

1887 – 1897

A MEETING of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened by notice and held at the ‘Nutley Inn’ Nutley on Thursday the 5th day of May 1887 at 11 o’clock in the forenoon.

PRESENT:

Mr. H.R. Freshfield
Bernard Husey Hunt nominated by Earl de la Warr.
Captain Noble
The Reverend J.B.M. Butler
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Albert Henry Hills
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford, nominated by Lady Shelley.
Mr. Albert Turner
Mr. Joseph Wallis

Mr. Bernard Husey Hunt handed in his nomination signed by Earl de la Warr, as the Lord of Duddleswell.

Mr. Mark Sandford handed in his nomination signed by Lady Shelley.

It was proposed by the Reverend J.B.M. Butler, seconded by Captain Noble and Resolved that Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield be the Chairman of the Conservators for the current year.

Mr. Freshfield having taken the Chair,

Letters were read from Sir Spencer M. Maryon Wilson Bart. and Mr. Bernard Hale stating their inability to attend.

A draft of proposed Bye Laws was then submitted to the Meeting and the same having been carefully considered and amended

It was proposed by Captain Noble, seconded by Mr. Mark Sandford, that the draft Bye Laws so amended be adopted and that Mr. Raper take the necessary steps to submit them to the Land Commissioners and to get them confirmed by the Home Secretary.

A print of the draft Bye Laws as adopted is annexed here to and signed by the Chairman.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

ASHDOWN FOREST.

BYE LAWS

1. In the construction of these Bye Laws –

The word “Common” means Ashdown Forest, referred to in the Commons Regulation (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act, 1885, and delineated and coloured green and red in the map annexed to the Award, dated 28th March 1887, of WILLIAM AUGUSTUS RAPER the Valuer appointed in the matter of the said Regulation, or any part of the said Common.

The term “the Conservators” means the Conservators for the time being appointed by or under the said Award.

The term “Recreation Ground” means any part of the Common reserved under the provisions of the said Act for the purpose of playing cricket and other games, and coloured red on the said map.

The term “authorised person” means and includes any person acting by virtue and in due pursuance and under the authority of some provision of the said Act, or of some Estate, interest, or right of a profitable or beneficial nature, in, over, or affecting the Common or some part thereof, and are legally entitled so to act; also the servant of any such person expressly employed for the purpose; also any person for the time being duly authorised by the Conservators or their Officer in writing.

The term on “unauthorised person” means and includes any person other than an authorised person as above defined.

Words importing the masculine gender shall be deemed and taken to include females, and the singular to include plural, and the plural to include the singular.

2. No vagrant shall frequent or resort to or remain upon the Common, and it shall be the duty of any Common Keeper or other Officer of the Conservators to remove or exclude any such person from the Common.
3. No unauthorised person shall encamp upon the Common or erect or place or suffer to remain thereon any hut, booth, tent, stall, platform, cart, van, clothes post, or other post, hurdle, or other erection, or cause any obstruction thereon.
4. No unauthorised person shall catch or trap birds, or take eggs or nests of birds, or shoot or chase game or other animals upon any part of the Common.
5. No unauthorised person shall light any fire upon the Common, and no person shall wilfully or negligently place, throw or let fall thereon any lighted or combustible substance, article or thing which may cause or be likely to cause damage by fire to anything growing or being upon the Common.
6. No unauthorised person shall turn out all keep all suffer to remain on the Common any animal (whether of a commonable nature or not) for pasturage or any other purpose, and the owner of every animal found on the Common, other than such as are authorised to feed or remain there, shall, upon been required so to do by any Common keeper, or other Officer of the Conservators, immediately withdraw and remove the same.
7. The Conservators may from time to time fix the number of commonable cattle, which each authorised person may turn out on the Common; and after notice thereof, no authorised person shall turn out or suffer to remain on the Common a greater number of commonable cattle than the number so fixed as his proportion.
8. No unauthorised person shall cut, dig, take all remove any sods, turf, peat, bog earth, brick earth, sand, gravel, stone or other substance on or from any part of the Common or otherwise dig upon or in, or break up or disturb the surface of the Common.
9. Any authorised person who shall dig stone or other substance on the Common, shall do as little damage to the surface as reasonably may be; he shall carefully preserve the top spit of soil, and, as soon as reasonably may be, he shall replace and level the soil, and re-spread the top spit thereon, so as to restore the surface as nearly as may be to its former condition.
10. No authorised person shall cut, dig, take or remove any peat, bog earth or turf for fuel, except on or from such parts of the Common as shall be from time to time set apart by the Conservators for the purpose.
11. No unauthorised person shall cut, take, remove, injure, damage, or destroy, any gorse, furze, broom, brakes, fern, heather, rushes, grass, litter or herbage on or from the Common. No unauthorised person shall cut, take or remove breaks or litter on or from the Common, except for use on land having common appendant or appurtenant thereto over the said Common. No authorised person shall cut, take or remove any brakes for use as aforesaid, in any of the following months, namely, February, March, April, May, June and July. No authorised person shall cut, take or remove any litter for use as aforesaid, in any of the following months, namely, April,

May, June, July, August and September, nor on or from any part of the Common, except such parts as shall be from time to time set apart by the Conservators for the purpose.

12. No person shall cut, fell, take, remove, injure, damage or destroy any tree, sapling, teller, shrub, brush, underwood, or brushwood, upon or from the Common. But this Bye Law shall not apply to the Lord of the Manor of Duddleswell, or to Commoners lawfully cutting, felling, taking or removing estovers of birch, willow or alder.
13. No unauthorised person shall injure, deface or remove any notice board, notice, post or mark, which may be from time to time erected or placed upon the Common by or by the authority of the Conservators, or any building, fence, railing, chain, barrier, gate or other erection, which may be from time to time erected or placed upon or round any Recreation Ground by or by the authority of the Conservators.
14. No unauthorised person shall post or fix up any bill, placard, notice or advertisement upon the Common, or upon any tree, bank, fence, building or other erection thereon.
15. No person shall deposit or leave any timber, faggots, soil, manure, refuse, rubbish, or any substance or material whatsoever upon the Common, without the consent in writing of the Conservators, or their Officer.
16. No person shall pollute the water in any pond, pool, stream or watercourse on the Common.
17. The Superintendent of each Recreation Ground appointed by the Conservators shall have the management and general control of such ground, and shall have the power to set apart and either fence in or mark out in a conspicuous manner a portion thereof for the purpose of Cricket Matches or any other special purposes of recreation; and no person shall play any game on or drive or ride, or pass over the portion of the Recreation Ground so set apart as aforesaid, or over any other portion of the Recreation Ground, which may be from time to time enclosed by the Conservators or by their authority, without the permission of such Superintendent. No person, other than the Superintendent of the ground shall obstruct or interfere with any person playing, or who shall have made preparations for playing at Cricket or any other lawful game upon the Recreation Ground.
18. No person shall brawl or fight, or use violent, or indecent or obscene language, or commit any nuisance, or act in an indecent or disorderly or improper manner upon the Common. Any Officer of the Conservators may remove or exclude from the Common any person offending against this Bye Law.
19. No unauthorised person shall fire a gun, pistol or other firearm upon or over the Common, or commit any other act thereon, whereby persons lawfully using or being upon at the Common may be endangered.
20. No person shall collect, incite or be present at, and take part in any disorderly gathering or assemblage of persons on the Common, or do, aid, or abet in any act or thing which may be, or grow or tend to, an injury or disfigurement of the Common, or to the hurt, annoyance, inconvenience or damage of the persons lawfully using or been upon the Common.
21. Except as provided by any Bye Law with reference to Recreation Grounds, no person shall enclose any part of the Common. Any unauthorised enclosure, building or other obstruction on the Common shall forthwith be removed by the Conservators or their Officer.
22. Every person acting in, taking part in, aiding or abetting the violation of any of the foregoing Byelaws, shall for every offence be liable to a penalty not exceeding the sum of 40/-.
23. Nothing in these Bye Laws shall take away, abridge or prejudicially affect any right, power or authority vested otherwise than by these Bye Laws in the Conservators, or in any Police Constable, or any other legally existing authority, to prevent or punish the offences hereinbefore specified.

Henry R. Freshfield

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened by notice and held at the 'Nutley Inn' Nutley on Saturday the 11th day of June 1887 at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield, in the Chair.
Mr. E.A. Nicholson, nominated by Earl De la Warr.
Sir Spencer Maryon Maryon-Wilson Bart.
The Rev J.B.M. Butler.
Captain Noble.
Mr. Bernard Hale.
Mr. Mark Sandford, nominated by Lady Shelley.
Mr. Albert Turner.
Mr. Joseph Wallis.
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Joseph Ridley.

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Conservators held on the 5th day of May last were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Mr. A.H. Hills stating his inability to attend.

Messrs T.C. Thompson (Ashdown Park) Slack (Forest Row) and Bunce (Brighton) attended as a deputation from the Ashdown Foresters' Protection Association to request the Conservators to make certain alterations in the proposed Bye Laws.

The Conservators having gone through the Bye Laws clause by clause with the Deputation and noted all the alterations the Deputation proposed, undertook to give the same their most careful consideration, and to communicate to them the result. The Deputation having thanked the Conservators for the courteous and careful attention they had received, then withdrew.

The Conservators then discussed the alterations proposed and ultimately determined to apply to the Home Secretary to modify the proposed Bye Laws in accordance with the ink alterations in the annexed printed copy.

The Clerk was directed to forward copies so altered to each Conservator and to each member of the Deputation.

The Clerk read a letter from the Land Commissioners with reference to the balance in their hands.

It was proposed by Mr. H.R. Freshfield, seconded by Sir Spencer M Maryon-Wilson Bart, and resolved that the Land Commissioners be requested to draw a cheque for the balance of £99:18:5 remaining over from the sale of the Encroachments in favour of the Clerk - Mr. W.A. Raper - and that he do pay the amount into an account to be opened in the names of the Conservators with Messrs Molineux & Co. of Lewes with instructions to cheques signed by three of the Conservators.

Henry R. Freshfield

Amended in ink according to the determination of the Conservators after Meeting the deputation on 11 June 1887

[original text struck out and replacement text inserted; other insertions in bold]

ASHDOWN FOREST.

BYE LAWS

1. In the construction of these Bye Laws –

The word “Common” means Ashdown Forest, referred to in the Commons Regulation (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act, 1885, and delineated and coloured green and red in the map (part 1) annexed to the Award, dated 28th March 1887, of WILLIAM AUGUSTUS RAPER the Valuer appointed in the matter of the said Regulation, or any part of the said Common.

The term “the Conservators” means the Conservators for the time being appointed by or under the said Award.

The term “Recreation Ground” means any part of the Common reserved under the provisions of the said Act for the purpose of playing cricket and other games, and coloured red on the said map (part 2).

The term “authorised person” means and includes any person acting by virtue and in due pursuance and under the authority of some provision of the said Act, or of some Estate, interest, or right of a profitable or beneficial nature, in, over, or affecting the Common or some part thereof, and are legally entitled so to act; also the servant of any such person expressly employed for the purpose; also any person for the time being duly authorised by the Conservators or their Officer in writing.

The term “unauthorised person” means and includes any person other than an authorised person as above defined.

Words importing the masculine gender shall be deemed and taken to include females, and the singular to include plural, and the plural to include the singular.

2. No vagrant shall frequent or resort to or remain upon the Common, and ~~it shall be the duty of any~~ Common Keeper or other Officer of the Conservators **shall be empowered** to remove or exclude any such person from the Common.
3. No unauthorised person shall ~~encamp upon the Common or~~ erect or place or suffer to remain ~~thereon~~ **upon the Common** any hut, booth, tent, stall, ~~platform~~, cart, van, ~~clothes post, or other~~ post, hurdle, or other erection, or cause any obstruction thereon.
4. No unauthorised person shall catch or trap birds, or take eggs or nests of birds, or shoot or chase game or other animals upon any part of the Common.
5. No ~~unauthorised~~ person shall light any fire upon the Common, ~~and no person shall~~ **or** wilfully or negligently place, throw or let fall thereon any lighted or combustible substance, article or thing which may cause or be likely to cause damage by fire to anything growing or being upon the Common.
6. No unauthorised person shall turn out all keep all suffer to remain on the Common any animal (whether of a commonable nature or not) for pasturage or any other purpose, and the owner of every animal found on the Common, other than such as are authorised to feed or remain there, shall, upon being required so to do by any Common keeper, or other Officer of the Conservators, immediately withdraw and remove the same.
7. The Conservators may from time to time fix the number of commonable ~~cattle~~ **animals**, which each authorised person may turn out on the Common; and after notice thereof, no authorised person shall turn out or suffer to remain on the Common a greater number of commonable ~~cattle~~ **animals** than the number so fixed as his proportion.
8. No unauthorised person shall cut, dig, take all remove any sods, turf, peat, bog earth, brick earth, sand, gravel, stone or other substance on or from any part of the Common or otherwise dig upon or in, or break up or disturb the surface of the Common.
9. Any authorised person who shall dig stone or other substance on the Common, shall do as little damage to the surface as reasonably may be; he shall carefully preserve the top spit of soil, and, as soon as reasonably may be, he shall replace and level the soil, and re-spread the top spit thereon, so as to restore the surface as nearly as may

be to its former condition. **And so long as any excavation likely to be dangerous to man or beast shall **** open, he shall keep it securely fenced.**

10. No authorised person shall cut, dig, take or remove any peat, bog earth or turf for fuel, except on or from such parts of the Common as shall be from time to time set apart by the Conservators for the purpose.
11. No unauthorised person shall cut, take, remove, injure, damage, or destroy, any gorse, furze, broom, brakes, fern, heather, rushes, grass, litter or herbage on or from the Common. No unauthorised person shall cut, take or remove breaks or litter on or from the Common, except for use on land having common appendant or appurtenant thereto over the said Common. No authorised person shall cut, take or remove any brakes for use as aforesaid, in any of the following months, namely, February, March, April, May, June and July. No authorised person shall cut, take or remove any litter for use as aforesaid, in any of the following months, namely, April, May, June, July, August and September, nor on or from any part of the Common, except such parts as shall be from time to time set apart by the Conservators for the purpose.
12. No person shall cut, fell, take, remove, injure, damage or destroy any tree, sapling, teller, shrub, brush, underwood, or brushwood, upon or from the Common. But this Bye Law shall not apply to the Lord of the Manor of Duddleswell, or to Commoners lawfully cutting, felling, taking or removing estovers of birch, willow or alder.
13. No unauthorised person shall injure, deface or remove any notice board, notice, post or mark, which may be from time to time erected or placed upon the Common by or by the authority of the Conservators, or any building, fence, railing, chain, barrier, gate or other erection, which may be from time to time erected or placed upon or round any Recreation Ground by or by the authority of the Conservators.
14. No unauthorised person shall post or fix up any bill, placard, notice or advertisement upon the Common, or upon any tree, bank, fence, building or other erection thereon.
15. No person shall deposit or leave any timber, faggots, soil, manure, refuse, rubbish, or any substance or material whatsoever upon the Common, without the consent in writing of the Conservators, or their Officer.
16. No person shall pollute the water in any pond, pool, stream or watercourse on the Common.
17. The Superintendent of each Recreation Ground appointed by the Conservators shall have the management and general control of such ground, and shall have the power to set apart and either fence in or mark out in a conspicuous manner a portion thereof for the purpose of Cricket Matches or any other special purposes of recreation; and no person shall play any game on or drive or ride, or pass over the portion of the Recreation Ground so set apart as aforesaid, or over any other portion of the Recreation Ground, which may be from time to time enclosed by the Conservators or by their authority, without the permission of such Superintendent. No person, other than the Superintendent of the ground shall obstruct or interfere with any person playing, or who shall have made preparations for playing at Cricket or any other lawful game upon the Recreation Ground.
18. No person shall brawl or fight, or use violent, or indecent or obscene language, or commit any nuisance, or act in an indecent or disorderly or improper manner upon the Common. Any Officer of the Conservators may remove or exclude from the Common any person offending against this Bye Law.
- ~~19. No unauthorised person shall fire a gun, pistol or other firearm upon or over the Common, or commit any other act thereon, whereby persons lawfully using or being upon at the Common may be endangered.~~
20. No person shall ~~collect, incite or be present at, and take part in any disorderly gathering or assemblage of persons on the Common,~~ or do, aid, or abet in any act or thing which may be, or grow or tend to, an injury or disfigurement of the Common, or to the hurt, annoyance, inconvenience or damage of the persons lawfully using or been upon the Common.

21. Except as provided by any Bye Law with reference to Recreation Grounds, no person shall enclose any part of the Common. Any unauthorised enclosure, building or other obstruction on the Common shall forthwith be removed by the Conservators or their Officer.
22. Every person acting in, taking part in, aiding or abetting the violation of any of the foregoing Byelaws, shall for every offence be liable to a penalty not exceeding the sum of 40/-.
23. Nothing in these Bye Laws shall take away, abridge or prejudicially affect any right, power or authority vested otherwise than by these Bye Laws in the Conservators, or in any Police Constable, or any other legally existing authority, to prevent or punish the offences hereinbefore specified.

Henry R. Freshfield

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened by notice and held at the 'Nutley Inn' Nutley on Friday the 19th day of August 1887 at 3.30 o'clock in the afternoon

Present:

Captain Noble, in the Chair
The Reverend J.B.M. Butler
Mr. Bernard Hale
Mr. Albert Turner
Mr. William Carr

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Conservators held on the 11th day of June last were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the Land Commissioners found on completing their accounts that they had the sum of £99:17:8 in hand instead of £99:18:5, as they had previously reported and that the former amount had now been paid over to Messrs. Molineux & Co. of Lewes, to an account opened in the names of the Conservators.

The Clerk also reported that the Home Secretary had confirmed the Bye Laws as settled at the last Meeting with one exception, viz., that he had restored Bye Law 5 to the form in which it was printed and the copy confirmed by the Home Secretary is laid on the table.

The following letter from Mr. Freshfield, who was abroad, was read and ordered to be entered on the Minutes:

Kidbrooke, East Grinstead

7th August 1887

Dear Sir,

Mr. Hale is, as you will see from the above address, under misapprehension as to my movements. I leave home on Friday morning and shall be away a month or 6 weeks. I cannot make any arrangement for a Meeting (as Mr. Hale this morning suggests) before I leave. I agree with you that immediately the Bye Laws are signed you should convene a Meeting and take their instructions as to the posting up of Bye Laws. I agree that this should be done in several parts of the Forest. In this neighbourhood I suggest Forest Row (at Tompsetts Bank)- Holly Hill. Wych Cross - or further west (near Ridley the great offender), but by the side of the Cross Road leading to Plaw Hatch. Nutley. Duddleswell. Others will speak for their immediate neighbourhood. I should suggest printed notices on Boards. If cut down or damaged they can be replaced. As to a book you cannot do better than follow Red Hill. I enclose my Book. You could ask Waterlow what his charge would be for printing say 250 copies and we might sell them at cost price or even less. Waterlow would also give you a form of printed Bye Laws, if one was used at Red Hill he would be asked to print it. Ask the Conservators, when they meet, to appoint a Sub Committee (Lord de la Warr's Agent, a representative, Captain Noble and myself,

and another) to arrange with regard to Building the Cricket Club at Forest Row [that they] want to put up on the Recreation ground. They want brick. I should prefer wood, but I don't press the dejection. If others agree to brick only it must be kept low. I will send you the rough sketch. I do not think it desirable to be in a hurry as to the appointment of a Ranger. I think the ground is too extended for any one man and that we may require 3, but they would be overlooked, and we could possibly get the work done for 10/- a week or less. There is hardly occupation for daily work, or indeed for all months in the year. That subject requires consideration. We must be careful in incurring expenses.

Yours truly
Henry R Freshfield

It is resolved that the estimate of Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Limited, for printing 50 copies of the Bye Laws on broad sheets, for posting up round the Forest £1:10:0, and 250 copies, foolscap octave £1:11:6 be accepted.

It is also Resolved that the Bye Laws be posted up at the following places on the Forest:

1. Tompsetts Bank, where the way branches from the High Road to Mr. Slack's house.
2. Colemans Hatch, where the road enters the Forest
3. At the Meeting of the three roads near Gill's Lap.
4. At Fryar's Gate.
5. By the Crow and Gate.
6. At the cross roads near the old Toll House at Duddleswell.
7. At Fairwarp, where the road to Fairwarp leaves the Duddleswell Turnpike road.
8. At Nutley, opposite Ford's Green.
9. By the side of the London Road, where it enters the Forest near Millbrook.
10. At Chelwood, where the road to Wych Cross enters the Forest.
11. At the 4 cross roads, between Plaw Hatch and Hindleap. .
12. At Wych Cross, where the road from the Warren enters the London Road.

It is also Resolved that Captain Noble, Mr. Albert Turner and Mr. Sandford be empowered to obtain notice Boards, for the notices, with proper posts ready to fix up.

The Conservators then took into consideration section 20 of the Commons Act 1876, which provides that where a Common is regulated no Surveyor of Highways or Highway Board or Turnpike Trustees shall dig sand, stone or other material on any part of a Common not set apart for the purpose with the sanction of Parliament, without the consent of the persons having the management of the same, or, in default of such consent, without an order of two or more justices in a Petty Session who may prescribe conditions as to the mode of working it.

It is Resolved that the Clerk draw the attention of the various Highway Surveyors to this provision.

It is also Resolved that the Chairman of the Board be one of the three Conservators by whom the cheques are signed and that they be countersigned by the Clerk.

The application of the Forest Row Cricket Club to erect a Cricket Shed on the recreation ground at Tompsetts Bank be referred to a Committee consisting of Mr. Freshfield, Mr Hale, Captain Noble and Lord de la Warr's representative, with full power to deal with the matter.

The Conservators having been informed that encroachments had been made at Nutley by James Carr, Thomas Carr, Lewis Carr, James Pilbeam, John Bennett and John Stratton of Marl pits; It is Resolved that the Clerk write to them giving them notice that, unless the encroachments were abated, they would be proceeded against, according to the Bye Laws.

It is also reported that Joseph Ridley, of Millbrook, and Samuel Ridley, of Fairwarp, had cut turf, but, as the offences had been committed before the Bye Laws were confirmed, the Clerk advised that they could not be proceeded against under the Bye Laws.

William Noble
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened by notice, and held at the 'Nutley Inn' on Friday the 9th day of September 1887 at 3.30 o'clock in the afternoon

Present:

Captain Noble, in the Chair
Sir Spencer M. Maryon-Wilson Bart.
The Reverend J.B.M. Butler M.A
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. Bernard Hale.
Mr. A.H. Hills
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner.
Mr. Joseph Walls
Mr. William Carr

The Minutes of last Meeting held on the 19th August were read and confirmed.

The following letter from Mr. Freshfield was read and ordered to be entered on the Minutes.

Pomtresina - 3 Sep 1887.

Dear Mr. Raper,

I am obliged by your letter of the 30th (received here yesterday). Captain Noble had previously sent me an account of what had passed on the 19th ulto. I gather from your letter that the Boards for the Bye Laws will be ready for erection and I think the sooner they are placed in the positions you indicate the better it will be. I conclude some publication will be given where and at what cost copies of the Bye Laws may be obtained. I am sorry I cannot be present at the next Meeting of the Conservators as we do not expect to be in England until after the middle of this month. In my judgement it is not expedient to appoint a Ranger until the question has been fully considered and the views of the larger Commoners ascertained. The employment of a Ranger would I fear involve a considerable annual expense and this would have to be met by a Tax, and taxation as you know, is not very popular and may involve difficulties. I hope the consideration of this question may be postponed for the present. If the Boards are destroyed or injured I should recommend a reward to be promptly offered for the discovery and evidence to convict the offenders and to replace them without delay. Watching so many is hardly possible and would involve much expense. I notice that you have been authorised to require abatement of recent encroachments at Nutley but they are not confined to that place. In my neighbourhood there are several and I think it would be well if the Valuer was employed to go over the ground see what enclosures had been made since the Valuation and Sale and inform the parties they must throw out or apply to the Conservators for license to hold (if we can give it) on a small payment. We are leaving this early next week and shall be moving about until our return, so I will not give an address. Apropos. of the question on the Bye Laws as to Fires, the following notice is given by the Democratic Government of this country. It is prohibited under a penalty to make a fire in or near the woods or throw away burning cigars or matches.

Yours truly
Henry R. Freshfield

It was Resolved that the Clerk purchase a substantial book for keeping the Minutes in.

Also that the fact that the Bye Laws have been confirmed by the Home Secretary be communicated to the local newspapers and that they be requested to state that copies may be obtained of

Mr. Albert Turner at Nutley
Mr. Henry Norman at Fairwarp.
Mr. Joseph Wallis at Crowborough.
Mr. Inkley at Coleman's Hatch and
Geo. Histed at Forest Row.
on payment of one penny each copy.

The following road Surveyors attended:-
Mr. James Richardson for Hartfield.
Mr. Alfred Hoath for Withyham.
Mr. H.E.T. Hickmott for Maresfield
Mr. Joseph Martin for Fletching.
Mr. William Pursglove for Buxted.

Mr. Richardson applied for consent to continue digging hard stone at Mount Pit near Gill's Lap, iron stone at 4 acre Pit, near Sheppard's, gravel at High Beeches Road, and to make trials for gravel at Greenwood Mount.

Mr. Alfred Hoath applied for consent to continue digging sandstone from the pit near St. John's Church, Crowborough, and to make trials on [the] Forest for gravel from the top of the 500 Acres to Greenwood Gate, being about half a mile and to take the gravel therefrom.

Note: Mr. Hoath stated that Withyham has hard stone by rail but that he has had 350 yards of good gravel dug this year at a cost of 1/6 per yard, and that it is as good as flints from the South Downs.

Mr. Hickmott applied for consent to try for gravel and stone between the Isle of Thorns and the Vetchery, also on Camp Hill, Crow's Nest and Birching Bank, and Foot Bridge Hill, and to take gravel and stone therefrom.

Note: Maresfield parish obtains some hard stone by rail.

Mr. Joseph Martin applied for consent to take hard stone from the existing pit between the Vetchery and Isle of Thorns near the Cricketing Plain.

Note: Fletching parish obtains its principal supply of hard stone by rail.

Mr. Pursglove applied for consent to dig stone and gravel from open pits between Barns Gate and Crows Nest, and to try for same over that area.

It was resolved that the Conservators consent to the applications subject to the byelaws so far as such applications relate to existing quarries and pits but that, as regards fresh openings, the Conservators can only consent to such openings being made as Lord de la Warr's Reeve shall authorise.

That such consents shall extend only to the 25th March next and shall be liable to be revoked on any abuse.

Buying gravel or stone ready dug will be considered as abuse.

And further that the consents be given subject to the condition that no man shall be allowed to dig unless he has with him, at the time, a written order from the Surveyor of Highways stating the date when such order was given, for the purpose and the locality in which he is to dig and that he produces it whenever required to do so, either by the Officer of the Conservators or by Lord de la Warr's Reeve.

That consents to the foregoing effect be sent by the Clerk to each of the above mentioned Surveyors and that the Clerk get printed a form of Authority for the Surveyors to fill up and supply to the men employed by them.

It was proposed by Mr. Turner, seconded by Sir Spencer M. Maryon- Wilson and unanimously resolved that one Ranger be appointed for the whole Forest.

It was proposed by Mr. Sandford, seconded by Mr. Hills and Resolved nem con that the salary of the Ranger be fixed at 10/- per week.

It was also resolved that the duties of the Ranger be to watch the Forest and to see that the Bye Laws are rigidly enforced and that his employment be terminable, on either side, by 4 weeks notice expiring with the current week of his invoice.

It was proposed by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Hills that Mr. Harry Edwin Timothy Hickmott be appointed Ranger.

It was proposed by the Reverend J.B.M. Butler and seconded by Mr. Sandford that Mr. John William Robinson be appointed Ranger.

On these names being put to the vote a majority voted in favour of Mr. Hickmott and he was declared duly elected.

A letter was read from the Inspector of Nuisances for the Uckfield Rural Sanitary Authority complaining of a nuisance arising from a pond at Ford's Green, adjoining to the north west side of Mr. Turner's Timber yard and, it appearing that the pond in question was not within the boundary of the Forest, the Clerk is directed to reply to that effect.

It was proposed by the Reverend J.B.M Butler seconded by Mr. Sandford and Resolved that Mr. John William Robinson of the 'Fox', Duddleswell, be appointed Superintendent of the Recreation Ground near Duddleswell, marked D upon the map, without salary.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

To Mr. W.A. Raper
Clerk to the Conservators

I hereby direct you to convene a Meeting of the Conservators to be held at the Nutley from the Conservators to be held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 29th October instant at 11 o' clock a.m for the transaction of general business also to consider the steps to be taken in consequence of the damage done to Bye Law Boards. To consider as to prosecuting trespassers. To consider as to granting litter to cottages. Witness my hand this 21st October 1887.

Henry R. Freshfield

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held pursuant to the following requisition at the 'Nutley Inn', Nutley, on Saturday the 29th day of October 1887 at 11 o clock in the forenoon.

Present:

Mr. H.R. Freshfield
The Reverend J.B.M. Butler
Captain Noble
Mr. A.H. Hills
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

Mr. William Carr
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Hickmott.

The Minutes of the last Meeting are read and confirmed.

It is resolved that a reward of Five pounds be paid to any person who shall furnish to the Ranger such information and assistance as shall lead to the detection and conviction of the offender, or offenders, and that the printed notice to that effect issued by the Clerk on the 14th instant, a copy of which is laid on the table, be approved.

Mr. Hickmott reports that the following damage has been done to the Bye Law Boards, viz;

near Tompsett's Bank- the board and the post painted black.
near Coleman's Hatch – slightly damaged by stones.
near Gills Lap – Board taken away and post sawn.
near Crow & Gate – board and post removed.
near Duddleswell – board smeared with cow dung
near Fairwarp- board removed from post but recovered.
near Ford's Green- board tarred all over
near Millbrook – board smeared with cow dung
near Plaw Hatch –the same - and post loose
near Wych Cross - board taken away

It is Resolved that Mr. Hickmott have the Boards at Fords Green and Tompsett's Bank cleaned and the Bye Laws remounted on them and the board at Fairwarp re-fixed and have cleared and varnished such other Boards as require cleaning and that a notice of the reward offered be attached to each post.

Lord de la Warr having assented to permission being granted to occupiers of small holdings within the Forest or immediately around it to take bracken and litter from the Forest within the prescribed months for use exclusively on their own holdings,

It is resolved that the Ranger be authorised (the Lord's Reeve assenting) to grant written licenses for the purpose to persons coming within the above description and that the Clerk do prepare and have printed the necessary form of license provided with counterfoils to be signed by the persons licensed, acknowledging receipt of such license.

It is also resolved that application be made to Lord de la Warr to consent to the like privilege being granted in respect of peat for fuel only on areas to be defined and that if such consent be granted, licenses be granted in a similar way.

That the Clerk issue public notice that applications for such licenses may be made to the Ranger.

It is Resolved that Mr. W.A. Raper, as the Clerk to the Conservators, be authorised to institute prosecutions in any case of breach of a Bye Law or of malicious injury to the property of the Conservators.

That the Ranger be empowered to expend not exceeding £2 in employing a person on the N.W. side of the Forest, and one on the N.E. side of the Forest, to assist in the detection of offenders.

An application having been made in behalf of Mr. R.J. Streatfeild for permission to fence in from cattle a spring near Brown's Brook, which is used to supply cottages there with water.

It is Resolved that the Conservators authorise it on sanitary grounds, Mr. Streatfeild obtaining Lord de la Warr's consent.

It is Resolved that the following bills be paid:-

Wyman and Sons for Minute Book.	£0.9.9.
Ticehurst, for prints and reprints of draft Bye Laws	£3.2.6.
Sussex Express for advertising deposit of Bye Laws	£1.5.0.
Southern Weekly News ditto	£2.11.6.
Waterlow & Sons Ltd., for printing Bye Laws on broad sheets, and in book form	£3.1.6.
Ticehurst, for headed paper, and forms of notice	
Convening Meetings	£0.19.6 **** for hire of room – 5 Meetings
	£1.5.0.
	£12.14.9.

It is reported to the Conservators that an encroachment has been made by Mr. John Bennett of Lisburn, and that Richard Stevenson of the brickyard, Nutley, has put out his fence by the road in front of his garden between the house and the brickyard.

The Ranger is directed to call on these parties to throw them out.

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

To Mr. W.A. Raper
Clerk to the Conservators

I hereby direct you to convene a Meeting of the Conservators to be held at the Nutley Inn on Saturday the 31st December instant at 11 o'clock a.m. To decide by ballot which 4 Conservators go out of office in January next and which 4 in January 1889. To arrange for the election of 4 Conservators in January next. To receive Mr. Hickmott's resignation of the Office of Ranger, and to take such steps thereon as may appear expedient. To transact general business. Witness my hand this 22nd December 1887.

Henry R. Freshfield

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held pursuant to the foregoing requisition at the 'Nutley Inn' in Nutley on Saturday the 31st day of December 1887 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Present:

Mr. H.R. Freshfield
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
The Reverend J.B.M. Butler
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Bernard Hale
Mr. A.H. Hills
Sir Spencer M. Maryon-Wilson Bart
Captain Noble
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

Mr. Hickmott reported that the prints of the Bye Laws which had been put up again at Fairwarp and Millbrook had been torn down again and the board at Coleman's Hatch had been sawn asunder.

He is directed to carry out the resolution passed at the last Meeting.

The Clerk reports that Lord de la Warr has given his consent to the granting of licenses to small occupiers within and immediately around the Forest to take a limited quantity of peat for fuel only on areas to be defined in accordance with the resolution passed at the last Meeting.

Prints of the proposed licenses and counterfoils are laid before the Meeting and

It is Resolved that the same be approved and that 500 of each be printed in accordance with Mr. Parson's estimate.

Mr. Freshfield then brought forward the case of a man named Jones who, with his family, has been living in tents on the Forest near Tompsetts Bank.

The Ranger states that he served on one of the party on the 19th December a notice to remove, which they had not taken notice of .

Mr. Hale reports three similar cases near Kidd's Hill.

It is resolved that the Ranger serve on these parties a short notice to remove, and that in default of their complying, the Clerk do prosecute them under the Bye Laws.

The Ranger reports that Richard Stevenson has promised to set back his fence but that John Bennett of Lisburn refuses to do so.

It is ordered that a written notice be served on John Bennett requiring him to throw out his encroachment and, in default of his complying, the Ranger is hereby directed to throw out the same.

Captain Noble reports that James Wright, the purchaser of encroachment No. 92 has erected a building extending on the Forest.

It is ordered that a notice be given him to remove the building from off the Forest.

It is also ordered that the Ranger be instructed to report all encroachments made since the confirmation of the Order for regulation other than these sold by the valuer under the Order.

The Land Commissioners having applied for reimbursement of 10/- fee paid to Clerk of the Peace on deposit of the Award.

It is ordered that the same be paid viz: 10/- also that the following bills be paid:

Ticehurst Brothers for prints and reprints

of draft Bye Laws

£3:2:6

W. Turner & Son for making and fixing 12 notice

Boards for Bye Laws

£13.10.0.

