report from Feb 14th 1964, to April 10th 1964.

“Work on firebreaks was continued in early portion of this period. Line of breaks was cleared of stones and stumps, ahead of machine making cutting.

Litter baskets were repaired and replaced in all areas. Posts were made and new type of paper bags for refuse were sited on A22. Litter had increased surprisingly during winter months, including several motor cars, cycles and furniture.

Boundaries have been walked and maps checked.

Patrols were returned to summer routine, and doubled up over weekends. Concrete posts have been made and erected at various entries on to the Forest. Clump at Wych cross and Millbrook have now been fenced. Several problems regarding boundaries and entrance tracks have been settled. Work was stopped occasionally by rain and/or snow.”

**Ranger Rogers.**

“With Rangers Stockley and Branagan I have been walking boundaries of the Forest and checking on any encroachments. In my own area a few minor ones were found, with which I have now dealt. Including the moving of a car on the Forest at Friars Gate, also two at Fairwarp which are being moved shortly.

The erection of the new type litter baskets on the A22, the fencing of Wych Cross and Millbrook clump, and the felling of dead and dangerously lying trees area few of the items dealt with in the usual course of duty.”

8. **Chairman’s Report.** The Chairman states than 50 concrete posts had been made, and a number installed, and were already proving a savings to Rangers’ time.

He regretted that the paper litter containers were not proving the success he had hoped. Squirrels had been making holes in the bottom of the bags to get to the edible waste. He thought therefore, that it would be best to use the paper containers in areas of the Forest where no trees exist, and therefore no squirrels, and replace the paper containers with wire baskets in the wooded areas. The Chairman spoke of the “Yellow Posts” system, which was started a year ago, a system which had been most successful, and he asked the Board's approval to extend the system to Chuck Hatch and the Fairwarp area. It was generally agreed that the Boards would like to take advantage of the Chairman’s offer of a general tour and inspection of the Forest area, which had been postponed in the past owing to inclement weather. The date for this tour to be May 14th. The Chairman reported that there had not been any large Forest fires, but six or seven small fires had been reported particularly in the Fairwarp area.

The Chairman then expressed his appreciation that Lord Buckhurst and his Steward had been able to attend the Meeting, and in reply Lord Buckhurst thanked the Board for permitting both his Steward and himself to attend the Meeting. They would do all possible to help in the affairs of Ashdown Forest in the future.

9. **Finance.** The Clerk stated that the Bank Balances were as follows:

- General Account ₤1,833.15.4d. cr
- Wages Account 32.16.9 cr
- Petty Cash Account 24.3.7 cr

The Clerk presented the following accounts for payment:

- Clerk’s salary June Quarter 200. 0. 0
- Martin’s garages, Petrol Account
etc, March 13.18.11
John G Godfrey Esq. Printing of Minutes 4.17.6
Giles (Crawley) Ltd, 8 reels barbed wire 18.2.0
Petty Cash Account Balance require to bring float to total of £160 135.16.5
£372.14.10

RESOLVED that the above cheque be duly signed.

Monies received as and from 19th February, 1964
Forest Rate, 1964 0.11.6
Forest Rate, 1963 3.16.0
Acknowledgment rents 1964 7.13.3
Acknowledgment rents 1963 8.14.0

Local authorities contributions
East Sussex C C 1686.5.0
Uckfield R D C 250.0.0
East Grinstead U D C 200.0.0

Field Days on Forest 13.0.0
Charge for Notice Boards, etc 2.0.0

2171.19.9

The Clerk reported that the balance in General Account was more than sufficient for the period up to the next Meeting and he considered it would be advisable if the Board agreed to put £1,000 on deposit with the Uckfield Rural District Council, at 4 ½%, 7 days notice. The Chairman proposed that the Clerk should proceed, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Brooke, all Members of the Board voting in favour.

10. Any other business.

Mrs. Ridley asked whether the Conservators could prevent anyone building a house on a site within Ashdown Forest and for which planning permission had been obtained. The Clerk replied that the Conservators could not prevent a private property owner developing his own property, although the Conservators were repeatedly asked to express an opinion, by the Local Planning Authorities, as to whether the Board supported the applicant’s case or the Council’s case in refusing permission.

The Board could however, indicate to the property owner whether a Licence would be granted for the making up of a roadway, and further could point out which roadway would be the subject of a Licence and which would not. There were sites on the Forest which were almost inaccessible, and to make them accessible by a proper roadway, considerable expense would be involved. Furthermore the rights of others living within the Forest, or using these roadway must be considered and protected.

The Clerk suggested that Mrs. Ridley was referring to a site known as Mudbrooks cottage. The Clerk warned the Estate Agents charged with the selling of the property, when it first came on the market, that the Conservators would not necessarily grant a License for the roadway unless it was made up to a high specification, and took a certain route. Considerable difficulty had been experienced with a similar property in the Chuck Hatch area, and the Conservators should be careful to see that this trouble did not occur again.

The Board then went into Committee.

3(b) Scale of Charges by other Forest Authorities
The Clerk reported that he had received letters from the Superintendent of Epping Forest, and the Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest, regarding charges for Licences.

On average it appeared that the Board’s charges for wayleaves etc were either above or keeping pace with the charge made by these other Authorities. The Board agreed unanimously that the charges made by the Conservators should remain as at present. The Board then went out of Committee and there being no further business the Meeting was concluded.
Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 17th June 1964.

Present: Mr J.H. Drew, Sir William Garrett, Mr R.F.J. Brooke, Mr J. Gillham, Mr. W. Gilham, Mr A.C. Wolfson, Brig. L.M. Scott, Mr A.K.L. Harvey, Col. J.H.B. Lowe, Mr. R. Meadmore, Capt. D.H.F. Armstrong, D.S.O., R.D., Mr. S.W. Ellison O.B.E., Mr L.J. Cornwell, Sir Stephen Pierssene.


1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Pye, Mr. Frith, Major Grubb, Mr F B Cornwell and Mrs Ridley.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting as printed and circulated were confirmed and signed.

3. Correspondence. The Clerk read the following letter from Mr. C Frith:

“I am writing to offer my resignation as a Conservator of Ashdown Forest. I am giving up the land that gives me common rights at Michaelmas, so anyway I would cease to be eligible then, and as I have a regular commitment on Wednesday I think it would better to resign now.

I have seen with great satisfaction the aims that I have striven for partly fulfilled and I shall follow the work of the Conservators with the greatest interest and I wish you good hunting in the pursuit of these aims.”

The Clerk stated that he would be writing to Mr Frith to express the gratitude of the Board for all the assistance Mr. Frith had given as a Member of the Board.

Mr Frith had been elected to the Board as a Commoner, and the vacation could only be filled at the next Commoners’ Meeting on October 7th 1964.

4. Matters arising from last Meeting
The Clerk read to the Board the following letter he had received from P.J. Davy Esq., of the “Anchor Inn”, Hartfield, Sussex:

I should like you to bring this letter before the Board at their next Meeting. I wish to register my protest at the decision to charge £5 per day for the use of part of the Forest by responsible public bodies, societies or clubs. Your decision is going to affect detrimentally our business and indirectly the village. As you know for the past few years the southern Alsatian Training Society have held their 3 days Spring and Autumn Championship Trials in this area; using our premises as their headquarters. They are now seriously considering going elsewhere in view of the charge for using part of the Forest.

As we accommodate and feed a proportion of the entrants and judges (all food being purchased in the village), as well as providing the necessary liquid refreshment, you can appreciate that the loss of business will be considerable. The aforesaid equally applies to the two day trials by the Metropolitan Police Dogs, which have been also in the habit of using us as a headquarters.

If you really consider that a charge must be made may I suggest a charge of up to £1 a day with a deposit of £5. This to be returnable after an immediate inspection by a Ranger for any possible damage. I stress the work immediate as the Forest is used by many motorists for picnics and as a playground; incidentally free of charge.

The contents of the letter were duly noted by the Board.

(b) Site for proposed workshop. The Clerk reported that he had been negotiating with the Boy Scouts Association and with the Manor Charitable Trustees for a suitable site for the proposed workshop. It has been a matter of concern in the past, that there had been nowhere the Rangers could work. The present depot, only being a portable garage it was very restricted for space, and it was imperative the Rangers had a place to work in the Winter. By very kind permission of the Manor Charitable Trustees a site had been found at Broadstone Warren, which was leased to
the Boy Scouts Association, and the Warden of the Boy Scouts Association had stated that he would raise no objection in a surrender in favour of the Board.

The Clerk read to the Board the following letter he had received from the Association.

My Committee that is concerned in the request made by you on behalf of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest, meets tomorrow (Wednesday 17th June) in the afternoon, so that I cannot give you a firm decision until after then.

However I see no difficulty in regard to the request, more especially since it has the approval of the Manor Trust, and I am recommending that it be approved.

I will confirm this as soon as I can but you may take it that there should be no difficulty in the matter.

A plan of the site was handed to the Member of that Board for their inspection.

The Clerk stated that he had also ascertained from Uckfield R D C that planning permission would be granted for a cottage to be built to house a Ranger at a future date, and the Clerk asked for authorisation to negotiate terms for a lease for the land, and terms for rent per annum.

RESOLVED that the Clerk negotiate terms for the lease and rent per annum of the site at Broadstone Warren.

(c) Request for permission to erect a building, by Nutley Memorial Pavilion Committee. The Clerk regretted that he had been unable to trace information required to proceed with the request, but hoped to have the necessary information available at the next meeting of the Board of Conservators.

(d) Superannuation for Rangers. The Clerk stated that he had received a letter from the East Sussex County Council, with regard to the Superannuation in respect of the new Ranger, this would come into operation after service of one year. Retirement pension to be £157 per annum retirement grant (lump sum) £236. On the commencement wage £11.15.0, the weekly contribution from the new Ranger and the Conservators would be 9s.5d.

5. Appointment of New Ranger. The Clerk stated that a Special Purposes Committee had been held on the 25th May 1964, attended by Sir William Garrett, Mr. Drew and Mr. Brooke, in order to appoint a new Ranger to replace Rangers Rogers who had left the employ of the Board of Conservators on the 15th May, 1954. The Clerk then introduced Mr. L. Arnold, who commenced employment on the 15th June, 1964.

6. Rangers’ Reports

Ranger Stockley – We have been patrolling Ashdown Forest and reporting. Digging in staggered concrete posts on tracks and firebreaks where cars drive in much too far. We have made 4 new notice boards for bye-laws, painted and erected three. We have one at depot. We have re-marked the Forest Row area with white and yellow paint, for and against riding, Re: Ice Cream being sold on Forest roads. I have had to be strict here and see that all four wheels of the vans are off the Forest. On the evening of the 24th of May some ice cream vans were joined by three more vans. Two were selling eggs, and another was selling fruit, all displaying notice. I told them all to leave. Fires on the Forest have not been great this season. Litter has been a problem again this year.

Ranger Branagan – Considerably more patrolling of the Forest has been necessary in this period, although the number of visitors has been less than expected. A large number of concrete posts have been erected at various sites. Many of these were later removed by persons unknown, and have been re-erected. Notice boards have been repaired or replaced by new ones constructed at the Depot at Cherry Orchard. Litter baskets have been placed in several new sites, now covering nearly all spots used for parking. The new paper bags have proved long-lasting in all weathers, and have been well patronised. A pleasantly small amount of stray litter has been dealt with, but it is still somewhat early to credit our visitors with becoming more tidy. Horse tracks on Forest Row golf course have been more clearly defined. Fires occurred during April and May, chiefly in Fairwarp and Wren’s Warren areas. Medium sized trees in King’s Standing clump have been trimmed to secure a better balance of growth. Young trees in clumps at Crow’s Nest and Greengate Toll were cleared of bracken which was retaining their growth. My motor cycle has now passed the Ministry of Transport five year test, and has received considerable repairs both by Redhill Motors and the rider.
7. **Chairman’s Report.** The Chairman stated that since the last meeting in April the most important subject had been the proposed new depot and certain progress had been made. The Chairman wished to report that the Friends of Ashdown Forest had given the Conservators £500 towards the depot building. Originally he had asked for the sum of £250 for the actual building, but bearing in mind that the building has to be placed on proper foundations, a certain amount of hardcore for a road would be required. The Friends very kindly increased their figure to £500 and the Chairman expressed his gratitude for this support. He had guaranteed that should anything stop the Conservators proceeding with this project and the money not be used for this purpose, it would be returned to the Friends. He had no detailed plans of the building as yet, but he had inspected two different types and hoped to submit something more definite at the next Meeting in October.

In referring to the Lord of the Manor expressing a wish to bear the cost of planting the “Kennedy Clump” the Chairman stated that Lord Buckhurst had agreed to the following work being carried out. The area to be retovated to a depth of 2” – 3” and then Mr Jack the Forest Row contractor had very generously offered to try and dump roughly 50 yards of goodish soil there. Sir Harold Samuel had agreed to supply approximately 10 yards of manure to place on the site, and the whole area would then have to be retovated again and left until the Autumn as a suitable tilth in which to plant the trees. The Chairman said that he was at the time engaged in finding out whether he could obtain the right size of Scotch fire and something like five dozen would be required with a view to eventually thinning out in a few years’ time those trees which did not get away to a good start. The fence around the clump would be erected by the Rangers and would be of chestnut posts which could be cut from the forest and the whole would be wired against rabbits. Planting should commence in the middle of October.

The Chairman spoke of the successful tour of the forest on the 14th May, which was attended by a number of members and he hoped the afternoon was profitably spent.

The Clerk stated that on behalf of the Board he would write to the Chairman of the Friends of Ashdown Forest expressing the deep appreciation of the Board for the gift of £500.

8. **Finance.** The Clerk stated that the Bank balances were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£983.16.0 Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>76.7.11 Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>22.9.10 Cr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following accounts to be presented for payment:

- H.F. Kirby, Esq. Return of deposit £5.0.0.
- Messrs. C.B. Clarke Ltd. Account re: the cutting of firebreaks 172.11.0.
- East Sussex Office Printing & stationery (rate receipt books & rate demands) 23.5.11.
- Messrs. Comber & Son. Return of deposit 10.0.0.
- Petty Cash account
- Double float required £320.0.0.
- Plus balance of amount in estimates for firebreaks 77.9.0

Amount to be in hand for further immediate payments to C.B. Clarke Ltd 102.11.0, £713.9.5
The Clerk stated that it would be necessary to double the Petty Cash float in order that payments could be made from Petty Cash until the next meeting in October, 1964, it would also be necessary to increase the float by the balance of the amount in the estimate for firebreaks, and further immediate payments to C.B. Clarke Ltd., as it was anticipated that Messrs. C.B., Clark Ltd., would be, carrying out a considerable amount of work before the next Meeting.

RESOLVED that the above cheques be duly signed

The Clerk then drew the attention of the Board to the fact that there would be insufficient money left in the General Account once the aforementioned cheques had been met. He therefore requested permission to withdraw £500 from the loan of £1000 to Uckfield R.D.C.

RESOLVED that the clerk write to Uckfield R.D.C. requesting the withdrawal of 5500 from the loan of 1000 made to Uckfield R.D.C.

The Clerk then read the following statement.

Monies received from 15th April 1964.

Acknowledgment rents 1961  9.0.6
Cuckfield R.D.C. contribution  322.0.0.
Deposits  15.0.0.
Field days on Forest etc.  18.5.0.
Sale of map  1.0.0
Charge for notice boards  1.10.0.
Donation re: New Depot, from
Friends of Ashdown Forest  500.0.0.

£866.15.6

There being no further business the Meeting was concluded.

The Annual General Meeting of the Commoners duly convened by Notices posted on the principal doors of the Churches of the Parishes and ecclesiastical districts and Post Office to which the Forest extends and by Notices to the members of the Board more than fourteen days prior to this date and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row at 8 p.m.

Present: Messrs. F.B.W. Cornwall, W.D. Gilham, T. Townsend, H. Weeding, Philip Every, E.H. Glover, S. Beckwith, R.J. Glover, J.H. Drew, J.T. Davy, D. Evatt, C.G. Millam, L.J. Branagan, D.Y. French, I.G. French, Mr. Bird, Mr. Hall, Col. Lowe, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Tattersall Wyler, Mr. & Mrs. Frith, Mr. & Mrs. Langford, Mr. & Mrs. I. St.L. Berkley, Miss A. Lumsden.

The Clerk stated that he would like to draw the attention of the Commoners to the tremendous amount of time and work Mr. Drew had given as Chairman of the Board of Conservators.

The main problems that had to be faced were:
1. Litter
2. Car Parking.
3. Picnickers removing bushes and trees etc.

Terrific strides had been made into the litter problems, and the patrolling of the Forest. The Clerk himself only played a small part in this and the substantial improvement which had taken place in dealing with these problems had occurred over the past two years during Mr. Drew’s office as Chairman. Clumps had been re-planted and restored. Litter baskets had trebled and the three Rangers now in the employ of the Board of Conservators worked largely under his direction. Ashdown Forest now compared most favourably with any other open space. Earlier this year Mr. Drew innovated a new idea and invited the Members of the Board of Conservators and Representatives of the four Councils concerned, on a conducted tour, to see for themselves the firebreaks, and other work that had been carried out, and the tour had been a great success.
A vote of thanks to Mr. Drew was proposed by Mr. Evatt and seconded by Mr. Townsend.

1. **Election of Chairman.** The Clerk called for nominations for a Chairman and Mr. Drew was proposed, seconded and unanimously re-elected.

2. The Clerk then read the Notice Convening the Meeting.

3. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and signed.

4. **Election of Conservators.** The Clerk reported that Mr. C. Frith and Mr. A. E. Cottingham had retired, and Mr. F. B. Cornwell had retired by rotation but offered himself for re-election.