It is Resolved that it is desirable that cottagers residing within or immediately around the Forest be granted permission to turn out on the Forest a limited number of cattle and sheep, being their bona fide property subject to proper regulations.

The Clerk stated that while the Commoners are entitled to the sole common pasturage and herbage of the Forest, Lord de la Warr, as owner of the soil, would have the right to treat as trespassers any persons other than Commoners turning out stock on the Forest.

It is Resolved that having regard to the opinion expressed by the Clerk, application be made to Lord de la Warr, as owner of the soil, as distinguished from the pasturage and herbage to consent to the proposed arrangement.

The Conservators then proceeded to determine by lot the order in which they shall go out of office and lots were drawn as follows:-

To go out of office in January next
Captain William Noble
Lady Shelley
Mr. H.R. Freshfield
Sir Spencer M. Maryon Wilson Bart

To go out of office in January 1889
The Reverend J.B.M. Butler
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Arbuthnot
The Earl of Sheffield.

To go out of office in 1890
~~Mr. Joseph Walls~~
~~Mr. A.H. Hills~~
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Albert Turner

It is ordered that a Meeting of the Commoners should be convened for the election of Conservators on Saturday 28th January next at 11 o' clock a.m. at the Nutley School House and that notice thereof be advertised in the 'Sussex Express' and the 'People's Edition of the Sussex Advertiser' and that a copy of such notice be sent to all known Commoners

The following letter is read

Maresfield
December 3rd 1887

Sir,

Ashdown Forest

I beg to inform you that I find my business increasing that I cannot attend to my duties as Ranger as I should wish to do. I therefore hereby give you notice that I intend giving up the office of Ranger on the 31st day of December next.

I am sir

Yours truly
H.E.T. Hickmott.

To W.A. Raper Esq.
Clerk to
The Conservators

I shall be willing to resign any time before 31st December if the Conservators wish.

H.H.

It is Resolved that Mr. Hickmott's resignation be accepted with regret.

It was then proposed by Mark Sandford seconded by Sir Spencer M. Maryon Wilson and unanimously resolved that Mr. John W. Robinson of Duddleswell be appointed Ranger at a Ranger salary of 10/- per week, his duties to commence on the 2nd January next and his employment to be terminable on either side by four week's notice expiring with a current week of his service, it being understood that Mr. Robinson be sworn in as a constable and that assistance will be afforded to him in carrying out his duties when necessary on application to the Chairman or Clerk.

Messrs. Freshfield, Hale and Noble report that, in accordance with the resolution of the 19th August last, they had inspected the Recreation ground at 'Tompsett's Bank and there met the Committee of the Cricket Club and that they have approved a site at the east end of the Recreation ground for the erection of a Cricket shed and had not imposed any condition with regard to the material to be used in its erection.

The question of the Clerk's remuneration was then discussed and the Clerk having offered to accept remuneration by salary at the rate of £50 per annum for the current year, commencing on the 25th March last, and for the next year such salary to be exclusive of cash disbursements but to include all the usual duties of Clerk and the conduct of prosecutions before the Petty Sessions, but not any other legal proceedings. It is Resolved that the offer be accepted.

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

At a Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened by the Clerk by notice on the Church door of each of the parishes or ecclesiastical districts into which the Forest extends and by advertisement in two newspapers circulating in the neighbourhood to wit the "Sussex Express" and the "Sussex Advertiser" at least 14 days before this date and held on Saturday the 28th day of January 1888 at 11 a.m at the School House at Nutley

Present:

Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield
Sir Spencer Maryon Maryon-Wilson Bart
The Rev. J.B.M. Butler
The Rev. Harry John Beckham
Captain Wm. Noble
Messrs W.R. Arbuthnot
Wm. Carr
Bernard Hale
A.H. Hills
John McAndrew
Mark Sandford
Alfred Hoath
Joseph Ridley (Misbourne Farm)
Albert Turner
William Turner and
Joseph P. Wallis

It was proposed by Captain Noble seconded by the Rev. J.B.M. Butler and carried unanimously that Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield do take the Chair.

Mr. Freshfield having taken the Chair the notice convening the Meeting was read as follows:-

"Conservators of Ashdown Forest I hereby convene a Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest to be held on Saturday 28th January instant at 11 a.m. at the School House at Nutley for the purpose of electing four

Conservators of the Forest in the place of Captain William Noble, Lady Shelley, Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield and Sir Spencer Maryon Maryon-Wilson, Bart. who retire by rotation. Dated 10th day of January 1888. W. Aug. Raper, Clerk to the Conservators. N.B.-only such persons as are legally entitled to exercise rights of Common on the Forest will be entitled to vote”.

Also the provisions of the Valuer’s Award regulating the election of Conservators.

It was proposed by Mr. Arbuthnot and seconded by Mr. Hale that Captain William Noble be re-elected a Conservator and upon a show of hands being taken he was declared unanimously elected.

It was proposed by Sir Spencer Maryon Maryon-Wilson Bart and seconded by Mr. Arbuthnot that Mr. Mark Sandford be elected a Conservator and upon a show of hands being taken he was declared unanimously elected.

It was proposed by the Rev. J.B.M. Butler and seconded by Mr. Mark Sandford that Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield be re-elected a Conservator and upon a show of hands being taken he was declared unanimously elected.

It was proposed by Captain William Noble and seconded by Mr. Albert Turner that Sir Spencer Maryon Maryon-Wilson Bart be re-elected a Conservator and upon a show of hands being taken he was declared unanimously elected.

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

Note appearing on top of page 30 in the original book:

“We the undersigned Conservators of Ashdown Forest desire, as we are entitled to do under the Award, that a special Meeting of the Board of Conservancy be summoned to holden at Nutley on Saturday , Feb 25th 1888, to consult generally as to the policy of the Board , specifically as to its applications to some recent infringements of the Bye Laws.”-

Signed-
William Noble
Mark Sandford
Joseph Ridley
William Carr
Albert Turner
J.B.M. Butler

Feb. 15th 1888

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held pursuant to the foregoing on requisition at the “Nutley Inn” Nutley on Saturday the 25th day of February 1888 at 11 o’clock in the forenoon.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Bernard Hale
Captain Noble
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

Mr. Joseph Ridley

The Clerk read the requisition convening the Meeting. The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed. The Clerk reported that at a General Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened and held at the School House at Nutley on the 28th day of January last, Captain William Noble, Mr. Mark Sandford, Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield and Sir Spencer Maryon Maryon-Wilson Bart, were elected Conservators of the Forest for the ensuing three years.

Letters were read from Mr. Frederick Wood and Mr. Charles Wood, expressing great regret that they had committed a trespass on the Forest in removing mould in January last and it was resolved that their apology be accepted.

A discussion then took place with regard to the general policy of the Board in reference to the enforcement of the Bye Laws and ultimately it was proposed by Mr. Sandford seconded by the Reverend J.B.M. Butler and unanimously resolved that the Clerk be instructed that it shall be in his discretion not to prosecute an offender for a first offence if regret is expressed to him or to the Ranger and a promise not to repeat the offence is given by the offender.

The accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Conservators for the year ending 31st December last were then audited and approved, showing a balance in hand towards the current year's expenditure of £24.16.4

The Board then considered a correspondence which had passed between Messrs. Prince & Ayres and the Clerk with reference to John Bennett's encroachment, which had been thrown out, Messrs. Prince & Ayres on behalf of Mr. Bennett, requiring the fence to be reinstated, on threatening a action and it was resolved that the Clerk be instructed to defend any proceedings that might be taken against the Conservators, or against any Officer of theirs, by Mr. Bennett, and that Messrs. Prince & Ayres be informed thereof.

It was also resolved that the Clerk be instructed to purchase a book in which to keep the accounts of the Conservators.

It was also resolved that the Clerk remind the Road Surveyors of the parishes running into the Forest that their licences to search for and take road materials would expire on the 25th day of March next and that any applications they might have to make must be made at the next Meeting.

It was resolved that the consideration of the estimates of the expenditure of the year 1888 and the provision for some stand over till the next Meeting.

It was Resolved that the next Meeting of the Conservators take place on the 7th April.

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest convened in accordance with the resolution passed at the preceding Meeting and held at the "Nutley Inn" Nutley on Saturday the 7th day of April 1888 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Bernard Hale
Captain Noble
Mr. Mark Sandford

Mr. Albert Turner
Mr. Joseph Ridley

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

It was proposed by Mr. Sandford, seconded by Captain Noble, and unanimously resolved that Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield be elected Chairman for the current year.

The Clerk produced and read the notice served on him by Mr. John Bennett of his intention to bring an action against the Conservators for trespass.

Mr. Joseph Martin, Road Surveyor for Fletching, applied for consent to take hard stone from the existing pit between the Fletching and Isle of Thorns, near the cricketing plain.

Mr. James Richardson, Road Surveyor for Hartfield, applied for consent to continue digging hard stone at Mount Pit, near Gill's Lap, iron stone at 4 acre Pit, near Sheppard's, and gravel at High Beeches Road and to make trials for gravel at Greenwood Mount.

Mr. Alfred Hoath, Road Surveyor for Withyham, applied for license to continue digging sand stone from the pit near St. John's Church, Crowborough, and to make trials on the Forest for gravel from the top of the 500 acres to Greenwood Gate, being about half a mile and to take gravel therefrom.

Mr. William Pursglove, Road Surveyor for Buxted, applied for license to dig stone and gravel from open pits between Barns Gate and **** ~~Crows Nest~~ to try for same over that area.

It was Resolved that the applications be granted on the same conditions as last year and particularly on condition that certificates issued by the Road Surveyors to their men must be recalled as soon as the work is done, so that the men cannot go on searching on their own account under cover of them, also all but permanent quarries must be filled up carefully and evenly after stone or gravel has been removed and that the approval of the Ranger, as well as of Lord De la Warr's Reeve, be obtained before opening any pits and that the removal or revocation of the license be dependent on a strict observance of the conditions.

It was also resolved that if Mr. James Diplock, the nearly appointed Surveyor for Maresfield, should apply to the Clerk for a renewal of the license granted last year to his predecessor, Mr. Hickmott, license be granted on the same terms as to the other Road Surveyors, with a caution to him that the conditions must be adhered to.

An application was read from the Committee of the Recreation ground at Tompsett's Bank, applying for permission to enclose the same with a bank or with a wooden fence.

It was resolved that permission be given to enclose the Recreation ground with a wooden fence similar to the present one, but that the Conservators could not permit a bank to be erected.

A Memorial was read from residents around Forest Row applying that Mr. Wm. R. Lee be appointed Superintendent of the Recreation ground at Tompsett's Bank.

It was Resolved that Mr. Wm. R. Lee be appointed Superintendent of the Recreation ground till such appointment should be revoked by the Conservators.

Mr. Aaron Horscroft, owner, and Mr. William Izzard, occupier, of the inclosure member 540 on the Ordnance map, north of and near Putland's Farm in the parish of Maresfield attended before the Conservators and stated that the triangular piece at the north east of the said enclosure, containing about one and half rods, was part of the property and was enclosed for many years about 4 years ago, when the late tenant, Frederick Tester, having had notice to quit for non payment of rent, destroyed the wooden fence around it, and Mr. Horscroft applied to the Conservators for permission to re-enclose the piece of land.

The Conservators having enquired into the matter and having examined the Ordnance map, which clearly showed that the land was enclosed at the date of the map, about 1875 or 1876.

It was resolved that Mr. Horscroft be informed that the Conservators do not claim the triangular piece of land in question as part of the Forest.

Mr. Henry Wheatley, Sexton of Nutley Church, having applied to take turf from the Forest to repair grave mounds, it was explained to him that neither the Conservators nor anyone else, has power to take green turf from the Forest.

It was also resolved that before the next Meeting the Clerk do make put as complete a list as possible of the persons entitled to rights of common on the Forest and of the acreages of their lands entitled to such rights as a basis for making a rate for defraying the expenses of the Conservators. Also that the Clerk issue an advertisement stating that the Conservators are about to make a rate under the powers conferred on them and inviting any persons not already on the list to send in their names with full particulars of the properties in respect of which they claim rights of common to him before a date to be named in the advertisement.

It was also resolved that it be referred to a Committee consisting of the Rev. J.B.M. Butler, Mr. Mark Sandford and Mr. Albert Turner to arrange for the acceptance and erection of the pavilion which Sir Spencer M. Maryon-Wilson Bart. has so kindly offered to present to the Recreation ground at Duddleswell.

It was also resolved that Messrs. Turner, Ridley, Carr and Wallis, be appointed a Committee to fix the places where the earthing of peat for fuel by license is to be permitted for the ensuing season.

It was also resolved that the next Meeting of the Conservators be held at Nutley on Saturday the 23rd day of June next.

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest convened in accordance with the resolution passed at the preceding Meeting and held at the "Nutley Inn" Nutley on Saturday the 23rd June 1888, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield

The Revd. J.B.M. Butler

Mr. William Carr

Mr. Bernard Hale

Captain Noble

Mr. Mark Sandford

Mr. Albert Turner

Mr. Joseph Ridley

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting John Bennett of Lisburn in pursuance of his notice brought an action against the Conservators for trespass in respect of the bank and fence removed by the Ranger and claimed an injunction. The action was tried before the County Court Judge at Lewes on the 4th instant when Judgement was given for the Conservators with costs on the higher scale, which were waiting taxation.

The Clerk also reported that a license had been granted to Mr. James Diplock, Road Surveyor of Maresfield, in accordance with the resolution of the last Meeting.

Captain Noble having pointed out that many trial holes had been made and left open on the Forest between Barn's Gate and Crow's Nest, it was resolved that the attention of Mr. Pursglove, the Road Surveyor of Buxted, be drawn thereto and to the terms of his license.

The Ranger reported that Charles Hazelden of Lisburn farm, being an unauthorised person, had been cutting peat for fuel and for use on his garden and refuses to desist.

Also that George Jenner of Duddleswell had been cutting peat and supplying it to shops and to farmers, including Ephraim Wood, a shopkeeper at Duddleswell, and that he had been warned by the Ranger, by Lord de la Warr's Reeve, and by P.C. Allcorn, but still persisted.

Also that Joseph Ridley, of Millbrook, had been cutting peat for fuel.

Also that William Izzard, of Brown's Brook, had been cutting peat for fuel and used the same in his cottage.

It was resolved that subject to the Clerk satisfying himself as to the sufficiency of the evidence in support of prosecutions he summon these parties for breach of the Byelaws.

The Ranger also reported that Joseph Ridley, of Millbrook has made an encroachment on the Forest between his boundary and the river and also an addition to a lodge standing by itself on the Forest and not included in the sale under the Order for Regulation.

The Clerk was directed to take proceedings against him in the County Court, or under the byelaws, as he may deem expedient.

The Ranger also drew the attention of the Conservators to the other encroachments made by John Bennett of Lisburn, which had not been thrown out and it was resolved that he be served with notice to throw out the same and failing his doing so, the Clerk take proceedings to have them abated.

Mr. Thomas Osborne, of Funnells Farm, Nutley, attended and applied for the consent of the Conservators to re-enclose the piece of ground being an excrescence at the north of enclosure number 507 above Duddleswell, on the ground that he purchased the piece of land. He admitted that Mr. George Edwards, the late Reeve of Lord de la Warr, threw out this piece of ground several years ago and that it had remained unenclosed ever since, but he alleged that the piece claimed by Messrs. Horscroft & Izzard, referred to at the last Meeting, was thrown out at the same time.

The Ranger was directed to make enquiry into the matter.

The Conservators then considered an application by the Ranger for an increase of salary and it was ultimately resolved that the salary of the Ranger be increased from the 16th instant to £1 per week. It includes all his disbursements except in cases where his presence is required by the Clerk outside the Forest in connection with legal proceedings in which case he is to be allowed a reasonable sum for his expenses.

It was also resolved that the next Meeting of Conservators be held at Nutley on Saturday the 11th day of August next.

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

A MEETING OF THE CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST, CONVENED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE PRECEDING MEETING AND HELD AT THE "NUTLEY INN", NUTLEY ON SATURDAY THE 11TH AUGUST 1888, AT 11 O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON.

PRESENT:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield, in the Chair,
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler,
Mr. A.H. Hills,
Mr. E.A. Nicholson,
Captain Noble
Mr. Joseph Ridley,
Mr. Mark Sandford,
Mr. Albert Turner.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that at the Uckfield Petty Sessions on the 19th ulto Charles Hazelden, William Izzard, Thomas Tester and George Jenner were convicted of cutting peat and was each fined 10/- and 10/- costs, that Mr. Prince, on behalf of the three first named, had been granted a Case on several points of law but that he had since abandoned it and that Tester had been allowed 14 days to pay.

That at the East Grinstead Petty Sessions on the 30th, Mr. Absalom Jones was convicted of suffering a van to remain on the Forest and was fined 10/- with 10/- costs, which he paid, and James Brazil, who did not appear, was convicted of encamping on the Forest, and fined 10/- and 12/- costs, with the alternative of 14 days imprisonment.

It having been ascertained that the representations made to the Conservators on the 7th April last by Aaron Horscroft and William Izzard, with regard to the triangular piece of ground I described in the Minutes, were untrue, and that the piece of the ground had been thrown out some years ago by Lord De la Warr's Reeve, it is resolved that the Clerk call on Izzard to throw out the piece of ground, and that, in default of his doing so, proceedings be taken against him to compel its restoration to the Forest.

It was proposed by Mr. Freshfield, seconded by Mr. Sandford and unanimously resolved that a rate be made for defraying the expenses of the Conservators in the execution of their duties under the award made under the provisions of the Inclosure Acts 1845 to 1878, and the Commons Regulation (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act 1885, to be levied upon the respective owners of the rights of common upon the Forest at the rate of 6d per acre in respect of the average of their respective lands to which such rights attach, which Commoners and their respective averages aforesaid are hererinafter set out, namely:-

Name	Address	Acreage
Arbuthnot, W.R. Esq.	Plaw Hatch, East Grinstead	200
Banister, F.L. Esq.	Stone House, Forest Row, East Grinstead	50
Birch, Peregrine, Esq.	The Priory, Forest Row, East Grinstead	100
Butler, Revd.. J.B.M.	The Rectory, Maresfield, Uckfield	100
Bell, C.W. Esq.	Yewhurst, East Grinstead	180
Carr, Mr. William	Nutley, Uckfield	8
Cave, Mr. William	Fletching, Uckfield	10
Chatterton, J.C. Esq.	Birch Grove, East Grinstead	40
Colchester, Lord	Carlton Club, Pall Mall, S.W.	213
Copes & Buckley, Messrs.	3, Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.	5
Cook, Mr A.	Nutley, Uckfield	¼
Cranston Trustees, The	c/o J.E.C. Leslie Esq., 17 Bedford Row, W.C.	323
Dadswell, Mr. Robert	Buxted, Uckfield	1
Du Croz, F.A. Esq.	Court Lands, West Hoathly, East Grinstead	80
Edwards, Mr. Robt., Devises	Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	10
Feldwick, Mr. Edward	Maresfield, Uckfield	5
Freshfield, H.R. Esq.	Kidbrook Park, East Grinstead	200
Fleet, Mr.	Shortbridge, Piltdown, Uckfield	10

		1535
		1335
Goldsmith, Mrs. Sophia	“Chequers Inn”, Maresfield, Uckfield	1
Goldsmiths’ Company	Goldsmiths’ Hall, London. E.C.	193
Hale, Bernard, Esq.	Forest Lodge, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	68
Hills, A. H. Esq.	High Hurst Wood, Buxted, Uckfield	40
Hoath, Mrs. Lydia	Friars’ Gate, Withyham, Tunbridge wells	4
Hoath, Mr. Amos	Temple’s School, Montpellier Rd., Brighton	3
Hother, Mr. John	Lewes	115
Hooker, Mr. John	Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	10
Histed, Mr. Henry	Forest Row, East Grinstead	10
Johnson, W. C. Esq.	Victoria Road, Charlton, Kent	101
Kemp, Mr. Geo.	East Grinstead	¼
Keys, Mr.	Forest Row, East Grinstead	12
Knight, Mr. Thos. Jas.	Budletts, Maresfield, Uckfield	2
Larnach, D. Esq.	Brambletye, East Grinstead	500
Lewis, Mrs. Lucy Rose	Fairwarp, Maresfield, Uckfield	12
Lyell, Mr. John Wishart	c/o Messrs. Lyell Brothers, Lewes	½
Melville, Robert Esq.	Hartfield Grove, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	78
Maynard, Mr. M	PlawHatch, East Grinstead	5
Miles, Mr. William	Forest Row, East Grinstead	1
Moor, Mrs.	Pixton Hill, Forest Row, East Grinstead	103
Mac Andrew, John Esq.	Holly Hill, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	182
Nesbitt, Mrs.	Oldlands, Buxted, Uckfield	500
Noble, Captain	Forest Lodge, Nutley, Uckfield	15
Norfolk, The Duke of	Arundel Castle, Sussex	118
Norman, Mr. Henry	Fairwarp, Maresfield, Uckfield	6
Page, Mr. Jesse Page, Mr. William, Taylor, Mr Geo. Edwd.	Summerford Farm, near Fairwarp, Uckfield	4
Portman, Hon. W.H.B. MP	22, Portman Square, London, W.	180
Packham, Rev. H.J.	Vicarage, Nutley, Uckfield	2 ½
Ridley, Mr. Joseph	Misbourne Farm, Horney Common, Nutley, Uckfield	14
Sheffield, Earl of	Sheffield Park, Fletching, Uckfield	950
Sayers, Mr. Stephen	Forest Row, East Grinstead	¼
Sandford, Mark, Esq.	Maresfield, Uckfield	1 ½
Shelley, Lady	Maresfield Park, Maresfield, Uckfield	1706
Shoebridge, Mr. Thomas	Nutley, Uckfield	¼
Streatfeild, R.S. Esq.	“The Rocks”, Uckfield	240
Stapley, Mr. Geo.	Withyham, Tunbridge Wells	2
Sadlier, Mrs. the wife of the Revd.. Canon	c/o Joseph Turner Esq., East Grinstead	185
Tester, Sarah, Widow	Withyham, Tunbridge Wells	2
Wilson, Sir Spencer M. Maryon, Bart	“Searles”, Fletching, Uckfield	1150
Turner, Albert, Esq.	Nutley, Uckfield	7 ½
Turner, William, Esq.	Nutley, Uckfield	6
Tapps-Gervis, Miss Clara	c/o Arthur Hastie Esq., East Grinstead	925
Wilson, Robert, Esq.	“Stroods”, Buxted, Uckfield	193
Wallis, Mr Joseph P.	“Coopers’ Arms”, Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells	2 ½
Wontner, A.J. Esq.	75 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.	86
Woods, M.S. Grosvenor, Esq.	9 Old Square, Lincoln’s Inn, London, W.C.	498
Waters, Mr George	Forest Row, East Grinstead	5
Wood, Mr. Charles	Maresfield, Uckfield	12

It being reported that Alfred Hoath has for some time past deposited chips upon the Forest at Friars' Gate, it is resolved that he be required to remove them, but that if he apply for a license permission be granted him to allow them to remain for a short time only.

The Ranger reports that James Pilbeam of Dodds' Brook has taken in a corner of Forest land that James Wright was encroaching below Fords Green, that Charlotte Josephine Ridley, of Windmill, Nutley, had been cutting brakes, that William Izzard, of Payne's Hill, had also been cutting brakes, and that Zachariah Carr had also repeatedly cut brakes and refused to desist. It was resolved that the facts be laid before the Clerk and that he prosecute in all cases in which the proof can be clearly and legally established.

It was resolved that the next Meeting of the Conservators be held on the 22nd September.

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

A Special Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest convened by notice to all the Conservators and held at the "Nutley Inn", Nutley, on Saturday the 25th August 1888, at 11 o'clock in the fore-noon.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield
 The Revd. J.B.M. Butler
 Mr. William Carr
 Mr. Bernard Hale
 Captain Noble
 Mr. Mark Sandford
 Mr. Albert Turner
 Mr. Joseph Ridley

The Ranger, Mr. J.W. Robinson, having absented himself from his duties without permission, or notice, and the Revd. J.B.M. Butler having reported that he yesterday received a letter from Robinson, stating that he should not return, it is proposed by Mr. Freshfield, seconded by Mr. Sandford, and unanimously resolved that Mr. Robinson be forthwith discharged from the office of Ranger.

It is proposed by the Revd. J.B.M. Butler, seconded by Mr. Sandford and unanimously resolved that the Clerk insert advertisements for a person to fill the vacant office of Ranger, and that the applications be laid before the Meeting to be held on the 22nd prox.

Mr. H.E.T. Hickmott having offered to undertake the duties of Ranger, pending the appointment of a successor to Mr. Robinson, it is proposed by Mr. Freshfield, seconded by Captain Noble and unanimously resolved that Mr. Hickmott be appointed to the office temporarily, by the week, commencing from today at the salary of £1 per week, and that, if he found it necessary to employ assistance to watch, he be paid his moderate disbursements for the purpose.

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest convened in accordance with the resolution passed at the last ordinary Meeting, held at the "Nutley Inn", Nutley, on Saturday the 22nd September 1888, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield, in the Chair,
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner
Mr. Joseph Wallis

The Conservators having considered a large number of applications for the office of Ranger, and accompanying testimonials, it was proposed by Mr. Wallis, seconded by Mr. Carr, and unanimously resolved that the Chairman, The Revd. J.B.M. Butler, Mr. Albert Turner and Mr. Mark Sandford be appointed a Committee to see the applicants McQuillan, Brown, Kidd, Burgess and Crow and that they be empowered, if they think fit, to appoint one of them to the office of Ranger.

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest, duly convened by notice, and held at the "Nutley Inn", Nutley, on Saturday, the 10th day of November 1888, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield, in the Chair,
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler,
Mr. Wm. Carr,
Mr. A.H. Hills,
Mr. E.A. Nicholson,
Capt. Noble,
Mr. Joseph Ridley,
Mr. Mark Sandford,
Mr. Albert Turner,

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that he received £180:18:1½ on account of the rate, and that the balance in hand amounted to £178:5:0½.

The Committee appointed at the last Meeting reported that they saw the selected applicants for the office of Ranger, and, in the result, engaged Mr. James McQuillan as Ranger, at a salary of £1 per week, with the use of a house and garden at Wych Cross, and until possession thereof could be obtained, lodging to be provided for him by the Conservators, his duties to commence on Monday, the 15th October, and the engagement to be terminated by either party, at the expiration of a current week of his service, by the week's previous notice.

The Committee also reported that they had paid the several applicants, altogether £1, for their travelling expenses to meet the Committee and recommended that Mr. McQuillan be reimbursed his expenses, amounting to 19/10d of visiting the Forest, at their request, to see what would be the nature of his duties, before finally engaging.

It was resolved that the report of the Committee be confirmed.

It was resolved that the following cheques be signed:

Mr. McQuillan for his said expenses and 4 weeks salary to 12th instant	£4:19:10
Mr. Hickmott, salary and disbursements, as temporary Ranger, from 27th August to 15th October	£6:0:0
The Clerk costs of defending the action at the suit of Bennett, less saved costs, paid by Plaintiff	£15:19:10
Same for sundry disbursements	£15:4:0

A letter from Mr. Wm. Judges, the Secretary of the Committee of the Forest Row Cricket Club was read, relative to damage done to the fence of the Recreation Ground there, and

It was resolved that the Clerk reply that the Committee were not, in their opinion, bound to leave gangways in the fence; that the Conservators would be prepared to prosecute under the bye-laws for damages done to the fence, if sufficient evidence were forthcoming, and that the Committee might make up a footway outside the fence, parallel to the alleged way across the cricket ground.

The claim of Richard and W. Stevenson, of Nutley Brickyard to “custom rights” on the Forest was considered and The Clerk was directed to enquire in respect of what lands the claim was made.

Letters were read from Mr. A.H. Hills and Mr. Joseph Wallis stating the wish of several small occupiers not being Commoners to be permitted to pay the rates and exercise the rights of Commoners.

It was Resolved that the considerations of this matter be deferred, pending the interview with a deputation on behalf of the Foresters.

The Ranger having reported that the bye-law board near Millbrook was destroyed on the night of the 3rd instant, The Clerk was directed to offer a reward of Five pounds for information which would lead to the conviction of the offenders.

It was resolved that the Meeting of Commonness for the election of four Conservators in the place of the Rev. J.B.M. Butler, Mr. Wm. Carr, Mr. Bernard Hale and the Earl of Sheffield, be held at the Nutley School House on Saturday, the 29th December next, at 11 a.m.

It was also resolved that the Clerk confer with Mr. Nicholson, and take such other advice as he may deem necessary as to whether the continuous taking of litter, brakes or peat (in respect of an enclosure taken from the Forest) for 60 years past will confer a right.

The Ranger then made his report of various breaches of the bye-laws and it was resolved that pending the interview with the Foresters’ Committee, prosecutions for litter, brakes and peat cutting stand over, but that proceedings be continued against campers and encroachers.

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest, duly convened by notice, and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 1st December, 1888, at 10.30 a.m

Present:

Mr. H.R. Freshfield, in the Chair,

The Revd. J B.M. Butler,
Captain Noble,
Mr Wm. Carr,
Mr. A.H. Hills,
Mr. Joseph Ridley,
Mr. Mark Sandford,
Mr. Albert Turner,
Mr. Joseph Wallis

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that he received the further sum of £13:9:6 on account of the rate, and that the balance in hand amounts to £152:3:1½.

The Conservators considered a series of forty seven questions, submitted by Mr. Corbett on behalf of the Deputation from the Foresters, which were to meet the Conservators to-day and

It was proposed by Mr. Freshfield, seconded by Captain Noble, and unanimously resolved that, to avoid any misapprehension, the reply of the Conservators be put into writing and a copy afterwards furnished to the Deputation.

The Deputation consisting of Mr. Elphinstone Barchard, Mr. James Heasman and Mr. Edward Taylor was then received, and, after listening to their representations, which included a claim that all Foresters are entitled to cut litter, brakes, turf and peat for their own use, and for sale, and after discussing all the questions raised, the reply of the Conservators, as finally settled was read to the Deputation by the Clerk, and he was directed to have the same printed, and to forward copies to the each of the Deputation.

The reply was as follows

ASHDOWN FOREST

REPLY

Given by the CONSERVATORS on the 1ST DECEMBER, 1988, to a Deputation from the Foresters, and in answer to 47 written questions submitted to them.

The Conservators desire to state that up to the present time only those persons who occupy lands mentioned in the Decree of 1691 have been considered to have rights on the Forest. AS it was found impossible to trace a few of these properties, an advertisement was issued in May last inviting persons who considered themselves entitles to rights to send in claims. In consequence of this three claims were received, not from occupiers of properties mentioned in the Decree, but one from Mr Elphinstone Barchard, and two from persons occupying small enclosures on the Forest. These claims raised entirely new questions, which have been under the careful consideration of the Conservators. Mr. Barchard owns and occupies a property on the Forest which, like Pippingford, Ashdown Park, New Lodge, Hindleap, and other properties within the Forest pale, was enclosed under the authority of the Decree of 1698, and those enclosed were by the Decree expressly excluded from rights of Common on the 6,400 acres which, by that Decree, were directed to be left open for ever for Common. The other two claimants occupy enclosure made on the Forest since that time. The occupiers of the first class of properties are, as above stated, expressly excluded by the Decree from rights of Common on the Forest. The occupiers of the second class, and also those small holders outside the Forest pale, whose properties are not set out in the Decree, are governed by the Prescription Act. With regard to this class the Conservators, after careful consideration, are prepared to recognise as Commoners occupiers who can show that they and their predecessors in the occupation have taken litter, brakes or pasturage as of right for the full period of sixty years for use on their holdings, but the law does not recognise a right to cut for sale. And to this class there are various exceptions. For instance, it is obvious that holdings which have been enclosed for less than sixty years cannot establish a right, and the same remark applies to holdings for which an acknowledgement or rent has been paid to the Lord of the Manor

at any time within sixty years. It is believed that these objections apply to a large number of the small holdings on the Forest. These remarks answer the first set of questions addressed to us.

With regard to the second **** of questions addressed to us, the Lord has no power to grant the right to take anything away from the Forest for use or sale to any person, whether living on or off the Forest, except as regards trees and underwood, and the taking of mineral in such a way as not to prejudice the exercise of any of the rights of the Commoners, while the sporting rights are also the property of the Lord.

The Ashdown Forest Act, 1885, is paramount, and any rights inconsistent with the terms of that Act are extinguished by it. For instance, if any person could show that he and his predecessors in the occupation of a holding had taken turf as a right for sixty years, the Act has extinguished that right.

It is necessary that all persons entitled to rights should be entered on the Schedule of Commoners, as they are liable to be rated to the expenses of the Conservancy, and they can only exercise their rights subject to the restrictions laid down in the bye-laws.

As to making claims to rights of common:- Subject to the inabilities already stated, claimants must show that they and their predecessors in the occupation of a particular holding or tenement have taken litter, brakes or pasturage openly, as of right, for the full period of sixty years. They must describe the holding with precision, and produce clear evidence of continuous use during the sixty years. This has been laid down very distinctly by the legal decisions. The Conservators will give the fullest consideration to all evidence brought before them, and will give each claimant the fullest opportunities of proving his claim, and they will be prepared to state the reasons for their rejection of any claim, but they are not a judicial body, their sittings are not open to the general public, and it is, of course, open to any claimant whose claim is not admitted to establish it in a court of law. There is no limit to the time within which a person may make his claim to the Conservators.

As regards licenses: - The Conservators wish to state that it has always been and still is their desire to register as Commoners all persons who can reasonably be considered as such, but from the outset they have been satisfied that there are a large number of occupiers of small holdings on the Forest and its immediate vicinity who cannot establish a right. The Conservators of themselves had no power to assist these persons, as the Lord is entitled to object to anyone, not a commoner, taking anything from the Forest, but they represented the matter to the Lord, and he concurred in their granting licences to such persons to take brakes, litter, or peat for use on their own holdings, so long as such licenses are not abused. It is under this arrangement that licenses have been granted, but as there is a danger that, under the cover of a licence, persons might be tempted to cut for sale, it is of course necessary to attach conditions to the granting of them.

It is obvious that in this matter of licenses, the Conservators cannot bind either the Lord or their successors, but in the course taken both they and the Lord have been solely actuated by a desire to benefit those who have no legal rights, and they have no reason to doubt that licenses will continue to be granted in the future so long as the system is not abused.

Authorised persons include two classes – (1) Those having rights and (2) those who not having rights are acting under licenses. The Conservators keep a list of the licenses, but it is not open to the public. The election of Conservators, their Meetings and proceedings, and the source from which they raise their revenue are governed by the award made under the Act, copies of which award are deposited with the Land Commissioners in London and the churchwardens of Nutley, and are open to public inspection. Complete accounts are kept and are open to inspection of the Commoners, upon whom expenses are levied by rates made under the Enclosure Acts, and every rate must be previously sanctioned by the Land Commissioners.

Mr. John Kenward, of Fletching, attended and having satisfied the Conservators that he is the owner of 70 acres of land in Fletching known as “Moon’s” and “Hayward’s” and 4 acres at Grisling Common, in Fletching, being lands set out in the Decree of 1691 as belonging to the then Defendants, Richard Kenward and William Kenward,

It was Resolved that he be entered on the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof.

Mr. William Kenward, of Fletching, also attended and stated that he owns some cottages and land containing about three acres, adjoining Piltown Common, in Fletching, which had been in his family for some generations, and to which he had always understood rights on the Forest attached, and he produced some ancient documents of title in relation to the same, but, the case not being clear it was adjourned for further consideration

The Clerk reported that at the Uckfield Petty Sessions on 22nd November last, Obed. Wickens was convicted of a breach of bye-law 3 and was fined 5/- and costs, or, in default of payment and distress, seven days imprisonment, without hard labour, and that Frank Vincent and Henry Constable, against whom summonses for similar breaches were issued, had removed and had not been served

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

A Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened by the Clerk by notices on the Church door of each of the parishes or ecclesiastical districts into which the Forest extends and by advertisements in two newspapers circulating in the neighbourhood, to wit, the "Sussex Express" and the "Sussex Advertiser" at least fourteen days before that date and held on Saturday, the 29th day of December 1888, at 11 a.m., at the School House at Nutley.

Present:

Mr. H.R. Freshfield,
Sir Spencer M. Maryon-Wilson, Bart,
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot,
Mr. F.D. Banister,
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler,
Mr. William Carr.
Mr. J.C. Chatterton,
Mr. F.A. Du Croz,
Captain Noble,
The Rev. H.J. Peckham,
Mr. Joseph Ridley, (Horney Common)
Mr. Mark Sandford,
Mr. Albert Turner

It was proposed by Sir Spencer M. Maryon-Wilson, Bart, seconded by the Rev. J.B.M. Butler and unanimously resolved that Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield do take the Chair.

Mr. Freshfield having taken the Chair, the Clerk read the notice convening the Meeting as follows:

"Conservators of Ashdown Forest

I hereby convene a Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest to be held on Saturday 29th December instant at 11 a.m., at the School House at Nutley, for the purpose of electing four Conservators of the Forest in the place of the Revd. John Banks Meek Butler, Mr. William Carr, Mr. Bernard Hale and the Right Honourable The Earl of Sheffield, who retire by rotation.

Dated 8th day of December 1888.

W. Aug. Raper,
Clerk to the Conservators.

N.B.- Only such persons as are legally entitled to exercise rights of Common on the Forest will be entitled to vote."

The Chairman having explained the provisions of the Award regulating the election of Conservators, and expressed his regret that Mr. Bernard Hale, who had done so much for the preservation of the Forest, was prevented by failing health from offering himself for re-election, it was proposed by Sir Spencer M. Maryon-Wilson, Bart, and seconded by Mr. Mark Sandford that the Right Hon. the Earl of Sheffield be re-elected a Conservator, and, upon a show of hands being taken, the Chairman declared that his Lordship was unanimously elected.

It was proposed by Captain Noble, and seconded by Mr. Albert Turner, that the Revd. John Banks Meek Butler be re-elected a Conservator, and, upon a show of hands being taken, the Chairman declared that he was unanimously elected.

It was proposed by Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield, and seconded by Mr. F.A. Du Croz, that Mr. William Reiersen Arbuthnot be re-elected a Conservator, and, upon a show of hands being taken, the Chairman declared that he was unanimously elected.

It was proposed by Sir Spencer M. Maryon-Wilson, Bart, and seconded by Mr. Joseph Ridley that Mr. William Carr be re-elected a Conservator, and, upon a show of hands being taken, the Chairman declared that he was unanimously elected.

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held that at the "Nutley Inn", Nutley, on Saturday the 29th day of December 1888 at noon.

Present:

Mr. H.R. Freshfield, in the Chair,
Sir Spencer M. Maryon-Wilson, Bart,
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler,
Captain Noble,
Mr. Joseph Ridley,
Mr. Mark Sandford,
Mr. Albert Turner.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk read the following intimation received from the Chairman of the Meeting of Commoners held that day and it was ordered that the same be entered on the Minutes:-

"To Mr. William Augustus Raper, Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest.

As Chairman of the Meeting of Commoners on Ashdown Forest, duly convened and held at the School House at Nutley, this 29th day of December, 1888, for the purpose of electing four Conservators, I hereby intimate to you that the Right Honourable the Earl of Sheffield, the Revd.. John Banks Meek Butler, Mr. William Reiersen Arbuthnot and Mr. William Carr were elected Conservators of the Forest at such Meeting.

Dated 29th day of December, 1888.

Henry R. Freshfield,
Chairman"

The Clerk read the correspondence that had passed between Mr. Corbett, on the one hand, and the Chairman and the Clerk, on the other hand; also letters received from Mr. John Ridley, near the "Goat", claiming right of common in respect of land situated there, from which it appeared that the Clerk had requested him to attend before the Conservators that day with his deeds, for an investigation of the claim, and that, on his stating that the deeds were held by a Mortgagee, the Clerk invited him to attend without them. Mr. Ridley, however, did not attend.

It was proposed by the Revd. J.B.M. Butler, and seconded by Mr. Mark Sanford, and unanimously resolved, that Mr. Charles Chandler be appointed Superintendent of the Recreation Ground at Duddleswell.

It was also Resolved that the Clerk call Mr. Nicholson's attention to the dangerous condition of quarries, such as that at Dodd's Bank, and that on the west side of Duddleswell Road ,opposite Fairwarp, and point out that they should be fenced.

It was also Resolved that the next Meeting of Conservators be held on Saturday the 26th day of January next.

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest, duly convened and held at the "Nutley Inn", Nutley, on Saturday the 26th January 1889 at 11 a.m

Present

Mr. H.R. Freshfield in the Chair
Captain Noble,
Mr. William Carr,
Mr. A.H. Hills,
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner,

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

It was proposed by Captain Noble, seconded by Mr. Sandford and unanimously resolved that Mr. H.R. Freshfield be the Chairman for the ensuing year.

The newspaper report of the Meeting of Foresters held at Nutley on the 19th instant was considered and it was resolved that the Clerk send a statement to the newspaper refuting the error contained in it.

Mr. James Heasman, not having abated his encroachment at Tompsetts Bank, it was proposed by Captain Noble, seconded by Mr. Sandford, and resolved that, if on inquiry the Clerk can obtain clear evidence that the encroachment has made within 3 years, proceedings be taken against Mr. Heasman in the County Court under section 30 of the Commons Act 1876.

The Ranger reported (1) An encroachment by Job Tester adjoining Old Lands at Fairwarp on the east side of the property No. 113 sold to him under the award, (2) 4 encroachments by Thomas Tester near Payne's Hill, Fairwarp, (3) encroachments by Thomas Stevenson at Marlpits, one outside encroachments No. 84 sold under the Award, (4) a pigstye east of No. 271, also an encroachments by Jethro Stevenson in the same locality north west of the encroachment No. 91 sold under the award, (5) a stye on the west side of the same No., and (6) an encroachment by Stratton being an addition on the north east side to the land No. 92 sold under the Award. It was Resolved that Mr. Sandford's offer as Nos. 1 and 2 and Mr. Carr's offer as to Nos. 3,4 5 and 6 to view them with the Ranger be accepted and that the latter serve notices to abate of necessary.

Thomas Budgeon and John Jones not having abated their encroachments at or near Tompsetts Bank pursuant to notices served in December last it was ordered that they be summoned under the Byelaws. .

An application from the Road Surveyor of West Hoathly for permission to take gravel from the Forest was read, and it was resolved that as no part of the Forest extended into West Hoathly, the Conservators do not consent.

It was Resolved that the Clerk write to the Road Surveyor of Maresfield enquiring whether Mr. J.C. Thompson's tenant, Oakley, was authorised by him to remove the bank by the side of the road from Wych Cross to Nutley near Oakley's cottage.

It was resolved that the following cheque be drawn.

The Ranger 4 weeks salary to
28th instant £4:0:0

It was Resolved that the next Meeting of the Conservators be held on Saturday the 2nd March next.

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the "Nutley Inn", Nutley, on Saturday the 2nd March 1889.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield. in the Chair,
Captain Noble,
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot,
Mr. William Carr,
Mr. E.A. Nicholson,
Mr. Joseph Ridley,
Mr. Mark Sandford,
Mr. Albert Turner,

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk laid on the table a copy of a letter dated 31st January last which he addressed to the newspapers in pursuance of the direction given at the last Meeting.

He also reports that Mr. James Heasman has thrown out his encroachment near Tompsetts Bank.

That Mr. John Jones has sold the building at Tompsetts Bank which he had notice to abate.

That the abatement of Mr. Budgeon's encroachment at Tompsetts Bank was in hand namely: his potato plot, a chicken house, and a shed.

That no reply had been received from the Surveyor of Maresfield with reference to the bank removed by Oakley.

It being reported that he is still removing earth from the Forest more than 15 feet from the centre of the road to Wych Cross, it is resolved that Mr. Turner see the Surveyor on the subject.

Mr. Sandford reports that Job Tester was to attend this Meeting with regard to his encroachment and that as regards Thomas Tester's four encroachments, one a hen house, might be allowed to remain without detriment to any one if Mr. Tester will give a written undertaking to remove it when required but that the other three ought to be abated.

Mr. Carr reports that encroachment No. 3 by Thomas Stevenson should be abated. That the pig sty, second encroachment No. 5 is James Stevenson's and No. 1 Thomas Stevenson's and should be abated.

That the cart lodge and hen house adjoining 91 made by Jethro Stevenson be abated and that Stevenson's encroachments be also abated.

The Clerk reports that the summons against Mr. Wickens was adjourned to see if the parties marked off.

Ranger reports that on 1st February last he saw a wagon of James Gould of Ardingly removing by Chelwood Gate litter cut on the Forest near the Isle of Thorns. That Trayton Walter of Brown's Brook has made an encroachment as an extension of Sale No. 115.

John Mephram of Withyham has enclosed a square piece N.E. of Sale No. 67.

William Miles who had at Tompsetts Bank an old fowl house has pulled it down and built a new one on the site.

It is resolved that the Clerk communicate with James Gould.

That notices be served on Trayton Walter and John Mephram to abate them.

That if the Clerk ascertains that the enclosure is not established by time, William Miles be summoned for a Breach of Bye Law 3.

The accounts for the year 1888 are examined audited and signed and cheques are drawn as follows:-

The Clerk a year's salary to 31st December last	£50:0:0	
Postages travelling expenses For the same period	£15:9:0	
Letter Book	£0:4:6	
Costs of obtaining Mr. Ellon's opinion	<u>£3:12:0</u>	£67:5:6
The Clerk various disbursements as per list		£14:17:2
The Ranger 5 weeks salary to date		£5:0:0

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened by notice and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 1st day of June 1889 at 11 o'clock in the fore-noon

Present:-

Mr. H. R. Freshfield in the Chair
Mr William Carr
Mr. A.H. Hills
Captain Noble
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner
Mr. Joseph P. Wallis

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance in the bank amounted to £98:10:8

A letter was read from the Chairman reporting that he had inspected the promises of John Ridley otherwise Gurr near the Goat and referred to the application that a fence should be put on the Forest land to protect his cattle from falling into a deep ditch bounding his land on the east side. He was of opinion it would be reasonable to allow Ridley, at his own expense, to put up a fence but it should be done on his application and admission that it was on Forest ground and that such permission should continue only during the pleasure of the Conservators.

It was resolved that the Clerk communicate to him to that effect.

The Chairman further referred to two supposed encroachments made by Ridley but which he alleged had been the subject of grants by Lord De la Warr. In reference to them the Clerk was to confer with Mr. Nicholson who stated he had plans of the property.

Mr. Albert Turner reported that he had examined the spot adjoining Mr. Thompson's frontage to the Wych Cross road from which it was reported at last Meeting that earth was being removed and that he found that the interval, if any, at this point between 15 feet from the centre of the Road, and Mr. Thompson's boundary was so minute that in his opinion no action should be taken in the matter.

The Clerk then read the following report:

“To the Conservators of Ashdown Forest

By request of the Chairman I have visited the encroachments on the Forest with a view to seeing what evidence can be obtained and how they are to be dealt with.

A considerable number of minute encroachments such as Old Lodge's pigstyes, etc. erected at the time of the Regulation Order, which it was considered undesirable to sell, and for which applications to purchase were not made. Their prices would have amounted to fractions of a shilling. These I think cannot be interfered with, as the parties might claim that they were entitled to purchase the fee simple under the Act. I should advise that where the parties are willing to abate they be abated, and that the rest be marked down on a map in red ink to show in future that they are not to be interfered with, and to enable us to distinguish future encroachments.

There are also a large number of faggot stacks on the Forest. The Conservators decided some time ago that those who would sign an undertaking to remove them, when called on should be allowed to retain them, but the parties will not sign any such document until it has been demonstrated by a conviction or two that they are illegal. The stacks alone are no injury to the Forest but the owners abuse the privilege by making them the starting point of encroachments. Of course, if an occupier can show that his predecessor stacked for 40 years he cannot be convicted under the Bye Laws unless the place he occupies was rented of Lord De la Warr for some part of the time.

I desire the Conservators' direction on this class of cases.

James Ridley, Marl pits. Encroachment, potato plot, lodge and yard – inspected by Mr. Carr who advised abatement. Ridley disclaims it, says his children took it in, and he shan't throw out, but the Conservators can. I understand the children are young – Ridley has 2 stacks on the Forest.

George Turner, Stone Hill, Marl pits (saw wife) collection of lodges, sheep-yard and a pig sty, evidently erected before the order. Large faggot stack.

Thomas Bennett (saw wife) Tenant of Thomas Barrett by Marl pits Windmill. A wooden lodge adjoining their boundary, erected some years before the order. Faggot stack.

Jethro Stevenson. Marl pits. (saw wife) Carthouse consisting of excavation in ground thatched over old saw roof is decaying and then will not renew. Peat and litter stack with rough enclosure in corner for ducks.

James Wright, near Fords Green, has encroached as his wife (?) admitted within a month. She said he had only completed the bushing round within a day or two of (29th May 1889) The Sale No. is 181. 8 perches. The enclosure now contains 24 perches. He should be proceeded against.

John Stratton of Marl pits has thrown out his encroachment east of No. 92 which he says was taken in by Wright.

Grunter Stevenson has placed a pug-mill on the Forest near his encroachment Sale No. [blank]. He is well aware it is a breach of the bye-law. There is some brick earth dug on the Forest close by.

Zachariah Carr. Dodds Bank, (saw him and wife) enclosure 11 and 13 near his gate has been cultivated. Says he could claim it as his Father laid manure there 60 years ago. Enclosed it either 1 or 2 years ago when he had some marrows and he has not repaired it since. He should be proceeded against.

James Carr, adjoining, has made the commencement of an encroachment laid some earth round about 8 inches high and some faggots. Though a small matter, it is evidently intended as the commencement of an enclosure, the question is whether proceedings should now be taken or deferred till the obstruction grows.

Joseph Horscraft, Fairwarp, Sale No. 152. He alleged encroachment in this case is a mistake in the map. The corner alleged to be encroached is a part of that sold to him.

Same, Sale No. 152a. A neighbour alleges Horscraft has extended this. Measured along the outside of the bank and excluding ditch, it contains 0:2:27, whereas we sold 0:2:18. I must refer to Mr. Cowper about this.

John Burgess, this encroachment at the time of sale was apparently abandoned and imperfectly enclosed with bushes. I believe Tidy, the owner of the house which is adjoining, declined to purchase. Now it is cultivated. This should be abated.

Trayton Walter, Brown's Brook, an encroachment of about 15 perches made since the sales, now sown with oats. Should be abated.

Job Tester. This is an encroachment made since sale, filling a corner between encroachment 113 sold to him and the Old Lands boundary. It is a bank rising to the latter. The piece is utterly valueless to the Forest and I think its enclosure a decided improvement, but this does not make it legal.

Job Tester, Junior. This was sold as 12 perches No. 111, the shape is now altered and exclusive of ditch it contains 19 perches and should be reduced.

Alfred Dadswell, Stone Cottage, Brown's Brook. A plot and pigstye. Enclosed many years but such a temporary sort of enclosure it was not sold. It is a disservice to the Forest and blocks up the entrance to Dadswell's cottage. Mr Dadswell says they can do without the plot but do not care to dispense with the site. The property belongs to Mr. Streatfeild who might be communicated with.

Thomas Tester adjoining has an old lodge near built of poles, dates before the sale.

He has also an enclosure and lodge on the Forest just north of Ordnance no: 212 plenty of evidence can be produced to show it has existed and been used over 20 years. The lodge is on the Ordnance map but the enclosure is not. I suppose because the fence was of a very temporary character.

Alfred Hoath, Friars Gate. 3 hoop shaving lodges on the green in front of his house and shavings and poles strewn about. I have clear evidence that the lodges have been up 15 years is that we cannot disturb them, but I notice there are gangways left without any gate or enclosure is that anyone can walk through as to the shavings 49 years user would be required as against Lord De la Warr.

John Mephram near Crowborough this is a clear case and I believe Mephram will throw out if not he should be proceeded against.

Henry Philpott, Tompsetts Bank has for years had a duck run of semicircular shape enclosed with bushes not high enough to exclude cattle. I do not consider this an enclosure and Philpott might be summoned for laying the materials on the Forest.

Cooke, Tompsetts Bank has a lodge near Philpotts, with which we cannot interfere but he has a litter stack connecting it with the lodge. He should be summoned.

Isaac Waters, Tompsetts Bank an old encroacher, has recently enclosed a fresh strip by his farm yard gate 35 feet x 6 feet.

This is a case for a summons.

Henry Budgen, Tompsetts Bank an encroachment in the fork of the road ways about 35 feet long, 50 feet wide at one end 26 feet at the other. Mr. Freshfield told him last year that he must throw out after his crop was taken off but he has again planted. He alleges the enclosure existed at the date of the order. The constable has promised to make some inquiries and I am enquiring of Mr. Cowper.

John Jones, Shepherds Grove, Pages Gill. This on the site of an old lodge previously standing there.

Thomas Miles near Pages Gill. This wooden lodge was built 8 years ago and cannot be interfered with.

William Miles. This is a wooden cabin near Recreation Ground and a great eye sore. Ranger served notice on 10th December last and Miles subsequently rebuilt it on nearly the same site. Might proceed against him for a new enclosure but the issue would be rather doubtful. I could get no information as to when the older was built but Brown has promised to try and find out.

John Ridley or Gurr is the only case I have not been able to look at, but I well remember examining his boundaries at the time of the sale and I have no doubt about the Regulation map being correct.

Mr. J.C. Thompson having authorised the cutting of gorse near his boundary I wrote him on 21st May last and now read his reply.

The Ranger found a man taking moss, who gave a false name, he could not at the time identify him but with the aid of Brown P.C. we are clear he is a man named Brooks of Wandsworth who is a notorious moss stealer and sends large quantities to London by rail. Moss is not mentioned in byelaws but I propose that the Ranger should summon him under Byelaw 8.

The Ranger is also on the track of a man at Rotherfield who regularly digs ferns on the Forest and consigns them to London.

Frederick Underwood of Forest Row asked permission to remove some litter, he had been employed to cut for the Golf club and when told the matter must come before the Conservators he said he should not wait, but should take it. In acting thus the golf club is acting illegally (no doubt for want of information).

The evil is that they are quoted to me by cottages as instances of the rich being allowed to do what their like. I suggest that the difficulty may be got over if members of the club who are Commoners will employ person in season to cut the litter for them and use it on their own promises.

Mr. Pinker's cart of Dane Hill was recently seen taking litter. He wrote to me denying it but admitted it to the Ranger. As he does not make amend I presume he should be summoned.

James Gourd, reported at last Meeting has promise not to offend again and paid 5/- for the damage.

Gentleman, Two years ago, when the Board of Conservators Forest came into being you did me the honour to appoint me your Clerk and after I had acted as such for nine months that is from 25th March 1887 to 31st

December 1887 you on the latter date asked me to state what salary I requested. I then met the Conservators frankly and stated that as the large Commoners had been put to heavy expenses in the past I desired to reset in starting the Board with as little expense as possible and therefore I was willing to work for 2 years at the nominal salary of £50 per annum. I have no doubt the board would willingly have granted me double that amount had asked it, but I wished to relieve them of all pecuniary anxiety at starting and I hope and believe that my motive was understood and appreciated.

The two years have now expired and the position taken up by the Board with regard to them has been on the whole sustained notwithstanding the opposition that the Board met with from the Foresters and those who abetted them, matters have worked smoothly. The Bye Laws carefully drawn up and approved by the Home Secretary have stood every test and in every prosecution and in the single action brought against the Conservators, these have been uniformly successful, and from my personal knowledge of all the rights of Common. I have been able to prepare the first rate levied upon the Commoners and to collect it without difficulty or opposition. But this satisfactory result has not been attained without considerable labour and research on my part. But to carry on the work of the Board in the future as it has hitherto been carried on must entail much labour judgement and correspondence.

During my 2 years of office I have had to write about 150 letters which will give some idea of the magnitude of the work independent of our Meeting and of prosecution before magistrates.

After a careful calculation I may state that my salary of £50 a year has barely paid office expenses and has left no remuneration for my own time and serious, nor if the work of the Board is to be carried on effectively will it leave any margin in the future. Under these circumstances I feel that I might fairly ask the Conservators to receive my stipend to £100 per annum so to leave me £50 a year as remuneration for my own individual services but I desire to meet the Conservators in the spirit in which I met them in December 1887 and to ask them to increase my salary to £80 per annum.

I may add that a rate of 6d per acre produces about £250 and with fresh names yet to be added will probably before long produce another £30, and that hitherto the expenditure of the Board has amounted to only £150 per annum.

W. Augs. Raper.

A discussion then took place as to what action should be taken by the Conservators with reference to faggot and other stacks upon the Forest. The Conservators sometimes since decided that cottages should be allowed the privilege of keeping their stacks on the Forest provided they signed an undertaking to remove them when required but Resolved that cases in which stacks had been put on the Forest within recent date should be selected for prosecution unless the parties would sign undertakings and it was expected that after one or two convictions the cottages generally would apply for licenses.

It was further resolved that in all cases of trespass, the trespassers be given 14 to 21 days notice to abate before proceedings are taken.

It was further resolved as follows:

That the following encroachments be thrown out by the Ranger namely:

James Ridley's potato plot.
Zachariah Carr's enclosure near Dodds Bank.
James Carr's deposit near Dodds Bank.
John Burgess' encroachment near Brown's Brook.
Henry Philpott's duck run at Tompsetts Bank.

The following are reserved for further inquiry as to their age:

George Turner's lodges sheep-yard and pigsyte.
Henry Budgeon's enclosure near Tompsetts Bank.

William Miles' wooden cabin near Tompsetts Bank. Recreation ground.

John Ridley or Gurr's encroachments on the south west side of his land.

Also that the Ranger throw out John Mephams' encroachment near Crowborough unless he give a written undertaking to abate the same immediately after taking off the present growing crop.

That the Conservators are satisfied that the following encroachments are established by time, namely:

Thomas Bennett's wooden lodge near Marl pits:

Alfred Dadswell plot and pigstye near Stones cottage.

Thomas Tester old lodge near same and his enclosure and lodge at Brown's Brook.

Alfred Hoath's hoop shaving lodges near Friars Gate.

John Jones' wooden stable near Pages Gill.

Thomas Miles' wooden lodge near Pages Gill

Also that the Clerk makes enquiry to ascertain Jethro Stevenson has enlarged his enclosure at Marl pits since he purchased it under the Order for Regulation.

Also that the Clerk do summon James Wright for his encroachment near Ford's Green.

Also William Stevenson (Grunter) for placing a pug mill on the open Forest unless he remove it within one month.

Also that the Ranger and Clerk make further enquiry to ascertain whether Joseph Horscraft has enlarged the plot numbered 152 which he purchased under the order for regulation.

Also that Trayton Walter of Brown's Brook be summoned unless he give a written undertaking to throw out his encroachment immediately after reaping his crop of oats.

Also that Job Tester's encroachment adjoining Oldlands be thrown out unless he gives a written undertaking to abate it when required by the Conservators.

Also that unless Job Tester Junior throws out land he has added to the plot numbered 111 which he purchased under the Order the same be abated.

Also that Mr. Nicholson having undertaken to deal with Alfred Hoath in relation to shavings and poles laid about on the Forest at Friars Gate the same be left to him.

Also that the Ranger make further inquiry with regard to Cook's encroachment at Tompsetts Bank.

Mr. Freshfield having stated that he had been informed that since the Clerk's personal inspection on the 29th May Isaac Waters had put back his encroachment by two or three feet.

It was resolved that the Ranger examine the same to see whether it is carried back within 3 feet of the stem of the hedge, and that he do hereafter watch the encroachment to see that Mr. Waters does not make a ditch outside this encroachment .

Also that the Ranger do immediately issue a summons against Brooks of Wandsworth for a breach of bye laws and if he is able to identify him as the person he saw gathering moss and that he do the same regard to the fern gatherer from Rotherfield if he can identify him and that he be allowed 4/- for his expenses to Rotherfield.

Also that the Clerk do write to the Honorary Secretary of the Golf Club drawing his attention to the manner in which litter has been cut on the Forest pointing out that it can only be cut in proper reason by or on behalf of bona fide Commoners for use on their Commonable land .

It was also resolved that Mr. Parker be summoned for removing litter if it can be shown that the litter was not cut within the permitted time and if Parker has no Common rights.

The Ranger having reported that three fir trees had been cut and removed from the reserved clump at Wych Cross and that he had been unable as yet to trace the perpetrators he was directed to make further inquiry.

The arrangement with the Clerk as to his salary having expired on the 25th March last he applied for an increase thereof and it be increased, stated his reason for this application and proposed that it be increased from 25th March last to £80 per annum it was resolved that his proposed be acceded to.

It was Resolved that the Ranger be authorised to purchase a wire tape for measuring encroachments.

Application having been made by Mr. Sandford for permission for the postal authorities to place telegraph posts on parts of the Forest adjoining the high road from Horney Common to Nutley for the purpose of bringing the telegraph from Uckfield to Nutley it was resolved that permission be granted subject to the approval as to position of Captain Noble and Mr. Turner.

A desire having been expressed by many of the inhabitants of Nutley to enclose the Recreation ground at Ford's Green, it was resolved that it be referred to a Committee consisting of Sir Spencer Maryon-Wilson, Bart., Captain Noble, Messrs. Mark Sandford, Carr, Ridley, and Turner to arrange as to the position and character of the fence, and to recommended some person to the Conservators as Superintendent of the Recreation Ground.

The claim of Thomas Ashdown to rights of common in respect of his house, garden and three acres of land near Friar's Gate having been considered, it was resolved that his claim be admitted.

It was also resolved that the cordial thanks of the Conservators be tendered to Mr. William Turner for his kindness in permitting the Ranger the use of one of his houses at Nutley for occupation during the past few months and that the Clerk communicate the resolution to Mr. Turner.

It was also Resolved that cheques be drawn for the following amounts:

The Clerk for the following disbursements:

J.G. Langham. Justices' Clerk's fees on prosecutions
of Jennor Constable and Wickens

£1.9.6

Hire of room for January, March, and June Meetings...

£0.15.0

Note book for Ranger

£0.10.0

Letter book

£0.4.0

Banister Printing Notices of reward

£0.3.0

Ranger 6 weeks salary to 13th April

£6.0.0

£8.12.6

The Ranger 7 weeks salary to this date

£7.0.0

Mr. Joseph Martin, Road Surveyor for Fletching, applied for consent to take hard stone from the existing pits between the Vetchery and Isle of Thorns near the cricketing plain.

Mr. James Richardson, Road Surveyor for Hartfield, applied for consent to continue digging hard stone from Mount pit at Gills Lap and gravel at High Beeches road and to make trials for gravel at Greenwood mount.

Mr. Alfred Hoath, Road Surveyor for Withyham, applied for consent to continue digging sand stone from the pit near St. John's church, Crowborough, and to make trials for gravel from the top of the 500 acres to Greenwood gate and beyond as far as she parch runs and also in the parish of Hartfield on the East side of the stream running to Chuck Hatch and to take gravel there from.

Mr. William Pursglove, Road Surveyor for Buxted, applied for license to dig stone and gravel from open pits between Streeter's Gate and the Tunbridge Wells road and between Duddleswell and Crowborough Warren and to try for same over that area.

Mr. James Diplock, Road Surveyor for Maresfield, applied for license to dig stone and gravel from an existing pit at the Rookery above the "Fox", Duddleswell, and from any open pits now existing on those parts of the Forest under mentioned, and to make trials for gravel and stone namely between the Isle of Thorns and the Vetchery, also on Camp Hill, Crows Nest, and Birching Bank and Foot Bridge Hill.

It was Resolved that licenses be granted as applied for its remain in force till the 25th March next and on the same condition as last year subjected. However, as regards the Road Surveyors of Fletching and Maresfield to their at once effectually fencing the deep pits now open to the satisfaction of the Ranger

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened by notice and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Tuesday the 23rd July 1889 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon

Present:

Mr. H.R. Freshfield in the Chair,
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler,
Captain Noble,
Mr. William Carr,
Mr. Mark Sandford,
Mr. Albert Turner.

The Minutes of the Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance in the Bank amounted to £85:11:2.

Also that the Goldsmith Company had paid the rate on 100 acres, on the understanding that the basis of assessment was to be without prejudice on either side.

That shortly after the last Meeting, John Ridley or Gurr of the "Goat" built and fired a clamp of bricks on the Forest adjoining his property at the "Goat" and between it and the road way. Mr. Peerless' solicitors wrote to say he had done so under the impression that a license had been granted and undertook the clamp should be removed as soon as it cooled and that this had been done.

Also that Messrs. Hunt & Co. had drawn his attention to a footpath 6 or 8 feet wide and about 200 feet long that had been cut across the Forest leading from the road between Coleman's Hatch and High Beeches to the boundary of Mr. J.C. Thompson's property, a finger post having been erected at the end near the road bearing the inscription "To the church". The Clerk stated he had reported to the Chairman who had approved a letter which he had written to Mr. Thompson calling his attention to the subject. Not having heard, he had written a second time to Mr. Thompson on the instant but no reply had as yet been received.

It was resolved that the Conservators would defer any action until the next Meeting in the probability that Mr. Thompson would reply to the last letter.

Also that he could obtain no further information as to the date of George Turner's encroachment, that Mr. Cooper had made no note of it, and that he (the Clerk) was satisfied from its appearance that it was made prior to the order for regulation.

It was resolved that the Clerk communicate with Land Commissioners and ask their opinion whether encroachments such as George Turner's, Budgeon's, and the like which existed at the date of the order, for regulation but were made in 12 years of the present time and which on account of their party or objectionable character were not offered to the occupiers, and were not bought by them can now be suppressed by the Conservators to sold to the encroachers.

The Clerk reports that Walter Tinker was convicted at the last Maresfield bench for removing litter from the Forest within Maresfield parish on the may was fixed if and costs which he paid.

The Ranger reported that he had secured the assistance of the P.C. where required, but had failed as yet to get a man to assist in throwing out the encroachments ordered at the last Meeting.

That he had walked through Henry Philpot's enclosure at Tompsetts Bank, and pulled down the bushes forming the fence.

Also that John Mephram has in the pursuance of his (the Ranger's) direction made 2 long gaps in the fence of his encroachments at Crowborough so that the cattle can now go into it.

Also that Cook's alleged encroachments at Tompsetts Bank was not in fact one.

It was resolved that the following persons not having abated their encroachments to be summoned for breach of the Bye Laws namely:-

William Stevenson Nutley for placing a pug mill on the Forest near Marlpits.

Trayton Walter of Browns Brook for his encroachment there.

James Wright for the encroachment adjoining his house near Fords Green.

Job Tester junior for the encroachment adjoining his property near Brown's Brook.

Ephram Hood for an encroachment at Duddleswell.

It was also resolved that the Clerk call the attention of Mr. Nicholson to the case of Alfred Hoath and John Ridley or Gurr which he was to enquire into.

Captain Noble reported that the Committee appointed to settle about the telegraph posts had not yet arranged the matter.

The Ranger having given notice to terminate his engagement on the 3rd August next it was resolved that the Clerk advertise for a Ranger in Messrs. Harncombe's paper and take the other steps for obtaining applications as on the previous occasions and that the Revd. J.B.M. Butler, Captain Noble, Mr. Sandford and Mr. Harmer be appointed a Committee to consider the applications and make a selection and report to the next Meeting.

The Ranger reported that he had found a man named Stevenson cutting peat, who stated he was doing so for Mr. Fieldwick. Mr. Turner undertook to enquire into the matter.

The Ranger also reported that Stevenson offered to pay for permission to keep his stack of faggots on the Forest.

It was resolved that to be accepted from him as an acknowledgment and that the Clerk give the Ranger a form of receipt.

Captain Noble reported a case of cutting rushes near Workhouse Farm by a young man, who declined to give his name, had a cart with Joseph Horscraft's name on and he undertook to assist the Ranger in making further enquiry to the man's identity.

Mr. Freshfield represented a case of rush cutting in the bottom between Red Brook and Hindleap, and the Ranger was directed to discover the offender or offenders

It was also resolved that a cheque be drawn for the Ranger of 7 weeks salary to 20th instant £7:0:0

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened by notice and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, one Thursday the 22nd August 1889 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon

Present

Mr. H.R. Freshfield, in the Chair
Rev. J.B.M. Butler
Captain Noble
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Joseph Ridley

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed

The Clerk reported that the balance at the bank accounted to £78:11:2.