Sir Ralph Clarke had been proposed by Mr. Drew and seconded by Mr. Brooke.

Miss Anne Lumsden had been proposed by Mr. J.R. Owen and seconded by Mr. Townsend.

As there were no other nominations Mr. Cornwell, Miss Lumsden and Sir Ralph Clarke were declared elected.

5. **Nomination of Superintendents for Recreation Grounds.**

Mr. Bird proposed and Mr. Frith seconded and it was RESOLVED unanimously that the Superintendents for last year be re-elected on bloc as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreation Ground</th>
<th>Superintendent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutley</td>
<td>W. Gilham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Row</td>
<td>Col. Lowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coleman’s Hatch</td>
<td>J.H. Drew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairwarp</td>
<td>A.K.L. Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelwood Gate</td>
<td>R.P.J. Brooke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. **General Business.**

a. **Chairman’s Report.** The Chairman stated that last year he had ended his speech by saying that he hoped that with three Rangers now employed they would endeavour to preserve and maintain Ashdown Forest as the Commoners would like it preserved and kept. He believed that during the present year they had done just that. There Clumps had completely re-fenced, two clumps, 6 to 8 trees which were dead had been felled and the clumps re-planted, Greenhill Toll had been re-planted and re-fenced, against the public, sheep and deer. 66 miles in length of firebreaks had been re-cut.

The Chairman expressed his appreciation once again to the Friends of the Forest for their continued major part of the firebreak programme, and supplying litter baskets. A new type of lidded paper basket had been used this year, which had proved most successful, except in the wooded parts of the Forest, where squirrels chewed through the base to get to the litter. Mesh Litter baskets had therefore been transferred to the wooded section of the Forest, and the paper bag type to the more open sections of the Forest.

The Chairman referred to the proposed new Kennedy Clump situated a quarter mile from Wych Cross on the Chelwood Gate road, some 150 yards in. Although the decision was made without the approval of the Commoners, nothing had actually been done, except to clear the area and 2n of top soil had been spread over. The Chairman asked the approval of the Commoners, to the Kennedy Clump being planted with about forty trees, 2' to 3' high, Scotch firs, to be fenced until such time as the trees were able to take care of themselves.

A motion was carried unanimously, as proposed by Mr. Townsend and seconded by Mr. Ellam, that the Clump be planted, and known as the Kennedy Clump, and fenced for a period of seven years only. If however, at the end of the period of seven years the trees had made such little progress that they could be damaged by sheep, deer, etc, then & further extension of time for the fencing to continue could be requested. Mr. Townsend asked the Chairman for an assurance that no clump should be fenced for more than seven years without the consent of the Commoners. The Chairman gave the required assurance.

A planning application had been made for a proposed depot to house the Rangers during the winter months, in order that they could carry out repair work under cover, and to house various machinery the Conservators hoped to purchase in the future. The Friends of Ashdown Forest had very generously donated a sum of £500 towards the
cost of the building to be erected, and the owners of Broadstone Warren, the proposed site of the depot, had agreed to the very small sum of £5 per annum rent.

The Chairman expressed the pleasure that the Board and he himself had received earlier in the year, when Lord Buckhurst, the Lord of the Manor had attended a Meeting. Lord Buckhurst had expressed a keen desire to assist in any way possible. The Chairman spoke of the great success of the firebreaks, fires on the Forest had been few in the year.

Finally the Chairman introduced to the Commoners, Ranger Arnold who replaced Ranger Rogers in June.

6.b. Any other Business. The Clerk informed the Commoners that at the Board Meeting held in the afternoon, a Resolution had been passed that the rate should be increased to 3/6d. for the first acre, and 6d. for each and every acre thereafter. The exception being that any male or female who could prove to the Clerk that he or she was in possession of a National Insurance Retirement or Widows Pension, would pay 6d only, for the first acre.

The Clerk had received an enquiry from Lord Buckhurst whether he could attend a Meeting of the Commoners. The Clerk informed him that this could only be by invitation of the Commoners themselves, and the Clerk requested that the Commoners vote whether they would issue this invitation.

A motion was unanimously passed that Lord and Lady Buckhurst be invited to the next Annual Commoners Meeting. The Clerk stated that revenue had been increased by an amount of £56 due to a charge being made for the use of the Forest by various Societies, i.e. the Society of Model Aircraft and the Southern Alsatian Training Society.

The Clerk reported that there had been a small encroachment by a Mr. D.A. Pegram at Fairwarp, inadvertently, of this he was assured, by the building of a garage. Mr. Pegram had stated that he was perfectly willing to throw back into the Forest a similar strip of land, and pay all costs of conveying this small piece of land to the Lord of the Manor. The Clerk stressed that he was most anxious that the Commoners should report any encroachment that might occur, and which had not been brought to his notice.

Col. Lowe suggested that better facilities be available for cars parking on the Forest., and proposed that certain level areas of the Forest adjacent to high roads should be cleared of scrub to encourage motorists to park. A shallow trench could be made parallel to the road and 15 yards in from it, to prevent motorists trespassing beyond the statutory limits. After a discussion in which one member expressed disapproval of the proposed shallow trench, the proposal was seconded by Mr. Bird. The voting was 19 in favour 5 against, and the motion was therefore carried.

7. Date of Commoners' Meeting for 1965. This was arranged for Tuesday December 14th, 1965 at 6 p.m. at the Village Hall Forest Row.

There being no further business, the Meeting was concluded.

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall Forest Row on Wednesday 7th October, 1964


1. Apologies for Absence - were received from Mr A.K.L. Harvey, Mr, R.P.J, Brooke and Mr. F.B.W. Cornwell.

2. Minutes of the last meeting - as printed and circulated were confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising:
   (a) Proposed Depot - The Clerk stated that since the last meeting when he had, been requested to continue negotiations regarding the proposed site, he had instructed Messrs. R.H. & R. W. Clutton to make the planning application to the Uckfield Rural District Council, and he was awaiting the result. The Boy Scouts Association had informed the Clerk that the Board must accept responsibility for a proportion of the cost of the upkeep of the drive.
leading to the proposed depot, at present in perfect condition, and the Clerk estimated that the proportion would be 50%

**RESOLVED** - that the Board of Conservators accept the responsibility of 50% of maintenance of the drive to the proposed depot.

(b) **Request for permission to erect a Building, by Nutley Memorial Pavilion Committee**

**RESOLVED** - that subject to the consent of the Lord of the Manor and the approval of the Board of the type of building erected, the Board of Conservators would have no objection to a building being erected by the Nutley Memorial Pavilion Committee.

4. **Report of Audit** - The Clerk stated that the Accounts had been audited by the District auditor who had reported as follows:

“In compliance with the statutory requirement I have to report that the audit the accounts of the Conservators and of its officers for the year ended the 31st December 1963 has been completed.

No matters arose at the audit to which it is necessary to direct your attention. My thanks are due to your Clerk and his staff for their courteous assistance during the audit”.

5. **Fairwarp School** - Change of user - The Clerk read the following letter he had received from Mr. Balfour the Steward of the Lord of the Manor.

Re: Fairwarp School Parish of Christ Church Fairwarp

"As you may know the school at Fairwarp has now been closed. This brings various problems up:-

The school was originally conveyed to the Rector and Church wardens of Christ Church Fairwarp, under the School Sites Act 1841. This act provided that where the site ceased to be used for a school, the land should revert to the original owner or his successor. This has now occurred; and the question arises as to the correct way of dealing with the property now. The school stands on Forest land, and was always on part of the manorial waste, which Ashdown Forest comprises. Now that the property has reverted to Lord Buckhurst it still remains manorial waste technically. Lord Buckhurst has indicated that he wishes to deal with this property in a charitable way, and would be prepared to lease the school to the Parochial Church Council on a long lease for a nominal sum. This does in fact present certain technical problems, and it may be necessary to grant a licence on such terms in which the Conservators would join. May I have your views on this?"

After due discussion, a motion proposed from the Chair and seconded by Col. Lowe, was voted unanimously, that the Board of Conservators would wish to concur in doing anything which would assist Lord Buckhurst with his charitable intention regarding the school.

6. **Rangers’ Reports**

**Ranger Stockley**

"Stalls on Millbrook Hill selling fruit and snacks have now been cleared up. Contractors have now cut firebreaks all those growing bracken and undergrowth. Some only growing grass need to be cut. A garage at Fairwarp, an encroachment we believe, has been reported to Mr. Williams.

Litter. This has been a long season, litter is still taking up a lot of the Rangers time keeping the Forest tidy. We have been cutting undergrowth at all clumps on the Forest and the firebreaks around. Trimming bracken and undergrowth on bends and junctions on most roads on Forest, still some more to do.

Collecting Forest Rates

Fire on Forest, during this summer. There have been a number, the control of these has been helped by the firebreaks.

**Ranger Branagan**

Work Report from June 13th, 1964 to October 1st 1964

"Constant patrolling of the Forest has been necessary during this period, with two Rangers on duty at a time in the week-ends. The unusually fine weather brought many extra visitors to the Forest. As the firebreaks were re-opened, it became common to find visitors taking their cars along them, sometimes over half a mile from any road. Very little can be done to stop this penetration beyond Statutory limits, but very obviously much time had to be spent in "winkling out" the offenders, who were, almost invariably, quite good inured about their removal."
Clumps have been cleared of bracken twice during this period to allow newly planted trees freedom for growth. The proposed Kennedy Memorial Clump was marked out in the middle of June, but requires more treatment before planting can take place.

Forest rates were collected during June, July and August. A considerable number of plots have been divided up further, primarily for building development, necessitating re-measurement and allocation of new assessment numbers. Horse riding over the Forest has increased considerably, as have the grumblings from those who do not possess a four-legged nag.

Some minor complaints from Commoners regarding other peoples overgrown hedges, blocked ditches, over-full cesspits etc., were attended to, and settled more or less satisfactorily.

Litter has been less than expected from so many visitors actually on the Forest. Passers through on the main roads appear to be the worst offenders. Occasional heavy dumps of builders rubbish had to be cleared from behind gorse bushes, and other handy hiding places. Litter baskets and bags have been well patronised, and the new paper bags have proved more successful than anticipated. Motor cycle transport has been well maintained, but is showing signs of hardening of the arteries, and general breathlessness, loose and worn sprockets and chains, and considerable piston slap at moderate speeds, due to worn rings and/or a worn cylinder.

Ranger Arnold

My duties for this period have been mainly patrolling the Forest, collecting rates in the Crowborough and Fairwarp areas, and collecting litter of which there seems a great amount due to the long period of fine weather, which has encouraged many people to enjoy the amenities of the Forest at week-ends.

The public have responded to a polite reminder of the litter problem and this has helped, particularly in respect to coach party outings, partaking of refreshment on the Forest. Vendors of ice cream etc, have co-operated by moving off the Forest when asked to do so.

During the last month of this period we have concentrated on freeing the young trees of bracken in the Clumps, and cutting roadside corners.

7. Chairman's Report - Mr. Drew stated that the depot which had already been discussed, had been his main concern in the past months, and the other major work to be carried out before Christmas was the planting of the Kennedy Clump. The ground for the Kennedy Clump had been cleared and about 2" to 3" of top soil spread over the area. The planting would take about forty trees 2 to 3' high. It would have to be decided whether straight lines or concentric circles would be used when planting, and the Chairman distributed illustrations of these methods to each Member of the Board and requested the Board to inform him which system was preferred. By a unanimous decision the circular method of planting was chosen. Mr. Drew stated that the fencing would be carried out by the Rangers before planting took place. The Chairman then referred to an item in the estimates, i.e. the Clerk's salary, a point which he said need not necessarily be discussed for the 1965 estimates, but which he thought must be considered in the future.

The Chairman stated that the Clerk, Mr. Williams, had now served the Board for over ten years and since Mr. Drew had been Chairman he fully realised what a great deal of work Mr. Williams had to do on behalf of the Board, and the calls on his time were always increasing. To give the Board some idea of the clerical work involved, Mr. Drew stated that there were between October 1963 and the 26th August this year, no less than 1,996 letters written or received in connection with the Clerk's job and this worked out on an average of 9 letters for each working day besides 1,200 rate demands and 300 acknowledgment rent demands which had to be sent out. Mr. Drew stated that he very much doubted whether the Clerk's salary of £800 adequately compensated him for his labours, and pointed out to the Board that they must accept in the estimates of 1966 an increase from the £600 Mr. Williams was receiving annually at the moment, as the £600 covered his own salary, his wages to an assistant, the accountancy fees, the supplying of an office and storage space and he estimated that the profit representing the Clerk's time came to not more than £126. The Chairman said that although the clerk had intimated to him that for the coming year he was prepared to leave the figure at £800, he thought that revision in the future must be considered.

8 and 9 Estimate for 1965 and Forest Rate for 1965
The estimates as distributed to the Board, were laid on the table and the Clerk went through them item by item. After due discussion it was RESOLVED that the wages of the Rangers be increased by £1 per week, commencing 1\textsuperscript{st} January, 1965, the figures on the estimates to read:

- Ranger Stockley  £765
- Ranger Branagan  £697
- Ranger Arnold   £697

In view of the increase in the estimated expenditure for 1965 it was RESOLVED that the Forest Rate be increased to 3/6d. for the first acre and 6d. for each and every acre thereafter. The exception being any male or female who could prove to the Clerk that he or she was in possession of a National Insurance Retirement Pension, or Widows pension, would pay 6d. only for the first acre. The total of the additional Rate Income on the estimates to read £171 and the total to read £3422.

A motion to accept the amended estimates, as set out above was proposed by Mr. Ellison and seconded by Sir William Garrett, and carried unanimously.

10. Finance - The Clerk stated that the Bank Balances were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>£645.2.4 Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Account</td>
<td>162.3.9 Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash Account</td>
<td>309.10.7 Cr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following accounts to be presented for payment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.A. Williams Salary</td>
<td>£200.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harper Eede Ltd. Return</td>
<td>5.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poulters &amp; Simmons Return</td>
<td>10.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitley Hughes &amp; Luscombe</td>
<td>4.4.0.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Clerk drew the attention of the Board to the cheque in favour of Messrs. Whitley Hughes and Luscombe amounting to £4.4.0d., in respect of services rendered in connection with the defence of two Forest Rangers to an assault summons issued by a Mr. Hamilton. The two Rangers, Mr. Stockley and Mr. Arnold, had requested Mr. Hamilton to remove his stall from land presumed to be Forest. The Police were called in as a result of the ensuing argument and the Police brought a case against this Mr. Hamilton on a separate charge. Mr. Hamilton brought the summons for assault against the two Rangers but the case was dismissed, no costs being awarded. Mr Williams stated that the Rangers had only carried out their duties in informing Mr. Hamilton that he must remove his stall.

It was RESOLVED that the aforementioned cheques be duly signed.

Moneys received from 17/6/64

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>£356.1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rates Arrears</td>
<td>14.9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments Rents</td>
<td>32.2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments Rents Arrears</td>
<td>3.4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
<td>25.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Days on Forest, etc.</td>
<td>25.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charge for Notice Boards</td>
<td>1.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return of part loan- Uckfield R.D.C.</td>
<td>500.0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest thereon</td>
<td>4.7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on remaining £500</td>
<td>3.14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refund of Income Tax</td>
<td>53.14.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. Any other Business - The Clerk reported that there had been a minor encroachment on the Forest, by a Mr. D.A. Pegram, at "Little Foxes", Fairwarp, by utilising a small strip of Ashdown Forest when his garage was built. The Clerk pointed out that this had not been a deliberate error, and he stated that he had been Mr. Pegram and discussed the matter and Mr. Pegram was only too willing to throw back into the Forest another part of his land, equal to the strip taken by his garage. The Clerk had also informed Mr Pegram that he would have to pay the costs of conveying this small piece of land, to the Lord of the Manor.

RESOLVED. That the Board accept the offer of Mr. Pegram to throw back into the Forest a similar piece of land to replace that taken in error and to pay all costs. There being no further business the Meeting was concluded.

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday, 16th December, 1964

Present: Capt. D.H.F. Armstrong, Mr. R.P.J. Brooke, Mr. F.B. Cornwall, Mr. J.W. Drew, Sir William Garrett, Mr. W. Gilham, Col. J.H.B. Lowe, Mr. F. Meadmore, Sir Stephen Pierseene, Mrs. U.M. Ridley, Brigd. L.M. Scott, Mr. A.C. Wolfson.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. L.J. Cornwall, Mr. E.W. Ellison, Major B. Grubb and Mr. A.K.L. Harvey

2. Minutes of the last Meeting having been circulated, were taken as read and approved.

3. Matters arising:
   (a) Depot: The Clerk reported that he had received no further information from the Uckfield Rural District Council.
   (b) Kennedy Clump: The Chairman reported that the site selected had been planted by the Rangers with Scotch firs. Sir Harold Samuel had kindly given two loads of farmyard manure and the cost of protecting the trees with wire netting was being borne by the Lord of the Manor, to whom he would like to express the Conservators' thanks. The only item still not completed was the Memorial. It had been suggested by the Clerk that the wording of this should be as follows:

   “These trees were planted in 1964 to commemorate the visit made to Ashdown Forest the previous year by John F Kennedy, President of the United States of America.”

   and he personally felt that this was an excellent simple inscription which would be hard to improve on. After discussion it was unanimously RESOLVED that this inscription be adopted, and the Clerk was requested to obtain estimates for a stone plaque bearing this notice.