The Clerk having reported that the funds in hand could nearly be exhausted after payment of the current liabilities it was proposed by Mr. Mark Sandford seconded by the Rev. J.B.M. Butler and unanimously resolved that a rate be made for defraying the express of the constructors in the execution of their duties under the award made under the provisions of the Inclosure Acts 1845 to 1878 and the Commons Regulation (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act 1885 to be levied upon the respective owners of the rights of common upon the Forest at the rate of six pence per acre in respect of the acreage of their respective lands to which such rights attach which their respective averages aforward and the respective sums payable by them are hearinafter set out namely:-

Name	Address	Acreage
Arbuthnot .W.R. Esq.	Plaw Hatch, East Grinstead	200
Ashdown, Mr. Thomas	Fryar's Gate, Withyham, Tunbridge Wells	3
Banister, H.L. Esq.	Stone House, Forest Row, East Grinstead	50
Buck, Peregrine Esq.	The Priory Forest Row, East Grinstead	100
Blackman, Mrs. Elizabeth Ellen	Forest Row	3 ³ / ₄
Butler, Revd. J.B.M.	The Rectory, Maresfield, Uckfield	100
Bell, C.W. Esq.	Yewhurst, East Grinstead	180
Carr. Mr. W.	Nutley, Uckfield	8
Chatterton, J.C. Esq.	Cookham . West Hoathly	40
Colchester, Lord	Carlton Club , Pall Mall, S.W.	213
Cope & Buckley Messrs.	3 Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.	5
Cook , Mrs. A.	The Hall, Nutley, Uckfield	16
Cranstone Trustees, The	C/o J.E.C. Leslie Esq., Bedford Row, W.C.	323
Dadswell, Mr. Robert	C/o Mr. Spencer Tester, Brown's Brook, Buxted, Uckfield	1
Du Croz .F.A. Esq.	Court Lands, West Hoathly, East Grinstead	80
Edwards, Mr. Robert	Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	10
Freshfield, H.R. Esq.	Kidbrooke , Park , East Grinstead	200
Fleet .Mr. George	Shortbridge, Piltown, Uckfield	2 ¹ / ₂
Gourd, Mrs. Phillipa Philcox	Forest Row Green	3 ³ / ₄
Goldsmith, Mrs. Sophia	Maresfield, Uckfield	1

Goldsmith's Company	Goldsmith's Hall, London. E.C	100
Hale, Bernard Esq.	Forest Lodge, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	68
Head, M. John	31 High Street, Lewes	10
Hills, . A .M. Esq.	High Hurst Wood, Buxted, Uckfield	40
Hoare, Alfred Esq.	37 Fleet Street, London E.C	101
Hoath, Mrs. Lydia	Fryars Gate, Withyham, Tunbridge Wells	4
Hoath, Mr. Amos	Temple's School Montpellier road, Brighton	3
Hother, Mr. John	Lewes	115
Hooker, Mr. John	Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	7
Histed, Mr. Henry	Forest Row, East Grinstead	10
Kenward, Mr. John	Fletching, Uckfield	74
Keys, Mr. R.N.	Forest Row, East Grinstead	8 ½
Knight, Mr. Thos. James	Budletts, Maresfield, Uckfield.	2
Larnach . D. Esqre.	Brambletye, East Grinstead	500
Lewis, Mrs. Lucy Rose	Fairwarp, Maresfield, Uckfield	12
Lyell, Mr. John Wishart	C/o Messrs. Lyell Brothers , Lewes	½
Melville, Robert Esq.	Hartfield Grove, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	78
Maynard, Mr. M.	Plaw Hatch , East Grinstead	5
Miles, Mr. Wm.	Forest Row, East Grinstead	1
Moor, Mrs.	Pixton Hill, Forest Row, East Grinstead	103
McAndrew John Esq.	Holly Hill, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	182
Noble Captain	Forest Lodge, Nutley, Uckfield	15
Norfolk, His Grace The Duke of	Arundel Castle, Sussex	118
Nesbitt, Mrs.	Oldlands, Buxted, Uckfield	285
Norman, Mr. Henry	Fairwarp, Maresfield, Uckfield	6
Page, Mr. Jesse	Summerford Farm, near Fairwarp, Uckfield	4
Page, Mr. William	Summerford Farm, near Fairwarp, Uckfield	-
Taylor, Mr. Geo Edward	Summerford Farm, near Fairwarp, Uckfield	-
Portman, The Right Hon. Lord	22 Portman Square, London, W.	130
Peckham, Revd. H. J.	Vicarage, Nutley, Uckfield	2 ½
Ridley, Mr. Joseph	Misbourne Farm, Horney Common, Nutley, Uckfield	14
	Millbrook, Nutley, Uckfield	12 ½
Sheffield, Earl of	Sheffield Park, Fletching, Uckfield	950
Sayers, Mr. Stephen	Forest Row, East Grinstead	¼
Sandford, Mark Esq.	Maresfield, Uckfield	1 ½
Shelley, Lady	Maresfield Park, Maresfield, Uckfield	1706
Shoebridge, Mr. Thomas	Nutley, Uckfield	¼
Streatfeild, R.J. Esq.	"The Rocks" Uckfield	240
Stapley, Mr. George	Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells	2
Sadlieur. Mrs. The wife of the Revd. Canon	C/o Joseph Turner Esq. East Grinstead	185
Tester, Sarah Widow	Fryers Gate, Tunbridge Wells	2
Wilson, Sir Spencer M. Maryon Bart.	Searles, Fletching, Uckfield	1150
Turner, Albert Esq.	Nutley, Uckfield	7 ½
Ditto	Iate Feldwicks	5
Turner, William, Esq.	Nutley, Uckfield	17
Tapps-Gervis, Miss Clara	C/o Arthur Hastie Esq., East Grinstead	925
Wilson. Trustees of late Robert Esq.	92 Wardour Street, Soho, London W.	193
Wilson Edward	Plaw Hatch	
Wallis, Mr. Joseph P.	"Cooper's Arms" Crowborough	2 ½
Whitewood Mr. F.J.	Nutley, Uckfield	¼
Whitewood, Mr. Henry	Claygates Farm	86

Woods. M.S. Grosvenor Esq.	9 Old Square, London	498
Waters, Mr. George	Forest Row, East Grinstead	5
Wood, Mr. Charles	Maresfield, Uckfield	12
Young, Mr. William	Fincham, Hartfield	23

and that the Clerk be directed to collect the same accordingly.

Also that an Abstract of the accounts for the year 1888 be prepared and finished to each Commoner.

The Clerk also reported that Job Tester Senior had given the written undertaking referred to in the Minutes of 1st June last.

That James Ridley at Marlpits has thrown out the potato plot encroachment referred to in the same Minutes.

That with regard to the alleged encroachment by Ephraim Wood at Duddleswell reported at the last Meeting it appeared on further enquiry that he had merely put up a fence on the outer edge of his ditch which by presumption belongs to him.

That William Stevenson (Grunter) was convicted at the Uckfield Bench on the 1st instant for breach of Bye law 3 in having a Pug mill on the Forest and was fined 1/- and 13/- costs to be paid within 14 days or in default of distress 7 days improvement the amount has not yet been paid.

That James Wright threw out his encroachment after being served with a summons returnable on the 1st instant when he failed to appear. The magistrates directed him to be warned and on the 15th instant he appeared and pleaded guilty and the Bench fixed him 6d and mitigated the costs to 5/- and allowed 14 days for payment.

That Henry Horscraft having been identified as the person reported at the last Meeting as having removed rushes was summoned before the Uckfield Bench on the 15th instant and fixed 5/- and costs 9/- which he paid.

That Job Tester Junior was summoned before the same Bench in respect of the encroachment referred to at the last Meeting but as the enclosure was made more than 6 months before the summons the Bench held that it was not constituted a continuing offence by the Bye Laws and dismissed the case.

Trayton Walter's encroachment being also more than 6 months old the Clerk withdrew the summons.

Mr. Sandford stated that Job Tester Junior had since promised him to throw out the encroachment as some as he had taken his crop and it was resolved that further proceedings be deferred till it had been ascertained whether he carried out his promise.

It was resolved that the Clerk inform Trayton Walter that unless he throws out his encroachments he will be proceeded against in the County court.

The Clerk reported that he had written to the Land Commissioners in pursuance of the resolution at the last Meeting with reference to encroachments alleged to have been made shortly before the Order for Regulation but not sold and that they had replied to the effect that such inclosures cannot now be sold through the medium of the Commissioners and that it is not within their province to advise whether such parties can be excited.

It was resolved that the Clerk write to Henry Budgeon that the Conservators cannot allow the enclosure and erections to continue and that unless they are thrown out before the 16th October next proceedings will be taken in the County court to enforce their removal.

Also that the Clerk write to John Burgess to the same effect.

The Committee appointed at the last Meeting to consider applications for the post of Ranger and make a selection reported that they had received over 50 applications and had selected 7 applicants whom they had interviewed in London and that of these 4 who seemed the most suitable were then in attendance namely Mr. H.E. Taylor, Mr Edwin Box, Mr. Edward Housden and Mr. David Fairey. Then candidates on appearing before the Conservators stated that having visited the place they withdrew their applications.

It was resolved that the Clerk write to Samuel Bennett and James Burgess requesting them to visit the Forest on Friday the 30th instant and to attend a Meeting of the Conservators on the following day, also that the Clerk ascertain whether Gunner Kidd is a sufficiently good scholar for the post and if so request him to do the same and that the Clerk be authorised to undertake to pay their reasonable travelling expenses for the purpose.

A letter was read from Mr. J.C. Thompson complaining that a roadway over the Forest from his farm house to the high road from Tunbridge Wells to Wych Cross which had been used continuously for over 15 years had been destroyed by persons (other than the road authority) quarrying stone and sand for sale. Also that stone had been quarried on the Forest within 50 feet of the highway south of the cutting immediately south of Wych cross and that not being fenced it was dangerous to life.

It was resolved that inquiry be made into these matters at once.

It was resolved that this Meeting be adjourned till Saturday the 31st instant at the usual hour and place.

The Committee appointed to select candidates for Ranger having promised to pay travelling expenses of the candidates who had attended before them in London and these who were present to day amounting altogether to £2:19:0 it was resolved that the same be paid accordingly.

William Noble
Chairman

An adjourned Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest notice whereof was duly given held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 31st August 1889 at 11.15 o'clock in the forenoon.

Present:

Captain Noble
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Albert Turner

It was resolved that Captain Noble take the Chair.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 22nd instant were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance at the Bank amounted to £18:11:2

An abstract of the accounts for the year 1888 prepared by the Clerk was approved and ordered to be printed and sent to all the Commoners.

The Clerk reported that Gunner Kidd has withdrawn his candidature for the Rangership.

Mr. Samuel Bennett and Mr. James Burgess having viewed the Forest and received explanations as to the duties of the Ranger attended before the Conservators but Bennett withdrew his candidature and Burgess desired time to give an answer.

It was also resolved that Mr. K.H. Barr's tender for printing two hundred books of the Bye Laws at 18/6 be accepted.

A letter was read from Mr. Freshfield that he had viewed the spots referred to in Mr. Thompson's letter that the quarry south of Wych Cross was worked by the Surveyors of Highways for Maresfield and was dangerous and that the rights of way across the right which Mr. Thompson claimed and which he alleged were interfered with by stone digging were mere cart tracks that Mr. Thompson presumably had not any right of way over them that they were not yet touched by the digging and that the digging in that locality was being carried on by the Road Authority.

It was resolved that as regards the quarry south of Wych Cross the Clerk call on the Surveyor of Maresfield to fence it and that as regards the other matters referred to in Mr. Thompson's letter the Clerk confer with the Chairman of the Board with a view to deciding the best way of dealing with the matter.

Mr. Joseph Ridley then gave notice that at the next Meeting he would move:

1. That any person whether owner or occupier claiming right of Common in respect of any holding within the pale of the Forest shall be accepted as a Commoner by this board of Conservators subject to the regulation of the Ashdown Forest Bye Laws.
2. That any person claiming right of Common in respect of a holding outside of the pale of the Forest who can reasonably prove 60 years use shall be accepted as Commoner subject to the regulations of the Ashdown Forest Bye Laws.
3. That any person being authorised by licence to receive the privileges of the Forest shall pay on receiving such license in proportion to those who pay rates.

And upon the proposition of Mr. Butler, seconded by Mr. Sandford it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Joseph Ridley's motion be placed first on the agenda at the next Meeting of the Conservators.

It was resolved that Mr. Elphinstone Barchard be invited to submit to the next Meeting the evidence of use upon which he bases his claim to right of Common

It was also resolved that the following cheques be drawn:-

Mr. James McQuillan, 4 weeks salary	
To 17th instant.	£4.0.0
Postages	£0.8.2
Expenses conducting candidates for	
Managership round Forest on 21st Instant	<u>£0.10.0</u>
	£4.18.2
The Clerk for:-	
Farncombe & Co., advertising for	
Ranger and printing ships for ditto	£0.12.6
Telegram to them	£0.0.9
E. Banister, printing notices of	
Conservators Meetings & paper	£0.9.0
Travelling expenses for candidates-	
for Rangership	£3.19.0
Hire of room for last 2 & present	
Meetings	<u>£0.15.0.</u>
	£5.16.3

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman.

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened by notice, and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday, the 21st September, 1889, at 11.15, in the forenoon

Present:-

Captain Noble, in the Chair
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler,
Mr. E.A. Nicholson,
Mr. Joseph Ridley,
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Joseph Wallis

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance at the bank amounts to £267.16.9.

Also that the Board of Agriculture has confirmed the rate on the 22nd ultimo.

Also that Mr. Elphinstone Barchard had written to say he was unable to meet the Conservators today, and did not understand what information he could give as to his right beyond that already possessed by their Conservators; and that he (the Clerk) had replied pointing out that reasonable evidence of user for sixty years must be shown.

The Clerk also read a reply he had sent to Mr. J.C. Thompson after communicating with the Chairman, as desired at the last Meeting.

Also that Mr. James Burgess wrote immediately after the last Meeting declining the post of Ranger.

Mr Joseph Ridley then moved the 1st resolution of which he gave notice at the last Meeting, but it was not seconded.

The Revd. J.B.M. Butler then proposed, that Lord de la Warr be requested to concur in permitting the owners and occupiers of all small enclosures within the Forest pale to enjoy the like benefits in respect of their enclosures as Commoners now have, subject to the regulations of the Ashdown Forest Bye Laws, so long as they pay like rates to those payable by the Commoners.

This was seconded by Mr Sandford, and carried men con, Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Ridley not voting.

The Chairman having pointed out that the 2nd resolution of which Mr. Ridley had given notice simply reaffirmed a resolution which the Conservators had arrived at, and had stated in their reply to the deputation from the Foresters on the 1st December last, Mr. Ridley did not move the resolution.

Mr. Ridley then deferred moving his 3rd resolution till a future occasion, in order to consider the advisability of remodelling it.

Mr. Waghorn's for the office of Ranger was then considered by the board, and rejected.

It was the proposed by the Revd. J.B.M. Butler, seconded by Captn. Noble, and unanimously resolved, that Mr John Taylor, Inspector of Nuisances for the Uckfield Union, be appointed temporarily to fill the office of Ranger, subject to his obtaining the sanction of the Board of Guardians for the Uckfield Union, and of the Local Government Board the salary to be £1 a week; the engagement to commence on the 23rd instant, and to be terminate by either party at the expiration of any current week, by four weeks' previous notice.

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened by notice and hold at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 19th October 1889 at 11.15 in the forenoon.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield in the Chair
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance at the Bank amounted to £209:4:10.

Also that he had received no further communication from Mr. J.C. Thompson.

Also that Mr. John Taylor having obtained the requisite sanction had written accepting the appointment of Ranger on the terms resolved on at the last Meeting and had entered upon his duties.

Also that Mr. Nicholson had written to him stating that Lord de la Warr had not worked the stone quarry south of Wych Cross and that the Reeve reported that all quarries worked by his Lordship within 50 feet of a road were fenced.

Also that the Road Surveyor of Maresfield stated he had not dug any stone from the quarry in question this year.

Also that he had forwarded to Mr. Nicholson a copy of the resolution passed at the last Meeting to the effect that Lord de la Warr be requested to concur in permitting the owners and occupiers of all small enclosures within the Forest pale to enjoy the like benefits in respect of their enclosures as Commoners now have, subject to the regulations of the Ashdown Forest Bye Laws, so long as they pay like rates to those payable by the Commoners and that Mr. Nicholson had replied that Lord de la Warr was willing to consent to the proposal.

It was resolved that the Clerk write to Mr. Nicholson requesting him to convey to his Lordship the Conservators thanks for his acquiescence in their proposal.

The Conservators then considered the draft of a circular prepared by the Clerk explaining the proposal to the Commoners and convening a Meeting.

It was then proposed by Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Turner and unanimously resolved that a Meeting of the Commoners be convened for Saturday the 2nd November next at 11.30 am at the Nutley School house to ascertain their views in the matter and that the Clerk have printed and send to each Commoner a short statement of the case which had been drawn up for the purpose with a form for signature by any who might be unable to attend expressing their assent to or descent from the proposal.

The attention of the Conservators was then drawn to the newspaper reports of the Meeting of the Foresters Association held on the 12th instant at which the speakers had made various misstatements and charged the Chairman and Clerk with publicly making statements known to be untrue with regard to the law

It was proposed by Mr. Arbuthnot seconded by Mr. Turner and resolved that a reply be addressed to the local papers to be prepared by the Clerk and settled by the Chairman correcting the misstatements made at the Meeting.

It was also Resolved that the Clerk write to Mr. Peregrine Birch drawing his attention to the charge made against him at the same Meeting of cutting litter in September and enquiring whether he desires to make any statements to the Conservators on the subject.

On Mr. Sandford's proposition it was resolved that the Clerk from time to time furnish to the newspapers a short statement (to be approved by the Chairman) of the business transacted by the Conservators at their Meetings.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

At a Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest convened by circular set out below and held on Saturday 2nd November 1889 at 11.30 a.m at the School house Nutley.

Present :-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield, in the Chair,
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler
Mr. H.J. Peckham
Captain Noble
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. W. Carr
Mr. John Kenward
Mr. Joseph Ridley (Horney Common)
Mr. Joseph Ridley (Millbrook)
Mr. Thomas Shoebridge
Mr. Albert Turner
Mr. William Turner
Mr. F.J. Whitewood

It was Resolved that Mr. H.R. Freshfield do take the Chair

Mr. Freshfield then explained that the object of those who had promoted the regulation of the Forest had always been its preservation and protection and that they had always desired to ameliorate the condition of the occupiers of small properties within the Forest pale, and he quoted from the special report presented by the Land Commissioners to the Home Secretary in March 1885 in which they stated that there was a general wish that these small occupiers should be authorised to take brakes and litter for use on their properties but not for sale, on payment of a nominal sum to the Conservators but that the Commons' Act did not authorise them to insert such a provision in the Provisional Order but that if the Lord of the Manor had given his consent they should have specifically submitted such a provision for the approval of Parliament.

The Chairman then stated the steps taken by the Conservators with a view to bringing about desirable an arrangement and showed that these steps had been taken before the recent Foresters' Meeting. He then read the following circular convening the Meeting, which had been drawn up by the Conservators, and which fully embodied their views on the subject:-

[printed notice inserted]

To the COMMONERS of ASHDOWN FOREST

Scattered about the Forest are a large number of small enclosures. Some of these existed at the time of the Decree of 1693, others have been taken in at various times since, under grants from the Lord of the manor of Duddleswell with the consent of the Homage, whilst the remaining encroachments were made in more recent years. In 1885 the

occupiers of such of these enclosures as had recently been made were permitted to purchase them under the order for the Regulation of the Forest.

These encroachments were chiefly due to the apathy of the Commissioners, and were assuming such increasing proportions, that, but for the formation of the Commoners' Association in 1874, a considerable part of the Forest might by this time have been enclosed. Now, however, under the Order for Regulation, confirmed by a special Act of Parliament, no further encroachments or enclosures of any kind can be made without the sanction of Parliament.

None of these small holders originally had any rights on the open Forest. It is suggested that some of them, by 60 years user, have acquired rights, and that nearly all have used the Forest without legal warrant or authority. In some cases offenders have been prosecuted, but detection is difficult, and legal proceedings are costly and undesirable. Gross misrepresentation has been made as to the action of the Conservators in putting a check upon these practices, and ill-feeling has in consequence arisen.

It has been repeatedly argued that, as the boon would be great to these small occupiers, it might be expedient that they should be allowed to take brakes, litter, and peat-fuel for use on their holdings, and to turn out in the summer such stock as their land will maintain in the winter. No doubt the acreage of these holdings being comparatively small, the brakes and litter which those occupiers can consume on them is also small. It is not from such user that the Forest suffers, but from thefts by persons who cut and subsequently sell the litter to people who have no Common rights, and many of whom reside at a long distance from the Forest.

After careful deliberation, the Conservators, undeterred by the unworthy and groundless imputations which have been made upon their proceedings, have come to the conclusion that it is desirable to admit these small occupiers within the pale to the enjoyment of Forest rights, on payment of rates similar to the Commoners; and they have reason to believe that in the event of this scheme being carried out, these small occupiers will see the importance of co-operating with the Conservators in preventing the illegal cutting above mentioned, and generally in protecting and preserving the Forest.

The soil of the Forest being vested in Lord De la Warr, he could prohibit any person, not a Commoner, from cutting or turning out, and the Commoners could do the same. The Conservators have no legal power in themselves to confer these privileges; they, therefore, deemed it right to consult his Lordship before moving further in the matter, and I have the satisfaction of stating that he has expressed his willingness to consent to the proposal.

Under these circumstances, I am directed by the Conservators to convene a General Meeting of all the Commoners, to be held at the School-house, Nutley, on Saturday, the 2nd November next, at 11.30 a.m., when a resolution will be proposed to the effect that the Occupiers of small properties within the Forest pale be authorised to take brakes, litter, and peat for fuel for use on their holdings, but not for sale, and to turn out in the summer such cattle as their holdings can maintain in the winter, subject, of course, to the provisions of the Bye-laws, and to payment of the same rates as the Commoners. Considering the importance of the matter, I trust it may suit your convenience to be present at the Meeting; but, if otherwise, the Conservators particularly request that you will be good enough to sign and return me the enclosed paper not later than the 31st instant.

W. AUG. RAPER
Clerk to the Conservators
Battle, Sussex

22nd October, 1889.

Having pointed out that the Conservators had been actuated throughout by a desire to promote the interests of the small occupiers within the pale, he moved the following resolution :- 'that the Conservators be authorised to admit the following occupiers of small properties within the Forest pale to take brakes, litter, and peat for fuel for use on their own holdings but not for sale, and to turn out in the summer such cattle as their holdings can maintain in the winter, subject to the provisions of the byelaws, and to their making payments similar to the rates paid by the Commoners: and that the Conservators be requested if they deem it necessary to apply to the Board of Agriculture for a supplementary regulation order.'

The Reverend J.B.M. Butler seconded the proposition and in doing so confirmed the statements made by the Chairman. He protested against the gross misrepresentation of the Conservators' motives and actions made by the friends of the Foresters, and hoped that they would ultimately perceive that the Conservators and the Commoners were the truest friends of the small occupiers

Mr. Mark Sandford on behalf of Lady Shelley supported the proposal regretting that reporters were not present at that Meeting, and also at the Meetings of the Conservators. Lady Shelley and he quite felt that their thanks were due to Lord De la Warr for consenting to their proposal and Lady Shelley also considered that the small occupiers should distinctly understand that the proposed arrangement was conceded as a favour and not as a right.

The Clerk read a letter from Sir Spencer Wilson expressing his hearty concurrence in the proposal and his desire to assist in any other way in improving the condition of the working classes.

The Clerk also stated that in response to the circular he had received communications from a large number of Commoners assenting to the proposal and also two dissents, one by a Commoner entitled to a quarter of an acre, another to 10 acres, viz:-

Assents:- Ashdown, Mr. Thomas, Bell, C.H. Esq., Carr, Mr. Wm. Chatterton, John, Esq. Colchester Lord, Cook Mrs. A.; Dadswell, Mr. Robert, Du Croz, F.A., Esq., Fleet, Mr. Geo., Hills, A.H. Esq. Hoare, Alfred, Esq. Hoath, Mrs. Lydia, Hoath, Mr. Amos, Hother, Mr. John, Hooker, Mr. John, Knight, Mr. Thomas, Larnach, D. Esq., Melville, Robt. Esq., McAndrew, John, Esq., Norfolk, His Grace, The Duke of, C.M., Nesbitt, Mrs., Portman, The Right Honble Lord, Sandford, Mark, Esq., Shelley, Lady, Streatfeild, R.J. Esq., Stapley, Mr. Geo., Hambley, Mrs. Sarah, Turner, Albert, Esq., Wilson, Esq., Devisees of late Robert, Wallis, Mr. Joseph J.

Dissents:- Edwards, Mr. Robert, Devisees of Sayers, Mr. Stephen.

Captain Noble desired that it should be explained to the small occupiers that the Conservators aim was to put them as nearly as possible on the same footing on the Commoners.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

On the proposition of the Reverend Mr. H.J. Peckham, a vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

At a Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened by notice and held at the Nutley School-house on Saturday the 2nd day of November 1889 at noon.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield in the chair
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler
Captain Noble
Mr E.A. Nicholson
Mr William Carr
Mr Joseph Ridley
Mr Mark Sandford
Mr Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance at the Bank amounted to £ 209:4:10.

He also read a correspondence that had passed with Mr. J.C. Thompson with reference to the digging near the high road south of Wych Cross in which Mr. Thompson stated he had instructed Mr. Prince to proceed against the Conservators; he also stated in reply to an inquiry from the Clerk that his tenant who had purchased Forest letter had purchased it from an authorised person who had shown his licence.

It was resolved that the Clerk inform Mr. Thompson that the Conservators are not responsible for the quarry and point out that an authorised person had no right to sell letter and ask him to furnish the name and address of the person selling.

The Ranger reported that the recent excavation made by Mr. Gasslon at the spot in question was 33 feet from the road and 8 feet deep but that an older excavation made apparently some 3 or 4 years ago was within 13 feet of the road and that he was unable to find out who made it, also that he had been in communication with Lord de la Warr's Reeve who had promised either to fence or slope down the side of the quarry.

The Clerk produced a copy of the letter he had been directed at the last meeting to write to the local papers correcting mis-statements made at the recent meeting of Foresters also a reply which Mr. Elphinstone Barchard had published.

It was resolved that the Clerk write to the newspapers pointing out that as the Foresters' friends so frequently shifted their ground it was impossible to follow up the correspondence and that the statements contained in the Barchard's letter were so groundless and unreasonable that they needed no refutation.

A reply was read from Mr. Peregrine Birch complaining that in cutting litter in September he had no idea he was breaking the byelaws and that he stopped his men directly he heard of it.

A claim having been made by Mr. J.E. Wood to rights of common in respect of the William the Fourth public house at Ford's Green Nutley of which he is owner and Mr. W. Carr having stated that to his own personal knowledge the occupiers of the property had exercised rights of common for 60 years.

It was resolved that Mr. Wood's claim be admitted.

The Conservators then proceeded to consider a resolution passed at the Commoners' meeting held at an earlier hour in the day – “ that the Conservators be authorised to admit the occupiers of small properties within the Forest pale to take brakes litter and peat for fuel for use on their holdings but not for sale and to turn out in the summer such cattle as their holdings can maintain in winter, subject to the provisions of the byelaws and to their making payments similar to the rates paid by the Commoners. And the Conservators be requested if they deem it necessary to apply to the Board of Agriculture for a supplementary Regulation Order” and

It was resolved that the Clerk communicate with the Board on the subject.

The Ranger then read a long report on cases that had come under his notice, and

It was resolved that, pending a decision with regard to the Commoners' resolution, the Clerk do not take proceedings against occupiers of small properties within the pale in respect of litter or peat cutting and that subject thereto he go through the Ranger's report and enquire into the various matters contained in it.

It was also resolved that as Trayton Walter, Job Tester, Henry Dudgeon, and John Burgess had not thrown out their encroachments the Ranger obtain assistance and proceed to throw them out.

It was also resolved that the Clerk convene the meeting of Commoners for the election of Conservators at Nutley School-house on Saturday 7th December next at 11:30; and that his meeting adjourn till 12'0 clock at the same day at the same place.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

[press clipping]

CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST.

I HEREBY CONVENE A MEETING of the Commoners interested in the forest to be held on SATURDAY, 7th December instant at 11:30 am, at the School-house at Nutley, for the purpose of ELECTING FOUR CONSERVATORS of the forest in the Place of Mr. Joseph Wallis, Mr. Albert Henry Hills, Mr. Joseph Ridley and Mr. Albert Turner, who retire by rotation on 3rd December 1883.

W. AUG. RAPER

Clerk to the Conservators.

N.B.- Only such persons as are legally entitled to exercise rights common on the Forest will be entitled to vote.

A Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened by the Clerk by notice on the Church door of each of the parishes or ecclesiastical districts into which the Forest extends and by advertisements in two newspapers circulating in the neighbourhood to wit the Sussex Express and the Sussex Advertiser at least 14 days before that date and held on Saturday the 7th day of December 1889 at 11:30 a.m. at the School House at Nutley.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield in the chair

Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot

The Rev: J.B.M. Butler

Mr. Joseph Ridley (Horney Common)

Captain Noble

Mr. William Carr

Mr. Mark Sandford

Mr. Albert Turner

Mr. F.J. Whitewood

It was proposed by Captain Noble recorded by the Revd. J.B.M. Butler and unanimously resolved that Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield do take the chair. Mr. Freshfield having taken the chair, the Clerk read the notice convening the meeting.

The Clerk having read the provisions of the Award regulating the election of Conservators. The Chairman expressed his regret that Mr. A.H. Hills on account of ill health and Mr. Joseph Wallis on account of distance were unable to offer themselves for re-election.

It was proposed by the Chairman recorded by Captain Noble that Mr. Albert Turner be re-elected a Conservator and upon a show of hands being taken the Chairman declared that he was unanimously elected.

It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. Mark Sandford that Mr. Joseph Ridley be re-elected a Conservator and upon a show of hands being taken the Chairman declared that he was unanimously elected.

It was proposed by Captain Noble and seconded by Mr. Albert Turner that Mr. John McAndrew be elected a Conservator and upon a show of hands being taken the Chairman declared that he was unanimously elected.

It was then proposed by Mr. Mark Sandford and seconded by Mr. William Carr that Mr. John Kenward of Fletching be elected a Conservator and upon a show of hands being taken the Chairman declared that he was unanimously elected.

Henry R. Freshfield

Chairman

A meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the School House, Nutley, on Saturday, the 7th day of December 1889 at noon.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield in the chair,

Mr. H. Carr

Mr. Arbuthnot

Captain Noble

Mr. Joseph Ridley

The Revd. J.B.M. Butler

Mr. Mark Sandford

Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting he had received £ 6:8:6 an account of the rate and that the balance in the bank amounted to £220:8:1 and the Clerk had that day received £ 2:6:0 in addition.

Mr. William Stevenson/Granter attended before the Board complaining that he had been unjustly deprived of his pig under a distress for non-payment of fine and costs, alleging that the pugmill for which he was prosecuted, was not on the Forest but on his own land, and he asked the Conservators to restore his pig or put him in the same position again. He was then directed to withdraw. It was then stated by Captain Noble that the sale of the pig had caused a great deal of feeling, and that two persons at least had complained that while this man was proceeded against Mr. Albert Turner was allowed to lay timber on Ford's Green and Mr. W. Turner was allowed to place fagot stacks on the forest near Nutley. Mr. Albert Turner stated that he and Mr. William Turner could prove their right to do these things by long user and he desired that the allegations might be thoroughly enquired into.

It was resolved that Mr. Albert Turner and Mr. William Turner Be requested to furnish the Clerk with particulars of the grounds upon which they claim such right and be invited to produce at the next meeting any evidence bearing on the matter.

It was resolved that the Uckfield Bench of Magistrates having enquired fully into the case of William Stevenson the Conservators could not entertain the application and the Clerk was directed to write to Mr. Stevenson informing him thereof and reminding him of the facts of the case.

Job Tester Junior attended before the Conservators and on the ground that he had expended labour in improving the encroachment added to sale No. 111 he begged to be allowed to retain the encroachment. The Chairman explained that the Conservators had not the power to do so, and admonished Tester to reduce his inclosure to the proper size without delay.

The Ranger reported that on 26th November assisted by 2 men he threw out the encroachment of Trayton Walter and John Burgess referred to at previous meetings and that John Burgess has once re-enclosed a piece along the north-west side of his house. It was resolved that he be prosecuted under the Bye-laws.

As to Budgeon the Ranger stated that he ***** time to write to the Clerk and the (Ranger) had accordingly stated his hand. The Clerk stated that he had received no letter from Budgeon. The Ranger was directed to throw out the fence and then warn him that unless he removed the buildings they would be taken away.

The Clerk then reported that the Board of Agriculture had written to say that in their opinion a Supplemental Order for regulation could not be issued for the purpose of admitting the Foresters to the privileges of Commoners.

The Conservators directed the Clerk to obtain from the Overseers of the several parishes a list of owners and occupiers of all the small properties within the Forest and endeavour to prepare therefrom an accurate list of persons contemplated by the resolution of the Commoners with a view to giving effect thereto.

The Clerk then read the following intimation from the Chairman of the Meeting of Commoners held that day and it was ordered that the same be entered on the Minutes, viz:-

Copy Intimation

Cheques were then drawn as follows:-

The Ranger 14 weeks salary to 30th instant	£14:0:0
Men engaged in throwing out	£0:9:0
Postages	<u>£0:5:5</u>
	£14:14:5

The Clerk

1 year's salary to 31st instant	£72:10:0
Travelling expenses	£5:6:0
Telegrams and other petty payments	£0:18:4
Postage and receipt stamps	<u>£3:9:4</u>
	£12:3:8

Bills for the following:-

Barr bill	£0:18:9
Hire of room, July 1st Aug 22nd, 23rd, Sep 21st, Oct 19th, Nov 2nd, Dec 7 th	£1:15:0
Banister printing rates	£0:12:0
Costs prosecuting Morphew	£0:14:0
Sussex Express advertising Commoners Meeting of 7th instant	£0:13:0
Southern Weekly Advertising	£0:9:6
Sussex Advertiser advertising Commoners Meeting printing bills & post cards	£1:1:6
Fees on prosecuting Jas. Wright	£0:5:0
ditto Job Tester	£0:7:6
ditto Trayton Walter	£0:2:6
Waghorn, his expenses	£0:10:6
5 Parish Clerks affixing notices	£0:2:6
Riley tape	<u>£0:7:6</u>
	£7:18:9

The Conservators then considered the Ranger's report.

The Clerk stated that Richard Butcher of Lingfield having written he had taken the litter through ignorance has been admonished not to offend again. It was resolved that J. Manners of Chelwood Common be required to give an undertaking not to take litter again without a licence or in default thereof be prosecuted.

That Mr. Simeon Wickens claim to rights be adjourned he not having attended to produce evidence and the Clerk to write to him. That Mr. Joseph Turner of Chelwood Common be prosecuted unless he give an undertaking not to trespass again.

Dr McGrath's claim was adjourned for further information. It was reported that Frederick Oakley, a tenant of Mr. Thompson's had taken litter from the Forest and turns out stock thereon and had not replied to a letter written by the Clerk it was resolved that he be prosecuted if the Ranger could obtain the necessary evidence.

Henry R. Freshfield

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley in Saturday the 8th February at 11:15 a.m.

Present:-

H.R. Freshfield Esq. in the chair
Sir Spencer M. Maryon-Wilson Bart.
The Rev: J.B.M Butler
Captain Noble
Mr. William Carr
Mr John Kenward
Mr John McAndrew
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £130:3:0 and reported that rates amounting to £72:8:2 are still outstanding.

The Clerk reported with regard to the small piece of ground in front of John Burgess' cottage at Fairwarp he had examined Mr. Cowper's map and found it had been enclosed before the date of the Award, and that he had therefore refrained from taking proceedings with regard to it.

The Clerk reported that he had made considerable progress with the list of occupiers of small holdings within the Forest directed at the last Meeting to be prepared but that owing to the difficulty the Assistant Overseers experienced in identifying some of the holdings that he had not yet been able to complete the list and he asked for instructions as to certain classes of holdings to be included. It was resolved that the Clerk exclude the large areas which the Earl of Dorset and the other plaintiffs were authorised to enclose by the Degree of 1693, but include the small holdings scheduled on the map of 1691.

The Clerk also reported that J. Manners and Joseph Turner both of Chelwood have given an undertaking not to take litter again without a licence.

Some discussion then arose as to the person to whom licences are to be granted by the Ranger and it was resolved that no licences be granted by the Ranger to small occupiers outside the pale of the Forest without express authority of the Conservators.

The Clerk further reported that Mr H.J. Greaves of New House Buxted had stopped cutting litter on being informed that he had no right.

Also that John Butler was convicted at East Grinstead on the 16th December last for having a van on the Forest and fined 10/- and costs 13/- which he had paid.

That Mr. Miles of Tompsetts Bank was prosecuted at the same time for cutting litter on the 14th October last he having informed the Ranger that he was cutting "to sell to anyone". At the hearing an adjournment was granted at request of defendant's solicitor, Mr. Prince, to enable him to consider the evidence of the defence. The Clerk reported that that having subsequently ascertained that Miles was cutting for James Cook and that the litter was taken to land at Tompsetts Bank occupied by Cook and owned by him in the right of his wife and that this land had been inclosed for over 60 years and further that evidence would be adduced in support of user he felt that the Magistrates would hold their jurisdiction and he therefore withdrew the summons the Defendant undertaking not

to ask for costs. The Clerk added he was of opinion that Mr. Cook's name should be added to the Schedule of Commoners in request of the land in question. It was resolved that the Clerk apply to Mr. Cook accordingly.

Mr. Albert Turner then produced his Title deeds and stated he had 3 witnesses then present prepared to give evidence as to his user of the corner of the corner of Fords Green for laying timber thereon the Conservators decided that they could not then examine the deeds or witnesses and it was resolved that Mr. Raper communicate with Mr. Nicholson also make further real enquiry as to the length and the nature of the user claimed by Mr. Turner of Fords Green for laying timber on and report to the next meeting.

The Clerk reported that he had written to Mr. Turner in accordance with the resolution passed at the last meeting but has received no reply, and Mr. W. Turner was not now present. Mr. Albert Turner stated that his brother *** the right or easement of putting stacks on the Forest from Lord De la Warr and it was resolved that Mr. Raper enquire of Mr. Nicholson as to this and report to the next meeting.

It was resolved that the consideration of Budgeon's enclosure and other similar cases be postponed.

That the Clerk examine the trespasses of the Golf Club on the north side of the Forest and communicate with the President of the Club.

That the Clerk draw Mr. Nicholson's attention to the sand pits and gravel digging on the Forest by persons other than the Road Surveyors who allege they have Lord De la Warr's authority especially a large and dangerous sand pit near Mr. Macartney's house which is now very inefficiently protected by rails as to the case of cutting furze for sticks etc. and urge that some measures be adopted for checking unauthorised cutting.

Also with reference to the cases of tenants of Lord De la Warr reported as cutting letter with a view to a list being furnished of those farmers in respect of which Lord De la Warr claims the right under the judgement in Hale v. De la Warr.

It was resolved that the next meeting be held on the 8th March.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 8th March 1890 at 11.15 a.m.

Present:-

H.R. Freshfield Esq. in the Chair
Sir Spencer Maryon Maryon-Wilson Bart
The Rev. J.B.M. Butler
Captain Noble
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot
William Carr
John McAndrew
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance at the Bank was £124:3:0 and that he had that day received a further sum of £42:13:0 on account of rates.

Also that at the Uckfield Bench on 27th of February last Charles Wheeler was prosecuted and convicted for digging gravel without authority and fined 5/- and 9/- costs and that Caesar Tompsett was convicted for cutting litter without authority and fined 5/- and 9/- costs.

The Clerk presented the Schedule of occupiers of small properties within the Forest pale prepared pursuant to resolutions passed at the two preceding meetings and stated that it might still require some further revision. It was resolved that the consideration of the Schedule stand over till the next meeting and that meanwhile such of the Conservators as desire to go through it have the opportunity of doing so and the Ranger complete checking it on the spot.

With reference to Mr. Albert Turner's user of the North corner of Fords Green adjoining his timber yard for laying timber on the Clerk reported that in pursuance of the directions given to him at the last Meeting he had made in enquiry of all persons whom he could meet with about Nutley who could shine any light on the subject and that the result of the evidence he had collected was that Mr. Turner and his Father had used the corner of the Green in question for the purpose continuously from 1862. Mr. Turner then agreed with the Conservators the area on which he shall in future lay his timber on the Green which was to continue open and he further offers to make a good road 15 feet wide along that side of the Green from the high road so far as his property extends up the Green resolved unanimously that a Committee consisting of Sir Spencer Wilson Bart and Mr. Sandford with the Clerk meet Mr. Turner on the spot and settle details and report to the next meeting.

Mr. Nicholson then stated that Mr. William Turner and his predecessors in title had from 1842 down to the present time paid £ 2:10:0 per annum to Lord De la Warr for (amongst other things) the privilege of putting the stacks complained of on the Forest resolved that no further action be taken in the matter.

The Clerk also reported that he had visited the north side of the Forest and found that the Golf Club had committed various breaches of the Bye-laws in employing persons not Commoners to cut litter and carry it away for their own use in paring off large patches of the best turf, in raising banks, cutting ditches and digging two large holes and he read the correspondence which had passed from which it appeared that the Hon. Sec. of the Club Mr. Birch admitted the various breaches of the Bye-laws alleged and stated that the matter was to be laid before their Committee today it was resolved that their reply be awaited.

The Clerk also read the correspondence that had passed with Mr. Nicholson with regard to sand pits and gravel digging the cutting of furze for sticks etc. and the cutting of litter by the tenants of Lord De la Warr and subsequent correspondence. Mr. Nicholson not being then prepared to deal with the matter of Lord De la Warr's tenants it was resolved that the consideration of these matters be adjourned till the next Meeting.

A letter was read from Mr. P. H. Phillips of Forest Lea Crowborough requesting permission for a new club about to be started there to play golf on that part of the Forest adjoining Crowborough it was resolved that the Clerk reply that difficulties having arisen with the Forest Row Golf Club with reference to the mode in which they use the Forest the consideration of the application be deferred till the next Meeting.

It having been reported that William Morphew who was convicted at East Grinstead on the 4th November last of cutting heath for brooms had repeated the offence. The Clerk was directed to prosecute him.

Mr. Sandford gave notice that at the next Meeting he would propose the appointment of a Superintendent of Fords Green.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 19th April 1890 at 11:15 a.m.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield Esq. in the chair
The Rev. J.B.M. Butler
Captain Noble
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot
Mr. William Carr
Mr. W. Kenward
Mr. John McAndrew
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Joseph Ridley

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £165:17:0 and that rates to the amount of £29:15: 6 are still outstanding notwithstanding repeated applications.

That at the Uckfield Bench on the 13th March Richard Jones was convicted of having a tent on the Forest and was fined 5/- with 9/- costs. While Patience Smith and John Davis summoned for similar breaches of the Bye-laws not appearing warrants were issued for their apprehension.

Also that at the East Grinstead Bench on 24th March last William Morphew was again convicted of cutting heath for brooms and fined 10/- with 11/- costs.
And that the Bench at the same time remitted the costs of his previous prosecution in which a nominal fine without costs was inflicted.

Mr. Sandford stated that owing to the absence of Sir Spencer Wilson the Committee appointed at the last Meeting to meet Mr. Turner at Fords Green and settle details were not prepared with their report today.

Captain Noble reported that at a Meeting of Inhabitants of Nutley held on Thursday last it was resolved to recommend to the Conservators to appoint Mr. Albert Turner Superintendent of Fords Green Recreation Ground and he proposed that Mr. Turner be appointed accordingly this was seconded by Mr. Sanford and carried unanimously.

The Clerk then read the correspondence that had passed with Mr. Birch with reference to the Ashdown Forest and Tunbridge Wells Golf Club and the matter having been fully discussed and the Conservators considering the last reply of Mr. Birch to be unsatisfactory it was resolved that the Clerk do inform him that if any further breach of the Bye-Laws (already supplied to him) be committed the Conservators will be under the necessity of enforcing them in the ordinary way.

The Ranger reported that a new course had been made with fresh greens and holes south of the course first used and the Ranger was directed to ascertain by whom and by whose order this was done.

The case of Thomas Budgeon's encroachment at Tompsetts Bank was again discussed and it was resolved that the Ranger be directed to throw out the encroachment.

The Clerk produced the Schedule of Occupiers of small properties which had been examined by some of the Conservators it was resolved that the consideration of it be postponed till the next Meeting to enable other Conservators to check off portions of it.

Also that the subject of sand and gravel digging under Lord De la Warr's authority and litter cutting by his tenants be adjourned to the next Meeting.

It was further resolved that cheques be drawn as follows:-

Mr. John Taylor – 4 weeks salary as Ranger	
to 8th March last	£4:0:0
Ditto 6 weeks to this date	£6:0:0
His disbursements to date	<u>£2:3:9</u>
	8:3:9

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 21st June 1890 at 11:15 a.m.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield, in the Chair
The Reverend J.B.M. Butler
Captain Noble
Mr. John McAndrew
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £154:17:10.

A letter was read from Mr. Albert Turner accepting the office of Superintendent of the Fords Green Recreation Ground.

The condition of the Forest as left by the Road Surveyors was considered. It was stated that the terms of the licences had not been complied with, the holes had not been filled in properly, the top spit had not been properly preserved and respread.

It was resolved that unless the Road Surveyor comply with the above requirements it will be impossible to renew their licences in the future.

The undermentioned Road Surveyors attended to apply for licences for the year ending 25th March 1891, to each of which the foregoing resolution was read, viz:-

Mr. Joseph Martin of Fletching applied for consent to take hard stone from the existing pits between the Vetchery and Isle of Thorns near the Cricketing plain.

Mr. James Diplock for Maresfield applied for licence to dig stone and gravel from existing pits on the forest between the Isle of Thorns and the Vetchery also on Camp Hill, Crows Nest and Birching Bank and Footbridge Hill.

Mr. William Pursglove for Buxted applied for license to dig stone and gravel from open pits between Barns Gate and Pound Gate and behind the School and to try for same over the area.

Mr. Alfred Hoath for Withyham applied for license to dig sand stone and gravel from open pits near St. Johns Church Crowborough and to make trials for gravel from the top of the 500 acres to Greenwood Gate and beyond as far as the parish runs and also in the Parish of Hartfield on the East side of the Stream running to Chuck Hutch and to take gravel there from.

Mr. James Richardson for Hartfield applied for licence to continue digging hard stone from Mount Pit at Gills Lap and gravel at High Beeches Road and to make trials for gravel at Greenwood Mount.

It was resolved that the several applications be granted subject to the same conditions as before and that a copy of the previous resolution be attached to each licence.

The Committee appointed on the 8th March last to meet Mr. Albert Turner at Fords Green and settle the area within which Mr. Turner's timber was in future to be deposited and the other matters referred to in the resolution presented their report which was read and considered and

It was resolved that the report be approved and entered on the Minutes – it is to the following effect:-

To the Conservators of Ashdown Forest

We the undersigned Committee appointed at a Meeting of Conservators held on the 8th of March 1890 beg to report that we have met Mr. Albert Turner at Fords Green and have stumped out with him the area within which his timber shall for the future be laid. It is in the form of a triangle the boundary of it commences at the corner of Mr. Turner's timber yard running along the side of the high road a distance of 170 feet and thence across the Green in a straight line pointing to the corner of one of Mr. Turner's cottages a distance of the 146 feet when it strikes the garden fence and thence running along the boundary of Mr. Turner's property to the starting point a distance of 202 feet. Mr. Turner hereafter not to deposit or draw timber on or over any other part of the Green. Mr. Turner at his own expense forthwith to make a good road 15 feet wide adjoining the south east side of this area from the high road till it approaches his enclosed property and thence to be continued southwards as far as his property extends parallel to the hedge and at a distance of 20 feet from the stem so that if it should hereafter be desired to extend the road to Pricketts Hatch it may be continued in a straight line so as to clear the front of the present cricket building and we recommend to the Conservators the adoption of this arrangement

Dated the eight day of March 1890.

S.M. Maryon Wilson

Mark Sandford

W. Aug. Raper. Clerk

The Accounts of receipts and expenditure of the Conservators for the year ending 31st October last were produced examined and vouched and it was resolved that the same be approved and signed by the Chairman and that the usual abstract thereof be printed and circulated among the Conservators when the next rate is made.

It was resolved that the Ranger remove Philcox's duck run at Tompsetts Bank he having re-enclosed it.

The Ranger having stated that he had not been able to secure assistance to throw out Budgeon's encroachment it was resolved that the matter stand over for the present.

Resolved that the Schedule of small occupiers be referred to a Committee consisting of Mr. Albert Turner, Mr. William Carr, Mr. Ridley to correct and settle it and report to the next meeting.

A letter was read from Mr. Nicholson dated 26th April last in reply to a suggestion that Lord De la Warr should grant a lease of his mineral rights (other than old quarries and pits) stating that his Lordship would prefer no alteration being made and it was resolved that the Clerk write to Mr. Nicholson again pointing out the inconvenience of the present system and urging a solution.

It having been reported that Lord De la Warr had given his permission to the Ladies Golf Club at Forest Row to play golf on the Forest the Clerk was directed to write to Mr. Nicholson pointing out the objection to so doing.

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn as follows:-

Mr. John Taylor 9 weeks wages as Ranger to that date £9:0:0

Also that the Clerk pay Mr. Diplock's charge for conveying applicants for the office of Ranger round the Forest in August last

£1.0.0.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 26th July 1890 at 11:15 a.m.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield, in the Chair
The Rev. J.B.M. Butler
Captain Noble
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot
Mr. William Carr
Mr. John Kenward
Mr. John McAndrew
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £169:12:10.

The Clerk reported that the following rates remained unpaid:-

Goard Mrs Phillipa P.	2 years	£0:3:9
Leppard Mrs. Elizabeth	2 years	£0:3:9
Goldsmith Mrs. Sophia	1 year	£0:0:6
Mills Mr. William	2 years	£0:1:0
Waters Mr Isaac	2 years	£0:5:0

The Clerk read a letter of the 21st instant from Mr. Birch proposing that Mr. Banister the Captain of the Ashdown Forest and Tunbridge Wells Golf Club, Dr. McGrath and he representing the Golf Club should see the Conservators at their next meeting and that he (the Clerk) had informed them of the time and place of today's meeting.

The Chairman then reviewed the history of the relations between the Conservators and the Club and the Clerk read the correspondence between himself and Mr. Birch.

The above named gentlemen were then introduced.

They stated that they were unconnected with the Ladies Golf Club which was a separate organisation. That they had acted under a licence from Lord De la Warr which they had been under the impression conferred on them full powers they now found that they had been under a misapprehension as to their powers conferred by the licence and desired to disclaim any intention of acting illegally or in defiance to the authority of the Conservators and that they were present today to remove any misapprehension on the subject. They believed that what they had done had as a matter of fact improved the surface and pasturage of the Forest and they were willing to contribute a sum annually in aid of the Conservators funds for the preservation of the Forest and that the club would in future respect the Bye laws while trusting that they would receive the friendly assistance of the Conservators in keeping the ground suitable for golf playing.

The Chairman informed them that the Conservators reply would be communicated to them in writing

The deputation then withdrew.

After discussion it was resolved that the Clerk wrote to Mr. Birch as Hon: Secretary of the Club stating that the Conservators accepted their explanation and would be willing to accord the club their friendly assistance so far as they could do so consistently with the discharge of the duties imposed on them and that the club must carefully bear in mind that their user was solely by permission which the Conservators might find it necessary to withdraw at any time, that the club and its members could have no exclusive user of the course and that they must on no account in future do any act which the Bye laws prohibited unauthorised persons from doing without first obtaining the express authority of the Board.

The Clerk was also directed to write to Miss Andrew the Secretary of the Ladies Golf Club pointing out that the club had committed breaches of the Bye laws by cutting turf and otherwise interfering with the surface of the Forest and cutting the brakes and other growth and requiring an undertaking from the club to respect the Bye laws in future

The Ranger reported that he went to Philcox's at Tompsetts Bank to remove the duck run on 10th July when Mrs. Philcox stated they had no desire to keep the enclosure and would remove it shortly.

It was resolved that the Ranger take care the enclosure is removed at the end of the summer.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting to settle the Schedule of occupiers of small properties within the Forest Pale presented the Schedule which they had settled subject to a question whether certain holdings included in the list come within the class contemplated. After consideration it was resolved that the holdings referred to be expunged and the Schedule as corrected be submitted for approval to Mr. Nicholson as the representative of Earl De la Warr.

That when approved by him the Clerk have the same printed and deposited at suitable places round the Forest for public inspection and give notice by handbill and by advertisement in the Sussex Advertiser and Southern Weekly newspapers that as the occupiers of small properties within the Forest Pale have not legal rights of common on the Forest it is proposed by permission of Earl De la Warr as owner of the soil and of the legal Commoners to admit them subject to the provisions of the Bye laws to the privileges of taking brakes litter and peat for fuel for use on their own holdings but not for sale and of turning out in the summer such cattle as their holdings can maintain in the winter subject to their contributing at the same rate as the Commoners to the expenses of the Conservators and to the following regulations. That each holding be entered in a Schedule now in preparation. That each occupier pay in the month of September next and thereafter annually in the month of January for every acre or part of an acre of his holding a sum equivalent to the rate per acre paid by the Commoners (the payment in no case to be less than 6d). That any occupier who shall neglect to have his holding entered in the Schedule or shall fail to make any payment as aforesaid shall be disqualified from enjoying the above privileges until he shall have remedied such neglect or omission. That the notice shall state the places at which the Schedule has been deposited for inspection and requesting that in case any holding is omitted or any error appear in the quantity or description of any holding or the names of the holding or of the owner or occupier thereof notice (with full particulars) be given to the Clerk before a reasonable date to be fixed by him after which date the Conservators will proceed to settle the Schedule.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

At a Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 23rd August 1890 at 11:15 a.m.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield, in the Chair
The Rev. J.B.M. Butler

Captain Noble
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £169:12:10.

It was resolved that the notice with regard to the Schedule of small occupiers be inserted also in the "Sussex Express".

The Clerk then read the correspondence that had taken place since the last Meeting with Mr. Birch as Secretary of the Ashdown Forest and Tunbridge Wells Golf Club.

In reply to Mr. Nicholson, who was not present at the last Meeting, the Chairman explained that though the deputation from the Golf Club had proposed to make an annual contribution in aid of the Conservators funds the offer had neither been accepted or rejected.

The Clerk then read the letter he had addressed in pursuance of a resolution at the last Meeting to Miss Andrews, the Hon: Secretary of the Ladies Golf Club, and the correspondence that had ensued from which it appeared that Miss Andrew's had not given the undertaking asked for namely, that the Bye Laws shall be strictly respected by the Club.

It was resolved that the Clerk write to Miss Andrews pointing out that neither of her letters contained the undertaking asked for and giving her notice that in future the Bye-laws must be respected.

Mr. Nicholson stated that he had looked at the Schedule of Occupiers of small properties but that to thoroughly examine so long a list would take a considerable time and it appeared to him that larger holdings were included than contemplated by Lord De la Warr. The matter was then discussed and the Schedule revised accordingly and it was resolved that the Clerk have the Schedule printed as revised and proceed with regard thereto in accordance with the resolutions of the last Meeting and that the notice invite any persons included in the Schedule or not so included who consider they are entitled to rights of Common by virtue of sixty years user to send to the Clerk their claims to be inserted in the list of Commoners.

With regard to the application of the Conservators to Lord De la Warr to lease to them his mineral rights Mr. Nicholson stated that his Lordship saw no reason to depart from his decision not to entertain the proposal.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

At a Meeting of the Conservators convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Monday the 1st September 1890 at 11:15 a.m.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield, in the Chair
The Rev. J.B.M. Butler
Captain Noble
Mr. John McAndrew
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Ranger reported that on the 18th August he found that a small patch of litter had been cut and taken away from the Golf Course on the Forest near the Rist Cottage in the Parish of East Grinstead and on enquiring was informed that Mark Seymour of Yew Tree Farm had cut it and had taken it away. On the 26th August he called on Seymour who informed him that Mr. Lee of Ashdown House instructed him to cut the patch the litter and that he had taken it on to his own holding.

Also that Richard Card is employed by the Golf Club to keep certain of their putting greens in order and that on the 26th August last he being on the Forest saw Richard Card cutting a strip of litter near putting green No. 6 about 65 yards long by an average of two yards wide. Card said that some of the members wished the ground made wider. Card also pointed out to the Ranger in conversation a patch he had cut round green No. 15 the litter from which he had raked into two lumps. The area cut was about 30 yards long by about 5 yards wide. He revisited the spot on the 30th August and found the two lumps still there while the litter cut at Green No.6 had been removed and placed in a lump outside Card's holding.

He also then saw Card in the act of cutting litter around Green No. 14. The Ranger could not obtain any definite reply he said that sometimes one sometimes another of the Golf players wanted one thing or another done but Card did not give the name of any person who had instructed him.

It was resolved that the Clerk take proceedings against Mr. Lee and Richard Card for breach of the bye-laws.

The Ranger having reported that James Ridley notwithstanding a notice served on him some months ago had not removed the donkey stable and enclosure the fowl house or the stack of faggots he had erected on the open Forest near his holding at Marlpit Hill in the parish of Maresfield, he was directed to see James Ridley again and warn him that if the erections were not removed within a month, proceedings would be taken by way of injunction in the County Court to compel their removal.

Letters were read from Mr. Peregrine Birch and his son Mr. Robert William Peregrine Birch stating that Mr. Birch had conveyed to his son 11a.3r.35p. of land known as "the Roughs" and forming the southernmost portion of the property in respect of which Mr. Birch has hitherto been stated as a Commoner to the Conservancy.

It was resolved that the Schedule of Commoners be altered accordingly.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

At a Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 4th October 1890 at 11:15 a.m.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield, in the Chair
The Rev. J.B.M. Butler
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. William Carr
Mr. John Kenward
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the pass book showing a balance at the Bank of £160:12:10 in addition to which the Clerk has in hand £ 5:18:4½.

Gray Claim

Mr. Gray of Pippingford attended and applied to be admitted to Forest rights in respect of part of his Pippingford property the sevenbeech field containing about 20 acres occupied by Daniel Ridley and 3 fields and an orchard adjoining containing about 20 acres in his own occupation. He alleged he has turned out a few years ago and had recently cut litter by licence. Apart from the question of the effect of the licence he was not then in a position to prove 60 years user and the application was not proceeded with in the absence of evidence of user.

Richard Card conviction case prosecuted

The Clerk then reported that at the East Grinstead Bench on 22nd ulto he obtained a conviction for litter cutting against Richard Card a person employed by the Forest Row Golf Club and he was fined 10/- with costs but Mr. Stone his Solicitor had applied for and had been granted a case as to the construction of Bye law 11 under which the conviction took place.

F. & W. Lee Summons

That on inquiry it appeared Messrs. Francis and William Lee were together when instructions were given to Mark Seymour to cut litter and they had both been summoned but that as the point was the same as in Card's case he had consented to an adjournment pending the decision of the case granted.

The Clerk then read a letter received from Messrs. Stone Simpson & Co. Solicitors for the several defendants dated the 2nd instant stating that Mr. W. Lee gave no directions to Seymour and that Mr. Francis Lee regretted if his reply to Seymour's inquiry led the Conservators to think he was wilfully violating the Bye laws and inviting the Conservators to withdraw the adjourned summons on the understanding all further proceedings in these cases should be stopped.

It was resolved that the Conservators were of opinion that pending the decision or withdrawal of the case applied for by Mr. Stone they did not see their way to entertain the application.

It was further resolved that if the application for the case in re Card should be withdrawn the Clerk should attend at the East Grinstead Bench [to] state the fact and on an expression of Mr. Francis Lee's regret that he acted under a misapprehension withdraw the summonses against the Messrs. Lee.

Small Occupiers

The Clerk then read the correspondence that had passed between Mr. Nicholson and himself with reference to the Schedule of small occupiers the result of which was that Lord De la Warr alleged that in consenting to concede rights to small holders he had not contemplated the admission of so large a number of persons. Mr. Nicholson promised to bring the matter again before his Lordship and it was resolved that action with regard to the Schedule be adjourned in the meantime.

Resolved Golf Club Crowborough

An application was read from Mr. P.H. Phillips for permission for a Golf Club at Crowborough to play on that part of the Forest adjoining Crowborough And it was resolved that the application which had arrived since the issue of the notice convening this meeting be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Annual Meeting

It was also resolved that the annual meeting of the Commoners be fixed for 6th December and that the next meeting of the Conservators be held on the 25th instant if it be found necessary.

Forest Row Golf Club

A letter dated 27th September was read from Mr. Birch Secretary of the Ashdown Forest and Forest Row Golf Club and the Clerk was directed to explain more fully to Mr. Birch the views of the Conservators and to point out that they have no power to make a bargain or grant authority to the Club to deal with the Forest ground.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 8th November 1890 at 11:15 a.m.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield, in the Chair
The Rev. J.B.M. Butler
Captain Noble
Mr. William Carr
Mr. John McAndrew
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the pass book showing a balance at the Bank of £160:11:2.

Richard Card

He reported that Richard Card who had applied to the East Grinstead Bench for a case as to the construction of Bye Law 11 had withdrawn the application and paid the fine of 10/- and costs imposed on him on the 22nd September.

F & W Lee

Also that acting on the resolution passed at the last meeting the Clerk had attended before the East Grinstead Bench on the 20th ulto. and withdrawn the summonses against the Messrs. Lee stating the reasons which induced the Conservators to do so.

Viscount Cantelupe's death

Intelligence having been received of the untimely death by drowning of Earl De la Warr's son and heir Viscount Cantelupe It was unanimously resolved that the Conservators deeply regret the sad event and sincerely sympathise with Earl De la Warr and his family in their terrible bereavement and that the Clerk communicate the resolution to his Lordship through Mr. Nicholson.

General Meeting

It was also resolved that the annual general meeting of Commoners fixed for Saturday December the 8th be postponed to December the 20th.

Small occupiers

The Clerk then read a correspondence that had passed since the last meeting between Mr. Nicholson and himself with reference to the admission of the occupiers of all small enclosures within the Forest Pale to enjoy privileges on the Forest similar to the Commoners rights in which Mr. Nicholson stated that Lord De la Warr considered he ought not to give any general consent to persons cutting litter who have not the right to do so under the last judgement as it might open the door to many other irregularities and Mr. Nicholson considered this was quite consistent with his Lordship previous consent to consider the cases of small holders. The Conservators then referred to the correspondence in September and October of last year in which Mr. Nicholson on the first October 1889 wrote that his Lordship consented to the proposal contained in the Conservators resolution of the 21st September 1889.

It was resolved that having regard to the domestic affliction that has fallen so unexpectedly on Lord De la Warr the reply to Mr. Nicholson's letter be deferred for two or three weeks but that the Clerk then reply pointing out that the views now expressed are inconsistent with the unqualified consent given by his Lordship in September last that in consequence of that consent they consulted the Commoners and afterwards made public the announcement of the proposed concession that they will be compelled to explain the whole matter to the Commoners at their annual meeting in December and must leave on Lord De la Warr the responsibility for the withdrawal of the concession.

Proposed Golf Club Crowborough

The Conservators then considered the application of Mr. P.H. Phillips for permission for a Club to play Golf on the Forest near St. John's Crowborough supported by a recommendation from the Goldsmiths Company. After discussion it was resolved that Mr. Phillips be informed that while the Conservators have no legal power to grant permission they are not disposed to object to the playing of Golf on that part of the Forest subject to the following conditions (1) That the Commoners in the neighbourhood of Crowborough approve of the proposal (2) That before any work is done a plan be submitted to and approved by the Conservators showing what the Club desires to do in the way of disturbing the surface (3) That the Club do not interfere with a prejudice the Commoners rights (4) That they rigidly respect the Bye Laws (5) and that they obtain the consent of Earl De la Warr (6) And that it be clearly understood that the Club cannot have exclusive user of the ground.

Litter not to small occupiers outside pale

The Ranger having reported several applications by small occupiers outside the Forest Pale for licences to take litter. It was proposed by the Chairman seconded by Mr. Joseph Ridley and resolved that licences be not granted to small occupiers outside the pale.

Forest Row Golf Club

He also reported that a sort of platform for Golf playing had been recently raised and turfed near Number 9 Putting Green of the Tunbridge Wells and Forest Row Golf Club It was resolved that the Clerk write to Mr. Birch requesting to be furnished with the names of the persons who had done the work enquiring whether he accepted the responsibility of the act and whether he had any explanation to offer.

James Ridley Marlputs Encroachment

With reference to the report made by the Ranger at the last meeting Captain Noble explained that the statement made by James Ridley of Marlputs to the Ranger that he Captain Noble had inspected his encroachment and had stated that he did not think it amounted to one was altogether untrue. It was resolved that James Ridley be informed that unless he abate it within one month it will be thrown out.

Lord De La Warr tenants litter

The Ranger reported that he had seen several of Lord De la Warr's tenants taking litter the Clerk was directed to enquire into the matter.

The Ranger reported various other trespasses and encroachments and he was directed to obtain further information and evidence.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened by the Clerk by notice on the Church door of each of the parishes or ecclesiastical districts into which the Forest extends and by advertisement in two newspaper circulating in the neighbourhood to wit the Sussex Express and the Sussex Advertiser at least 14 days before that date and held on Saturday the 20th day of December 1890 at 11:30 a.m. at the School House at Nutley

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield
The Revd. H.J. Peckham
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. Albert Turner
Mr. William Turner
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. William Carr

Mr. Joseph Ridley (Millbrook)
Mr. Thomas Hyde
Captain Noble
Sir Spencer Maryon Maryon–Wilson Bart.
Mr. Alfred Hoare

It was proposed by Captain Noble seconded by the Rev. J.B.M. Butler and unanimously resolved that Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield do take the Chair. Mr. Freshfield having taken the Chair, the Clerk read the notice convening the meeting.

It was proposed by Mr. Alfred Hoare seconded by Mr. Albert Turner that Mr. Robert William Peregrine Birch be elected a Conservator but this proposition was subsequently withdrawn.

It was proposed by the Rev. J.B.M. Butler and seconded by Sir Spencer Maryon Maryon–Wilson Bart. that Captain William Noble be re-elected a Conservator and upon a show of hands being taken the Chairman declared that he was unanimously elected.

It was proposed by Mr. Albert Turner and seconded by Mr. William Carr that Mr. Mark Sandford be re-elected a Conservator and upon a show of hands being taken the Chairman declared that he was unanimously elected.

It was proposed by the Rev. J.B.M. Butler and seconded by The Rev. H.J. Peckham that Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield be re-elected a Conservator and upon a show of hands being taken by the Rev. J.B.M. Butler he declared that Mr. Freshfield was unanimously elected.

It was proposed by Captain Noble and seconded by Mr. Albert Turner that Sir Spencer Maryon Maryon–Wilson Bart be re-elected a Conservator and upon a show of hands being taken the Chairman declared that he was unanimously elected.

In reply to Mr. Birch the Ranger stated that the only person not on the Schedule of Commoners whom he had found turned cattle on the Forest was Mr. Oakley a tenant of Mr. T.C. Thompson and that a number of small occupiers had taken litter. Mr. Birch stated that he had made the enquiry not with any desire of finding fault as he entirely agreed with the Conservators using their discretion and allowing small holders of land within the Forest pale to take litter.

The Chairman stated that a negotiation was pending with Lord De la Warr to settle a Schedule of small occupiers to be admitted to these privileges and that in the meantime Lord De la Warr having assented to the principle the Conservators had not felt justified in prosecuting.

The Chairman then stated with regard to the Gold Club that while personally favouring the game it must be understood by the members that they cannot have the exclusive user.

It was proposed by Mr. Alfred Hoare seconded by Mr. Mark Sandford and resolved that the thanks of the Meeting be acceded to Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield for presenting.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the School House Nutley on Saturday the 20th December 1890 at 12 noon.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield
Sir Spencer Maryon Maryon–Wilson Bart
The Rev. J.B.M. Butler
Captain Noble

Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Pass Book showing a balance at the Bank of £161:3:8.

The Clerk reported that at a general meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened and held at the School house Nutley on this 20th December the following Gentlemen were elected Conservators of the Forest for the ensuing three years, namely:-

Captain William Noble
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield

Sir Spencer M. Maryon Maryon-Wilson Bart.

and he produced the Certificate of the Chairman of the General Meeting to that effect.

The Clerk then read the letter of condolence written to Earl De la Warr in pursuance of the resolution passed at the last Meeting and reply of Mr. Nicholson conveying his Lordship's sincere thanks for the same.

Small Occupiers

The Clerk also read the letter he had written to Mr. Nicholson pursuant to the resolution passed at the last Meeting with reference to the admission of the small occupiers and reported that Mr. Nicholson had replied inviting him (the Clerk) to meet him with a view to going through the Schedule and reducing and settling it before bringing it again before Lord De la Warr. It was resolved that the Clerk be authorised to do so.

Proposed Golf Club Crowborough

The Clerk also reported that he had communicated to Mr. P. H. Phillips, to the Goldsmith's Company and to Mr. Nicholson the ***** of the resolution of the last Meeting with reference to the playing of Golf on the Forest near Crowborough.

F.R. Golf Club

The Clerk reported he had written to Mr. Birch in the terms of the resolution passed at the last Meeting and he read his letter and the correspondence that followed thereon.

It was resolved that the following cheques be drawn for:-

Mr. John Taylor the Ranger 12 weeks

salary to 27th instant

£12:0:0

Disbursements to date

£3:0:0

£15:0:0

The Clerk 1 year's Salary to 31st instant

£80:0:0

Travelling expenses for the year

£8:13:0

Postages & receipt stamps

£2:4:3

Petty disbursements as per account

£10:14:6

£101:11:9

Annual Accounts

The accounts for the year were then examined and vouched and it was resolved that the same be and are hereby approved and that the Chairman sign the same in testimony of their correctness.

Arbuthnot alleged encroachment

The Ranger mentioned that Mr. Arbuthnot had moved a gate out near Plaw Hatch and had thereby encroached upon the Forest. Some doubt having been expressed whether Mr. Arbuthnot had encroached on the Forest the

Clerk was directed to write to Mr. Arbuthnot on the subject and propose that the Ranger should meet him on the spot to enquire into the matter.

The Clerk was directed to prepare and produce to the next Meeting a list of all alleged trespasses and encroachments requiring consideration.

Also to write to the Managers of the Nutley School thanking them for the loan of the School room for the Meeting of Commoners.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 21st February 1891 at 11:15 a.m.