   (c) Forest Rate: The Clerk reported that the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had approved the increase in the rate to 3/6 for the first acre, but did not approve any clause remitting payment by a person in receipt of a Retirement or Widow's pension unless he was satisfied that the Board had legal power, to remit the rate, or part of it. The Clerk advised that the Board had no power to remit rates, and, after dissuasion, it was RESOLVED that the rate be 3/6. for the first acre and 6d. for each acre thereafter. The Clerk was further instructed to report any cases of hardship.

4. Game Mirrors: The Clerk reported on correspondence with the Surveyor of the County Council, who had suggested that game mirrors might be placed along the A.22 to prevent accidents to wild animals at night by passing cars. The matter was considered and the Clerk was instructed to inform the County Surveyor that Board would have no objection in principle, and that it would like to be consulted again before the mirrors were placed in position.

5. Lay-byes on A275: The Clerk reported correspondence with the County Surveyor in which the Surveyor had stated that a programme of constructing Lay-byes within the County of East Sussex was being prepared by the County Council, but priority would be given to public service vehicles.
6. **Commoners’ Meeting:** The Chairman made a brief report on the Commoners’ meeting which had been held on the 7th October. He told the Board that Miss Lumsden and Sir Ralph Clarke had been elected to serve as from the 1st January, 1965 in place of Mr. Frith and Mr. Cottingham, who had retired. He also reported that the Commoners had unanimously approved of the Kennedy Clump.

7. **The Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club:** The Clerk reported that the licence to the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club had expired in 1963 and was, therefore, due for renewal. The rent paid under the previous licence was £80.1.0. annually and, in addition, a sum of £7.18.0. was paid to the Conservators in respect of separate licences for notice boards, roadways, etc. The Clerk read out a letter he had received from Messrs Pearless, de Rougemont & Co., solicitors for the Club, in which they offered to £150 per annum. After discussion it was RESOLVED that the Club be granted a licence for twenty-one years at an annual rental of £150 per annum, the licence to include a clause to the effect that the rental would be reviewed every five years, and that the sum of £150 be in addition to the sum of £7.18.0.

8. **Colemans Hatch Cricket Club:** The Clerk reported a request by the Club to build a new Cricket Pavilion in place of the old Pavilion which was very dilapidated. A plan of the proposed pavilion was produced, shown to Members of the Board and to Mr. Grimston, as the Lord of the Manor’s representative and set with approval. It was RESOLVED that permission to build the new Pavilion be granted.

9. **Rangers’ Reports**
   **Ranger Stockley**
   We have been patrolling and reporting and keeping the Forest tidy; trimming at had bends and junctions - at present these are cut annually - widening firebreaks at Millbrook, Old Lodge, Camp Hill, Greenwood Gate and Five Hundred Acre Areas. We have fenced the Kennedy Clump and planted and staked the trees. We have cut down dead or burnt trees and stumps in the area of Forest north of Hindleap and south of Kidbrook Park, the total number being 399. All litter baskets have been stored for the winter. We have removed cars, and car bodies whose owners we have been unable to trace we have removed with a Contractor’s tractor and trailer. At present we are cutting dead trees in Five Hundred Acre and Wrens Warren Valley.

   **Ranger Branagan**
   More general maintenance work has boor, worried out during this period and less patrolling has been necessary. The prolonged fine weather brought visitors to the Forest later in the year than usual, without causing much extra litter clearance. Several overgrown corners and road bends was cleared again to secure better visibility. Fire breaks were widened to 50 feet in some areas. Several patches of usually boggy ground, e.g. Millbrook, were cleared with ease owing to the prolonged dry weather. The proposed Kennedy Clump was fenced and planted with 55 Scots firs, and also 4 beech trees on the Cardinal points. Wire netting was afterwards secured round the clump to prevent entry of rabbits. Several young dead trees in various clumps were replaced by sturdy fresh ones, after the interior had been cleared of bracken and gorse. Bonfire celebrations were attended where possible. In the middle of November all litter baskets and bags were removed to store for the winter, and about this time extensive felling of dead trees began - some areas being completely cleared of these stark skeletons. About £30 of overdue Forest Rates were collected around the end of November leaving only a few diehards to be accounted for. Motor-cycle transport was found to have cracked frame - luckily while stopped. There were other wears and tear items needing attention and the machine underwent considerable repairs.

   **Ranger Arnold.**
   During this period I have assisted in fencing and planting the “Kennedy Clump”, which is now completed. I have also helped, to restock the other clumps where trees were missing through various reasons. The latter half of this period has been spent assisting to fell dead trees in the following areas:
   - North of Hindleap – approximately 400;
   - Valley between Five Hundred Acre Wood and Wrens Warren - 300.
   - Chelwood Gate area - 17

   Litter is still being deposited in the Forest, and occupying a certain amount of time each week. The usual patrols for this time of year have been carried out.

10. **Finance** - The Clerk stated that the Bank balances were as follows:-
General Account £207.19.1 Cr.
Petty Cash Account  61.18.6 Cr.
Wages Account 117.10.5 Cr.

The following accounts to be presented for payment. -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.A. Williams</td>
<td>Salary for December quarter</td>
<td>£200.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Messrs. Elkingtons</td>
<td>return of deposit</td>
<td>25.0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Clerk reported that there was still £500 on deposit with the Uckfield Rural District Council and this sum would be needed to keep the General Account in balance during January. It was RESOLVED that repayment of the outstanding balance of the loan in the sum of £500 be forthwith requested from the Uckfield Rural District Council. It was further RESOLVED that the two cheques for £25 in favour of Messrs Elkingtons (return of deposit) and the Clerk's Salary be signed.

The Clerk reported that Ranger Branagan's motor-cycle was worn out and would not last another twelve months. The forks had deteriorated, and the frame had been fractured and recently welded.

Provision for a new motor-cycle similar to Ranger Stockley's had been included in the estimates. RESOLVED that the Clerk, purchase a new motor cycle similar to Ranger Stockley's and that the Chairman and Clerk and one other be authorised to sign a cheque for the purchase.

11. Dates of Meetings for 1965: The dates for meetings in 1965 were fixed as follows:

- Wednesday, 24th February
- Wednesday, 21st April
- Wednesday, 21st July
- Wednesday, 20th October
- Wednesday, 15th December

12. Other business: The Clerk reported that he had received notice from the Police that a Mr. Jeal had been found removing four bags of moss from part of Ashdown Forest, this was contrary to By-law No. 10(a). After discussion it was RESOLVED- that the Clerk should prosecute for breach of the Bye-laws.

There being no further business the meeting was concluded.

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 24th February, 1965.


1. Apologies for absence were received from Sir Stephen Pierssene, Messrs. L.J. Cornwell and C.A.S. Grimston.

2. (a) Election of Chairman
   It is unanimously resolved that Mr. J.H. Drew be the Chairman for the ensuing year.

   (b) Vice-Chairman Proposed and seconded and resolved that Sir William Garrett be the Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

   (c) Election of Forest Row Committee It was Resolved that the members be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (ex-officio) Major R.E.W. Grubb, Col L.J.J. Lowe and Miss A. Lumsden.

   (d) Election of Maresfield Committee Resolved that the Members be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (ex-officio), Messrs. A.K.L. Harvey, W. Gilham and F.J. Cornwell.

   (e) Special Purposes Committee It was Resolved that the Members be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board. Sir Ralph Clarke, and Col. J.H. Lowe and the Chairman of the Maresfield and Forest Row Committees.

3. The Chairman extended a hearty welcome to Sir Ralph Clarke on his return to membership of the Board, and also expressed the delight of the Board at Mr. Pye's return after a long illness.
4. Minutes of the last Meeting having been circulated were taken as read and approved.

5. Matters arising:
(a) The Depot: The Clerk reported that Planning Approval had been given for a parcel of Land which was not included in the area of land which the Boy Scouts Association had agreed to release. Some confusion had arisen owing to the fact that at the material date the Clerk had been in hospital. After a discussion it was Resolved that the Clerk should arrange a meeting between, the Area Planning Officer, Messrs. R.H. & R.W. Clutton and the Warden of the Boy Scouts Camp, to tasks quite certain that there had been no misunderstanding about the area of land in question and to, try and negotiate a final site which would meet with approval on all sides and in the event of refusal by the Area Planning Officer, he should be informed that the Board would appeal against the Council's decision.

(b) New Motor Cycle for Ranger: The Clerk reported that in accordance with instructions given at the previous Meeting, a new B.S.A. 175 CC Motor Cycle had been purchased at a cost of £127.1.8.

(c) The remaining Francis Barnett motor cycle was in very poor shape and would have to be replaced next year. The cycle- which was being replaced by the new B.S.A. was in poor condition, and the best offer received from Redhill Motor Cycle was only £10. The Clerk asked permission to retain this old cycle and use it to supply spares for the remaining one - as be thought this would be the cheapest way of keeping the remaining cycle on the road this year. It was agreed that the Clerk's suggestion should be adopted.

(d) Prosecution of Mr. Jeal: The Clerk reported that in accordance with instructions given at the previous Meeting, Mr. Jeal had been prosecuted for taking moss from the forest without authority. He had been convicted and fined £2.

6. Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that there had been several large fires in the previous week on the forest, all of which had started at about 9 or 10 p.m. several hundred yards from the road. Several youths had been apprehended by the Police and the Clerk was waiting to hear whether criminal proceedings were to be taken against them. There were other suspects, but they had not yet been caught. The Clerk stated that even if the Police took proceedings, he would probably have to attend Court to give formal evidence, and it was hoped that as much publicity would be given to the matter as possible.

7. Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club: The Clerk reported that the Golf Club had accepted the Board's terms for a new licence.

8. Kennedy Memorial Clump: The Clerk reported receiving three estimates for the stone and inscription which would be placed near the Kennedy Clump. It was Resolved to accept the estimate of Philpot's Quarry, West Hoathly. The Clerk pointed out that the cost of approximately £35 could not be met from the revenue of the Ashdown Forest and it was decided that Members of the Board would subscribe individually towards the cost, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman made themselves responsible for any deficiency.

9. Ranger's Reports
RANGER STOCKLEY
Forest fires in the south of forest - total estimated Acres 500.

"On Sunday the 14.2.65 a number of fires occurred on the Forest, some of these near the Vatchery, Chelwood Gate, all believed to have been lit by some person, or persons. On Monday 15.2.65 I was called out by Ranger Arnold. He could see the fires from Fletching. We found the Forest alight in 7 or 8 different places, all fires having been lit well away from the road in each case. We contacted the Police, at Kingstanding; we were then told 4 persons had been caught on Sunday. They than gave us a ear number and told us this person was wanted believed to have lit fires that night. We then toured the Forest looking for this car and keeping observation for other fires starting. Later at Pound Gate, we heard from a Police Patrol Car that "two persons were at that time at Uckfield". We then helped to put out the fires with the Fire Service, finishing below Spring Gardens, Fairwarp, 1.45 a.m.

We have been patrolling Ashdown Forest and reporting. Clearing up litter, keeping the Forest tidy. We have completed cutting dead scotch and other trees in the five hundred acre and Wrens Warren Valley. Cutting birch,
making Fire Beaters and placing these in stands at convenient places at the roadside. Digging in staggered chestnut posts at Fords Green, Nutley. This was left in very bad condition after contractors had finished patting in the sewage pipes. We have erected these posts to fend motor traffic off footpaths, etc. Making concrete posts to be used as staggered posts. Making fencing, Chestnut Posts as stakes to fence proposed new Depot. Cutting fire-breaks below Coleman's Batch Cricket Ground and above Furnace Farm. Cutting and clearing dead trees near A22 above Cherry Orchard Forest Row. Cutting up and clearing a true which had fallen across and was blocking A22 near Wych Cross Warren entrance during a snow storm. Keeping observations for suspected fire lighting.”

RANGER ARNOLD
Numerous small job have been keeping us occupied during this period. Making concrete posts, some which have already been placed where needed, digging in chestnut posts at Fords Green Nutley where a road had spread. Making and placing out fire-beaters, and repairing stands, clearing dead birch trees, picking up litter, of which there seeds to be no closed season. The bad whether days have been spent peeling and painting fencing stakes at Cherry Orchard. The last week of this period we have had to concentrate on evening Patrols and assisting the Fire Brigades the worst outbreak of fire occurring during the night of Tuesday and Wednesday the 15th and 16th of February. A rough estimate of fires in my area shows, 25 acres at Friars Gate area, 100 acres east of the Radio Station at Duddleswell. Several acres at Fairwarp and numerous small patches on all areas.

RANGER BRANAGAN
"Considerable clearance and maintenance work bad been carried out during this period. Nine dead trees, large Scots firs, were felled and removed from Camp Hill Clump leaving this spot in a now fairly flourishing condition. An astonishing number of dead trees, above sapling size, were felled in areas where a casual glance estimated a mere handful might be found, e.g. over 160 were dropped in area between Chelwood Vatchery and Isle of Thorns and 150 on the slope westward from Greenwood Gate. At the end of January roughly 200 small dead birch and Scots Fire were felled near Forest Holme. At the end of December, work was commenced on fire-fighting brooms, collecting young trees and brush, principally from Wych Cross/Goat area, and by the end of January over 300 had been made. These were placed out in new or repaired stands by first week in February. The necessary timber for fencing, a proposed depot had been cut and prepared. Stout posts were erected along track at North and of Ford's Green, Nutley, to prevent further encroachment by lorries and cars on to the grass verges and footpaths. The path has been identified by Notice Boards given by Mr. Gillham. A portion of this track, not repaired by contractors after laying sear piping, was repaired by the Rangers; this it is felt was what the Americans call “Over and above the call of duty”. Local domestic squabbles in this area were smoothed out. The energy and forethought expended in obstruction and squabbling would have been better used in repairing this track and verges. A large number of concrete posts have been made and still being made, to close tracks on to the Forest against car encroachment. Very little time on working days has been lost through bad weather and various jobs have been carried out to the exclusion of contact with the people on the Forest or usual patrols. Litter has not been searched for, but when found, has been collected. The fine, dry weather had apparently encouraged fire-bugs to “have a go”, and extensive fires occurred from Friday Feb. 12th to the middle of the following week. Localities and averages burnt are subject of other reports. The first fire of the year, on Jan. 6th on North side of Ridge Road, was considered to be accidental most of the later ones appeared to or. intentionally started. It is understood that the Policy have names of several people for questioning in this matter. The new motor cycle is recovering from considerable teething trouble such as loose exhaust pipe, belts, nuts and screws working loose, speedometer cable coming adrift, various short circuits in the wiring system switches not working and so on; apart from these shortcomings it may well prove to be a great improvement on the previous machine.

10. Accounts for the year, ended 31st December 1964. The Clerk went through these accounts item by item, comparing them with the estimates and it was proposed by Mr. Brooke, seconded by Wolfson and Resolved unanimously that they be adopted.

11. Finance - The Clerk imported that the Bank Balance were as follows:

General Account £135,42.10.
Petty Cash Account £3,45.2.
Wages Account £211,5.9.

The following accounts to be presented for payment:

P.A. Williams Salary for quarter ending
25th March

Southern Auto Glaziers Van Windscreen

London & Lancashire Insurance Co. for premium on van
less no claim bonus

The following amounts have been collected since 16th December last:

Forest Rates 18.12.6
Forest Rate Arrears 17.16.6
Acknowledgments 112.5.11
Misc. Deposits 180.0.0
Use of Forest 20.15.0

12. OTHER BUSINESS
(a) The Clerk reported that he would like to have been on holiday for the week after April which would cover the next Board meeting. IT WAS RESOLVED that the next meeting be postponed, to the 4th May.

(b) Mrs. Ridley asked the Board to investigate the question of permitting a limited amount of camping under canvas on the Forest. After a discussion it was resolved that this matter be referred to the Special Purposes Committee.

(c) The Clerk reported a request from the Warden of Broadstone Warren Scout Camp to print the words 'No Parking' in large letters on the tarmac roadway leading from the A.22. The Clerk pointed out that this had never been granted before but that this was a very dangerous bend on the A.22, and it was essential that this private roadway be kept clear at all times, so that coaches bringing scouts to the camp could draw off the road without stopping.

RESOLVED - Permission to be given.

(d) Model Aeroplane Club.
The Clerk reported receiving several letters of complaint about the noise caused by the model aeroplane club and it was decided that they should be informed that if they constituted a nuisance in the future they would be forbidden. The area around Kingstanding which is well away from any houses, would be the most suitable spot for their activities.

There being no further business the Meeting was concluded.
Council been withdrawn and the Clerk had informed the Council that the Conservators would not claim compensation. The Clerk's action was approved by the Board.

(b) **Kennedy Memorial Clump.** The Clerk reported that the stone supplied by Philpots Quarries, West Hoathly, suitably inscribed, had now been delivered and placed in position. The purchase price of the stone, namely £36 had been collected from members. All donors were thanked by the Chairman.

4. **Rangers:**
   (a) The Clerk reported that Ranger Stockley was seriously ill in hospital and might not be back on duty for 3 months or more.

   IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk make up Ranger Stockley's wages to the normal amount after allowing for National Health contributions, until the next meeting when the position would be reviewed.

   (b) Shortly after the last meeting Ranger Branagan had retired owing to the ill health of his wife whom he was looking after.

   (c) Ranger Streeter had been appointed in Ranger Branagan’s place and has commenced his duties the day previously. Being present he was introduced to the members of the Board. His terms of employment were similar in all respects to Ranger Arnold's.

   (d) The Clerk reported that Ranger Arnold was now acting as Senior Ranger and had offered to forego his weekends, at any rate while the fine weather lasted and until Ranger Stockley returned to duty.

   RESOLVED that as from the end of the week Ranger Arnold be paid At the rate of a Senior Warden until Ranger Stockley’s return.