Present:-

H.R. Freshfield Esq.
The Rev: J.B.M Butler
Captain Noble
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot
Mr. William Carr
Mr John McAndrew
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

It was proposed by the Rev. J.B.M. Butler seconded by Mr. Albert Turner and resolved that Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield be the Chairman for the ensuing year.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Reporting Meetings

It was proposed by Mr. Sandford and seconded by Mr. Ridley that Newspaper Reporters be admitted to the future Meetings of the Conservators. An amendment was proposed by the Rev. J.B.M. Butler and seconded by Mr. Arbuthnot that the Clerk communicate to the "Sussex Express", the "Sussex Advertiser" and the "East Sussex News" a report of the proceedings at the Conservators Meeting. After discussion Mr. Sandford and Mr. Ridley withdrew their resolution and Mr. Butler's proposal was then put and carried.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £44.11.11.

Small Occupiers

The Clerk reported that he had had an interview with Mr. Nicholson with reference to settling the list of small Occupiers but that owing to Lord De la Warr's recent bereavement Mr. Nicholson had not yet received back the Schedule submitted to his Lordship, that they had consequently not been able to settle any definite principle on which to proceed and the Clerk proposed to see Mr. Cope on the subject.

Rangers neglect

He also reported that he had received no communication from the Ranger since the last Meeting and had in consequence been unable to prepare a list of alleged trespasses and encroachments as directed at the last Meeting.

The Ranger explained that he had unusual demands upon his time as Sanitary Inspector.

It was resolved that the Conservators are not satisfied with the way in which the Ranger has discharged his duties during the past 3 months and must require his greater attention to his duties for the future. Also that he forward a copy of his Diary to the Clerk every week.

F.R. Recreation Ground

A letter was read from Mr. William R. Lee Junior the Superintendent of the Forest Row Recreation Ground stating that some person had sawn off two rails of the fence enclosing the Ground and enquiring whether the Conservators would prosecute. The Clerk stated that he had replied that if sufficient evidence could be obtained the Conservators would prosecute for a breach of Bye Law No. 13.

Duddleswell Excavations James Pilbeam complaint

The Ranger then read his Report and amongst other things drew attention to excavations on either side of Duddleswell which he considered not sufficiently protected and a letter was read from Mr. James Pilbeam of Nutley complaining that a stone quarry was being worked in dangerous proximity to his property. Mr. Nicholson stated that Mr. W. Turner had first complained of Mr. Pilbeam taking stone from the quarry which is rented by Mr. W. Turner. Mr. Albert Turner stated that the quarry required fencing and that he would give the material if Mr. W. Turner would put up the fence.

Committees to view Forest

It was proposed by the Rev. J.B.M. Butler seconded by Mr. Arbuthnot and resolved that Committees be appointed consisting of Mr. Freshfield and Mr. McAndrew for the North side of the Forest and Mr. A. Turner and Mr. W. Carr for the South side to inspect all quarries and excavation and report to the next Meeting any that require fencing under Bye Law 9.

Report encroachments

It was resolved that in all clear cases of encroachment the Ranger serve a 21 day's notice to abate and failing compliance report to the next Meeting.

Uckfield Local Board

The Clerk was directed to write to the Surveyor of the Uckfield Local Board warning him against purchasing the fine gravel which is being screened on the Forest contrary to the Bye Laws and to communicate with the Surveyor of Buxted on the same subject.

Kenward resignation

A letter was then read from Mr. John Kenward resigning his office as Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. M. Sandford seconded by Mr. J. Ridley and resolved that the resignation be accepted with regret. The question of filling up the vacancy was deferred.

Rate estimate

The Clerk was directed to prepare an estimate etc. for making a rate at the next Meeting.

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on Saturday the 4th April next.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 4th April 1891 at 11:15 a.m.

Present:-

H.R. Freshfield Esq.
The Rev: J.B.M Butler
Captain Noble

Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot
Mr. W. Carr
Mr John McAndrew
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £44.11.11.

Small Occupiers

The Clerk reported that he had seen Mr. Cope Junior in the absence of his father who was ill, with reference to the admission of small occupiers to privileges on the Forest and he promised to consult his Father on the subject with a view to dealing with the Schedule prepared by the Conservators.

It was resolved that the Clerk take an early opportunity of seeing Mr. Cope and pressing upon him the importance of securing Lord De La Warr's assent to the admission of all small occupiers of 5 acres and under.

Minerals as to leasing

Also of conferring with him as to the possibility of obtaining a lease of the exclusive right to dig stone, gravel and sand over the Forest (excluding existing quarries) so that the Conservators may secure complete control.

County Council Licence

Mr. Albert Tucker of Mayfield, District Surveyor of Highways for the County Council, applied for a licence to dig gravel at Fairwarp and to try for said gravel and hard stone at stone hill and remove same, if found, also to dig gravel at Kings standing.

It was resolved that subject to his fencing the dangerous portions adjoining the road at Fairwarp a licence be granted to the County Surveyor in the terms of his application subject to the conditions imposed on Road Surveyors last year.

Commoners Meeting Convened

It was proposed by Mr. Mark Sandford seconded by Mr. Albert Turner and resolved that the Clerk convene a Meeting of the Commoners to be held at Nutley on Saturday the 27th June next at 11.15 O'clock a.m. for the election of a Conservator in the place of Mr. John Kenward resigned.
Committees Excavations

The Committees appointed at the last Meeting presented their reports with reference to the condition of the quarries and excavations on the Forest and it was resolved that the Clerk inform the Road Surveyors that under the excavations for which they were responsible be at once fenced or otherwise protected the Conservators would not be able to renew their licences to take stone gravel etc.

W. Turner

Mr. William Turner not having fenced in the stone quarry adjoining Mr. James Pilbeam's property at Nutley the Clerk was directed to give him notice to do so at once.

Rate made

The Clerk having reported that the Funds in hand would be exhausted by payment of the current liabilities it was proposed by Rev. J.B.M. Butler seconded by Mr. Albert Turner and unanimously resolved that a rate be made for defraying the expenses of the Conservators in the execution of their duties under the Award made under the provisions of the Inclosure Acts 1845 to 1878 and the Commons Regulation (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act 1885 to be levied upon the respective owners of the rights of common upon the Forest at the rate of Six Pence per acre in respect of the acreage of their respective lands to which such rights attach, which

Commoners and their respective acreages aforesaid and the respective seems payable by them are hereinafter set out, namely

(Copy Rate below)

The Ranger's report was then read and considered and it was resolved:-

Izzard

That William Izzard be prosecuted for selling gravel.

Wright

That the encroachment made by James Wright adjoining his property near Fords Green be thrown out by the Ranger.

Name	Address	Acreage
Arbuthnot, W.R. Esq.	Plawhatch, East Grinstead	200
Ashdown, Mr. Thomas	Friars Gate, Withyham, Tunbridge Wells	3
Banister F.D. Esq.	Stone House, Forest Row, East Grinstead	50
Bashford, Mr. John	Forest Row, East Grinstead	15
Birch, Peregrine Esq.	The Priory, Forest Row, East Grinstead	88
Birch, Robert W.P. Esq.	The Priory, Forest Row, East Grinstead	12
Butler, Rev. J.B.M.	The Rectory, Maresfield, Uckfield	100
Bell, C.W. Esq.	Yewhurst, East Grinstead	180
Carr Mr. William	Nutley, Uckfield	8
Chatterton, J.C. Esq. Reps of.	C/o Cliff. Hinley & Sweet, 2 Bedford *** W.C.	13
Colchester, Lord	Carlton Club, Pall Mall, S.W	213
Cope & Buckley Messrs	C/o Cope & Co, 3 Gt. George St. Westminster Ltd	5
Colgate, Thomas Esq.	Sheffield Park, Uckfield	4
Cook Miss. A.	The Hall, Nutley, Uckfield	16
Dadswell, Mr. Robert	C/o Mr. Spencer Tester, Browns Brook, Buxted, Uckfield	1
Du Croz F.A. Esq.	Court Lands, West Hoathly, East Grinstead	80
Edwards, Mr. Robert Devises of	Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	10
Fleet, Mr. George	Shortbridge, Piltdown, Uckfield	2 ½
Goard, Mrs. Phillipa Philcox	Forest Row Green	3 ¾
Goldsmiths, Mrs. Sophia	Fairwarp, Maresfield Uckfield	1
Goldsmiths Company	Goldsmiths Hall, London, E.C.	100
Hale G.C. Esq.	32 **** Road, Tunbridge Wells	68
Hambley, Mrs. Mary	Fryars Gate, Withyham, Tunbridge Wells	2
Head, Mr. John	31 High Street, Lewes	10
Hills, A.H. Esq.	High Hurst Wood, Buxted, Uckfield	40
Hoare, Alfred Esq.	37 Fleet Street, London, E.C.	101
Hoath, Mrs. Lydia	Fryars Gate, Withyham, Tunbridge Wells	4
Hoath, Mr. Amos	Temple's School, Montpellier Road, Brighton	3
Hooker, Mr. John	Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	7
Hyde, Thomas Esq.	Pixton Hill, Forest Row, East Grinstead	103
Kenward, Mr. John	Fletching, Uckfield	74
Keys, Mr. R. W.	Forest View, Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells	8 ½
Knight, Mr. Thomas James	Budletts, Maresfield, Uckfield	2
Larnach, D. Esq.	Brambletye, East Grinstead	500
Leppard, Mrs. Elizabeth Ellen	c/o Mr. J. Champard, Beulah Road, Sutton	3 ¾
Leslie, J.E. Cranston Esq. & others	17 Bedford Row, London W.C. (late Cranston)	140
Lewis, Mrs. Lucy Rose	White House Farm, near Maresfield Uckfield	12

Lyell, Mr. John Wishart	c/o Messrs Lyell Brothers, Lewes	½
Magrath, Dr. John	The Elms, Forest Row, East Grinstead (late Chattertons)	7
Marriott, Mr. & Miss	c/o Messrs Hastie, 65 Lincolns Inn Fields, W.C. (late Cranston)	121 ½
Maynard, Mr. George	Old Ashdown Farm, Forest Row, East Grinstead	5
Melville, Mrs.	8 Argyll R. Kensington, S.W.	78
Miles, Mr. William	Forest Row, East Grinstead	1
McAndrew, John Esq.	Holly Hill, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	182
Nesbitt, Mrs.	Oldland, Buxted, Uckfield	285
Noble, Captain	Forest Lodge, Nutley, Uckfield	15
Norman, Mr. Henry	Fairwarp, Maresfield, Uckfield	6
Page Mr. Jesse	Summerford Farm, ** Fairwarp, Uckfield	
Page Mr. William	Summerford Farm, ** Fairwarp, Uckfield	
Taylor, Mr. George Edward	Summerford Farm, ** Fairwarp, Uckfield	4
Portman, The Rt. Hon. Lord	22 Portman Square, London, W.	130
Peckham, Rev. H.J.	Vicarage, Nutley, Uckfield	2 ½
Ridley Mr. Joseph	Misbourne Farm, Horney Common, Nutley, Uckfield	14
Ridley Mr. Joseph	Millbrook, Nutley, Uckfield	12 ½
Sandford, Mark Esq.	Maresfield, Uckfield	1 ½
Sayers, Mr. Stephen	Forest Row, East Grinstead	¼
Sheffield, Earl of	Sheffield Park, Fletching, Uckfield	946
Shelley, Lady	Maresfield Park, Maresfield, Uckfield	1656
Shoebridge, Mr. Thomas Richardson	Nutley, Uckfield	¼
Shoebridge, W. Thomas	Uckfield (late Marriott)	3
Stapley, Mr. George	Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells	2
Sadlieur, Mrs. Wife of Rev. Canon	C/o Joseph Turner Esq., East Grinstead	185
Streatfield, R.J. Esq.	"The Rocks", Uckfield	240
Turner, Albert Esq.	Nutley, Uckfield	12 ½
ditto	Late Lady Shelley	50
Turner, William Esq.	Nutley, Uckfield	17
Tapps-Gervis, Miss Clara	c/o Arthur Hastie, Esq., East Grinstead	925
Sir Spencer M. Maryon-Wilson Bart.	"Searles", Fletching, Uckfield	1150
Wilson Mr. Edward	Fincham, Rotherfield	1
Wallis Mr. Joseph P.	Coopers Arms Crowborough Tunbridge Wells	2 ½
Whitewood Mr. F. J.	Nutley, Uckfield	¼
Whitewood Mr. Henry	Claygates Farm, Buxted	86
Woods Mr. S. Grosvenor Esq.	9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn London W. C.	498
Wood John Edgar Esq.	55 Grays Inn Road, Holborn W. C	4
Walters Mr. George	Forest Row, East Grinstead	5
Wood, Mr. Charles	Maresfield, Uckfield	12
Wormald ***	late *****	57
Young Mr. William	Fincham, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	23

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 23rd day of May 1891 at 11.15 a.m.

Present

Sir Spencer M. Maryon Wilson Bart, in the Chair

Captain Noble

Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot

Mr. John M Andrew
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sand ford
Mr. Albert Turner

In the absence of Mr. H.R. Freshfield the Chairman, it was Resolved that Sir Spencer Wilson do take the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were then read and confirmed.

The Clerk read a letter he had received from Mr. Freshfield stating that the severe domestic afflictions which had befallen his family had rendered him wholly incapable of attending to public matters.

Captain Noble, alluding to the double loss that had fallen on Mr. Freshfield's family, proposed, and it was seconded by Mr. Mark Sandford and unanimously resolved, that this board desire to express its sincere sympathy with its Chairman and to condole with him in the great loss which he had sustained.

Captain Noble also referred to the loss sustained by another member of the Board, the Rev J.B.M. Butler in the death of his son, on his proposal seconded by Mr. Albert Turner, it was unanimously resolved that a similar expression of the Board's sympathy and condolence be sent to Mr. Butler.

Rate confirmed

The Clerk reported that rate made at the last Meeting was duly confirmed by the Board of Agriculture and that with the application for the rate he had sent to each Commoner an abstract of the accounts for the years 1889 and 1890.

The Clerk reported that he had received £154:16:8 on account of the new rate and produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £185:6:7.

W. Izzard prosecution

That since the last Meeting he had prosecuted William Izzard of Buxted for digging gravel on the Forest without authority contrary to Bye Law 8 and that, though the Ranger's evidence that he saw Defendant digging it from virgin soil was uncontradicted on oath, the Uckfield Bench accepted Defendant's statement that he was removing gravel he had dig some months before and left in a heap on the Forest and dismissed the case holding that he was not digging gravel within the meaning of the Bye law which they considered to mean disturbing virgin soil for the first time. Upon the application of the Clerk the Bench granted a case to the interpretation of the Bye Law but after consultation with the Chairman the Clerk thought the objection might be got over in future cases by adding the word "removing", and that it was therefore not worth while carrying the matter further.

T. Streeter prosecution

Thomas Streeter was summoned for digging gravel without authority, but the summons was withdrawn on his giving evidence that Mr. William Turner had employed him.

W. Turner prosecution

Mr. William Turner of Nutley was prosecuted for abetting Thomas Streeter in digging gravel. Mr. Turner alleged that he was searching for stone for the County Council, and that he dug large quantities on the Forest last year for the Council without any complaint. The Clerk pointed out that under the Commons Act 1876 the County Council had no power to dig without first applying to the Conservators and that no license had been granted for them to dig on that part of the Forest. The Bench convicted Mr. Turner but considered he should have been warned and imposed no fine and only half costs 8/- which has been paid.

Obed Norman

Obed Norman was convicted of taking gravel. He stated he was employed by Mr. Spartali's gardener and supposed that the latter had authority, he was therefore only fined 1/- with 2/6 costs.

Small occupiers; minerals

The Clerk reported that in accordance with instructions given at the last Meeting he saw Mr. Cope Snr. (1) with reference to the admission of all small occupiers within the pale to privileges similar to Commoners and (2) if it should appear that under the judgement *Hale v. De la Warr*, Lord De la Warr is entitled besides working existing quarries to break the surface in order to search for and dig sand gravel stone or any other minerals then suggesting that Lord de la Warr should lease his rights to search for or dig sand, gravel, stone, clay and such like minerals, but not valuable minerals such as iron or coal at a small rent , as that the Conservators might exercise an undivided authority in stopping the digging, which is going on in all directions, and that a preliminary arrangement for say 1 or 2 years might be entered into to see how it worked.

Mr. Cope stated that as far as he could judge the two proposals appeared reasonable and he would take an opportunity of consulting his Client upon them.

Job Luxford, Wm. Turner

Letters were then read from Mr. Job Luxford and Mr. William Turner with reference to the Conservators notice to them to fence open pits on the Forest.

It was resolved that a copy of Mr. William Turner's letter be sent to Mr. Nicholson and also extracts from the Ranger's report with reference to the unprotected condition of the quarry north of Wych Cross and the clay pits near Chuck Hatch.

George Tompsett

George Tompsett of Chelwood applied for permission to cut heath for broom making on the Forest, he having been prevented by illness from obtaining his usual supply before the nesting season from Lady Shelley's estate.

The Chairman expressed the regret of the Conservators that as his case appeared to be a deserving one they had not the power to grant his application.

Wood & Son

A letter was read from Messrs. Wood & Son apologising for removing moss from the Forest.

Macartney

The Ranger reported that in compliance with the Conservators directions the Revd. S.P. Macartney had removed the trees he had planted outside his fence.

J. Wright

Also that James Wright near Fords Green had taken down the lodge he had placed on the Forest and promised to put back his hedge at once.

Nutley

The Ranger also reported that some turf had been removed from open ground at the back of Nutley School but it appeared in the official map attached to the Award that the spot is outside the jurisdiction of the Conservators.

Road Surveyors' annual licenses

The undermentioned Road Surveyors attended and applied for licenses for the year ending 25th March 1892:

Mr James Richardson for Hartfield, to try only for hardstone opposite the frontage of Suntings Farm and on the top of Kidds Hill and near Greenwood Clump and to dig hardstone at High Beeches. It was resolved that the application be granted, the Surveyor being reminded that he is to adhere strictly to the conditions of the license.

Mr. Joseph Martin for Fletching to dig hardstone near the Isle of Thorns. The Ranger reported that in several cases the fine stuff had not been put track into the excavations but left on the Forest. It was resolved that the application be granted but that Mr. Martin be cautioned that unless the fine stuff taken out during the past year and during the ensuring year is put back, his license will not be renewed next year.

Mr. William Pursglove for Buxted to dig stone and gravel from open pits between Barns Gate and Pound Gate and behind the School, and to try for stone and gravel over the same area. The Ranger reported that the conditions of his license had not been complied with this year in filling up and levelling, and the Conservators being of opinion that he had not exercised proper supervision in this respect or acted in other respects up to the terms of his license, it was resolved that they decline to consent to his application.

Mr. James Diplock for Maresfield, to search for and dig gravel on Birchen Bank. The Ranger reported that he had not complied with the terms of his license in filling up and levelling and it was resolved that the application be adjourned till the 27th prox. at noon to give him an opportunity of doing what was necessary in the interval.

Mr. Alfred Hoath for Withyham, to dig sandstone and gravel from open pits near St Johns Church Crowborough, and to make trials for gravel from the top of the 500 acres to Greenwood Gate and beyond as far as the parish runs, and also in the parish of Hartfield on the east side of the stream running to Chuck Hatch and to take gravel therefrom. It was resolved that the same be granted.

It was also resolved that the following cheque be drawn:-

Mr. John Taylor – 7 weeks salary to date

£7:0:0

William Noble,
Chairman

A Special Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened by the Clerk by notice on the church door of each of the parishes or ecclesiastical districts into which the Forest extends and by advertisement in two newspapers circulating in the neighbourhood to wit the Sussex Express and the Sussex Advertiser at least 14 days before that date and held on Saturday the 27th day of same June 1891 at 11:30 a.m, at the School House at Nutley.

Present:-

Captain Noble in the Chair.

The Revd. J.B.M. Butler

The Revd. H.J. Peckham

Mr. John Kenward

Mr. Mark Sandford

Mr. John McAndrew

Mr. C.W. Bell

Mr. Joseph Ridley (Horney Common)

Mr. A. Turner

Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot

Mr. F.A. Du Croz

Mr. William Carr

It was proposed by the Revd. J.B.M. Butler seconded by Mr. A. Turner and unanimously resolved that Captain Noble do take the Chair. Captain Noble having taken the Chair the Clerk read the notice convening the Meeting.

It was proposed by the Revd. J.B.M. Butler and seconded by Mr. Mark Sandford that Mr. Robert William Peregrine Birch be elected a Conservator in the place of Mr. John Kenward who had duly resigned his office, and upon a show of hands being taken the Chairman declared that Mr. Birch was unanimously elected.

It was proposed by Mr. F.A. Du Croz seconded by Mr. Robert William Fredric Birch and unanimously resolved that a vote of thanks be accorded to the Chairman for presiding.

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the School-house, Nutley on Saturday, the 27th June 1891 at noon.

Present:-

Captain Noble
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. William Carr
Mr. John McAndrew
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

In the absence of Mr. H.R. Freshfield, the Chairman, Captain Noble was voted to the Chair.

Conservators elected

The Clerk reported that at a General Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened and held at the School-house, Nutley prior to this Meeting, Robert William Peregrine Birch of The Priory, Forest Row, was elected a Conservator of the Forest in the place of Mr. John Kenward, who had resigned, and he produced the Certificate of the Chairman of the General Meeting to that effect.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance at the Bank of £205:7:7.

The Clerk read letters from Mr. H.R. Freshfield and the Revd. J.B.M. Butler acknowledging the votes of Conservators passed at the last Meeting.

Jas. Morphew

The Clerk reported that James Morphew was summoned at the Uckfield Bench held on the 4th instant for unlawfully taking heather from the Forest contrary to Bye-Law 11 he being an unauthorised person, that the Ranger swore that he was not entitled to rights on the Forest or in any way authorised to take the heather, but the Bench was not satisfied with this evidence, and dismissed the case, one of the magistrates stating that Mr. Albert Turner, in whose cottage the Defendant resided, ought to have been called as a witness to prove that no rights attach to the cottage.

Minerals; small occupiers

The Clerk also read a letter from Mr. Cope declining on behalf of Lord De la Warr to grant any lease of minerals and requesting the Clerk to renew the negotiations for admitting the small occupiers within the pale with Mr. Nicholson. Also a letter from Mr. Nicholson to a similar effect stating that he believed Lord De la Warr would adopt what might be settled between them. The Clerk reported that in consequence thereof he had supplied Mr. Nicholson with a fresh copy of the Schedule but that its further consideration was deferred as Mr. Nicholson was about to start on his holiday.

John Bashford. Commoner.

The Board then considered an application from Mr. John Bashford of Forest Row to be recognised as a Commoner in respect of 14a 3r 12p of land adjoining the high road near Quabrook in the parish of Hartfield and a letter was read from Mr. Nicholas assenting to his admission. It was proposed by Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. McAndrew and resolved that Mr. Bashford's claim be admitted and that his name be entered on the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the said land.

Turf licences

The Ranger's report was then read and considered and it was resolved that the Ranger be authorised to grant licenses to cut turf for fuel to cottagers living within the pale.

It was also resolved that the next Meeting of the Conservators be held on the 15th August next.

Mr. Joseph Ridley gave notice of his intention to move at the next Meeting that this Board make application to the Board of Agriculture to take a bill in the House of Commons to finally abolish the copyhold system now existing in Duddleswell Manor and in all other Manors where the burdens are grievous to be borne throughout the United Kingdom.

Mr. Mark Sandford also gave notice that at the next Meeting he would draw attention to the inconvenience of having as Ranger a person engaged in various other occupations

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 15th August 1891 at 11:15 a.m.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. W. Carr
Captain Noble
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book and it appeared that the balance at the Bank was £211:15:1.

He reported that he had that morning received a further £2:16:10½ leaving £49:19:3 of the last rate still outstanding.

John Collins camping

The Clerk reported that John Collins against whom a summons for camping out was issued in April last had been traced by the police and served, that the case was heard at East Grinstead on the 13th July last when the dependant who did not appear was fined 10/- and costs £1:4:0 and in default of immediate payment or sufficient distress seven days imprisonment. That the Bench pointed out that the Bye Law Boards are either destroyed or completely defaced and that they considered the Boards ought to be revised so that strangers as well as neighbours might be able to acquaint themselves with their provisions, it was resolved that the Ranger report to the next Meeting the condition of all the Boards.

County Council

The Clerk also reported that since the last Meeting Wm. Tebbit, one of the District Surveyors of the Country Council had applied for a licence to take 150 yards of hardstone from the Forest near Greenwood for the main roads and that under the special circumstances he had issued a licence subject to the usual conditions, it was resolved that the same be and is hereby confirmed.

The Chairman ruled that the motion of which Mr. Joseph Ridley had given notice the last Meeting was out of order and could not therefore be moved.

Ranger resigned

A letter was read from Mr. Taylor giving notice to terminate his engagement as Ranger at the expiration of four weeks.

It was resolved that Mr. Taylor's notice be accepted and that the Clerk write to him in acknowledgement of his past services and informing him that should occasion arise the Conservators will be glad to avail themselves of his offer to continue in office till a successor shall be appointed.

It was resolved that Captain Noble, Mr. Sandford, Mr. Turner and Mr. Birch be appointed a Committee to advertise for a Ranger and recommend a candidate to the Board. The remuneration to be £1 a week and a house rent free and the person appointed to give his whole time to his duties.

Small occupiers

The Clerk reported that Mr. Nicholson having only returned a few days since from the Continent he had not yet had an opportunity of conferring with him on the admission of the small occupiers.

The Ranger reported a case of extensive cutting of turf for fuel on the Forest below Fords Green.

It was resolved that he obtain further information on the matter and that the Clerk prosecute if the evidence in his opinion justifies proceedings.

It was resolved that cheques be drawn as follows:-

The Clerk – petty disbursements – £10:15:3

The Ranger – 12 Weeks salary to date -£12:0:0

William Noble
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened & held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 10th October 1891 at 11:15 a.m.

Present:-

Captain Noble
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read & confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book and it appeared that the balance at the Bank was £192:9:6.

The Committee appointed at the last Meeting to select a candidate for Ranger reported that advertisements were inserted in the local newspapers and copies forwarded to the City Metropolitan & County Police, the Headquarters of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers and the Discharged Soldiers Employment Association resulting in over 40 applications. The testimonials were carefully gone through & considered & 4 men were selected for personal interviews, of these, 2 were selected, Faulkner & Peek, to come down and see the locality and meet the Conservators, of these Peek came down the day before and declined the appointment, leaving Mr. William Faulkner an ex-Sergeant of the Metropolitan Police, whom the Committee strongly recommended & who was in attendance.

Mr. Faulkner then attended before the Conservators and having answered various enquiries satisfactorily it was resolved that Mr. Faulkner be engaged as Ranger of the Forest, to give his entire time to his duties at a salary of £1 a week and an allowance of 5/- a week until the Conservators can provide him with a suitable house rent free, the engagement to commence on the 26th inst. and to be terminated by 4 weeks notice on either side.

Bye Law Boards

The Ranger stated that in pursuance of the resolution passed at the last Meeting he had inspected the Bye Law notice Boards and had to report that in all cases the Bye Laws had disappointed from Boards and as regards the Boards & posts :-

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Tompsetts Bank | remained undamaged |
| 2. Colemans Hatch | all gone |
| 3. Gills Gap | all gone |
| 4. Fryers Gate | undamaged |
| 5. Crow & Gate | all gone |
| 6. Duddleswell | |
| 7. Fairwarp | Board Gone, post there |
| 8. Fords Green | undamaged |
| 9. Millbrook | all gone |
| 10. Chelwood | undamaged |
| 11. Plaw Hatch | undamaged |
| 12. Wych Cross | Board Gone |

It was resolved that the questions of restoring these be deferred.

The Ranger reported that the Surveyor of Maresfield had not levelled the excavations at Fairwarp. The Clerk was directed to call on him to do so.

That between Crow & Gate & Duddleswell opposite Barnes Gate a stack of Forest peat had recently been placed. The Ranger was directed to make further enquiries.

F. Wheeler

That yesterday between the Vetchery & Pippingford he saw a man who gave the name of Frederick Weller (or Wheeler) cutting litter, who stated he was employed to do so by Mr. J. Manners of Chelwood Common, Manners having been complained of on a previous occasion & having given a written undertaking not to cut again without a licence. It was resolved that if the evidence justified it the Clerk should prosecute.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 7th November 1891 at 11.15 a.m.

Present

Mr. H.R. Freshfield in the Chair
The Rev J.B.M. Butler
Captain Noble
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot
Mr. W. Carr
Mr. John McAndrew
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk Produced the Bank Pass Book showing that the balance at the Bank was £194:6:2.

T. Colgate Commoner

The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Thomas Colgate of Fletching giving notice that he had acquired from the Earl of Sheffield 4a:0r:10p of land in Fletching numbered 1084 & 1205 in the Ordnance Map and known as "Dowse" and claiming to be recognised as a Commoner in respect thereof. The Clerk having reported that this property was included in the Decree of 1689 and was entitled to rights on the Forest. It was resolved that Mr. Colgate's name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners and that the Earl of Sheffield's holding be amended accordingly.

Albert Turner Commoner

He also read a letter from Mr. Mark Sandford as Agent for Lady Shelley giving notice that Lady Shelley had sold and conveyed to Mr. Albert Turner 50 acres of land at Nutley numbered 365, 365a, 366, 367, 373 (with buildings & ground adjoining the north west of this number), 394, 375, 431, 432 and 442 in the Ordnance Map and requesting that the Schedule of Commoners might be amended accordingly. Mr. Turner having claimed to be inserted in the said Schedule in respect thereof and the Clerk having reported that the land was entitled to rights on the Forest. It was resolved that Mr. Turner's name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and that Lady Shelley's holding be amended accordingly.

J. Manners

Mr. Taylor, the late Ranger, having reported that Mr. J. Manners of Chelwood had admitted to him that he employed Frederick Weller to cut litter for him on the occasion when Mr. Taylor detected him It was resolved that Mr. Manners be prosecuted for breach of the Bye Laws and that the Clerk subpoena Weller to give evidence.

Fortunatus Horscroft; Alfred Walter

Mr. Taylor having also reported that Fortunatus Horscroft residing near Fords Green had admitted to him that he employed Alfred Walter of Dodds Bank to cut turf for him on the occasion when Mr. Taylor detected him, and this being the first occasion on which Horscroft had been reported for Breach of a Bye law It was resolved that if he at once sign a written admission that he had acted illegally and undertaking not to repeat the offence no further proceedings be taken otherwise that he be prosecuted.

Mr. Markwick; William Izzard

Mr. Taylor reported that Mr. Markwick residing on the road near Spring Gardens admitted to him that he had employed William Izzard to cut turf for him on the Forest. That this being the first instance of Mr. Markwick being reported for a breach of the Bye Laws HE (Mr. Taylor) had by authority to the Board invited him to a written understanding that he would not offend again but he had refused to do so it was Resolved that Mr. Markwick be prosecuted for breach of the Bye Law and that the Clerk arrange for the attendance of Mr. Nicholson to give evidence.

It was proposed by Mr. Sandford seconded by Capt. Noble and resolved that in future the Ranger shall only be present at the Meetings of the Conservators when called.

Small occupiers

The Clerk reported that in consequence of Mr. Nicholson's engagements he had, as yet, been unable to arrange a meeting with him to consider the question of admitting the small occupiers within the Forest pale to the privileges of litter cutting etc.

Licenses – peat, brakes, litter

It was proposed by Mr. Birch seconded by Mr. Sandford and resolved that the signature of applicants for licenses to cut:

(1) Peak or turf for fuel

(2) Brakes or litter, to the counterfoils of such licenses be dispensed with till otherwise ordered and that the Ranger be instructed to issue such licenses for a reasonable quantity only to small occupiers of land within the Forest pale

applying for the same, and particularly that facilities be given for applications being made to the Ranger through the Post.

Duddleswell Recreation Superintendent

Mr. Chandler on leaving the neighbourhood having retired from the office of Superintendent of the Recreation Ground near Duddleswell, on the application of the Revd. J.B.M. Butler it was resolved that Mr. Frederick Albert Lane be appointed Superintendent thereof in his stead.

Ranger resigns

A letter was read from the new Ranger, Mr. William Faulkner giving notice to terminate his service as Ranger at the expiration of 4 weeks that date.

It was Resolved that Capt. Noble and Messrs. Birch, Sandford and Turner be appointed a Committee to procure and select candidates for the office.

It was also resolved that the Annual General Meeting of the Commoners be convened for Saturday the 19th December next at the Nutley School House at 11:30 a.m and that the next Meeting of the Conservators take place immediately after wards.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened by the Clerk by notice church door of each of the parishes or each districts into which the Forest extends & by advertisement in two newspapers circulating in the neighbourhood, to wit, the Sussex Express & the Sussex Advertiser at least 14 days before that date, & held on Saturday the 19th day of December 1891 at 11:30 am, at the School House at Nutley.

Present

Mr. H.R. Freshfield in the Chair
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot
Mr. C.W. Bell
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
The Rev J.B.M. Butler
Mr. John McAndrew
Captain Noble
The Revd. H.J. Peckham
Mr. Joseph Ridley (Horney Common)
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner
Mr. James Henry Wickens

It was proposed by Captain Noble seconded by the Revd. J.B.M. Butler and unanimously resolved that Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield do take the Chair.

Mr. Freshfield having taken the Chair, the Clerk read the notice convening the Meeting.

Mr. Turner stated that Mr. Thomas Colgate, Lord Sheffield's Steward was prevented by illness from attending the Meeting, but that it was within his (Mr. Turner's) knowledge the Lord Sheffield had qualified Mr. Colgate as a Conservator for the express purpose of inviting the Commoners to elect the latter to take his place on the Board.

It was proposed by Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Albert Turner & unanimously resolved that Mr. Thomas Colgate be elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Captain Noble seconded by Mr. R.W.P. Birch and unanimously resolved that the Rev. John Banks Meek Butler be elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. C.W. Bell seconded By Mr. Albert Turner and unanimously resolved that Mr. William Reiersen Arbuthnot be elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. A. Turner seconded by Mr. Joseph Ridley and unanimously resolved that Mr. William Carr be elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by The Revd. J.B.M. Butler seconded by Mr. C.W. Bell and resolved that the Clerk give the press notice of all future meetings of Commoners in order that they may have an opportunity of attending the meeting.

It was proposed by Mr. Bell seconded By Mr. Ridley and resolved that the Conservators be recommended to have the Bye Law Boards resolved in a permanent manner.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened & held at the School House, Nutley, on Saturday the 19th of December 1891 afternoon

Present

Mr. H.R. Freshfield in the Chair
The Revd. J.B.M. Butler
Captain Noble
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. John McAndrew
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance at the Bank of £182:4:2

Conservators

The Clerk also produced and read the following certificate which was ordered to be entered on the Minutes

“To Mr. William Augustus Raper, Clerk to the Conservators for Ashdown Forest”

As Chairman of the Meeting of Conservators on Ashdown Forest duly convened & held at the School House at Nutley this 19th day of December 1891 for the purpose of electing four Conservators, I hereby intimate to you that Mr. Thomas Colgate, the Revd. John Banks Meek Butler, Mr. William Reiersen Arbuthnot & Mr. William Carr were elected Conservators of the Forest at such Meeting

Dated the 19th day of December 1891

Henry R. Freshfield”
Chairman”

J.H. Wickens Commoner

Application was made by Mr. James Henry Wickens to be entered on the Schedule of Commoners in respect of 29a 2r 20p of land called “Bunces” in the parish of West Hoathly part of Lot 23 at the recent auction of the late W.J.C

Chatterton's estate. The Clerk reported that both Mr. Nicholson & he had investigated the matter and that the claim was correct, 20 acres of the lot being formerly held freely of the Manor of Maresfield, and paying a feu and appearing in the Decree of 1691 as copyhold under the name of Abraham Packer, and it was resolved that Mr. Wickens' name be entered on the Register accordingly.

J. Magrath Commoner

The Conservators then considered the claim of Dr. John Magrath of Forest Row to be registered as a Commoner in respect of 85 acres called "Legs and Sedges" being Lot 13 at the sale of the late Mr. J.C. Chatterton's property.

The Clerk reported that he had gone into the subject with Mr. Nicholson and found that the enclosures numbered 86 & 89 on the recent Ordnance Survey & containing together 6a 0r 37p in the parish of Fletching formed part of an ancient tenement (formerly ?Rogers) entitled to rights of Common & that as far as their present knowledge went Dr. Magrath could only establish his claim in respect of the remainder by proving 60 years user.

It was resolved that Dr. Magrath's name be entered on the Register in respect of 6 Acres, part of "Legs and Sedges" and that he be informed thereof.

W. Markwick, J. Manners

It was also resolved that in consequence of the time that had elapsed since the commission of the breach of the Bye Laws by Mr. J. Manners and William Markwick no action be taken against them unless a fresh offence be committed.

F. Horscraft

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Fortunatus Horscraft, dated 4th December, apologising for having employed Alfred Walter to cut turf & promising not to do so again without the license of the Conservators.

Small occupiers

The Clerk reported that he went to Lewes on the 4th inst. to confer with Mr. Nicholson with reference to the admission of small occupiers within the pale, but that Mr. Nicholson had been unable to investigate the Schedule, that it was then agreed he would, as soon as he could find the time, endeavour to trace the history of each inclosure & mark it on Schedule and that when that should be done they would meet again to consider the subject.

Ranger appointed

The Committee appointed at the last Meeting to select a candidate for the office of Ranger reported that they had seen or communicated with several of the previous candidates & unanimously resolved that Mr. Samuel Soper of Dane Hill, aged 46, be elected, his testimonials being in all respects satisfactory.

It was proposed by Mr. Birch, seconded by Capt. Noble and resolved that Mr. Samuel Soper be engaged as Ranger of the Forest, to give his entire time to the duties thereof, to enter up all his achievements in a log book, to transmit a copy thereof every week to the Clerk from where he is to take all necessary instructions in the intervals between the Conservators' Meetings, salary be £1 a week with an allowance of 5/- per week until the Conservators can provide him with a suitable house rent free, the engagement to commence on the 25th inst., to be terminable by 4 weeks' notice on either side.

East Grinstead Gas & Water Bill

The Clerk reported that he had been served with a notice of the East Grinstead Gas & Water Company Bill to Parliament under which they proposed to take a portion of the Forest between Broadstone Warren and Tompsetts Bank. Mr. Birch stated that he had enquired into the matter and found that they intended to carry a water main from Broadstone Warren to Tompsetts Bank & that the matter ought to be carefully resolved.

It was proposed by Mr. McAndrew seconded by Mr. Arbuthnot and unanimously resolved that the Clerk take such steps as he may deem unnecessary by petition or otherwise to place the Conservators in a position to impose such conditions on the Company in relation to the Bill as might appear necessary in the interest of the Commoners.

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 3rd January next.

The Clerk was directed to pay the following candidates for the office of Ranger their expenses as follows:-

Mr. John Harvey	£1:5:5
Mr. Thomas Knowlden	£0:8:0

A cheque was drawn in favour of Mr. William Faulkner 8 weeks salary & rest to this date £10:0:0

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 30th of January 1892 at noon

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield in the Chair
Sir Spencer M Maryon Wilson, Bart.
The Rev J.B.M. Butler
Captain Noble
Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. John McAndrew
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

It was proposed by Mr. Nicholson and seconded by Mr. Sandford that Mr. R.W.P. Birch be the Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

It was proposed by the Rev J.B.M. Butler & seconded by Mr. Arbuthnot that Mr. H.R. Freshfield be the Chairman for the ensuing year, Mr. Birch having expressed his unwillingness to take the Chair and Mr. Sandford & Mr. Nicholson having withdrawn their invitation, Mr. Freshfield was duly elected.

Sandford Barchard Committee

The Minutes of the last Meeting were then read by the Clerk & the Chairman moved & Mr. Arbuthnot seconded that they be confirmed. The following amendment was proposed by Mr. Nicholson & seconded by Mr. Birch, that the resolution passed at the last Meeting appointing a Committee to investigate certain communications between a Conservator & a Gentleman therein named be struck out of the Minutes as having been passed without previous notice on the Agenda. On the amendment being put, it was carried by 7 votes to 5. Messrs. Birch, Carr, Colgate, Nicholson, Ridley, Sandford & Turner voting for the amendment & Sir Spencer Wilson & Messrs. Butler, Noble, Arbuthnot and McAndrew voting against it. It was then moved by Mr. Nicholson seconded by Mr. Birch & resolved that the minute as amended be confirmed, which was accordingly carried.

Sir Spencer Wilson then withdraws from the Meeting.

The Clerk reported that the balance at the Bank amounted to £173:4:2.

East Grinstead Water

The Clerk laid on the table a copy of the East Grinstead Gas & Water Bill, and it was resolved that steps be taken to the following effect.

Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. John McAndrew
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed. The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book Showing a balance at the Bank of £119:7:4.

East Grinstead Water

The Clerk reported that the petition against the East Grinstead Gas and Water Bill had been signed by a quorum of the Conservators and duly lodged and a copy of it was laid on the table. Also that he had communicated with Mr. F.D. Banister representing the inhabitants of Forest Row, who had also petitioned against the Bill, with a view to joint action and was now awaiting overtures from the Promoters.

It was resolved that the Clerk be authorised to assent to clauses carrying out the points settled at the Meeting of the 30th January last and to press for a minimum flow of the stream being secured of not less than 50 gallons per minute.

The Clerk read a letter from Messrs. Cope regretting that the Conservators were opposing the Bill and suggesting that the Board have no interest in the matter on the ground that Lord De la Warr can grant the liberty to lay pipes under the waste so long as no material damage is done to the pasturage.

It was resolved that the Clerk reply to the letter informing Messrs. Cope that the Conservators had petitioned against the Bill for the purpose of preventing injury to the Forest and that if they (Messrs. Cope) could ensure the insertion of clauses which would meet the reasonable requirements of the Conservators, an arrangement could no doubt be arrived at for obviating further opposition to the Bill.

It was also resolved that a Committee consisting of Mr. Birch , Mr. McAndrew and Mr. Arbuthnot be appointed to advise and assist the Clerk in connection with the Petition and in settling the terms of any agreement in relation thereto.

P. Bedwell, H. Gillham, C. Robinson, Geo. Tester, Jas Diplock

The Clerk reported that he had conducted prosecutions at the Uckfield Bench as directed at the last Meeting with the following results:

Percy Bedwell pleaded guilty to firing the furze and was convicted with a caution, the Bench imposing no fire or costs & remitting the Conservators' costs.

Henry Gilliam pleaded not guilty to the same offence, but the object of the Conservators in drawing attention to the penalties attaching to the offence having been attained the Clerk considered it unnecessary to proceed with the case and withdrew it. In the case of Charles Robinson and George Tester, charged with digging gravel on the Forest, the bench considered they had committed the offence complained of, viz. breaking Bye Law 8, but that they might very fairly have supposed the Road Surveyor of Maresfield, who put them to work, had proper authority and the Bench having pressed the Clerk on these grounds to withdraw the summons, he did so, and the Bench remitted the Conservators' costs. In the case against James Diplock, Road Surveyor of Maresfield, who was charged with abetting the above named two men, the Bench convicted and cautioned the Defendant that he must obtain a licence in future, and they imposed no penalty or costs and remitted the Conservators' costs.

The Clerk reported that he had given Mr. Diplock notice to attend this Meeting if he had any application to make to the Conservators, but that he had received no reply and Mr. Diplock was not in attendance.

Boundary Gates

In pursuance of notice given at the last Meeting, Mr. Joseph Ridley proposed, and it was seconded by Mr. W. Carr, that action be taken by the Board with a view to re-establishing the boundary gates round the Forest by legislation or otherwise.

The Clerk stated that this could only be done by the County Council and that there was no probability of that body being persuaded to re-establish any of the gates.

Cattle straying

Mr. Birch moved, and Mr. Turner seconded the following amendment, that complaints having been made by Commoners with regard to the police prosecution in respect of cattle straying from the Forest, a friendly representation be made to the Chief Constable to the effect that as the Commoners have a right to graze cattle on the Forest, and as many of the gates have been removed for the public convenience, the Conservators would be glad if he could see his way to give such instructions to his men as will obviate prosecutions in the future, except in flagrant cases.

Mr. Ridley and Mr. Carr then withdrew their resolution in favour of the amendment which, on being put to the Meeting, was carried unanimously.

It was decided to leave the date of the next Meeting open.

Henry R. Freshfield
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened & held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday 26th March 1892 at 11:15 a.m.

Present:-

Mr. H.R. Freshfield in the Chair
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. John McAndrew
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance at the Bank of £117:7:4

East Grinstead Water

The Clerk reported that the East Grinstead Gas & Water Company while assenting to the first four points proposed by the Conservators had declined to come to any terms with regard to the protection of the Footbridge stream, and that with the concurrence of the Committee of the Conservators he had at the last moment briefed Counsel to oppose, that the enquiry before the Committee of the House of Commons took the whole of Thursday the 17th inst. and ultimately the Committee passed the preamble without requiring the insertion of any provision to protect the stream but that a clause was inserted in the Bill covering the other points and a print of the Bill so amended was laid on the table by the Clerk. The Company's Engineer having admitted the principle of the Conservators' contention in his evidence it was resolved that the Clerk press the promoters to accept a clause which will protect the stream.

Cattle straying

The Clerk read a reply from the Chief Constable with a reference to driving stray cattle back on the Forest in which he stated that the law did not empower the police to use discretion in bringing to justice those who break it.

De La Warr tenants' litter

The Ranger's reports were then gone through & it appearing that several of Lord De la Warr's tenants were still taking litter from the Forest the Clerk was directed to review his application to Messrs. Hunt & Co. for a list of those of his Lordship's farms which they claimed as coming within the provision of the judgement in Hale v. De la Warr.

It was resolved that at the next Meeting applications of Road Surveyors for review of their licenses to dig be heard and that notices be sent them accordingly.

Was Resolved that a cheque be drawn for
S. Soper 8 weeks salary as Ranger and rent
To inst.

£10:0:0

It was decided to leave the date of the next Meeting open.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Special Meeting of the Conservators convened in pursuance of the requisition of five Conservators & held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 9th April 1892 at 11:15 A.m.

Present:-

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

In the absence of the Chairman it was proposed by Mr. Nicholson seconded by Mr. Sandford & resolved that Mr. Albert Turner do take the Chair which he accordingly did.

Requisition calling Meeting

The Clerk then read the requisition calling the Meeting which was as follows:-

"To W.A. Raper Esq.
Battle

April 2nd 1892

Dear Sir,

In consequence of the serious incendiary fires on the Forest which have taken place the last two days and nights we think it necessary to request you to summon a Meeting of Conservators for Saturday next. We would too suggest that before the Meeting you should see for yourself what mischief has been done & possibly it may be advisable to ask some Commoners dwelling near to attend that Meeting.

Thomas Colgate
Albert Turner
Mark Sandford
Joseph Ridley
William Carr

Also the notice he had issued in consequence.

Chairman's protest against Meeting

Also a letter from the Chairman stating that he had received the notice & should not attend the Meeting.

Also a letter from Mr. John McAndrew stating that the Chairman had not received any requisition nor called the Meeting he considered it irregular & should not attend.

Also a letter from Mr. Thomas Colgate stating that he was called away by urgent business & urged the Meeting to take immediate action for the protection of the Forest.

Also a letter from Mr. Robert W.P. Birch stating that he was detained in London on important business & advocating measures being taken to stop the incendiary fires.

Extensive Forest fires

Also a letter from Mr. Thomas Brown of Old Lodge urging prompt measures being taken and a large reward being offered for the detection of incendiaries.

Mr. Turner stated that after the serious fires that had taken place he wrote on Sunday to Captain Noble urging him to prepare & sign a requisition calling a Special Meeting of the Board to consider the matter of the fires that he had received a letter in reply stating that while one of the Conservators (whom he named) remained on the Board he declined to identify himself with the Conservancy & that in the meantime the Forest must take care of itself.

The Clerk reported that on hearing of the fires on Friday he telegraphed the Superintendents of Police at East Grinstead & Uckfield to render assistance in extinguishing them & in detecting the incendiaries & that both officers had sent detectives to watch the Forest.

The Ranger reported that the Chairman of the Board saw him on Monday last & directed him, if any further fires occurred to employ and pay men to extinguish them. It was resolved that this instruction be confirmed the payers to be careful as to the class of men he employs for the purpose lest their employment should become an inducement to create fires.

The Ranger, Mr. Alfred Walters of Fairwarp, Peter Martin of Chelwood Gate, William Osborne of Whitehouse, Edwin Meppem Woodreeve to Lady Shelley, Job Tester of Browns Brook, P.C. Teague of Fairwarp & P.C. Barnard of Nutley attended and gave information from which it appeared that a series of fires were kindled on the Forest on the night of Thursday the 31st March & on following days – that nearly 2000 acres of the Forest had been burnt, that private property had in some places been attacked & that much more damage would have been done but for energetic measures which succeeded in staying the progress of the fires. None of the persons could give information as to who lighted the fires but they agreed that they were the work of incendiaries & were not accidental.

Reward to be offered

After discussion it was resolved that a reward of £20 be offered by the Conservators for such information as shall result in the conviction of the offender or offenders & that in case more than one conviction should take place or information furnished by more than one person the reward should be apportioned by the Conservators. Mr. Nicholson was requested to communicate with Earl De la Warr with reference to his Lordship offering a reward & it was resolved that if his Lordship should consent to join the Conservators in offering a joint reward it was advisable that the total award offered should not exceed £25. It was also resolved that the Clerk prosecute in any cases in which sufficient evidence shall be obtained.

Rewards to Police Constables

It was resolved that having regard to the services rendered by P.C. Teague & P.C. Barnard in extinguishing the fires a gratuity of 7/6 be paid to each of them.

It was resolved that as the time has arrived for receiving applications from Road Surveyors for licences to dig stone on the Forest & to make a rate it is desirable that the next ordinary Meeting of the Conservators for these purposes & for the discharge of General business be held not later than the 5th and that the Chairman of the Board be regulated to fix a date for the purpose.

Albert Turner Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday, the 30th April 1892 at 11:15 A.M

Present:-

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair

Mr. Robert W.P. Birch

Mr. William Carr

Mr. E.A. Nicholson

Mr. Mark Sandford

Mr. Joseph Ridley

In the absence of the Chairman it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Albert Turner do take the Chair.

The Minutes of the last ordinary Meeting of the 26th March last and the Special Meeting of the 9th April instant were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance at the Bank of £107:7:4

The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Nicholson stating the Earl De la Warr did not think it advisable to offer a reward in connection with the recent fires and he had therefore not taken further action in the matter.

East Grinstead Gas & Water opposition abandoned

The Clerk reported that though negotiations had been continued with the Engineer and Parliamentary Agents of the East Grinstead Gas & Water Company and they expressed a disposition to make some arrangement with a view to securing a minimum flow of water in the Footbridge stream they had declined to insert any provision in the Bill and he (the Clerk) not being empowered to petition against the Bill in the Lords the Board could do nothing further.

Road Surveyors licences

The undermentioned Road Surveyors applied for licences for the year ending 25th March 1893:-

Mr. William Cade for Buxted to dig stone and gravel from open pits between Barns Gate and Pound Gate and behind the School and to dig for stone and gravel over the same area.

Mr. George Kenner for Fletching to dig hardstone and gravel near the Isle of Thorns.

Mr. James Richardson for Hartfield to dig sandstone on the top of Kidds Hill and gravel near Greenwood Clump and hardstone at High Beeches.

Mr. James Diplock for Maresfield to dig gravel at Fairwarp and at Kings Standing and near the Isle of Thorns and at Birchen Bank and stone at Stonehill.

Mr. Alfred Hoath to dig sandstone and gravel from open pits near St John's Church, Crowborough, and to make trials for gravel from the top of the 500 Acres to Greenwood Gate and beyond as far as the Parish runs and also in the parish of Hartfield on the east side of the stream running to Chuck Hatch and to take gravel therefrom.

The District Surveyor of the County Council to dig gravel at Fairwarp and Kings Standing, and try for and dig sand gravel and hardstone at Stone Hill.

It was resolved that the several applications be granted subject to the usual conditions and that the Surveyors be cautioned that the conditions must be rightly observed.

Rate made

The Clerk having reported that the Funds in hand would be exhausted by payment of the current liabilities and having produced an estimate of the annual expenses it was proposed by Mr. Robert W.P. Birch seconded by Mr. William Carr and unanimously resolved that a rate be made for defraying the expenses of the Conservators in the

execution of their duties under the Award made under the provisions of the Inclosure Acts 1845 to 1878 and the Commons Regulations (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act 1885 to be levied from the respective owners of the rights of common upon the Forest at the rate of Sixpence per acre in respect of the average of their respective lands to which such rights attach which Commons and their respective acreages aforesaid and the respective items payable by them are hereinafter set out, namely :-

Name	Address	Acreage
Arbuthnot, W.R. Esq.	Plaw Hatch, East Grinstead	200
Ashdown, Mr Thomas	Fryars Gate, Withyham, Tunbridge Wells	3
Banister, F.W. Esq.	Stone House, Forest Row, East Grinstead	50
Bashford, Mr John	Forest Row, East Grinstead	15
Birch, Peregrine Esq.	The Priory, Forest Row, East Grinstead	88
Birch, Robt. W.P. Esq	The Priory, Forest Row, East Grinstead	12
Butler, Rev.J.B.M.	The Rectory, Maresfield, Uckfield	100
Bell, C.W. Esq.	Yewhurst, East Grinstead	180
Carr, Mr William	Nutley, Uckfield	8
Chatterton, J.E. Esq.		
Repres. of	c/o Messrs. Hiffe Henley & Co.2 Bedford Row WC.	13
Colchester Lord	Carlton Club, Pall Mall, S.W	213
Cope & Buckley Messrs.	c/o Cope & Co. 3 Gt. George St, Westminster	5
Colegate, Thomas Esq	Sheffield Park, Uckfield	4
Cook Mrs. A	The Hall, Nutley, Uckfield	16
Dadswell, Mr Robert	c/o Mr Spencer Tester, Brown's Brook, Buxted	1
Du Croz, F.A. Esq.	Court Lands, West Hoathly, East Grinstead	80
Edgar Mrs. (late		
Henry Histed)	Forest Row, East Grinstead	24
Edwards, Mr. Robert		
Devises of	Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	10
Fleet Mr. George	Shortbridge, Piltdown, Uckfield	2½
Freshfield, H.R. Esq.	Kidbrooke Park, East Grinstead	200
Fuller, Miss Millicent	Vaughans, Fletching, Uckfield	10
Goard, Mrs Phillipa	Forest Row Green	3¼
Goldsmith, Mrs. Sophia	Fairwarp, Maresfield, Uckfield	1
Goldsmiths Company	Goldsmiths' Hall, London E.C.	100
Hale, G.C. Esq.	32 Lansdowne Road, Tunbridge Wells	68
Hambley, Mrs. Sarah	Fryars Gate, Tunbridge Wells	2
Head, Mr. John	31 High Street, Lewes	10
Hills, A.H. Esq.	High Hurstwood, Buxted	40
Hoase, Alfred Esq.	37 Fleet Street, London	101
Hoath, Mrs. Lydia	Fryars Gate, Withyham, Tunbridge Wells	4
Hoath, Mr. Amos	Temples School, Montpelier Road, Brighton	3
Hooker, Mr. John	Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	7
Hyde, Thomas Req	Pixton Hill, Forest Row, East Grinstead	103
Kenward, Mr. John	Fletching, Uckfield	74
Keys. Mr. R.W.	Forest Row, East Grinstead	8½
Knight Mr. Tho Jas	Budletts, Maresfield, Uckfield	2
Larnach W. Esq	Brambletye, East Grinstead	500
Leppard Mrs. Elizabeth		
Ellen	Mr. J.C.Lampard, 12 Beulah Road Sutton	3¾
Leslie J.E.B. Esq		
and others	17 Bedford Row London W.C. late Chatterton	140
Lewis, Mrs. Lucy Rose	Fairwarp, Maresfield, Uckfield	12
Lyell, Mr. John		
Wishart	c/o Messrs. Lyell Brothers, Lewes	½
Magrath, Dr. John	The Elms, Forest Row, East Grinstead	

	(late Challiston)	7
Marriott, Mr & Miss	c/o Messrs Hastie, 65 Lincolns Inn Fields, WC	
	(late Cranston)	126
Maynard, Mr George	Cold harbour Farm, Forest Row, East Grinstead	5
Melville, Mrs.	8 Argyll Road, Kensington, SW	64
Miles, Mr William	Forest Row, East Grinstead	1
McAndrew John Esq	Holly Hill, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	182
McAndrew John Esq	(late Melville) Peculiars	14
Nesbitt, Mrs.	Oldlands, Buxted, Uckfield	285
Noble Captain	Forest Lodge, Nutley, Uckfield	15
Norfolk His Grace the Duke of E.M.	Arundel Castle, Sussex	118
Norman, Mr Henry	Fairwarp, Hartfield, Uckfield	6
Page, Mr Jesse	Summerford Farm, near Fairwarp, Uckfield	
Page, Mr. William	Summerford Farm, near Fairwarp, Uckfield	4
Taylor, Mr. George Edward	Summerford Farm, near Fairwarp, Uckfield	
Portman, the Rt. Hon Lord	22 Portman Square, London, w	130
Peckham, Revd. H.J	Vicarage, Nutley, Uckfield	2 ½
Ridley, Mr. Joseph	Misbourne Farm, Horney Common, Nutley,	14
Ridley, Mr. Joseph	Millbrook, Nutley, Uckfield	12 ½
Sadlieur Mrs. Wife of Rev. Canon.	c/o Joseph Farmer Esq, East Grinstead	185
Sandford, Mark Esq	Maresfield, Uckfield	1 ½
Sayer, Mr Stephen	Forest Row, East Grinstead	¼
Sheffield, Earl of	Sheffield Park, Fletching, Uckfield	946
Shelley, Lady	Maresfield Park, Maresfield, Uckfield	1706
Shoebridge, Mr Thomas	Nutley, Uckfield	¼
Stapley, Mr. George	Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells	2
Streatfeild R.S. Esq	The Rocks, Uckfield	240
Turner, Albert Esq	Nutley, Uckfield	12½
Turner, Albert Esq	Late Lady Shelley	50
Turner, William Esq	Nutley, Uckfield	17
Tapps-Gervis, Miss Clara	c/o Arthur Hastie, Esq East Grinstead	925
Wallis, Mr Joseph J.	Coopers Arms, Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells	2½
Waters, Mr Isaac	Forest Row, East Grinstead	5
Whitewood, Mr.F.J.	Nutley, Uckfield	¼
Whitewood, Mr. Henry	Claygates Farm, Uckfield	86
Wilson., Mr Edward	Pulls Hatch, Rotherfield	1
Wilson, Sir Spencer M. Maryon Bart	“Searles”, Fletching, Uckfield	1150
Wilson, Sir Spencer M. Maryon Bart	Late Hother	115
Wood, John Edgar Esq.	55 Grays Inn Road, Holborn, W.C	4
Woods. M.S. Grosvenor	9 Old Square, Lincolns Inn, London, W.C	498
Wormald, Edward Esq.	The Beacon Chelwood, Nutley, Uckfield	57
Wood, Mr. Charles	Maresfield, Uckfield	12
Hope, J, Esq	Herons Ghyll, Buxted (late Wilson Devises)	193
Young, Mr. William	Fincham. Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	23

John Philcox burning Forest. Abraham Wheatley same. Edward Hemsley same.

The Clerk reported that the police had obtained evidence against John Philcox of Newbridge of endeavouring to extend a fire on Hollies Down on the Forest on the 30th March last by laying a train across a path but it did not ignite. Against Jesse Wheatley of Chuck Hatch for a similar act at the same time and place, his train ignited. Against Abraham Wheatley of Tompsetts Bank for extending a fire over a portion of the Forest near Green Hall Toll, and against Edward (Toby) Hemsley for a similar offence. That the case of Hemsley appeared too trifling to notice. That in the other cases the offenders were all boys they were not cases of originally firing the Forest but of assisting existing fires out of mischief rather than malice and he had therefore issued summons against them under the Byelaws.

It was resolved that the Clerk's action in these cases be confirmed and that it be an instruction to him to reward the witness in the cases liberally.

Gypsies not quickly moving – to be summoned

The Ranger's report was then considered and as it appeared that gypsies were continually camping on the Forest it was resolved that it be an instruction to the Ranger in case any gypsies or other persons camping on the Forest should not move off immediately after being called to do so he should at once issue summonses against them.

It was resolved that the next Meeting of the Board be held on the 28th May next.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday, the 28th May 1892 at 11:15 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner, in the Chair
Mr. William Barr
Mr. Thomas Bulgate
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

In the absence of the Chairman it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Albert Turner to take the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance at the Bank of £224:15:10

Abraham Wheatley - fire

He reported that at the East Grinstead Bench held on the 2nd instant Abraham Wheatley of Tompsetts Bank was convinced of firing the gorse near Green Hall Toll and was fined 10/- with £1:3:6 costs or 14 days imprisonment in default. That the charge against Jesse Wheatley of Chuck Hatch for laying a train of heather to extend the fire was discharged he having produced witnesses who contradicted the evidence for the prosecution. That the case against John Philcox of Newbridge for also laying a train of heather was discharged, he having brought similar evidence but the Magistrates stated they were satisfied of his guilt.

James Waters – sand.

The Ranger's reports were considered and the Clerk was directed to enquire of Mr. Nicholson whether James Waters had any authority from Lord De la Warr to take sand from the sandpit at Crowborough.

Cheque

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn for:-

The Ranger 9 weeks salary and allowance for rent £11:5:0

It was also resolved that the next Meeting of the Board take place on the 9th July.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 23rd day of July 1892 at 11:15 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. Robert W.P. Birch
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Clerk read the requisition convening the Meeting, as follows:-
14 July 1989

Dear Sir,

The Meeting of the Conservators appointed for the 9th inst: having fallen through, we hereby request you to summon a Meeting of Conservators for Saturday the 23rd July instant to receive the resignations of six of the Conservators & letters thereon from certain Commoners, and for the discharge of general business

Albert Turner
R.W. Peregrine Birch
Mark Sandford
W. Carr
Joseph Ridley
Thomas Colgate

To Mr. W.A. Raper
Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest

In the absence of the Chairman it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Albert Turner do take the Chair.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Card showing a balance at the Bank of £240:7:4.

The Clerk read the underwritten notice in writing which e received on the 7th July 1892 issued by Sir Spencer M. Maryon-Wilson Bart., Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot, the Revd. J.B.M. Butler, Mr. Henry R. Freshfield, Mr. John McAndrew & Capt. Noble resigning their office of Conservators, also a letter from Mr. Nesbitt protesting against their retirement, also a letter from Mr. R J. Streatfield urging the Board to do their utmost to induce them to reconsider their decision. The matter having been carefully considered, it was unanimously resolved that these six gentlemen having repeatedly and by public advertisement expressed their determination not to sit on the board with Mr. Sandford, and this Board having no power - if they felt it necessary or desirable to compel Mr. Sandford to retire, are of opinion that it would be useless to appeal to them, and have no alternative therefore than to enter the resignations on the Minutes which the Clerk is hereby directed to do.

The resignation was in the following terms:-

To W.A. Raper Esq.

Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest
We, the undersigned, hereby notify to you our desire to
retire from the office of Conservators of Ashdown Forest

S.M. Maryon-Wilson
W.R. Arbuthnot
J.B.M. Butler
Henry R. Freshfield
John McAndrew
William Noble

June 1892

Mr. Streatfield - intervention

It was unanimously resolved that a copy of the preceding resolution be forwarded to each of the six gentlemen who has resigned with an expression of the Board's earnest regret. And that the Clerk be instructed to inform Mr. Streatfield that the Board thoroughly appreciate the motive with which his letter was written and gave it their most careful consideration from his point of view before arriving at their resolution of which a copy shall be sent to him, but that under all the circumstances, which are probably more fully known to them than to many of the Commoners they regret that they were unable to go further in the direction suggested by him.

Mrs. Nesbitt - intervention

That the Clerk be directed to send Mr. Nesbitt a copy of the resolution recording the resignation of the six Conservators and to assure her that her letter must have been written under a misapprehension of the facts of the case.

It was resolved that the application of Mr. Sandford for a copy of Mrs. Nesbitt's letter above referred to be granted.

It was resolved that the Clerk convene a General Meeting of the Commoners to be held at the Nutley School House or the Nutley Inn on Saturday the 27th August next at 11:30 a.m. to fill up the vacancies on the Board.

And that the next Meeting of Conservators take place immediately afterwards.

Midgley acknowledgement

The Conservators having considered as application from Mr. Midgley and the evidence of Mr. Richard Hobden who remembered Birch Grove over 50 Years. It was resolved that Mr. Midgley be entered on the list of Commoners in respect of 13 acres part of Birch Grove estate without prejudice to his hereafter claiming in respect of a larger acreage.

Military manoeuvres and camps

An informal enquiry was received from the General Commanding the South Eastern district enquiring whether the Conservators would allow the Brigade of Militia Infantry under his command to camp on the Forest during April and May of next year. It was resolved that the Clerk reply that the consent of three parties is necessary, viz Earl De la Warr, as owner of the soil, the Commoners and the Conservators, and that if the General Commanding desired to ascertain the views of the Commoners and would make a formal application it should be laid before them at their Meeting next month.

It was also resolved that the Clerk publish in the local press a Report of this Meeting.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened by the Clerk by notice on the Church door of each of the parishes or ecclesiastical districts into which the Forest extends and by advertisement in two newspapers circulating in the neighbourhood, to wit, the Sussex Express and the Southern Weekly News at least 14 days before that date and held on Saturday the 27th day of August 1892 at 11.30 a.m. at the School House at Nutley.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. William R. Arbuthnot
Mr. Robert W. P. Birch
The Rev. J.B.M. Butler
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. Henry R. Freshfield
Mr. Alfred Hoare
Mr. Amos Hoath
Mr. Thomas Hyde
Mr. John Kenward
Mr. John McAndrew
Dr. John Magrath
Mr. Llewellyn Midgley
Captain W. Noble
The Rev. H.J. Peckham
Mr. Joseph Ridley (Horney Common)
Mr. Joseph Ridley (Millbrook)
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. R.J. Streatfield
Mr. F.J. Whitewood
Mr. Edward Wilson

The Clerk to the Conservators read the notice convening the Meeting.

It was proposed by Mr. Thomas Colgate seconded by Mr. William Carr and resolved that Mr. Albert Turner do take the Chair.

The Clerk then read the following letter:

To W.A. Raper Esq.

Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest

We, the undersigned, hereby notify to you our desire to retire from the office of Conservators of Ashdown Forest.

S.M. Maryon-Wilson
W.R. Arbuthnot
J.B.M. Butler
Henry R. Freshfield
John McAndrew
William Noble

June 1892

Election of Commoners

It was proposed by Mr. Robert W.P. Birch seconded by Mr. Joseph Ridley (Horney Common) and resolved that The Right Honourable The Earl of Sheffield be elected a Conservator in the place of the Rev. John B.M. Butler resigned.

It was proposed by Mr. Albert Turner seconded by Mr. Thomas Colgate and resolved that Mr. James Hope of Herons Ghyll be elected a Conservator in the place of Mr. William Reiersen Arbuthnot resigned.

It was proposed by Mr. Robert W.P. Birch seconded by Mr. W.R. Arbuthnot and resolved that Mr. Frederic Augustus Du Croz of Courtland East Grinstead be elected a Conservator in the place of Captain William Noble resigned.

It was proposed by Mr. Robert W. P. Birch seconded by Dr. John Magrath and resolved that Mr. Thomas Hyde of Pixton Hill Forest Row be elected a Conservator in the place of Mr. Henry R. Freshfield resigned.

It was proposed by Mr. Thomas Colgate seconded by Mr. Joseph Ridley (Horney Common) and resolved that Mr. Llewellyn Midgley of Birch Grove Lodge be elected a Conservator in the place of Sir. Spencer M. Maryon-Wilson Bart. resigned.

It was proposed by Mr. R.W. P. Birch seconded by Dr. John Magrath and resolved that Mr. Charles William Bell of Yewhurst East Grinstead be elected a Conservator in the place of Mr. John McAndrew resigned.

It was proposed by Mr. Mark Sandford seconded by Mr. Joseph Ridley (Horney Common) and unanimously resolved that the thanks of the Meeting be accorded to Mr. Albert Turner for presiding.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the School House Nutley on Saturday the 27th day of August at noon.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner, in the Chair
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. Thomas Hyde
Mr. L. Midgley
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance at the Bank of £253: 15: 10.

Certificate of Election of Conservators

The Clerk also produced and read the following certificate which was ordered to be entered on the Minutes:

To Mr. William Augustus Raper
Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest

As Chairman of the Meeting of Commoners on Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at Nutley this 27th day of August 1892 for the purpose of electing six Conservators of the Forest – I hereby intimate to you that at such

Meeting, The Right Honourable The Earl of Sheffield, Mr. James Hope, Mr. Frederick Augustus Du Croz, Mr. Thomas Hyde, Mr. Llewellyn Midgley and Mr. Charles William Bell were elected Conservators of the Forest to take the places respectively of the following gentleman who have resigned the office: The Rev. John B.M. Butler, Mr. William Reiersen Arbuthnot, Captain William Noble, Mr. Henry Ray Freshfield, Sir Spencer Maryon Maryon-Wilson Bart. and Mr. John McAndrew

Dated this 27th day of August 1892

Albert Turner
Chairman

The Clerk reported that he had written several letters directed at the last Meeting and had received a letter from Mrs. Nesbitt dated the 24th inst. which he read to the meeting and in which she requested the Board to inform her in what way she had been misinformed with regard to the registration of six of the Conservators.

On the proposition of Mr. Birch seconded by Mr. Ridley it was resolved that the Clerk write to Mrs. Nesbitt thanking her for her letter and state that the Board see nothing to add to their former letter.