5. **Report of the Sub Committee on Camping.** The Sub Committee’s report which had previously been circulated to the board as follows:-

   “Camping on the Forest. Mr. Drew gave particulars about camping on the New Forest. There were two types of Camp (1) Free Range Camping (2) Camping in approved Camp Sites where organised facilities were available. It was decided to recommended that camping of the type (2) above, should not be permitted.

   A general discussion then took place on Free Range Camping. The Chairman informed the meeting that in the first year the New Forest had accepted over 250,000 campers on 30,000 acres. It was thought that more than 3,000 acres of Ashdown Forest would be available for capping, under canvas, and if large members were expected the present organisation could not cope with the situation. The New Forest employs fifteen Rangers for the solo purpose of supervision of campers and the project was only started to make money. Colonel Lowe suggested that a site of thirty acres be allocated in a remote part of the forest with a restriction of one Camp Site to the acre. Major Grubb supported this idea. No facilities such as water or lavatories to be provided. The Clerk pointed out that it would be necessary to hold consultations with local authorities and other bodies before camping anywhere could begin, and it was unlikely that the project, if approved, could be put into action this year.

   It was resolved to recommend to the Board, as follows:

   (a) No Free Range Camping be permitted.

   (b) Investigations should take place to see if a thirty acre site could be found remote frost private property and with the best possible interference with the amenities to the forest for a site.

   (c) Consultation should be held with (1) East Sussex County Council, (2) the Uckfield Rural District Council. (3) The Sussex Naturalist Trust, (4) the Friends of Ashdown Forest, (5) The Camping Club of Great Britain

   The Board also considered two letters from the Clerk to the County Council dated 17th March and 8th April respectively and a paper on the use of Ashdown Forest written by the Clerk, all of which had previously been circulated to the Board.
A long discussion ensued on the merits of camping on the Forest and whether it should be permitted to people with tents only or motor drawn caravans, whether it should be for one night only or for three or four days and whether facilities such as water and proper lavatories should be provided. As there appeared to be none doubt whether the Board approved the principle of camping on Ashdown Forest a vote was taken and ten members voted in favour of the principle, six mentors voted against. Mrs. Ridley proposed seconded by Major Grubb that the Board start looking for a site of about 20 acres which would afford camping sites for tents only and when a suitable site had been found an approach should be made to the Camping Club of Great Britain for its views generally. Twelve members voted in favour of this resolution and it was carried.

6. Rangers' Reports – Ranger Arnold
"One to prolonged dry weather in early spring, with the bracken tinder dry, and ideal picnic conditions who have had almost daily fires. Firebreaks have been a big help, both as a means to control the fires with beaters, and except in several instances, when the wind carried it across the fires have terminated at firebreaks. A good example of this being the most side of “Hillbrook Hill” and “Crows Nest Clump” ,in both cases the firebreaks did what was intended of them.

Between 40 and 50 fires occurred and the fire crossed the road on ten occasions, The firebreaks are showing grass on them than I have seen before, and I think it must follow that they will become more effective.

Any spare time we have had has been spent filling holes at the larger car parks to enable the public to have a better access.

All litter baskets are now out and being used, except in a few instances where the public appear not to see them however prominently placed. He have thought a small notice on the baskets, might help to overcome this.

The "Power Saw" has done extensive work through two or three winters I believe, and the chains have now become noisy and worn and need replacing."

7. Chairman’s Report:
"I will make my report as short as possible as we have a great deal of work to got through today.

There are two main features which I wish to speak about, namely, the forest fires which this year started in early March. A large number were stated deliberately and at least six hundred acre were burned. The worst fire occurred in the heavily wooded area between Hind Leap Warren and Kidbrook Park. This was very disappointing an there had not been a fire there for many years and the trees were well grown but not high enough to avoid the effects of the flames.

It is quite apparent that ninety-five per cent of fires were started deliberately and the Police have been most helpful. I must congratulate them on having obtained the convictions of eight or nine youths who were subsequently fined amounts ranging from £10 to £20. There are, however, other suspects who are being carefully watched.

Rights of access, Newbridge, nr. Coleman’s Hatch.
The second point I wish to make is on the map which is before you now. The area under discussion is Manor Waste and this has been sold by the Lord of the Manor to Mr. Langford whose property adjoins this piece of land. This parcel of land has subsequently been fenced in and gates erected at the top and bottom of the Waste, thereby obstructing the drove-way which gives access from the south side of the river to the forest on the north side. This drove-way and I use this word particularly on it is not a footpath or a bridle path but a true track for cattle to be driven along now has two unlocked gates obstructing it and I have received a considerable number of complaints from commoners concerning this obstruction and their rights of access.

The track is clearly shown on various maps including the one before you and I have personally walked over it both with our Clerk and the Lord of the Manor on different occasion and both have agreed with me that this had been a track which had been in active use during the past year.

I would now ask you to decide what action the Board should take to restore thin drove-way and remove these obstructions. It may be of interest to you to know that two commoners have agreed to help us financially if we are involved in legal costs.
RESOLVED that the Clerk take such action as may be necessary to protect the legal right of the Commoners and the Conservators.

8. FINANCE.
   (a) BANK BALANCES
       Petty Cash Account  13.18.0
       Wages Account      251.19.0
       General Account    2420.19.0
       Credit not shown on statement
       paid to bank 30-4-65  69.9.0

The following amounts have been collected since 24th February, 1965

   Forest Rate Arrears  1.17.0
   Acknowledgement Rents 148.8.0
   Misc. deposits       52.15.0
   Local Authority Cont. 2780.17.0
   Food for use of Forest 21.10.0

The following accounts are due for payment:

   Cullens Printers     14.10.0
   Redhill Motors      17.14.0

   Rate for Private Garage adjoining Cherry Orchard  0.2.9.
   Petty Cash Account to bring float to £160  146.2.0
   Clerk's salary quarter ending June 200.0.0

RESOLVED that the sum of £1500 be transferred from the general account and be placed on deposit with the Uckfield Rural District Council at three months notice and the cheque necessary to implement this payment be signed by the Chairman, one other Member of the Board and the Clerk.

(b) Superannuation scheme for Ranger Arnold.

IT WAS RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 3(2){c} of the Local Government Superannuation Act 1937, the following Ranger be specified as contributory employee subject to his passing medical examination to the satisfaction of the Conservators. Ranger Leonard Alan Arnold.

9. Charge for riding horses on Ashdown Forest.
The Clerk suggested that it should be possible to increase the revenue of the Board by possibly £250 to £300 per annum by making a charge on persons riding horses on the Forest. The idea had been considered with the Chairman and it was suggested that individuals should apply to the Clerk annually for a permit which would cost £1, and riding schools should be issued with a block permit in accordance with the number of horses maintained. The matter was discussed amongst members of the Board and it was RESOLVED that further discussion should be deferred to the next meeting.

10. Any other business.

   (a) The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Ivan D. Margary in which he stated that it had been discovered from aerial photographs that the mounds at Camp Hill were originally in 1793 field kitchens and that a force of 7,000 militia had camped there to test a new type of drill.
The letter was received with great interest.
(b) The Clerk reported that two cars belonging to Mr. Tallis and Mr. Turvey had been left on the Forest in spite of requests to remove same. RESOLVED that the Clerk commence prosecution against both Gentleman for branches of the Bye-Laws.

(c) The Board then went into Committee. The Clerk reported that he was recommend about the result of extra work was now flowing in from the administration of Ashdown Forest and the additional work that may Likely to be incurred. Frequent changes in employment of Rangers the number of visits he now had to pay to the Forest and the increased use of the Forest by dog trainers. model aeroplane clubs, etc., together with the ever increasing member of new Licences which had been prepared was putting a severe strain on the administration in the Clerk's office. If horse riding was licensed, the Depot established and the Commons Regulation Bill made the Clerk foresaw a further increase in the work. At the moment the work was being carried out by him self and a part time assistant and no one also in the Clerk's office was conversant with Ashdown Forest administration. If either the Clerk's or his assistant was ill or absent from duty for more than a brief period of time the whole administration might break down.

With increased use of the Forest the Clerk thought that the revenue could also be increased and that the time had arrived for a modest review of the acknowledgement rents and a review of the rating announcement which could produce considerable increased revenue without necessarily causing hardship. Those revenues however, when coming into effect would mean increased work in the Clerk's office and he had now come to the conclusion that, he could no longer accept the responsibility without adequate staff to assist him.

The Clerk estimated that his salary should not be less than £1675 which would enable him to employee a full time male assistant at a salary of approximately £500 per annum. Taking into account the salary pair to his present part time assistant and other expenses in connection with the office this would leave a reasonable remuneration for the Clerk himself and of course. Would remain responsible for all Ashdown Forest matters to the Board as at present. The Clerk pointed out that an salaries were increasing all round and the cost of living was rising so the cost of administering Ashdown Forest was bound to increase. No decision was taken but the Clerk was asked to commit with the Clerk's to the local authorities concerned with the Forest and to Chairman and Vice-Chairman were appointed to deal with this matter as a Sub Committee and to report back.

Finally the Chairman reported to the board that Mr. A.C. Wolfson was attending his last meetings he was retiring from the Uckfield Rural District Council which he represented on the Board. On behalf of other members he thanked Mr. Wolfson for his services over many years and hoped he would always retain his interest in Ashdown Forest. Other members of the Board joined in and supported the Chairman’s remarks.

There bring no other business the meeting was concluded.
3. Matters arising:

(a) **The Depot.** The Clerk reported that although planning permission for the Depot Site had now been obtained it could not be implemented until the two previous applications had been withdrawn. The consent of the Minister of Housing and Local Government was necessary for this and he understood that such consent would not be forthcoming until the middle of August. Captain Armstrong reported that the East Sussex County Council had made an order which would have the effect of revoking the two previous applications and this order he believed, had been served on the Minister, of Housing and Local Government.

(b) **Ranger Stockley.** The Clerk read a report from Ranger Stockley’s Medical Adviser stating that his recovery had been uneventful and he was now ready for active work and if he was allowed to do light duties for at least three months he would be fit to resume full duties as a Forest Ranger. The Clerk reported that in spite of this report Ranger Stockley had been signed off for a further two weeks.

After a discussion it was Resolved that Ranger Stockley’s wages should be made up to the full amount for the two weeks he was signed off and he should then be paid full Senior Rangers salary while on light duties and a further report be produced to the Board at the next meeting. Ranger Arnold and Ranger Streeter then withdrew and after a report by the Chairman and the Clerk it was Resolved that Ranger Arnold be paid at the rate of a Senior Ranger until Ranger Stockley was able to resume his full duties as Forest Ranger, that is, after he had completed his term of light duties for three months. Ranger Arnold and Ranger Streeter were then called back into the room.


"The annual cutting of firebreaks was started on the 14th July and will continue un-interrupted, weather permitting, for the next three weeks.

As a result of the many fires this Spring it is quite apparent that the ordinary birch fire beater is a very inadequate tool and I have been investigating the possibility of making our own type of fire beater from scraps of either second-hand or new belting. The ideal fire beater is a pole loft, long with a flexible flap 18 ins. x 9 ins - bolted to the end. British Belting & Asbestos Ltd. with whom I have connections, have stated that they could supply scrap ends for this purpose and have quoted the figure of £21 for 150 beaters. As a start, however, I should like to obtain your approval to a policy of providing better beaters but, not necessarily at the cost; which I have just mentioned. I believe however, we would be justified in making an experiment by allocating £10 for this purpose and subsequently to report to you later in the year to see how many we could make for this sum."

RESOLVED that a sum of £10 be spent in purchase of materials to experiment with a new type of fire beater.

“The Clerk has already referred to the Depot and there will be a good deal of work to be carried out in September and October to get the Depot running satisfactorily and having obtained the Depot the question now arises concerning the machinery. To maintain the cutting of firebreaks and to improve the parking facilities for visitors on the Forest, I consider that the following machinery will be required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One tractor</td>
<td>£800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One forage harvester</td>
<td>£265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One trailer</td>
<td>£149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One bucket on front of tractor</td>
<td>£103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One harrow</td>
<td>£25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£1,340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The Secretary to the Friends has indicated that they may possibly be able to give us the necessary money for the tractor and trailer but I feel that we must also help ourselves and I want you to consider using about £300 of our capital to purchase the forage harvester and the necessary tools, oil tank, work bench, vice etc. to equip the Depot and make the Ranger’s time profitable. The question of using our own capital was discussed last year and at that time I think was received with favour.

Our next meeting is not until the 20th October and I think it really needs a decision of the Board today on the question of using some of our own capital, otherwise valuable time will be lost in the months of October and November when it is ideal to "work with machinery on the Forest."

Mr. Brooke thought that £300 might be insufficient for this purpose and suggested that a limit of £500 should be imposed. Proposed by Mr. Brooke, seconded by Mrs. Ridley and Resolved that the Clerk be permitted to realise
from the Compensation Fund Investments a sum not exceeding £500 and the proceeds of sale be used in purchasing the aforesaid equipment.

5. Rights of access to the Forest at Newbridge. The Clerk reported that he had been in correspondence with the Solicitors for Mr. & Mr. B. Longford who lived at "Lamberts" about the obstruction of the right of way across a strip of Manor update to Ashdown Forest and further that he had spoken to the Solicitors on the telephone that morning; the Solicitors had informed the Clerk that it was hoped to settle all disputes concerning this matter but Mr. & Mrs. Langford were in agreement that the right of way should not be obstructed. The Clerk said he would report at the next meeting.

6. Camping. The Clerk read some correspondence between himself and the Uckfield Rural District Council and, in particular a letter dated 11th June addressed to the Clerk of that Council. Capt. Armstrong expressed the opinion that this letter should never have been written and a general discussion then took place on the whole question of camping. One member of the Board wished to rescind the original resolution about camping but the Clerk pointed out that this would be contrary to Standing Orders as no resolution could be rescinded within three months from the date when it had been made; finally it was Resolved that no further action be taken on the subject of camping until after the Commoners meeting in December. The Chairman read a letter from the Friends of Ashdown Forest in which it was reported that the Friends had unanimously resolved to convey to the Conservators their opinion that camping on Ashdown Forest should not be permitted.

7. Prosecutions. The Clerk reported the successful prosecution of Mr. P.J. Duvall for parking a car more than 15 yards from the highway and carrying a shot-gun contrary to Bye Law No. 3. He was fined £2 on each count. Miss Susan Plumb was prosecuted for carrying a bow and arrow contrary to Bye Law No. 3, but no conviction was recorded.

8. Rangers' Reports. - Ranger Arnold
Forest fires occurred until the 21st May, large one in the Crowborough area, took us most of the day to suppress, with the assistance of the Crowborough Fire Brigade and burnt several hundred acres.

Extensive "Foot Patrols" have been carried out in the Crowborough area, confirming boundaries and with a view to extending fire breaks.

The return of the public to the forest in force, revealed the need to replace concrete posts where they had been broken off and to extend others where necessary.

The usual two days a week have been devoted to clearing litter, and maintenance work kept up with in conjunction with "summer patrols."

Ranger Streeter.
I have been patrolling the Forest and walking the boundaries in the Crowborough area. Other work, general clearing bracken from the clumps. Also cutting grass around litter baskets and keeping Forest free of litter.

Early May coping with fires which burnt large areas. Assisting in digging in concrete post and wooden post in various places.

Ranger Arnold was congratulated on compiling a census of sheep grazing on Ashdown Forest in June, 1965. The clerk reminded the Board that the County Council had not erected any game mirrors on the A.22 and Brig. Scott promised to raise this matter with the County Surveyor and report at the next meeting.

9. The Clerk reported that Mr. Owen, a conservator for many years and past Chairman of the Board had recently died and the Chairman had represented the Board at his funeral. He also reported the death of Mr. H. Kirby who had been & Ranger of Ashdown Forest for many years before, his retirement and, during his retirement had been receiving a retainer of 10/- per week up to the time of his death. The Clerk had found Mr. Kirby's advice on boundary questions extremely valuable. The Clerk attended the funeral with Rangers Stockley and Arnold.

10. Finance.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO DATE 21st JULY, 1965.
BANK BALANCE:

Petty Cash Account  
(includes £200 donation from Friends of the Forest)  211.13.5.

Wages Account  381.17.2.

General Account  740.9.0.

The following amounts have been collected since 4th May, 1965:

- Forest Rates 1965  101.3.0.
- Forest Rate arrears  12.4.6.
- Acknowledgment Rents  32.13.6.
- Acknowledgment Rent arrears  9.7.6.
- Costs re: prosecution (paid to Whitley Hughes & Luscombe)  8.8.0.
- Sale of map  1.0.0.
- Refund of rates on Garage at Cherry Orchard  0.8.2.
- Temporary Licences for use of Forest  25.2.6.

Local Authority Contributions

- East Grinstead  200.0.0.
- Cuckfield R.D.C.  292.5.3.

\[£682.12.5\]

The following accounts are due for payment:

- Caffyns Ltd.  5.6.0.
- Redhill Motors  3.6.11.

\[£207.8\]

RESOLVED that cheques be drawn and signed for payment of the accounts of Messrs. Caffyns Ltd., Redhill Motors and Martins Garages. The Clerk then read the report of the District Auditor dated 18th June, 1965. The Clerk reported the Barclays Bank Limited had pointed out that the method of paying cheques for acknowledgment rents into the Conservators Accounts was not satisfactory and must be altered. The position up to date had been that a cheque was received which included a sum of money due to the Conservators and a sum due to the Lord of the Manor as acknowledgment rent and, on the grant of a new Licence a cheque would also contain a sum of money for the Lord of the Manor's Solicitors fees and a further sum for the Clerk's legal fees. The practice hitherto had been to present, with the cheques two paying in slips and the Bank had credited the acknowledgment rent due to the Conservators to the Conservators General Account and the remainder to an account entitled A.P. Account which was an account used by the Clerk for legal fees and amounts due to the Lord of the Manor. The whole question of the Conservators' accounts had been thoroughly discussed with the District Auditor and the District Auditor had suggested the following amendments which would make the accounting system more simple and satisfy the objections of Barclays Bank.

1. The Deposit Account which was scarcely ever used and which had a credit of £38.5.8d. should be abolished and this credit with current interest should be withdrawn and placed to General Account;
2. As the Clerk had a sole signature on the Wages and Petty Cash Accounts these two accounts should be amalgamated;
3. A new account to be known as the Licence Account should be opened and all cheques for acknowledgment rents and legal charges should be credited to this account but the clerk should be authorised to have a sole signature on this account and to transfer from this account to the Account monthly or quarterly as convenient such sums of money as were due to the Lord of the Manor for acknowledgement rents, his Solicitor's for legal fees and the Clerk for his legal fees.
IT WAS RESOLVED as follows:

(1) That the Deposit Account should be discontinued and all money standing to the credit of this account should be transferred to the credit of the General Account;
(2) The Wages Account and the Petty Cash Account be amalgamated and henceforth known as the Wages and Petty Cash Account;
(3) A new account to be opened in the name of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest and known as the Licences Account;
(4) The Clerk to be authorised to sign cheques on the Licences Account and to make transfers from this account to his Ashdown Forest Account as and when convenient for sums due to the Lord of the Manor, the Lord of the Manor's Solicitors, and the Clerk for his legal fees;
(5) The above to come into operation as soon as practically convenient.

Il. Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club had asked for the nine holes which had formerly formed part of the old Licence and which had been surrendered since the war to be included in the new Licence, as the Club wished to resume two full 18 hole courses. The Clerk pointed out that although the Club had for some years ceased to use the 9 holes in question, in point of fact they had always been paying rent for them. The Chairman and Clerk had agreed a new rent with the committee of the Golf club and as a result they had agreed to pay £200 per annum instead of the previous £150 per annum for 27 holes. This was agreed and the Clerk was instructed to proceed with the Licences.

12. Church School, Fairwarp. The Clerk read a letter from the Lord of the Manor's Solicitors in which it was stated that Lord Buckhurst had finally decided that the Parochial Church Council would be granted a long Lease of the property at a purely nominal rent with a suitable clause to ensure that he retained adequate control over the user of the property.

13. Rates. The Clerk reported that as a result of his objection to the assessment of rates on the garage at Cherry Orchard, the assessment had been reduced from £18 gross £10 returnable, to £15 gross £8 ratable, and a sum of 8/2d. has been recovered from the rating authority for overpayment of rates.

14. Any other business. The Clerk reported a donation of £4.l6.6d. from Mr. K.G. Pole.

There being no other business the meeting was concluded.

Members of the Board are reminded that the last Meeting of the Board for 1965 is fixed for the 15th December at 2.30 p.m. and those who are elected members of the Board, that the Commoners Meeting is fixed for Tuesday the 14th December at 6 p.m. in the Forest Row Village Hall.

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 20th October 1965

Present: Mr. C.A.J. Grimston, Miss A. Lumsden, Mr. L.J. Cornwell, Mr. F.B. Cornwell, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Col J. H. Lowe, Mr. Wm. Gilham, Mr. R.P.J. Brooke, Mr. J.F. Drew, Capt. D.M. Armstrong, Brig. L.K. Scott, Mrs. U.K. Ridley, Mr. J.P. Connor, Mr. R.P. Odell, Mr. R. Tubb, Mr. J.P. Bishop, Mrs. Patricia Foster.

1. The Chairman reported that Sir Stephen Pierssene had retired from the Board owing to ill health and he was informed that Mrs. Patricia Foster had been appointed by the County Council to succeed him and as she was present he introduced her to the Board who were present and welcomed her attendance.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Col. Mr. Ralph Clarke, Major R.S.W. Grubb and Sir William Garrett.

3. The Minutes of the last meeting having been circulated were taken as read and duly signed by the Chairman,

4. Matters arising:
   (a) The Depot. The Chairman reported that the Depot was nearly completed apart from the erection of the garage which would have to be taken down from Cherry Orchard and re-created on the new site. The three-bay implement shed had been erected by noon of that day and apart from some fencing which was still unfinished the Depot would soon be ready for use.
The Chairman then gave to the Board particulars of the equipment which he had ordered, which was as follows:

“One new Ford Super Dexta 3000 Tractor fitted with 3 cylinder diesel engine, 8 speed dual range transmission, live power take off(540 rpm) and guard, adjustable front axle, adjustable rear wheels dual category three point linkage, independent hydraulics, auxiliary services control valve, double acting top link, two headlights, two sidelights, two reflectors, two tail lights, horn and button, electrical outlet socket and plug, proof-meter and instruments, steering brakes, licence plate bracket and light, vertical exhaust de luxe sent, differential lock, handbrake, tool box, 550 & 16 6 ply front and 11 x 28 6 ply rear tyres, engine and transmission oils Swinging drawbar and ******, water temperature gauge, single pipe and coupling, two year anti-freeze. £825.8.0

Licence and number plates Nett 5.12.0
One F.I.L. Master loader complete with 9.25 cu.ft. earth bucket 106.10.0
Grill guard 7.10.0
One Harford hydraulic tipping trailer ***.**.0
Delivery charge Nett *.**.0

One Lambourn tractor cab complete with electric Windscreen wiper, rear curtain and internal leader control 43.12.6
One set of Ransomes KR 29-69 Disc harrows, 18” plain discs 113.15.0
One side lever grease gun complete with Flexible end 2.14.6
One grease gun clip 0.5.0
One tool roll complete 4.17.6
One ¾” ring spanner 0.7.0
One 28lb keg of LB grease 2.6.0
5 gallons of tractor oil 3.0.6

The total expenditure in this respect was £1,259.16.0 and the Chairman had been able to obtain a discount of 7 ½ %.

(b) Rights of Access at Newbridge. The Clerk reported that he had had an interview with Mr. & Mrs. Langford who had informed him that they would prefer to have gates at either end of the droveway which they would keep unlocked and they would be prepared to enter into a Deed of Grant in perpetuity which would record the Commoners Rights. A general discussion then took place and it was decided that gates would be unsatisfactory and Mr. and Mrs. Langford be asked to take them down and leave the droveway completely free of all obstruction.

(c) Ranger Stockley. The Clerk reported that Ranger Stockley continued to improve in health and that he had performed his light duties satisfactorily, but that he was not yet ready for normal manual work and he recommended that Ranger Stockley continue at full wages with light duties for a further period which would expire at the Board Meeting in February. Resolved accordingly.

(d) Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club Licence. The Clerk reported that the Licence had been completed.

4. Horse Riding, proposed Licencing. The Clerk read out a draft Resolution which he had been asked to prepare in this connection in the following form:

IT WAS RESOLVED as follows:

(A) After the thirty first day of December One thousand Nine hundred and Sixty five but subject to the provisions contained in Bye Law 19(a) only authorised persons shall at any time use the Common for the purpose of exercising horses thereon;
(B) In this respect and in accordance with the provisions of Bye Law No. 1(b) an authorised person meaning a person authorised to ride horses on the Common shall be a Commoner or a person who shall hold and produce on demand to the Conservators their clerk or any duly appointed Ranger, a permit signed on behalf of the
Conservators by their Clerk authorising the person to ride and exercise horses on the Common for a period of twelve months;

(C) Such permits shall be issued to authorised persons on application by the Clerk, on or before the thirty first day of December in each year to cover a period of twelve months then ensuing;

(D) The fee payable for the issue of a permit shall in the case of each individual be the sum of One pound or in the case of a person applying for a permit to cover members of his family Two pounds and in the case of a Riding School shall be Two pounds per horse used for hire;

(E) In the case of a Riding School recognised as such by the Conservators of Ashdown Forest it shall be sufficient for the purpose of this Resolution if one person amongst those riding with a group of horse riders on any particular day shall produce on demand the Permit issued to that School;

(F) Any person applying for a Permit to the Clerk after the thirtieth day of June in any year shall only be repaired to pay the sum of ten shillings in respect of the period First July to the Thirty first December;

(G) The fee payable by any Hunt recognised by the Conservators as such shall be Five pounds for the period of twelve months which shall cover all members of the Hunt on any particular day and any horsemen who shall have paid a Cap on that particular day,

There ensued a discussion on the fee to be charged against riding schools and Miss Lumsden and others mentioned that there were also Pony Clubs and Riding Clubs to be considered. It was finally Resolved that the Resolution in the form drafted by the Clerk was passed with the fee for riding schools to fee £2 per horse and that all riding clubs and pony clubs be asked to pay £5 for twelve months and this should apply also for recognised hunts.

5. Correspondence

(a) Game Mirrors. The Clerk read a letter from Brigadier Scott to the Chairman in which it was seated that the Surveyor to the County Council hoped to introduce game mirrors later on in the year.

(b) The Clerk read a letter from the Nature Conservancy with which was enclosed a formal Notification that Ashdown Forest was a site of Special scientific Interest.

6. Finance

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS TO DATE 20th OCTOBER 1965.

BANK BALANCES Wages & Petty Cash Account 166.7.7.
Licence Account 257.12.0.
General Account (includes £1000 donation from Friends of the Forest) 2571.5 5.

The following amounts have been collected since 21st July, 1965

Forest Rates, 1965 260.6.0.
Forest Rate arrears 2.9.0.
Acknowledgement Rents 222.11.6.
(£200 from Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club)
Temporary Licences 22.5.0.
Sale of Maps 1.0.0,
Local Authority Contributions
Uckfield, second & Final payment 467.9.5.
Uckfield R.P.O. Interest on Loan 15.19.7.
Donation from Friends of the Forest 1000.0.0.
Donation from Mr. Wolfson 0.15.6.


The following accounts are due for payment:-
Martins Garage 16.11.2.
Whitley Hughes & Luscombe re: Third Party insurance 15.15.0.
The Clerk reported that the method of paying accounts which should be borne by the General Recount was unsatisfactory, owing to the length of time between meetings. A small business man could not wait sometimes for three months for payment of his account. He suggested that all the requirements of the audit would be met if the cheques continued to be signed by two members of the Board and Clerk, but it would not be necessary for a Resolution to be obtained for this at a Board Meeting. Resolved that from and after the date of this Meeting all cheques on the General Account be signed by two members of the Board and Clerk without the necessity of a Resolution of the Board at its next Meeting. This was carried unanimously.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the estimates for 1966 and the Forest Rate for 1966 be taken in Committee and this was carried unanimously. The press and the Rangers then withdrew and the Board went into Committee.

In Committee.

Estimates. The Clerk went through the estimates as presented in detail and a long discussion took place on the increase in the Rangers’ Wages. The increase in the Senior Ranger’s wages to £17.10.0 per week and in the second and third Ranger’s wages to £16.0.0 per week by three 3 monthly instalments was accepted. The employment by the Clerk of a Deputy was explained at great length by the Clerk. He pointed out that the work of his office was continually increasing, that he only employed a secretary book-keeper three days a week and that if either he or his secretary were absent from work for any lengthy period the whole administration was in danger of breaking down and it was essential therefore that there should be someone else in his office who would know how the Forest was being administered and would be able to carry on in the absence of either the Clerk or his Secretary. The Clerk further pointed out that with the establishment of the Depot more supervision of the Rangers was necessary and more time would have to be spent out of the office on the Forest. He also pointed out that the present Chairman had spent a great deal of time on the Forest and had in fact undertaken all the work in connection with the Depot. It has more than possible that future Chairman would not be able to devote so much time to Ashdown Forest affairs and the Deputy therefore would be employed after a period in the office, mainly on outdoor work and supervision of Rangers. The increase in the salary was agreed but Captain Armstrong suggested that an investigation into the administration of Ashdown Forest should be made by the County Council Committee of Office Organisation and method. This was agreed. Captain Armstrong also suggested that the time was drawing near when a full time Clerk would have to be employed and the Clerk agreed that this would have to come sooner or later, but if this did come about it was essential to have an organisation in being which could be handed over to a full time Clerk.

The income of the Conservators was then discussed and the Clerk pointed out that the estimates were based on alternative increases in the Forest Rates. Either 2/6d. for the first acre and £1 for succeeding acres with a ceiling of £3, or the same rate with, a ceiling of £5. In either case the excess of expenditure over income would be less than in preceding years and the contributions by the local authorities would similarly be less. After a general discussion it was decided that the maximum rate would be £3 and not £5.

The Board then went out of Committee.

8. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously Resolved that the Estimates as presented by the Clerk with the additional rate income of £1268 for 1966 be adopted.

9. It was proposed and seconded and unanimously Resolved that the Forest Rate for 1966 be levied at the rate of 2/6d. for one acre and £1 for each succeeding acre with a maximum of £3.
10. Any other business
It was Resolved that the pay of Ranger Arnold continue to be at the rate of £14 up to the end of 1965

There being no other business the meeting was concluded.

The Annual General Meeting of the Commoners duly convened by Notices posted on the principal doors of the Churches of the Parishes end ecclesiastical districts and Post Offices to which the Forest extends and by Notices to the members of the Board more than fourteen days prior to this date and held at the village Ball, Forest row, at 6 p.m.

Present: Messrs. W.D. Gilham, F.B. Cornwell, M. Clarke, R.P.J. Brooke, A.C. Wolfson, A.K. Harvey, W. Garrett, H. Weeding, R.J. Glover, G.R. Wade, R.J. Lumsden, T. Gosbery, G. St.L. Berkley, W.E. Berkley, R. May, H.S. Stevenson, J. Routledge, F.A. Routledge, 0. Routledge, D. Evatt, Mrs. A.B. Lumsden, Mrs. W.E. Foster, Messrs. D.J. Head, B.J. Hoad, T. Townsend, A.W. Preston, A. Lightly, F. Howell, Col. Lowe, Mr. & Mrs. R. Lloyd Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Tattersall-Wright, Mr. & Mrs. C.M. Squary, Mrs. John Pears, Hon. Mrs. Vera Bingham, Lady Eleanor Castle Stewart, Miss A. Lumsden, Mr. & Mrs. R.D. Knight, Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Fussell.

1. Election of Chairman. The Clerk called for nominations for a Chairman and Mr. Drew was proposed, seconded and unanimously re-elected.

2. The Clerk then read the Notice convening the Meeting.

3. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, approved and signed.


5. Nomination of Superintendents for Recreation Grounds. Mr. Drew proposed and Sir William Garrett seconded and it was RESOLVED unanimously that the Superintendents for last year be re-elected on bloc as follows:-

- Nutley: W. Gillham
- Forest Row: Col. Lowe
- Coleman’s Hatch: J.H. Drew
- Fairwarp: A.E.L. Harvey
- Chelwood Gate: R.F.J. Brooke

   (a) Chairman’s Report. The Chairman stated that in reviewing the activities of the past year he had decided to take the important decision made at the Board Meetings in order from last December. The Kennedy Clump was completed and a stone erected with the following inscriptions "These trees were planted in 1964 to commemorate the visit made to Ashdown Forest the previous year by John P. Kennedy President of The United States of America.” The stone was paid for by members of the Board and the fencing of the clump by the Lord of the Manor. The number of unsightly dead trees felled in the year was not less than 717 and he trusted the Commoners appreciate the improvement this work has made to the look of the Forest. In the spring of this year when the weather was very dry and east winds prevailed there were some very large fires. He estimated that 600 acres were burnt. He must emphasise that fire breaks will not stop fires on the Forest. They will only hold those that are started by accident, and those started deliberately after dark are now treated by the Police as arson. Last year a number of youths were caught, convicted and fined a total of over £90 for these offences. The right of access at Newbridge Hill had caused concern to many Commoners in that area of the Forest and he must assure them that the Board has not stood idly by but has pursued the matter and the matter was again going to be discussed the next day. Therefore, he could not say any more to them at that moment. They were introducing a limited number of new type fire-beaters made from belting. They were most effective and he trusted the public would not make off with them as if they were a new toy, as he could not think they could be used for anything except firebeaters, however they would see. The Depot was now working and the machinery for the use of the Rangers was there. Their thanks for this had already been convoyed to The Friends of the Forest, but he must emphasise again how grateful they all were for their help. During the year Ranger Branagan had resigned for domestic reasons and Ranger Streeter who lives at Crowborough was taken on. They had also lost Ranger Stockley. In April this year he
had been in hospital for eight weeks and on his return he had found he was quite well enough to do the job until the cold weather had arrived. Therefore they had lost a first-class man who really knew his Forest. The Commoners, and he felt sure the Clerk and he himself, would miss him very much. He would just mention briefly horse riding and the proposed Forest Rate as he knew they would want to hear of the implication.

The Clerk then reported that as from the 1st January 1966 all persons other than Commoners wishing to ride on Ashdown Forest would have to apply for a permit which would cost them £1 annually. Riding clubs, pony clubs and organised hunts would be asked to pay £5 annually. There would be special terms for families. As regards the Forest Rate, owing to the heavy increase in the expenses of the Conservators for the coming year, it was found necessary to vary the Forest Rate and it would in future be 2/6d. for the first acre and £1 for each succeeding acre with a maximum of £3.

(b) Camping on Ashdown Forest. The Clerk read extracts from the Minutes of meetings held by the Conservators during the year on this subject the last extract being that the Conservators did not propose to take any further action until the matter had been discussed at the Annual General Meeting of the Commoners. The Clerk also reported that he had received a letter from the Clerk to the Rural District Council of Uckfield in which it was stated that the Council, which was a rate payer, wished to voice a strong objection to the proposal. He also reported on the receipt of a letter from The Friends of Ashdown Forest who also objected. A general discussion on the matter then ensued and on the proposal of Mr. Tattersall-Wright, seconded by Major Lumsden, it was finally RESOLVED that this meeting opposes camping on Ashdown Forest. The Resolution was carried by 35 in favour with 4 voting against.

7. The Commoners Meeting for 1966 was fixed for the 13th December at 7 p.m. at Nutley.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded.

Minutes of a Meeting at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, December 15th, 1965, at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. R. Odell, Mr. L.J. Cornwell, Capt. D.M. Armstrong, Mr. P.B. Cornwell, Mr. A.L. Harvey, Mr. B.P.J. Brooke, Mr. J.F. Drew, Col. J.H. Lowe, Mr. C.A.S. Grimston, Mr. W. Gilham, Miss A. Lumsden, Sir Ralph Clarke, Sir William Garrett, Mrs. Ridley, Mr. A. R. Tubb, Mr. J.P. Connor, Brigadier Scott.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Foster, Major Grubb and Mr. Bishop.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting having been circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising
   (a) The Depot - The Clerk reported the Depot was now completed and was being used by the Rangers and it was found to be most useful. The Clerk took the opportunity of introducing Lt. Cdr. Peter Angell who was his Deputy and was responsible to the Clerk for the Depot, all the equipment and the general supervision of the Rangers when they were working on the Forest. The Clerk made it clear that Lt. Cdr. Angell had been in his employment since the 1st November, but the cost of his salary would not fall upon the Conservators until the beginning of the new year.

   (b) Rights of access at Newbridge - a copy of a letter from Messrs. Callingham & Co., Solicitors to Mr. and Mrs. Langford, had been sent to all members of the Board with the Agenda. After discussion it was RESOLVED that the gates erected by Mr. & Mrs. Langford across the right of way must be removed by the 1st January, 1966, and a clear droveway unimpeded by any gates or fencing must be left for a width of 8 feet.

   (c) Ranger Stockley - The Chairman reported that Ranger Stockley had retired from the service of the Conservators as Senior Ranger owing to ill-health. The Chairman then paid tribute to Ranger Stockley for his long-service to the Board and finally suggested that as he possessed a considerable knowledge of the Forest boundaries and Forest Law he should receive an annual retainer of 10/- per week so that the Clerk should have recourse to him for consultation as in previous years with Ranger Kirby. This was agreed and it was proposed that this should be reviewed annually.
(d) **Horse riding licensing** - The Clerk reported that one person had so far applied for a riding permit and one hunt had paid 5 guineas and a further donation of 5 guineas.

(e) **Game mirrors** - The Clerk reported that the County Council had placed a number of game mirrors in position on either side of the A.22 near Pippingford Park, but so far he could not vouch for their effectiveness.

(f) **Forest Rate for 1966** - The Clerk reported that the proposed Forest rate had been approved by the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources.

(g) **Organisation and Methods Committee** - The Clerk reported that an officer from the Organisation and Methods Committee of the East Sussex County Council had already paid him two long visits, but no Report had as yet been received.

4. **Commoners Meeting**

1. The Clerk reported on the Commoners Meeting held the previous evening and that Mr. Drew, Mr. Harvey and Mr. Brooke had been elected to serve for a further period of three years on the Board.

2. **Camping** - The Clerk reported on the way he had reported this matter to the Commoners Hooting and briefly on the discussion which had ensued and on the Resolution which had been passed. The Board then had a further discussion on this sublet and it was finally proposed by Brigadier Scott seconded by Sir Ralph Clarke and RESOLVED that the Board noted the views of the Commoners and no further action would be taken. This Resolution was carried by 12 votes to 2.

5. The Chairman asked the Rangers to withdraw and then reported to the Board that Ranger Arnold had tendered his notice before Ranger Stockley had retired, because since Ranger Stockley's illness he had been showing signs of stress and it was difficult for Ranger Arnold to work with him. When Ranger Stockley handed in his resignation, Ranger Arnold asked if he could be re-engaged and die Chairman had authorised the Clerk to re-engage him. As there was now a vacancy of one the Clerk had advertised the post and the previous day several candidates had been interviewed and finally Mr. John Linton had been engaged and was due to take up his duties on Monday, 3rd January. The Board confirmed the Chairman's action. Mrs. Ridley raised the question of the Rangers' wages and it was stated that they would be in accordance with the scales previously agreed.

6. **Rangers’ Reports**

   **Ranger Arnold** reported that the usual routine work for early autumn has been completed.

   They were able to borrow an Allen, which greatly assisted them in this, and put a better finish to the job.

   They have given what assistance they could to the contractor at the Broadstone depot, and had erected what fences were necessary. They were delighted to receive delivery of the new Tractor and implements and hoped to change the face of the Forest with them. The Tractor and trailer had already proved their worth, the trailer being especially useful in transporting tools and materials to the sites. The few bad weather days at the latter end of the period had found them making the new type firebeaters, and they had appreciated the extra space to work in at Broadstone.

   **Ranger Streeter** reported a certain amount of work spent on the new Depot consisting of fencing and various items; also clearing and cutting clumps for the last time in 1965; general litter clearing on the Forest and Tidying up; time spent on new fire Beaters which were well under way. He reported that the implements which had been provided were of great use and making the job of work quite interesting.

7. **Finance**

   Financial Statement of Accounts as at 15th December, 1965

   Bank Balances:

   - Wages & Petty Cash Accounts 53.18.1. cr.
   - Licence Account 280.17.0 cr.
   - General Account 270.17.2 cr.
   - Credit not shown on statement 25.14.6
   - Paid in 13.12.65 630.16.9
The following amounts have been collected since 20th October, 1965

- Forest Rates, 1965: 57.15.0
- Forest Rate arrears: 0.16.6
- Acknowledgement Rents: 12.0.6
- Miscellaneous receipts: 17.5.0
- Sale of Maps: 1.0.0
- Realisation of Investments: 469.2.5
- Horse Riding Permit: 1.0.0
- Donation & Riding Club Fee: 10.0.0

Total: 568.19.5

The Following accounts are due for payment:

- Wm. C**y & Son Ltd. Storage tank and oil for tractor: 29.18.11
- Clerk’s Salary for December Quarter: 200.0.0
- Wages & Petty Cash Account Float to £160: 105.3.2
- Uckfield R.D.C. are repaying loan date 24.5.65: 1300.0.0

The Clerk reported that the transfer from General to Wages and Petty Cash Account would have to be increased owing to the increase in the hangars salaries, and it was RESOLVED that the monthly transferred be increased to £190.

The Clerk then reported on a letter he had received from the Board’s financial advisers, Messrs. J. Henry Schroder Wagg Company about the investment of £525 Imperial Chemical Industries 6 1/2 Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock 1972/77, in which the advice was given that this stock should be converted to ordinary units of £1. each. A similar letter had also been received from Barclays Bank Limited, nominees in whose name the stock was held. Owing to the uncertainty of the Christmas post, the Clerk had given instructions for the conversion. The Board confirmed the Clerk’s action.

8. The dates for the meetings of the Board for 1966 were fixed as follows:
   - Wednesday 16th February
   - Wednesday 13th April
   - Wednesday 20th July
   - Wednesday 19th October
   - Wednesday 14th December.

The date of the Commoners’ Meeting for 1966 was announced as 13th December at 7 p.m. at Nutley.

9. There being no other business the meeting was concluded.

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE

The Village Hall is already booked on the 13th April and the 14th December, and those two meetings have been changed to the 20th April and the December 15th.

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, FOREST ROW, ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 1966 at 2.30 p.m.
Present: Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Mr. J.H. Drew, Mr. R.F.J. Brooke, Miss A. Lumsden, Mr. F.B. Cornwell, Mr. R.P. Odell, Sir William Garrett, The Hon. C.A.S. Grimston, Mr. J.P. Bishop, Mr. Gilham, Sir Ralph Clarke, Major Grubb, Colonel J.H. Lowe, Mr. A.R. Tubb, Captain D. M. F. Armstrong.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. L.J. Cornwell, Brigadier L.M. Scott, Mrs. U. Ridley and Mrs. P. Foster. Mr. Drew reported that Sir Stephen Piercensene, a former Member of the Board had died recently and the Clerk represented the Board at his funeral. He also paid a short tribute to him.

2. Elections:
(a) Chairman: The Clerk reported that Mr. J.H. Drew had completed three years in the Chair, and reminded members of the Standing Orders which stated that normally a Chairman could only remain in the Chair for more than three years without retiring for at least one year and then making himself available for re-election. The word "normally" enabled Mr. Drew to stand for another year if required to do so, and it was up to the Board to decide. The Clerk reminded members, however, that even if Mr. Drew were elected for a further year, in twelve months time a new Chairman would have to be appointed and they must give consideration to this matter within the coming months. He then called for nominations. Proposed by Sir Ralph Clarke, seconded by Sir William Garrett it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. Drew be elected Chairman for a further year. Mr. Drew then took the Chair.

(b) Vice Chairman: Proposed by Mr. Drew, seconded by Mr. Harvey it was unanimously RESOLVED that Sir William Garrett be elected Vice Chairman for the following year.

(c) Proposed by Mr. Drew, seconded by Mr. Brooke, and unanimously RESOLVED that the members of the Forest Row, Maresfield and Special Purposes Committee be re-elected en bloc and was further RESOLVED that Mr. Brooke be elected a member of the Special Purposes Committee.

3. The Finances of the Last meeting having been circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising:
(a) The Depot: The Clerk reported that the Depot was in full use now, that main water had been laid on and that electricity would be laid and would soon be followed by the telephone. The expense of these installations had been kept within the limits permitted by the estimates.

b) Rights of access at Newbridge: The Clerk reported that the gates and part of the fencing had been removed and carefully placed on Mr. Langford's land. He then read a letter from Mr. Langford's Solicitors in which it was stated that he was taking Counsel's Opinion, but the Clerk had heard nothing further.

c) Ranger Stockley: The Clerk reported that Ranger Stockley had accepted the position of Consultant Ranger to the Board at an honorarium of 10/- per week.

d) Horse riding Licences: The Clerk reported that so far three single permits, two facility permits, four Riding Club permits and a permit to one Hunt had been issued. This more than covered the cost of the printing of the permits and advertising.

e) Organisation and Methods Committee: The Clerk read in full correspondence between himself and the Clerk to the County Council in which the Clerk had expressed the view that at this stage it was not worthwhile embarking on a survey of the field work of the Conservators, and that an approach should made to him in approximately twelve months time if it was thought that the position had changed. The Clerk to the County Council further stated that he was satisfied that there was not much scope for an Organisation and Methods review of the administrative work.

5. Rangers' Reports:
Ranger Arnold reported that all fire beaters were now in position; the stands needed extensive repairs and numerous stands were replaced. New stands and new type beaters were being tried on an experimental stretch of road between Gills Lap and Camp Hill Corner. So far they had not been tampered with. He further reported that laying the main water from the road to the Depot, constructing a bench and toilet and draining various wet patches which had appeared in and around the Depot had taken up a considerable amount of the Rangers' time. They had a supply of timber on hand for the needs of the Forest. Litter clearing and weekend patrols had been carried out.

Ranger Streeter reported that his manual work for this period had been on the same lines as Ranger Arnold. A sharp look out for horse riders, now that licensing had been introduced, was being kept, but the majority appeared
to be Commoners. No doubt the fine weather to be hoped for would produce more riders. He was pleased to report that he now had his motor cycle back complete with a new engine.

Ranger Linton reported that having only been in the Forest since 3rd January he was still working closely with Ranger Arnold and Ranger Streeter learning the duties of the Ranger. His manual work had been on the same lines as a Ranger Arnold's Report. The Rangers had received the Forage Harvester which was in good condition but of course had not yet been used. The Tractor being new had, of course, had its teething troubles but these would be put right under the guarantee.

6. Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1965: The Clerk went through the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet item by item, and the following comments were made:

(a) In future the investments of the Board should be shown as cost and at a valuation at the middle price on the 31st December or the nearest appropriate data thereto.

(b) Attached to the Balance Sheet, but not forming part of it, should be shown a list of capital assets, such as tractor, motor cycles, van, etc. with the date of purchase and cost price of each item.

It was RESOLVED that subject to the new amendments quoted above for use on further occasions the Accounts be adopted.

7.(a) Financial Statement of the Accounts to date: 16th February, 1966.

**BANK BALANCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>1,053.2.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licence Account, Ack. Rent to be transferred 31.3.66.</td>
<td>128.2.6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,220.19.3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following amounts have been since 15th December, 1965:

- Forest Rates: 23.0.0.
- Acknowledgement Rents: 128.2.6.
- Acknowledgement Rents 15th & 16th Feb approx.: 130.0.0
- Return of Loan from Uckfield R.D.C.: 1,500.0.0.
- Interest: 9,13.1
- Horse Riding Permits: 25.0.0
- Sale or map: 1.0.0
- Misc. Receipts: 3312.0.

The following accounts are due for payment:

- A & C Bridgeland: 11.15.9.
- Sun Alliance Insce Co.: 11.0.6.
- Redhill Motors: 41.3.2.
- Cullens Printers: 14.5.6.
- Clerk's salary March qt.: 425.0.0.
- Petty Cash Float: 160.0.0.

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- Acknowledgement Rents: 128.2.6.
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- Interest: 9,13.1
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- Sale or map: 1.0.0
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- Redhill Motors: 41.3.2.
- Cullens Printers: 14.5.6.
- Clerk's salary March qt.: 425.0.0.
- Petty Cash Float: 160.0.0.
(b) The Clerk reported that the next increase in the salaries of the Rangers would take effect before the next Board Meeting, and it would be necessary to increase the transfer from General Account to wages Account each month. RESOLVED that from the 31st March the transfer from General Account to Wages Account be increased from £190 to £210.

(c) Ranger Streeter’s Superannuation: It was RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 3, sub-section 2, paragraph (c) of The Local Government Superannuation Act 1937 the following Ranger O.H. Streeter be specified as a contributory employee, subject to his passing a medical examination to the satisfaction of the Conservators. The Clerk then read to the Board a satisfactory Medical Report from Mr. Streeter's doctor.

(d) Change in Financial year: The Clerk reminded the Board that at the last meeting he had been instructed to consider whether a change in the accounting year of the Board could be made from the present year which ended on the 31st December to one ending on the 5th April. On reading the 1937 Act he had considered this was probably unlawful, and he had therefore written to the District Valuer on the subject who had confirmed the Clerk’s views. It would be necessary, therefore, to keep to the existing arrangement.

8. Parking of cars on the Ashdown Forest: The Clerk reported that a survey of the Forest showed that many people were regularly parking their cars on Ashdown Forest throughout the year. Some of these were persons who come to work in their cars, and as there was no room to park them at the places of work, they always parked them on the Forest. Other persons owned perhaps a house or cottage which had no garage or any possibility of making a garage, and these persons also parked on the Forest. Colonel Lowe confirmed this from his own experience. The Clerk asked the Board to consider this problem, as he wished to have some guidance on it.

A general discussion then took place and it was decided that the Clerk should present a scheme to the Board at the next meeting which would incorporate the following:

a. There was a difference between occasional parking on Ashdown Forest for recreational pleasure and daily parking on the Forest in the same place while the owner of the car was either at his place of work, or because he possessed no garage or parking place within the boundaries of his dwelling.

b. Persons who parked daily or at night permanently can only do such with a licence from the Board.

c. Same form of hard attending must be supplied.

d. The persons must pay a fee for the licence.

9. Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club: The Clerk reported that the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club had asked if it could be extend the new golf course by taking in another small area in the region of Tomsetts Bank for the purposes of making a new green. Sir William Garrett and Colonel Lowe and the Clerk all reported having received objections from Local residents to this proposal, and the Clerk’s pointed out that on two sides this small area was enclosed by private property and on a third side it was bounded by a roadway which was frequently used. RESOLVED that permission for the making of a new green and licensing the extension to the golf course be refused.

10. There being no other business the meeting was concluded.

CAPITAL ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>1 Francis Barnett 564 LPB</td>
<td>130.15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>1 Motor Van Morris pick up 723</td>
<td>510.19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>1 Pioneer Chain Saw</td>
<td>74.4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>1 B.S.A. Bantam M/C 7160 AP</td>
<td>133.4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>1 B.S.A. Bantam M/C DAP 72C</td>
<td>125.8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>1 Ford Super Dexter Tractor SKL 471 C with cab</td>
<td>825.8.0, 43.12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>1 *il Master Loader</td>
<td>106.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966S</td>
<td>1 Harford Trailer</td>
<td>149.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>1 Set Ransomes Disc Harrows</td>
<td>113.15.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, FOREST ROW, ON WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 20TH, 1966, AT 2.30 P.M.

Present: Mr. J.H. Drew, Col. J.H. Lowe, Mr. P.B. Cornwell, Mr. R.P.J. Brooke, Mr. W.D. Gillham, Col. Sir Ralph
Clarke, The Hon. C. Grimston; Mrs. M.P. Poster, Mr. R.P. Odell, Mr. L.J. Cornwell, Mr. A.R. Tubb; Mr. J.P.
Connor & Brig. L.M. Scott

1. Apologies for absence were received from Major R.L.W. Grubb, Miss A. Lumsden, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Capt.
D.M.F. Armstrong and Sir William Garrett.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising:
(a) The Depot: The Clerk reported the new telephone number but pointed out that the Rangers were only available
during the lunch hour or on wet days. In view of the change-over at East Grinstead to automatic telephone service
on 27th April next, the Clerk gave his new number which will be East Grinstead 21111.

(b) Parking of cars on Ashdown Forest: A Report or his subject having already been circulated with the Agenda, the
Clerk pointed out that he would prefer licences to be determinable at seven days notice and not three months as
suggested on page 1, paragraph 4 of the Report, and the Chairman suggested that on page 1 paragraph 1,
motorcycle combinations should be included as well as cars.

A general discussion then followed and it was eventually proposed by Sir Ralph Clarke and seconded by Colonel
Lowe and it was RESOLVED that the matter be deferred to the next meeting to give members of the board more
time to consider it. This motion was carried by seven votes to four.

(c) Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club: The Clerk stated that contrary to expectation a renewal application for a new
hole had not been received in time for this meeting, but he was still expecting one.

4. The Clerk stated that a rating for the Depot at gross £45 rateable £25 had been received, and he considered this
to be reasonable. The meeting agreed.

5. Deputy Clerk's Report on Rangers' activities:
The Deputy Clerk reported that the Rangers had carried out the following duties during the last two months:
Patrolling: This was at a minimum during the winter months, but is increasing as the Forest gets more populated.
Replanting clumps: An experiment had been tried in planting nursery grown trees in order to get a better take and
faster growth. The cost was very small. Dead grass, gorse, and heather had been cleared in all clumps. Litter: Litter
baskets had been replaced for the season and the general work of clearing litter was increasing. Six cars and a
van had been removed to the dump. A bad area of litter, which was developing into a general dump at Dodds
Bank, had been covered with earth and endeavour would be made to control this in future. A similar area had been
dealt with at Tylers Lane, and this had been fenced as a temporary precaution. Fires: There had been eight minor
fires and three major ones. The major ones were:(a) Between Old Lodge and the Ridge Road - area about 250
acres. This occurred on 18th March and in a high wind it was not possible to stop this short of the road.(b)
Chelwood Vetchery - started in neighbourhood of Isle of Thorns. About 150 acres burnt. Stopped at main road.
20th March.(c) Five Hundred: Rough behind Lone Oak Hall, stopped at 500 Acre Wood. About 75 acres burnt.
20th March. All three Rangers had assisted the Fire Brigades at these three fires.

Horse Riding Tracks: All tracks in the vicinity of the golf course had been re-marked, and ditched and drained
where necessary. Various other tracks had been re-marked.

Cutting of Burnt Gorse: All the roadside areas of burnt gorse from last year had been cleared. The disc harrows
had proved very effective for this.
Fire Breaks: The fire breaks round all the clumps had been disc-ed and should prove effective. The main fire breaks had proved to be of limited use during the three major fires. Fires could be contained laterally on a fire break when manned with firemen with beaters, but at the head of the fire it always burnt across the fire break. This was largely due to the dry sedge grass, and to be fully effective an area of the fire break must be well disc-ed. The disc harrows were not effective in dry weather, and experiments were now taking place with very shallow ploughing followed by discing. This would turn the grass under, but would still leave a decent looking ride. He considered that fire breaks should be cut about 30 ft. wide with 10 ft. of this disc-ed.

The facilities at the Depot continued to improve.

Electricity and Telephone (Forest Row 2646) were now connected.

6. Finance:
(a) Financial Statement of accounts to date 19 April 1966

Bank Balances:
Wages St Petty Cash Account 133.12.2.
General Account 870.7.11
Licence Account, Ack. Rent due to be transferred 324.14.19

£1,328.14.10

The following amounts have been collected since 16th February, 1966:
Forest Rates 4.11.6.
Acknowledgment Rents 201.18.0.
Horse riding permits 10.0.0.
Contribution from E.S.C.C. 1,190.19.0

£1,407.8.6.

The following accounts are due for payment.
Martins Garages (Rangers) 19.8.6.
Martins Garage (Cdr. Angell) 5.9.4.
Redhill Motors 11.11.11.
Telephone accounts Nutley 2377 6.3.6.
Depot 10.7.7.
F. G. Beale 12.8.3.
Clerks salary June quarter 425.0.0.
Petty cash float 160.0.0.

£650.9.1

(b) The Clerk stated he had received a letter from the Cuckfield Rural District Council regarding their contribution in which they expressed alarm at the rate of increase in expenditure and had decided to limit their contribution in future to £200 per annum, the had spoken to the Clerk of the Council, Mr. Churchill, on the telephone and pointed out that for several years until 1964 his firm had subsidised expenditure by around £500 a year, but apart from this, costs had risen steeply for anything from litter bins, postage and telephone, to salaries.

7. Roadway constructed by Mr. Balfour Smith: The Clerk reported on a roadway constructed by Mr. Balfour Smith at Fairwarp, explaining exactly where the house was situated and how Mr. Balfour Smith had first applied for permission to extend his track and had then called at the office where he had been the Deputy Clerk and asked him how much of the extension could be used as a turning circle. When the Deputy Clerk had pointed out that he believed turning circles were not permitted, but he would consult the Clerk and let Mr. Balfour Smith know, the latter stated that the Contractors were already making the Circle and it would probably be finished by the time he returned home. The Clerk quoted from correspondence which had since ensued, and asked for the backing of the Board to get Mr. Balfour Smith to remove the turning circle within fourteen days or have it removed by the Rangers. A general discussion then followed and Mr. Conner proposed, seconded by Mr. Odell, and it was
RESOLVED that Mr. Balfour Smith should be asked to remove the turning circle, otherwise it would be removed by the Conservators and the cost charged to him. Carried unanimously.

8. The Clerk reported that the Audit by the District Auditor would take place on the 3rd and 4th day.

9. Any other business:

   Notice Boards: The Chairman suggested that notice boards made of aluminium, about 12" x 9", coloured green behind and with black lettering, giving the basic facts about the Forest should be attached to litter basket posts, as very few people visiting the Forest knew when they were breaking the bye-laws. These facts would include information on parking, fires, primus stoves, digging up of plants, etc. The Chairman said he had made preliminary enquiries of one firm, and if 250 such boards were ordered they would cost 5s. 9d. each, but 6s.9d. each for 125. The Board gave approval in principle to making a further investigation and for a sample board to be submitted at the next meeting. A sample of the suggested wording would appear with the next Agenda.

The Board then went into committee.

Cutting of Firebreaks for individuals: The Clerk stated that at present people living on the Forest were allowed to make their own firebreaks and should continue to be allowed to do so, but in the past the Conservators had been approached to do this work but had refused on the grounds of lack of equipment. Now that the equipment was available, should it be done and should a charge be made? He needed authority to make a charge as the District Auditor would have to be informed. A general discussion followed and it was suggested that a minimum charge of £2 and £1 a hour thereafter, should be made. It was proposed by Mr. L.J. Cornwell, seconded by Mr. P. S. Cornwell, and it was RESOLVED that firebreaks should be cut at the request of Commoners only and a charge of £2 minimum and £1 thereafter for additional hours, be made.

The Board then came out of Committee and the meeting was concluded.

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, FOREST ROW, ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 20TH, 1966 AT 2.30 P.M.

Present: Mr. J.H. Drew (Chairman), Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Mr. R.F.J. Brooke, Sir W. Garrett, Mr. W.D. Gilham, Mr. P.B. Cornwell, Capt. D.P.M. Armstrong, Mr. A.R. Tubb, Mrs. U.K. Ridley, Mr. R.O. Odell, Col. J.H. Lowe, Mr. L.J. Cornwell, Mr. J.P. Bishop, Brig. L.M. Scott.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Major R.E.W. Grubb, Miss A. Lumsden, Mrs. K.P. Poster, Col. Sir R.S. Clarke and The Hon. C. A.S. Grimston.

2. The Minutes of the last Meeting having been circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising:

   (a) Parking of Cars: The Chairman reminded the Board that this matter was brought forward for consideration as no decision had been reached at the last meeting on the Clerk's draft proposals. Mr. Brooke suggested that the Board should purchase an area of Manor waste to increase the size of the Forest and sell equivalent areas to private individuals as parking space. The Clerk reminded the Board that it had no power to sell or exchange any part of the Forest, and in his opinion this proposal should not be carried out. It was finally agreed that leaflets should be printed reminding owners of cars that permanent parking on Ashdown Forest was not permitted by the Byelaws, and these leaflets should be placed by the Rangers on the cars which to their knowledge were continuously parked on the Forest.

   (b) Roadway constructed by Mr. Balfour Smith: The Clerk reported that Mr. Balfour Smith had agreed to remove the roadway, and had submitted an acceptable alternative.

   (c) Notice boards: The Chairman reported that the Friends of Ashdown Forest had agreed to pay for a supply of Notice Boards. The Board agreed the design and wording and that an order for 250 should be placed, of which about 80 would be displayed on the litter bins.
4. The Chairman reported that Mrs. Ridley had again been appointed as member for Cuckfield Rural District Council, and welcomed her back.

5. The Clerk reported that there had been two successful prosecutions under the Byelaws. Mr. Weekes had been fined £2 with £2.8s.9d. costs for parking a caravan on the Forest. Mr. Davis was fined £2 with £2.5s.9d. costs for carrying a gun. The police had brought a successful prosecution under the Litter Act with a £5 fine on a case instigated by the Rangers.

6. The Clerk reported on a visit paid to Epping Forest by the Chairman, Clerk and Deputy Clerk. He stated that Epping Forest is situated slightly closer to London than Ashdown, i.e. slightly smaller, and has many similar problems. It is owned by the Corporation of London and caters for rather a different class of people, and as a result has to provide amusement and catering facilities. It owns two golf courses and carries on considerable forestry activities, with an expenditure on forestry of £10,000 and an income of £7000. There is a total labour force of 60, of whom 16 are Rangers. There is a force of labourers for collecting litter etc. They own 6 tractors, 2 J.C.B. diggers, 16 motor cycles and other equipment. Car parking is restricted by means of ditches. They collect no rates but about £3,000 is raised annually from licenses. There is limited grazing of cattle on the forest. The Superintendent instigates about 300 prosecutions a year. The total annual expenditure is £132,000.

Comparisons: Purchase of vehicles etc
Epping £1,690. Ashdown £150.
Repair and maintenance of vehicles.
Epping £9,680. Ashdown £205

7. The Clerk read a Report by Ranger Linton on the state of his motor cycle, stating that it had become completely unreliable and was dangerous to ride. The machine was a Francis Barnett, 7 years old. The Clerk had ordered that the machine no longer be used and that Ranger Linton should use his own car at the Conservators' expense until a new machine had been purchased. The Clerk had approached the Friends of the Forest who had very kindly donated £125 for the purchase of a new machine. A new B.S.A. 175 c.c. had been purchased and is proving very satisfactory. The Board confirmed the Clerk's action.

8. Finance: Account as at 18th July, 1966

(a) Bank Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>1,191.12.6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages &amp; Petty Cash A/c</td>
<td>104.10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licence A/c Ack. Rent</td>
<td>0.6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,296.8.11.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) The following amounts have been collected since 1st January, 1966:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Forest Rates</th>
<th>Ack. Rents</th>
<th>Horse Riding</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Jan – 15 Feb</td>
<td>8.17.6</td>
<td>141.19.3</td>
<td>23.0.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Feb – 19 Apr</td>
<td>4.11.6</td>
<td>201.18.0</td>
<td>10.0.0</td>
<td>1190.19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Apr – 18 July</td>
<td>647.10.0</td>
<td>10.13.6</td>
<td>12.0.0</td>
<td>200.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>660.19.0</td>
<td>354.10.9</td>
<td>45.0.0</td>
<td>1708.19.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) Sundry Creditors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beale</td>
<td>23.7.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgland</td>
<td>23.3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop</td>
<td>2.17.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(d) Cheques required:

- Clerk’s salary Sep. Quarter: 425.0.0.
- Harper & Ede - return of deposit: 100.0.0.
- George Wells & Sons return of Deposit: 25.0.0.
- Petty Cash & Wages July - August
  (to allow for Sundry Creditors above plus wages after deducting bank, balance in hand): 274.5.2.

Total: £144.6.7

(e) The Clerk reported on the Financial statement and stated that it would be noted that Sundry Creditors amounted to £144.6.7. He considered that the present system of waiting for Board meeting approval to transfer money across from the General Account to the Wages & Petty Cash Account to pay sundry bills should be changed, as Creditors could not be kept waiting all that time.

In his opinion the best system would be in future to make a monthly transfer of 1/12th of the estimated annual income, after deduction of Clerk’s salary. This would amount to £337 of which £237 would be required for wages, leaving a balance of £100 to meet sundry bills, and he wished to propose this. It was RESOLVED unanimously that the monthly transfer from the General Account to the Wages & Petty Cash Account be increased to £337 (Three hundred and thirty seven pounds) as from 1st August, 1966.

9. Deputy Clerk’s Report on Rangers activities;

The Deputy Clerk reported that the work of the Rangers since the last meeting had been divided into three main activities. The first few weeks had been spent in improvement of some existing firebreaks, including an experiment of ploughing, disc-ing end rolling. This is slow, but he thought would produce an excellent firebreak.

Efforts were then switched to the improvement of parking facilities ready for the summer. Improvements were made in numerous small parking spaces, and large parking areas were created in the Kings Standing area and on the Ridge Road. These had been very well used by visitors, and as a result there had been rather fewer cars wandering off deep into the forest at weekends.

From the beginning of June the Forage Harvester had been in action on the firebreaks every day. At least half of the firebreaks had already been cut, but the wear and tear on the Forage Harvester was considerable, and repair bills were frequent.

Apart from the labouring side, the Rangers had been actively patrolling the Forest. Two Rangers were on duty every weekend, with hours staggered throughout the day up till 8 p.m. One afternoon a week was given up to boundary walking, and considerable progress had been made in cleaning up the Forest.
There had been successful prosecutions for camping and for carrying a gun. The Police had had a successful prosecution for litter, a case which had been initiated by the Rangers. Two further prosecutions for infringement of the Bye-laws were pending.

Several derelict huts had been removed, three small encroachments dealt with, and in general much progress had been made in the general orderliness of the Forest.

There had been one major fire of about 50 acres in the Chelwood Vachery area, and there had been upwards of a dozen small fires of less than one acre.

The Allen Rotoscythe presented by the Friends of the Forest had proved invaluable for work on the clumps, and for cutting verges on corners and in car parks.

Hanger Linton was very pleased with his new motor cycle also presented by the Friends. The old machine was seven years old and was very unreliable and becoming dangerous.

Ranger Linton had taken one week of his annual holiday. The remainder of the holidays would be taken in the autumn.

10. Any other business:

(a) The Clerk read a letter from the Lord of the Manor stating that he was letting certain sporting rights, and enquiring as to whether the tenant could use a clay pigeon trap. Members of the Board expressed doubts as to the advisability of allowing this, and suggested various restrictions. It was agreed to investigate the matter further and report back.

(b) The Clerk reported to the Board on the successful audit of the Accounts for 1965.

(c) A request had been received from the Police to allow a mobile canteen on the Forest off the B.1026 road on 11th September in connection with the Brighton Safe Driving Competition. This was approved, the normal rate of £2.10.0. to be charged.

(d) The Clerk read a Report from Ranger Arnold stating that it was becoming increasingly dangerous to stop and collect litter on the A.22 road between Wych Cross and Forest Row. The Clerk reported that he had already written to the County Council asking that this stretch should be made a Clearway, and asked for the Board's support. It was suggested by Mr. Cornwell that a meeting should be arranged with the Police Authorities and the County Surveyor to discuss this matter, and this was agreed.

(e) Sir William Garrett asked the Board to think over a suggested change in the Standing Orders that there should be a Chairman and two Vice Chairmen appointed each year, instead of the one Vice Chairman as at present. This would mean that the knowledge and experience of the retiring Chairman need not be lost, and that a very useful subcommittee would be in being.

(f) Captain Armstrong reported that the residents of Primrose Lane were having trouble with water flowing down off the Forest. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should meet Colonel Lowe to review the situation.

(g) Mrs. Ridley raised the question as to what an ordinary citizen should do when they observe cars more than the allowed fifteen yards from the highway. The Clerk suggested that if instances and places were reported to his office, or to the Rangers, action could probably be taken to prevent it in future.

(h) Mr. Gilham asked if there had been many complaints about the new rates. The Clerk reported that there had been few complaints, but that many had been querying the acreage on which they were assessed, and that this was causing a great deal of work to sort out.

The Board then went Into committee

11. Ashdown Forest Act 1949: The Clerk reminded the Board that the 1949 Act gave the Military certain rights over the Forest. In 1956 the War Office indicated by letter that they had no further use for the Forest, and that
they would give up the use with the exception of retaining certain rights of way. Since then the Military have not trained on the forest. There has been various breaches of this, but Colonel Lewis at Thorncliffe had always supported objections.

Now the Ministry of Defence wish to use Ashdown Forest again. They wished to cooperate with the Board and use it by agreement with the Board.

It had been pointed out to the Military that in the last 10 years the use of the Forest by the public had changed, and military use would have to be restricted.

The Military regarded the Forest as an ideal place for certain types of Signals exercises, and wished to carry out these quite extensively.

It was proposed and agreed that the Special Purposes Sub Committee should meet Colonel Lewis and the Ministry of Defence Land Agent. Captain Armstrong suggested that the Member of Parliament should be approached to enlist his support. The Clerk agreed to do so.

The Board then came out of committee and the meeting was concluded.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, FOREST ROW, ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH OCTOBER, 1986**

**Present:** Mr. J.H. Drew (chairman); Mr. W.D. Gillham; Brig. L.M. Scott; Mr. F.B. Cornwall; Mr. R.K.L. Harvey; Mrs. U.M. Ridley; Miss. A.K. Lumsden; Mrs. M.P. Foster; Capt. D.M.F. Armstrong; Col. Sir. R.S. Clarke; The Hon. G.A.S. Grimston; Mr. R.P. Odell; Major R.E.W. Grubb; A.R. Tubb; and Col. J.H. Lowe.

Before the meeting opened the Clerk informed the Board that it had been suggested that future meetings should be held not in the Village Hall itself but upstairs in the Committee Room. Not only would it be warmer and more comfortable, but the noise of the traffic would be eliminated. The Board agreed to this.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Sir William Garrett and Mr. R.F.J. Brooke and Mr. J.F. Connor.

2. **The Minutes of the last Meeting** having been circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters arising:**
   (a) **Parking of cars:** The Clerk circulated among the members leaflets which he had been instructed to have printed at the last meeting. The Rangers had placed these leaflets in all cars parked regularly on the Forest, but there had been little improvement as yet. Up till now the Rangers had not taken down the index numbers of the cars, but this could be done. The Deputy Clerk stated that car owners had not taken the leaflets very seriously. The Clerk suggested the matter should be reconsidered next year.

   (b) **Mr. Balfour-Smith roadway:** The Clerk reported that there had been intermittent correspondence between himself and Mr. Balfour-Smith regarding the loop he had made without the Conservators' permission. This had culminated in the Rangers placing two concrete posts in such a position that part of the offending loop could not now be used. If the loop had not been removed by Mr. Balfour-Smith by the end of the next week, the Rangers would be removing it for him and he thought the matter would now resolve itself.

   (c) **Notice Boards:** The Clerk circulated a green aluminium notice board with the wording painted in white which would be placed on the Forest wherever there was a litter basket. These notice boards had been very generously donated by the Friends of Ashdown Forest. As they had only arrived the previous week, it was not intended that they should be placed in position until the early spring.

   (d) **Clay Pigeon Shooting:** The Clerk read to the Board a letter he had written to Mr. Grimston after the last meeting and Mr. Grimston's reply thereto. In his letter the Clerk had set down certain conditions that the Board would require to be fulfilled if Clay Pigeon shooting were to be permitted, and Mr. Grimston had agreed to all the conditions except the one that shooting should not last for more than one and a quarter hours at a time, and he had objected to this only because he did not consider the rule could be enforced. The Clerk had suggested instead a
provision, that no schools, businesses, etc., should be allowed clay pigeon shooting rights, and to this Mr. Grimston had agreed. The Clerk explained to the Board that as Mr. Grimston had agreed to the conditions as amended, and as the season for letting the Sporting Rights was approaching, he had allowed Mr. Grimston to go ahead and hoped he had the Board’s approval for what he had done. The Board approved.

(e) Clearway on the A22: The Clerk reported that as instructed at the last meeting, he had had a meeting with the County Council and the local Police at which complete agreement had been reached on the advisability of making the area from Highgate Green to Wych Cross and possibly further, a Clearway. The County Council had asked him for draft proposals from the Conservators for what action could be taken to prevent people parking on the Forest between these points. As a result the Deputy Clerk had made a detailed survey and had produced a plan showing where posts could be placed in the ground to prevent cars drawing off the road on the restricted area. This plan was available at the meeting for any member who wished to see it. Another point the County Council had raised was the wisdom of bringing to the notice of the public the areas of the forest where they could and would be encouraged to park their cars and have picnics, and had suggested that boards be placed at the Highgate Green end of the Clearway with a brief plan of the immediate neighbourhood showing the parking areas, as many people only parked on the verge of the A22 now because they had no idea how much Forest and parking spaces lay ahead of them. A general discussion then followed, and it was agreed that such notice boards though excellent would be too expensive, and the cost would have to be borne by the County Council. Major Grubb for the County Council stated that a White Paper had been issued in February asking County Councils to set up committees for opening the countryside where possible to people in the towns. Such a committee had been set up and was now waiting for the White Paper to become a bill in the near future. When passed, seventy-five per cent grants might be made which would be available for additional parking spaces, notice boards etc. The Clerk reported that additional parking spaces had already been made, not on the A22 itself but on roads leading off it and these had been a great success.

(f) Change in the Standing Orders: The Clerk reminded the Board that at the last meeting Sir William Garrett had suggested there should be a Change in the standing Orders to permit of two Vice Chairman, one of whom would be the retiring Chairman and the other a new Vice-Chairman who would succeed the present Chairman. This would enable the new Chairman to have available the advice and experience of his predecessor. The Clerk read out the present Standing Orders to show they could be adapted to allow for two Vice-Chairmen. A general discussion then followed and the point arose which of the two Vice-Chairmen would be the senior, and whether the use of the word Vice-Chairman for both officers so appointed would not confusing. Finally it was agreed and Colonel Sir Ralph Clarke proposed, seconded by Mr. K.K.L. Harvey, and it was RESOLVED that Standing Order Humber 6 be amended to include the appointment each year of a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, the Vice-Chairman to be the retiring chairman.

4. Prosecutions under the Bye-Laws: The Clerk reported a successful prosecution under the Bye-Laws. Timothy Charles Davies had been fined Two pounds on a first charge of cutting trees, but had been given an absolute discharge on a second charge of digging a hole, on the cricket ground at Nutley. This particular prosecution had been brought as a deterrent to show other youths they could not do what they wanted. Another Prosecution was pending.

5. Finance: Accounts as at 18th October, 1966.
(a) Bank balances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>718.10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages &amp; Petty Cash account</td>
<td>312.15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licence Account. Ack. Rents</td>
<td>19.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£1,050.16.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) The following amounts have been collected since 1st January, 1966:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Forest Rates</th>
<th>Ack. Rents</th>
<th>Horse Riding</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Temporary Licences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Jan – 15 Feb</td>
<td>8.17.6</td>
<td>141.19.3</td>
<td>23.0.0</td>
<td>1190.19.0</td>
<td>32.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Feb – 19 Apr</td>
<td>4.11.6</td>
<td>201.18.0</td>
<td>10.0.0</td>
<td>10.10.0</td>
<td>32.10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following accounts are due for payment:

- Clerk's salary for Dec. quarter: £425.0.0

The Clerk reported that it would be difficult to get by at the end of this year. There were only two cheques to present to the Board, one for his salary for £425 and one from Messrs. R.H. & R.W. Clutton for planning permission for the Depot. The original estimate had been for £15 to £20, but there had been a great deal of trouble and extra work involved in getting the Planning Permission, and in the circumstances a total of £44.14.8. was not unreasonable. The accounts were passed, proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Miss Lumsden.

6. The Estimates for 1967: A copy of the estimates had been received by each Member of the Board in advance and the Clerk now went through these in great detail explaining that the Rangers' pay had not been increased but was a graduated rise as approved last year. There were now two Rangers on superannuation and Linton would go on to it next year, and as Superannuation cost considerably more than a graduated pension scheme in the way of stamps, this accounted for the increase. Selective employment Tax of £97 was only given for six months because this would be returned and paid again, but it was just possible the Tax would be paid by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government and he would be looking into this. Regarding transport, the Clerk explained that he had made an allowance of £65 for over-hauling the van which was old and deteriorating rapidly. In fact the Deputy Clerk had stated that it would not last much longer. He had been tempted to put in a figure not of £65 for repairs but £250 for a second-hand Land Rover, but had decided this was not the year to ask for this sum. A general discussion then took place in which some Members considered securities should be realised to the extent of £750 to buy a new Land Rover, and others were in favour of a second-hand one, but all agreed that the present van was not worth repairing. After discussing whether capital could be used for this purpose at all, it was proposed by Major Grubb and seconded by Colonel Lowe and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk be empowered to sell securities up to £450 if a suitable second-hand Land Rover could be found and purchased, and it was agreed that in the event of no suitable second-hand Land Rover having been obtained before the next meeting, the matter of buying a new Land Rover should be placed on the Agenda.

The Clerk then continued going through the estimates in detail, and the next point on which a general discussion took place was one year's Selective Employment Tax for the Deputy Clerk. The Clerk explained that unlike the Rangers, the Deputy Clerk was employed by him and not the Conservators which could mean that the tax would not be recoverable. Ways were discussed for getting round this difficulty. The Clerk promised to look into the matter further.

The Clerk explained that under Running Expenses a sum of £70 had been included for two new tyres for the tractor. In the ordinary course of events none of the tyres would need renewing, but should there be any punctures then £35 was the cost of one tyre. Another item that needed explaining was £50 for Sundries. He had overspent on the Depot this year as he had not taken into account the stocking up of timber, paint, nails, etc., often needed at a moment's notice.

Nothing like the full amount of Forest Rates had been received. This was on Account of the sharp increase, and people who in the past had paid five shillings or six shillings a year quite happily, were not prepared to pay one or three pounds. Many had refused, and he would be bringing this matter up again later in the meeting. Horse Riding Permits had brought in a disappointing amount and not many extra ones were expected next year.

Brigadier Scott stated that whilst he personally could not find fault with the estimates, the County Council was going to regret an increase in them of nearly thirty three per cent. The Clerk replied, that when he wrote to the various local authorities explaining the estimates in detail, he would send a draft of his letter to the representatives on the Board for their comments first. It was then proposed by Major Grubb and seconded by Colonel Lowe and it was RESOLVED that the estimates as amended by the deletion of £65 for repairs to the van should be adopted.
7. (1) The Forest Rate arrears: The Clerk reported that with so many people refusing to pay their forest Rate, he would like to make a test case of a Mr. Carmichael, Assessment No. 129, who owed £3 for this year's rate and £1.4.6d. in arrears. It was proposed by Major Grubb and seconded by Colonel Lowe and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to issue a Distress Warrant against Mr. Carmichael.

(2) The Forest Rate: The forest Rate for 1967 was then considered and it was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. Harvey that it should be 2/6d. for the first acre and £1 for each succeeding acre with a maximum of £3.

8. The Deputy Clerk then reported on the Rangers' activities as follows:

The summer months have seen the Rangers almost exclusively employed on the cutting and maintenance of the Fire Breaks.

The Lundell Forage Harvester has done yeoman service, but towards the end of the season has been showing signs of wear and tear, which have made its replacement essential. The heavy work of cutting gorse, heather, bracken, as well as the grass, has taken its toll, together with the general hazards of the Forest which vary from bumps to bogs and from tree stumps to stones, with the occasional bicycle frame thrown in. The machine is still usable for cutting well maintained rides, but can no longer cope with the rougher work.

The Friends of the Forest have once more very generously come to our assistance and are supplying a new Gloster Forage Harvester, which is being fitted with a modified delivery chute. This is a rugged and efficient machine, and the Rangers were most impressed during trials.

All three Rangers have had their two weeks’ annual holiday.

The holidays and the weekend duties during the summer mean that there is a shortage of labour for patrolling and for general rangering duties. The Rangers normally work two weekends out of three in summer, which entitles them to a day off each week in lieu.

The Rangers' duties during the week can be summarised as follows:

Monday: Litter collection. Half day on Forage Harvester.
Tuesday: 1 Ranger day off. 1 Ranger Forage Harvester.
Wednesday: 1 Ranger available for general duties.
Thursday: 
Friday: Litter collection and machinery maintenance. Half day on Forage Harvester.

During holiday periods the Forage Harvester routine is maintained, but there is nobody available for general duties. Also during holiday times the Rangers naturally have to work more than the scheduled two weekends out of three. In one spell Ranger Arnold did eight consecutive weekend duties, and both Rangers Linton and Streeter did runs of six weekends.

The Allen Rotoscythe has proved invaluable for cutting the clumps which are all in good condition.

The new car parking areas on the Ridge Road and at Kings Standing have proved very popular with the public, and it is proposed to pursue a similar policy in other areas.

The Rangers have once again this summer been unable fully to control the Ice Cream vans, which park with at least two wheels on the Forest. It is a recognised game that they move on when requested to do so, only to re-park when the Ranger has departed to another area.

The rubbish dump at Millbrook is being closed, and will be covered in. It is hoped to make more use of this area for parking and picnicking, particularly if the scheme for a Clearway on the A.22 is adopted.

A new rubbish dump to the south of the Ridge Road is being brought into use. This is quite out of sight, and it should be possible to limit the amount of use the general public make of it.
With the increased amount of machinery, additional storage capacity is required at the Depot and preparations for building an additional shed are in hand. This will be built by the Rangers during the winter months.

The Chairman then stated that the Friends of the Forest had been extremely generous in their gift of a new type of Forage Harvester, which he understood was being delivered next week, and he would like to thank them very much indeed on behalf of the Board for this most useful addition to the current facilities. He would also like the Board to thank the Deputy Clerk and the Rangers for the very hard work they had all put in this summer and he had heard many complimentary remarks made about the cutting of the fire-breaks. With regard to the many weekends running that the Rangers, had to work during the summer months, he would like to suggest compensation for this inconvenience by granting than one extra week’s holiday a year between 1st October and 1st February. He felt that February and March should not be included, as an early dry spring often brought on forest fires. This proposal was adopted and passed unanimously.

9 Any other business:
(a) Ice Cream Vans: It was suggested that as the ice cream vans were proving such a nuisance, would it not be better to licence them and make a profit on them. The Chairman replied that he and the Clerk had discussed this matter many times but has come to the conclusion that it would be very difficult to enforce, and also it could be an unfortunate precedent with strawberry sellers, hot dog vans, etc., all applying for licences.

(b) Commons Registration Act 1965: The Clerk reported that registration begins next year and he and applied for forms. The position was that everyone had to register their common Rights separately, and he would be putting in the Master Plan showing the Conservators’ interest in the Forest. He suggested that next year the Board authorise him to have a small leaflet printed, which could go out with the Acknowledgment Rent and Forest Rate demands, giving the material details which people will require to complete the form. He had an appointment in London the following week with a Mr. Evans of the Ministry of Land & Natural Resources to discuss registration with him.

(c) Commoners Meeting: It was pointed out that there was confusion about the date of the Commoners’ meeting in December because of a typographical error. The Clerk reported that the correct date was Tuesday, 13th December, at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Hall, Nutley and members of the press present were asked if they would cooperate and give publicity to this. The Board, then went into Committee.

The Ashdown Forest Act 1949: The Minutes of the Special Purposes Sub-Committee having been circulated, the Clerk told the Committee that the local Member of Parliament, Mr. Johnson Smith, also been approached unofficially to take the matter up at Ministerial level. As a result Mr. Johnson Smith had received a letter from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army which he had passed on to the Clerk. He then read the letter, dated 20th September, 1966, to the Committee as follows:

"My Private Secretary wrote to you on 30th August about service training in Ashdown Forest and I am writing to let you know the outcome of my enquiries.

There is no question of reviving the rights conferred on the War Department as it then was by the Ashdown Forest Act of 1949. These were surrendered in 1959 and Mr. Soames then Secretary of State for War confirmed this on 23rd January 1959 in his written answer to a Parliamentary question.

What we are doing now is to negotiate by agreement with the Conservators of the Forest for specific and very limited training facilities for Territorial Army units using the camp at Crowborough. The camp provides mainly for specialist signals training and our proposed use of the Forest is confined to setting up no more than six vehicles at any one time carrying equipment for “bouncing” wireless signals between Pippingford Park and Crowborough.

The Special Purposes Committee of the Conservators considered the request on 19th August and decided to recommend to the Board of Conservators that it should be accepted subject to certain conditions. The Conservators’ decision is now awaited.. In brief the main conditions are as follows:

1. Vehicles to be parked not more than 15 yards from, the highway.
2. Weekends during the summer months and tank holidays be avoided for training exercises.
3. Permission to be granted for a period of twelve months and to apply only to Territorial Signals Units.
4. An indemnity against third party claims to be furnished.
Should any other training needs arise these will be discussed fully with the Conservators and there will be no question of using the threat of compulsion depending on the 1949 Act.

I hope that this will make the matter clear."

The Clerk suggested the Committee could not have received a more satisfactory reply, as they were no longer bound by the Act of 1949 as all its rights had been surrendered. He then suggested that a charge should be made for the use of the Forest by Territorial Units in the same way as a charge is levied on Combined Cadet Forces and the like. A general discussion followed and it was finally proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Colonel Lowe and it was RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Special Purposes Sub-Committee be adopted and that the appropriate Authority be asked to pay a fee of £50 a year.

Maps: The Clerk was asked what action had been taken regarding the supply of 500 new maps. He replied that he was still in correspondence with the Ordnance Survey on this matter and awaited a letter from them, but in view of the fact that some of the maps at least would be on sale to the public, the charge to the Conservators might be considerable. It was agreed to raise this matter again at the next meeting.

Forest Rate: The Clerk stated that now they were in committee he would like to reopen the question of forest rates. There had been tremendous difficulty collecting the rates this year and people had tried all sorts of tactics, like “resigning and renouncing” their rights, to get out of paying the steep increase. He would like to emphasise to the Board that there would be a breakdown in the administration in a couple of years unless a new Act of Parliament, changing the now archaic Act of 1885 were brought in, as more and more people would refuse to pay the rates and he would have to issue Distress warrants against them. At present there were two types of Commoner; first those who lived in Maresfield and Piltdown and had no interest in the Forest, and secondly a small minority who pay their rates, own a herd of cattle or flock of sheep and use the Forest for grazing. Then there was a third group of people who lived on the Forest itself at such places as Fairwarp, were not Commoners, but had every interest in the Forest and contributed towards its upkeep by belonging to the friends of the Forest. As he, the Clerk, already had an appointment at the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources next Week to discuss the Commons Registration Act, he now sought the Board's approval to make tentative approaches to the Ministry regarding a change in legislation.

A general discussion then took place in which several members of the Board expressed the opinion that no changes in the law should be initiated by the Conservators and an approach should not therefore be place to the Ministry, but finally it was agreed that the Clerk could raise the matter in an extremely general way, without mentioning specific changes, to sound the opinion of the Ministry.

There being no further business, the Board came out of committee and the meeting closed.