County Council Unfenced Pit

Complaint having been made that the District Surveyor of the County Council had left unfenced an excavation of 12 or 14 feet in depth near Duddleswell, the Clerk was decided to write to him requiring him to comply with the terms of his licence by securely fencing the same.

Rate – Mr. Freshfield's Objection To

The Board then considered a letter received from Mr. H.R. Freshfield objecting to the recent rate on the ground that certain tenants of Earl De la Warr were entitled under the judgement in Hale v. De la Warr to take litter from the Forest and ought therefore to be rated and the Clerk read a copy of a statement on the subject which Mr. Freshfield had laid before Mr. F. Meadows-White Q.C. and a copy of his opinion thereon which Mr. Freshfield had forwarded to him. The Clerk also pointed out that although several applications had been made to Lord De la Warr's representatives to state whether his Lordship claimed the right in respect of any of his farms, and if so which no such claim had yet been made and also that supposing any of the farms could be brought within the terms of the judgement they would only be entitled to take litter whereas the Commoners were entitled in addition to pasture & estovers and that these facts had not been pointed out to Mr. Meadows-White. The Clerk was directed to write again to Mr. Nicholson (who had left the Meeting) enquiring whether Lord De la Warr claimed that any of his farms come within the terms of the judgement and if so which.

County Council Application for Stone Licence

The Clerk read a letter he had received from the County Council Surveyor dated 6th inst. asking permission to take a little stone for repairing the Buxted roads from old workings opposite "The Fox" at Duddleswell and stated that as the matter was somewhat urgent he had authorised the County Surveyor to proceed.

It was resolved that the action of the Clerk in the matter be confirmed.

Tompsetts Bank Trespasses

A complaint having been received that lodges were being placed on the Forest at Tompsetts Bank.

It was resolved that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next Meeting & that the Ranger make a careful inspection of the locality & ascertain all particulars with regard to any lodges found there so as to be in a position to report fully thereon at the next Meeting.

Trespassers – S. Haskett brakes, Thomas Miles brakes, H. Scott brakes, Cecil Clark brakes, A. Oakley stock

The Ranger reports were then gone through and directions were given to the Clerk thereon, namely to write to Samuel Haskett of Chelwood Gate, Thomas Miles of Tompsetts Bank, Henry Scott of Mt. Pleasant Fairwarp, and Cecil Clark of Park Grove Withyham, enquiring by what authority they had taken brakes from the Forest, also to

Alfred Oakley of Wych Cross Road enquiring by what authority he was turning cattle on the Forest & to take such action therein as he might deem expedient.

Small Holdings – Ranger to Identify on Ordnance Map

It was resolved that the Ranger being now thoroughly familiar with the Forest he take steps to identify on the large Ordnance Map the various holdings within the forest pale comprised in the Schedule of small occupiers submitted to Mr. Nicholson.

East Grinstead Gas & Water Bill, Cost of Opposition

The Clerk then submitted to the Board his bill of costs and disbursements in connection with the opposition to the East Grinstead Gas & Water Bill and on Mr. Birch intimating that he would probably be able to induce Counsel to accept 20 guineas in settlement of his fees. It was resolved the following cheque be drawn, viz.

For the Clerk

His costs in relation to the opposition £35:18:6

His Parliamentary Agents Bill £42:8:7

For Counsel's fees £21:0:0

£99:7:1

For the Ranger – 13 weeks salary

& house rent to 29th inst. £16:5:0

It was resolved that the next Meeting of the Board be held on the 8th October next.

Albert Turner

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 8th October 1892 at 11.15 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner

Mr. R.W.P. Birch

Mr. William Carr

Mr. Thomas Colgate

Mr. Llewellyn Midgley

Mr. Joseph Ridley

Mr. Mark Sandford

On the proposition of Mr. Birch seconded by Mr. Sandford it was resolved that Mr. Albert Turner do take the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance at the Bank of £138:3:9.

Lord De La Warr's Tenants Who Claim Litter – list not yet received

The Clerk read a correspondence that had passed between Mr. Nicholson & himself since the last Meeting with reference to Lord De la Warr's furnishing a list of those farms (if any) in respect of which his Lordship claimed the right for the tenants to take litter under the terms of the judgement in Hale v. De la Warr and reported that he had not yet received any such list.

Erections at Tompsetts Bank

The Ranger produced his Report moved for at the last Meeting with regard to erections on the Forest at Tompsetts Bank and it was resolved that the same be referred to Messrs R.W.P. Birch, C.W. Bell & F. Hyde for investigation.

Trespasses no Reply

The Clerk reported that he had written to the various parties reported at the last Meeting to have taken brakes from the Forest but had received no replies and it was resolved that he inform them that unless they either write to him acknowledging that they have committed a trespass within 14 days they be prosecuted for a breach of Bye Law 11.

The Clerk reported that he had written as directed to Alfred Oakley but had received no reply, it was resolved that he communicate with Mr. Joseph Turner the agent of Mr. Oakley's Landlord.

Hale v. De La Warr

It was resolved that the Clerk be authorised to have the judgement in Hale v De la Warr reprinted.

Cheque

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn for:

The Ranger 6 weeks salary
& house rent to 10th inst.

£7:10:0

It was also resolved that the next Meeting of the Board be held on the 12th November.

Thomas Colgate
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 12th November 1892 at 11.15 a.m.

Present

Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. C.W. Bell
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. W. Carr
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. James Fitzalan Hope
Mr. Llewellyn Midgley
Mr. J. Ridley
Mr. M. Sandford

On the proposition of Mr. Joseph Ridley seconded by Mr. Mark Sandford it was resolved that Mr. Thomas Colgate do take the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance of £165:0:6 at the Bank.

He reported that 100 copies of the judgement in Hale v. De la Warr had been printed at a cost of 17/6d.

Committee on Encroachments

Mr. Birch stated that the Committee appointed to enquire as to encroachments at Forest Row had the matter in hand would report in due course.

Oakley's cattle

The Clerk reported that on 10th October he wrote to Mr. Joseph Turner with regard to the case of Oakley as directed at the last Meeting but had received no reply.

Advertisement of Resignation

Also that the proprietors of the Sussex Express had sent him a bill (stating that they did so by Sir S. Wilson's directions) for 10/6d for advertising on the 16th July the resignation of the 6 gentlemen who had lately retired from the Board.

It was proposed by Mr. Bell seconded by Mr. Birch & unanimously reported that the Clerk write a courteous letter to Sir S. M. M. Wilson explaining that as the expenditure was not incurred nor authorised by the Board, they as a Public Body dealing with public or quasi public funds would not be justified in paying the account & expressing their regret that they were unable to come to any other conclusion.

James Hudson thatching heath

The Clerk then laid before the Board letters from Messrs Hunt & Co. reporting that James Hudson had cut thatching heath which the Lords Reeve had taken possession of also that a number of persons not yet identified had been cutting furze sticks for umbrella handles & enquiring whether the Board would prosecute in such cases.

Lord De La Warr's Co-operation as to trespasses

It was resolved that Messrs Hunt be informed that the Conservators are of opinion that their Ranger & Lord De la Warr's employees should always cooperate in bringing offenders on the Forest to justice, that the Ranger had been so instructed that in the present cases the property cut appeared to affect the Lord rather than the Commoner & the Board thought that in such cases the Lord should prosecute for malicious injury, but if it could be shown that prosecution under the Bye Laws would be more effectual than the ordinary remedy they would be ready to do what they could to assist his Lordship.

Military Camps etc

The Board then considered an application from Lord William Seymour commanding the South Eastern District applying for permission to use the Forest for military operations in May next; and it was proposed by Mr. Bell seconded by Mr. Birch & resolved that the application be laid before the Commoners at the approaching annual general meeting with a strong recommendation to approve of the proposal not only on patriotic grounds but also on the ground that it would be a great pecuniary benefit to the neighbourhood.

Kings Standing Proposed Rifle Range

The Clerk read a letter from Messrs Hunt & Co. enclosing a copy of an application made to Earl De la Warr by the adjutant of the 1st Cinque Ports Rifle Volunteers Corps for permission to establish a rifle range on the Forest near Kings Standing & the report of the District Inspector of Musketry on the proposed range & requesting the views of the Conservators.

It was proposed by Mr. Du Croz seconded by Mr. Midgley and resolved that Messrs Birch, Colgate & Hope be appointed a Committee to enquire into the matter & report fully thereon.

Rate – objection to pay

A letter from read from Mr. Freshfield in reply to an application made to him to pay his rate complaining that a balance sheet for the year 1891 had not been issued.

Annual Balance Sheets

It was resolved that in future a balance sheet be sent to each Commoner after the close of each financial year.

The Board then examined the Ranger's reports & it was resolved to hold an extra Meeting for Saturday the 26th inst. to thoroughly consider the various matter referred to in them.

Mr. Ridley claim to rights adjourned

Mr. William Ridley, owner of 3 ½ acres of land at Marlpits Nutley, Copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell, attended to claim Forest rights in respect thereof, but not being provided with evidence of user the case was adjourned till the 17th December to enable him to produce evidence.

Cheques

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn in favour of;

The Ranger 5 weeks salary & rent. £6:5:0

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the School House Nutley on Saturday the 26th day of November 1892 at 11.15 am.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner
Mr. William Carr
Mr. T. Colgate
Mr. L. Midgley
Mr. J. Ridley
Mr. M. Sandford

It was proposed by Mr. Colgate seconded by Mr. Sandford and resolved that Mr. A. Turner do take the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance at the Bank of £158: 15: 6.

Metal Road Tompsetts Bank

An application from Mr. Birch on behalf of certain inhabitants ***** Forest Row for permission to metal the track of 10 ft in width from the top of Chapel Lane to the road which terminates at the Ladies Club House and the accompanying plan was then read & considered and on the proposition of Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Midgley it was resolved that as the proposal will narrow the line of traffic & prevent a wider strip of Forest being cut up the Board saw no objection to the proposal.

Edward Hoadley claim to rights

Joseph Smith appeared in reference to the Ranger's report of 14th October last and stated that he employed Valance Wood to cut litter for him. He stated he was the occupier of Rose Cottage containing 8 acres being Lot 18 at the Chatterton Sale, that he & his father had occupied before him for over 34 years during which time they almost every year had taken litter from the Forest including the present year for use on this property, and during that time had every year turned on to the Forest the Stock kept on the land, that his father succeeded Sinden who succeeded William Billings.

George Billings also attended & stated that he was aged 71 and had lived all his life at Stumblewood Common about a quarter of a mile from Rose Cottage, the tenant when he was a boy was Ned Histed after him John Bingham whose father was owner & there had been several tenants since. He stated that from his youth the occupiers had had litter on the Forest. His father when he was quite a little nipper cut litter for Mr. Bingham who carried it in for his tenant Histed, that Mr. Chatterton bought the property from Sindal & Mr. Edward Hoadley, grocer of Dane Hill was now the owner.

It was resolved that the Board being satisfied as to the user Mr. Edward Hoadley's name be added to the Schedule of Commoners if he apply to the Clerk.

A. Oakley application for leave to turn out

Alfred Oakley tenant for 12 years of Lewes Farm part of the late Mr. C.J. Thompson's Ashdown Park Estate comprising about 40 acres attended & admitted that he has no right to turn out & applies for permission to do so. He stated he was the successor of Richard Brown for whom the house was built and who turned out.

It was resolved that the consideration of the matter be adjourned to the next Meeting.

The Reports of the Ranger were then gone carefully through & instructions given him in relation to the matters appearing thereon.

It was resolved that the Annual General Meeting of Commoners be held at the School House Nutley on Saturday 17th December next at 11.30 a.m. and that the Clerk put on the Agenda the application of the Military Authorities to use the Forest in May next for Military ***** & the application as to a Rifle range near Crowborough

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened by the Clerk by notice on the Church door of each of the parishes or ecclesiastical districts into which the Forest extends and by advertisement in two newspapers circulating in the neighbourhood, to wit, the Sussex Advertiser & the Southern Weekly News at least 14 days before that date and held on Saturday the 17th day of December 1892 at 11.30 a.m. at the School House at Nutley.

Present

Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. F.D. Banister
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. J.F. Hope
Thomas Hyde
John McAndrew
Dr. John Magrath
Mr. L. Midgley
The Rev. H.I. Peckham
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Tuner
Mr. F.J. Whitewood

It was proposed by Mr. Sandford, seconded by Mr. Turner and unanimously resolved that Mr. Thomas Colgate do take the Chair.

Mr. Colgate having done so the Clerk read the notice convening the Meeting.

Election of Conservators

It was proposed by Mr. Birch and seconded by the Rev. H. I. Peckham that Mr. Albert Turner be reelected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. Sandford and seconded by the Mr. Whitewood that Mr. Joseph Ridley be reelected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. Du Croz and seconded by the Dr. Magrath that Mr. C.W. Bell be reelected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. Midgley and seconded by the Dr. Magrath that Mr. R.W.P. Birch be reelected a Conservator.

No other candidates being proposed the Chairman declared the above four gentleman duly elected.

Military Camps etc.

The Clerk then read communications received from the General Commanding the South Eastern District for permission to make use of the Forest in May next for military manoeuvres & standing camps, and a resolutions passed by the Conservators that the application be made before the Conservators at their Annual General Meeting with a strong recommendation to approve of the proposal not only in patriotic grounds but also on the ground that it would be a great pecuniary benefit to the neighbourhood, Colonel Grattan, who attended on behalf of the General Commanding explained matters as far as present arrangements enabled him to do so & also the regulations with regard to compensation etc. After some discussion it was proposed by Mr. Birch seconded by Mr. Peckham and unanimously resolved that: "This Meeting having heard the application of the General Commanding the South Eastern District the explanations of Colonel Grattan & the recommendation of the Board of Conservators approve of the proposal & authorise the Conservators to take such steps as they may deem expedient and strongly recommend that if possible one camp at least be located on the South part of the Forest."

King Standing proposed rifle range

The Clerk then read the application of Major Farrell the adjutant of the 1st Cinque Ports Rifle Volunteer Corps for percussion to establish a rifle range on the East side of the Forest between Kings Standing and the high road from Uckfield to Tunbridge Wells; also the report of Major Wicks, District Inspector of Musketry on the proposed range also a report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Conservators to consider the matter who reported: "That your Committee though it sees very serious objection to the establishment of rifle ranges on common land recommend, in the event of the Military Authorities reporting that there is no practicable alternative to that proposed by Major Farrell, that the Conservators should consider any matured scheme proposed to them which includes efficient provision for:

1. The protection of life & of the Commoners cattle.
2. The prompt settlement of compensation claims made by Commoners, without the risk & expense of legal proceedings.
3. Provisions by which the Board of Conservators can put an end to the arrangement at anytime in case they should consider it objectionable.

After some discussion it was proposed by Mr. J. Ridley & seconded by Mr. Sandford that the Meeting proceed to the consideration of the next business but this was subsequently withdrawn and on the proposal of Mr. Hope seconded by Mr. Sandford it was resolved that the report of the Committee be adopted subject to the condition that no scheme be authorised by the Conservators until it shall have received the sanction of a Special General Meeting of the Commoners.

On the proposition of Dr. Magrath seconded by Mr. Hope a vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman.

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the School House Nutley on Saturday the 17th day of December 1892 at noon.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair

Mr. R. W.P. Birch

Mr. William Carr

Mr. Thomas Colgate

Mr. F. A. Du Croz

Mr. J.F. Hope

Mr. J. Hyde
Mr. L. Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

On the proposition of Mr. Colgate seconded by Mr. Midgley it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Albert Turner do take the Chair.

The Clerk then read the Minutes of the last Meeting which were confirmed.

He produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance at the Bank of £205:3:6.

Election of Conservators

He also produced and read the following certificate which was ordered to be entered on the Minutes:

To Mr. William Augustus Raper
Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest

As Chairman of the Meeting of Commoners duly convened and held at the School House at Nutley this 17th day of December 1892 for the purpose of electing four Conservators, I hereby intimate to you that Mr. Albert Turner, Mr. Joseph Ridley (of Horney Common), Mr. Charles William Bell & Mr. Robert William Peregrine Birch were elected Conservators of the Forest at such Meeting.

Dated this 17th day of December 1892

Thomas Colgate
Chairman

Military Camps

The Clerk then read the following resolution passed by the Meeting of Commoners held earlier in the day with reference to the application of the General Commanding the South District for permission to use the Forest in May next for Military manoeuvres & standing camps, namely:

“This Meeting having heard the application of the General Commanding the South Eastern District, the explanations of Colonel Gratton & the recommendation of the Board of Conservators approved of the proposal & authorise the Conservators to take such steps as they may deem expedient & strongly recommend that, if possible, one camp at least be located on the South part of the Forest.”

It was resolved that the Clerk communicate to the General Commanding the South Eastern District the willingness of the Conservators (so far as they were interested) to consent to his application subject to details being arranged with a Committee of the Conservators hereafter to be appointed for the purpose & to an arrangement being made for proper compensation being paid to the Board on behalf of the Commoners for the use of the Forest.

King Standing proposed rifle range

The Clerk then read the report of the Committee appointed at the last Meeting with reference to the application of the adjutant of the 1st Cinque Ports Rifle Volunteer Corps for permission to establish a rifle range on the East side of the Forest, which was as follows:

“That your Committee though it sees very serious objections to the establishment of rifle ranges on Common land recommended, in the event of the Military Authorities reporting that there is no practicable alternative to that proposed by Major Farrell, that the Conservators should consider any matured scheme proposed to them which includes efficient provision for:

1. The protection of life & of the Commoners' cattle.

2. The prompt settlement of compensation claims made by Commoners, without the risk & expense of legal proceedings.
3. Provisions by which the Board of Conservators can put an end to the arrangement at anytime in case they should consider it objectionable.

Also a resolution passed at the General Meeting of the Commoners held earlier in the day:

That the Report of the Committee be adopted subject to the condition that no scheme be authorised by the Conservators until it shall have received the sanction of a Special General Meeting of the Commoners.

It was resolved that the Clerk forward to Major Farrell a copy of the Committee's report & of the resolution passed at the Meeting of the Commoners.

N.W. Grieve application to metal road at Tompsetts Bank

The Clerk then read an application from Mr. Norman W. Grieve of East Grinstead for permission to continue the metalling of the trackway at Tompsetts Bank authorised at the last Meeting of the Conservators from a point near the Ladies Club House to the North West corner of the property he is purchasing from Mr. Waters in accordance with a plan which he forwarded. The matter having been considered, it was proposed by Mr. Birch seconded by Mr. Midgley & resolved that the Board are willing, in the event of Mr. Grieve's purchasing the property referred to, to sanction his metalling the tracking indicated on the said plan to the width of twelve feet subject to the work being carried out to the satisfaction of the Board provided that no objection be raised by the neighbouring Commoners.

Cheques

On the proposition of Mr. Hyde seconded by Mr. Carr it was resolved that the following cheques be drawn namely in favour of:

The Ranger

7 weeks salary & rent to 2nd prox.

£ 8:15:0

Postages & petty disbursements.

£2:9:3

£11:4:3

The Clerk

1 year salary to 31st instant

£80:0:0

Travelling Expenses

£7:0:0

Postages & receipt stamps

£3:8:7

Sundry petty disbursements during the year

£16:19:9

£107:8:4

Annual Account

The Clerk then laid before the Board the account of receipts and expenditure for the year together with the vouchers for the various payments and the same having been examined & audited it was proposed by Mr. Birch seconded by Mr. Du Croz and resolved that they be approved and signed.

It was resolved that the first Meeting of the New Year take place on Saturday the 21st January next.

Albert Turner

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 21st January 1893 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner

Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. L. Midgley
Mr. Mark Sandford

On the proposition of Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Birch it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Albert Turner be appointed Chairman of the Board for the year.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Bank Pass Book was produced showing a balance at the Bank of £86:10:11.

A list of the outstanding rates was laid before the Meeting and it was resolved that the Clerk call upon the defaulters to pay.

Application to metal road from Duddleswell to Pound Gate

The Board then considered a letter from Messrs Hunt & Co. stating that Messrs Powell had applied to Lord De la Warr for permission to make a hard road of the track across the Forest from just above Duddleswell to Pound Gate and enquiring the views of the Conservators thereon.

It was proposed by Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Colgate and unanimously resolved that the Board are of opinion that the proposal if carried out would be a great benefit to the neighbourhood and that the Board would consent provided proper provision be made for ensuring its permanent maintenance.

County Council application - gravel

An application having been made by Mr. Turner the District Surveyor to the County Council for permission to take some gravel from the Cricket field plain near Wych Cross. It was resolved that he be authorised to take some gravel from any of the existing pits there subject to the conditions on which the County Council has been authorised to dig elsewhere on the Forest.

Military camps etc.

A letter was read from the General Commanding the South Eastern District stating that the War Department have not hitherto paid for permission to manoeuvre over ground but that all damage would be paid for by assessment under the conditions which had been submitted to the Board and asking for an early reply.

It was resolved that a reply be sent to the General stating that the Conservators were of opinion that it would simplify matters if the compensation for damage which must inevitably be occasioned to the herbage and brakes were agreed on beforehand but that, if the Authorities felt any difficulty with regard to doing so, the Board would be content to leave the matter of compensation to be dealt with under the conditions above referred to.

Nomination ** Earl De La Warr**

The following nomination by Lord De La Warr was laid before the Board and it was resolved that the same be recorded on the Minutes:-

Ashdown Forest

In accordance with the provisions of the Award made on the fourth day of April One thousand eight hundred and eighty seven in pursuance to The Commons Regulation (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act 1885 I the undersigned Reginald Wilson Earl De la Warr Lord of the Manor of Duddleswell hereby cancel the appointment heretofore made by me and in lieu thereof nominate Edward Andrew Nicholson of Lewes in the County of Sussex Gentleman or in his absence James Hubert Senior of the same place Gentleman to be one of the Conservators of the Forest in my place and stead witness my hand this 24th day of November One thousand eight hundred and ninety two.

Charles Turner rights

The Clerk read an application from Mr. Charles Turner of East Grinstead to be acknowledged as a Commoner in respect of Stumblewood House and land containing 3A.3R.2P. near Twyford which he had recently purchased from the representatives of Mr. J.C. Chatterton and the Board having considered the same and also a statutory declaration of George Billings otherwise Page showing continuous user of Common Rights on the Forest in respect of the property for 60 years last past.

It was resolved that the claim be acknowledged and that the Clerk insert Mr. Turner's name in the Schedule of Commoners.

George Inns Encroachment

Mr. George Inns, of Mount Pleasant Fairwarp near the Fox appeared before the Conservators stating that the Board sometime ago required him to throw out a small encroachment he had made, about 6' x 10', by bringing his yard gate out flush with the roadway fronting his property. It was resolved that Messrs Carr, Joseph Ridley, Sandford be appointed a Committee to view the premises and report to the next meeting.

Thos. Osborne claim to rights rejected

Mr. Thomas Osborne, of Funnells Farm, attended before the Board to claim Common rights on the Forest for his property of about 4 acres on the Forest adjoining Putlands Farm, but, as it was found on inspecting his documents that the property was a grant made in 1842, the Board were unable to entertain the matter.

On the application of Mr. Birch on behalf of the Forest Row Committee it was resolved that application be made to the Church warden of Nutley to lend to the Committee the Official Map and Award to compare with the alleged encroachments.

Mr. Polehampton litter buying, John Inman litter buying

Mr. Carr reported that on or about 21st December he met in Maresfield Street the team of Mrs. Polehampton of the Rocks Buxted carrying a load of Forest litter. He asked the carter, named Powell or Pole, where he got it from; he said he got it from the Forest near Spring Gardens and that it was cut by young Inman (John). Mrs. Polehampton's Bailiff was with the wagon and joined in the conversation. As no Forest Rights attach to the Rocks, the Clerk was directed to enquire into the matter with a view to the punishment of John Inman who has disregarded the Bye Laws on more than one occasion.

The Board then went through the Rangers reports since the last meeting and gave directions thereon.

It was resolved that the next meeting take place on Saturday 4th March at 10.30 a.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 4th March 1893 at 10.30 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the chair
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Hyde
Mr. Llewellyn Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley

Mr. Mark Sandford

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that he had collected in £5:13:6 of the outstanding rate since the last meeting and that only a few shillings were now outstanding.

The Bank Pass Book was produced showing a balance of £92:4:5 in hand.

Kings Standing proposed rifle range

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Major Farwell withdrawing the application for a Rifle Range near Kings Standing

Military camps

He also read a letter from the General Commanding the South Eastern District stating that Camps would probably be placed (1) On Church plateau, Forest Row (2) between Nutley and Maresfield and (3) near Crowborough.

It was resolved that the following gentlemen be appointed Committees namely:-

Messrs Birch, Du Croz, Hyde and Midgley for the Forest Row Camp

Messrs Carr Colgate Ridley, Sandford and Turner for the Nutley – Maresfield Camp and Messrs Colgate, Hope and Sandford for the Crowborough Camp to arrange all matters of detail with the Military Authorities

The Clerk was also directed to apply to the Commanding Officer to mark approximately on a map the spot on which it is proposed to have the camps. Also to ask what corps will be encamped at each with the names and addresses of their Commanding Officers and that as soon, as these particulars are obtained a statement be printed for circulation by the Conservators among the producers of the neighbourhood to enable them to tender for the supply of hay, straw, wood, dairy produce, poultry and the like.

George Inns Encroachment

The Committee appointed to view Mr. George Inn's alleged encroachment reported that having viewed the spot they were unanimously of opinion that he was entitled to put his gate out flush with his boundary fence but that he had made an encroachment in the single on the North side of the cattle lodge built on the plot sold under the Award numbered 146 and they recommended that he be required to throw it at once out. It was proposed by Mr. Birch seconded by Mr. Du Croz and resolved that the report be adopted and Mr. Inns being in attendance was informed thereof and undertook to throw out the encroachment at once.

Tompsetts Bank encroachment

The Forest Row encroachment Committee reported that they were still engaged in their enquiries.

Superintendent Forest Row Recreation ground resignation

A letter was read from Mr. William R. Lee resigning the Office of Superintendent of the Forest Row Recreation Ground It was resolved that the resignation be recorded on the minutes and that the Clerk convey to him the regret of the Board at losing his valuable services.

Fords Green road

The attention of the Board having been drawn to the unfinished condition of the road round Fords Green the Clerk undertook to write to Sir Spencer M. Maryon-Wilson Bart reminding him of his undertaking to continue the Road beyond Mr. Albert Turner's frontage and to suggest its completion.

Lady Shelley leave to open drain

On the application of Mr. Mark Sandford it was resolved that permission be given to Lady Shelley to open the ground on the Forest and lay a covered drain to carry water from the outflowing from Spring Garden Wood to the

Boring Wheel Mill pond in place of the old channel, the surface of the Forest to be carefully restored and made good as speedily as possible. Also to repair the banks of the pond on the Forest adjoining Spring Garden Wood.

Polehampton litter buying

A letter was read from Mr. Polehampton stating that he had purchased Forest litter from a man on the Forest and had carried it to the Rocks at Buxted for use there and was going to remove three loads more which he had purchased. It was resolved that Mr. Polehampton be called on to furnish sufficient evidence to support the prosecution of the party who cut and sold him the litter and that on default of his doing as he be prosecuted for taking the litter from the Forest.

Edward Wilson claims to rights rejected

Mr. Edward Wilson attended and produced the Deeds of his property at Mount Pleasant near Fairwarp but as it appeared that nearly the whole of the property was held of Lord De la Warr on a tenancy at Mill till the 17th February 1890 when the Freehold was conveyed to Mr. William Turner his predecessor in title and that the remaining detached piece was a plot sold to him under the award numbered 150 the Board were unable to entertain his application to be recognised as a Commoner in respect of any part thereof and Mr. Wilson was informed thereof accordingly.

James Smithers and Thomas Homewood encroachment

The Ranger reported that encroachments had been made by Mr. James Smithers and Mr. Thomas Homewood near St. John's at Crowborough by enclosing the Forest between their respective properties (which adjoin one another) and the high road from Fryar's Gate to Crowborough and that Mr. Homewood was preparing to build on his encroachment. It was resolved that the Clerk write to each of them at once calling on him to throw out his encroachment and that if default were made in complying the Clerk be and is hereby empowered to take proceedings in the County Court for the statement of the encroachment.

Ranger field glass

The Ranger having asked to be furnished with a field glass for use on the Forest. It was resolved that Mr. Birch be authorised to purchase a pair of suitable binocular glasses with strong leather case and strap for the use of the Ranger for the time being.

Charles H. Corbett claim to rights

Mr. Charles H. Corbett attended before the Board with a view to claiming common rights for Forest Farm near Chelwood Pale which belongs to him and is tenanted by Mr. Sylvanus Ridley and it was arranged that he should furnish the Clerk with particulars of the property as far back as possible with a view to seeing whether it was included in the Decree of 1691 and that it could not be identified the Board would then give Mr. Corbett an opportunity of producing evidence of user.

Fredrick Wood litter cutting, H. Minns taking litter, Charles Wheeler cutting litter

The Conservators then went through the Rangers reports and gave directions on various matters and amongst other things it was resolved that Frederick Wood who was cutting litter on the Forest near Chelwood Gate on 28th January Harry Winn raking litter together on the Forest near Cresbridge on 1st February Charles Wheeler of Chelwood Common who was cutting litter for himself near Pippingford on the 24th February be called on to give a written undertaking not to trespass again and that if any of them paid to do so the Clerk prosecute them for a breach of the Bye laws.

Walter Minns cutting litter

That the Clerk write to Walter Minns of Crowborough to explain on what grounds he was cutting litter on the 28th January near Crow's Nest.

George Inns, A. Chapman claim rights

And to George Inns and Alfred Chapman both of Mount Pleasant, Fairwarp and Alfred Allitt of Windmill, Nutley, enquiring whether they claim right of common for their holdings and if so, to furnish the necessary evidence.

Stevenson not to encroach

Also to William Stevenson (Granter) warning him not to advance his boundary fence.

Harry Hobbs encroachment

Also to Harry Hobbs of Fairwarp, Grocer, requiring him at once to remove the shed and fence opposite his house failing which the Clerk to take proceedings in the County Court to secure their removal.

Noah Horscroft encroachment

Also to Noah Horscroft of Fairwarp who had put up a shed near his premises to the same effect and failing which the like proceedings.

Walter Pinter taking litter

Also that the Clerk prosecute Mr. Walter Pinter for taking litter.

Cheque

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn in favour of the Ranger – 9 week's salary and rent to 6th inst. £11:5:0

Also that the next Meeting be held on the 8th April at 11 a.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 8th April 1893 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner
Mr. Robert W.P. Birch
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. William Carr
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. Thomas Hyde
Mr. Llewellyn Midgley
Mr. E. A. Nicholson
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Joseph Ridley

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance at the Bank amounted to £80:19: 5.

Military manoeuvres

The Clerk reported that immediately after the last meeting he furnished the General Commanding the South Eastern District with particulars of the Committees then appointed with the names and addresses of the members of each and had asked to be furnished with information as to the sites of the proposed camps and had today received these particulars.

That he had printed and issued for circulation round the Forest information to enable local producers to tender for the supply of hay straw and firewood to the troops.

And that he had now received a list of the Corps allotted to each camp with the names and addresses of their Commanding Officers and would have the necessary information printed for circulation in the District.

An application was received from Mr. Henry Histed for permission to erect a temporary refreshment bar and marquee near Green Hall Toll from the 16th to the 27th May next, both including for the purpose of supplying refreshments. It was resolved that the application be granted subject to such conditions as the Committee for the Forest Row Camp may deem it desirable to impose.

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the resolution passed at the last meeting he wrote to Sir Spencer M. Maryon-Wilson Bart. reminding him that he had not finished the construction and metalling of his portion of the proposed new road along the west side of Fords Green and had received a reply stating that the road would be completed at once.

Stone digging trespasses

A letter was read from Mr. James Richardson Road Surveyor of Hartfield Parish complaining that the Road Surveyors are put to the trouble and expense of attending before the Conservators once every year to obtain leave to dig gravel and whilst other persons are allowed to dig where they please without asking anyone's permission.

Lord De la Warr as to digging for stone

Mr. Nicholson stated that Lord De la Warr as a matter of fact does not give permission to anyone to open new ground for taking stone gravel or sand from the Forest but where the Conservators neglect to prosecute he takes money payment for his property which has been removed but will give instructions that where the Conservators prosecute promptly he will do nothing to condone the offence by taking payment.

Road Surveyors restrictions of licences

It was resolved that having regard to the damage done to the surface of the Forest future licences to Road Surveyors to dig road materials be restricted to existing pits and quarries.

County Council licence to dig road materials

An application was read from the District Surveyor of the County Council for a licence to try for and dig on the Forest Hard gravel at (1) Cricketing plain near Wych Cross (2) Kings Standing (3) Stone Hill and hard gravel and sand gravel at Fairwarp and stone and sand gravel opposite the Fox Coffee Tavern.

It was resolved that the District Surveyor be authorised to dig in existing pits till 25th March next but not to open new ground.

Lord De la Warr's tenants claim

A letter was then read from Mr. Nicholson enclosing a list of farms on the Buckhurst Estate comprising altogether 4010a. 0p. 39p. which he stated he was informed exercise rights but that he had not then clear instructions with regard to them. The following is a copy of the list:-

Tenants	Farms	Quantities		
<u>Parish of</u>	<u>Withyham</u>			
Box, Francis	Withyham Forge	9	0	19
Temple, William	Dorset Arms Inn	32	3	2
Hale, Edwin	Ducking Farm	202	0	
Taylor, Henry	Summerford	311	3	4
Hale, Henry	Hale Farm	238	1	9
Parris, Philip	Ham Farm	169	3	25
Hall, John	Hendall	219	-	20
Hubbard, William	Cherry Gardens	6	-	4
Fermor, Charles	Moth Mill	2	-	33
Goodwin, William	Sherlocks Farm	163	3	2
Ashdown, George	Lye Green Smithy	7	1	34
Fermor, Henry	Bingles Farm	81	1	18
Heasman, William	Grubbs Farm	28	3	28
Heasman, Samuel	Hoadley & Morris Farm	74	1	20
Ashby, Reginald	Lodge Field Farm	244	3	7

Streatfield, John	Tophill Farm	101	1	8
Ditch, John	Little Stonelands	127	3	15
Hudson, John & George	Hunts Farm	176	3	29
Fermor, Uriah	Plume of Feathers	16	6	10
Back, Job	Half Moon, Friars Gate	9	3	26
Hoath, Alfred	Butler's Field	4	-	3
Hoath, William	Cottage/land, St Johns	7	3	37
Neve David	Do.	2	3	39
<u>Parish of Hartfield</u>				
Ashby, Martin	Castle Meadows	45	-	-
Martin, Thomas	St Tye's Farm	242	1	12
Baines, Thomas	Bassetts Farm	234	1	39
Baines, John	Bolebrook Farm	377	-	7
Edwards, Mrs	Red Farm	4	-	33
Edwards, Williams	Chuckhatch	4	1	22
Tasker, James	Golden Castle	8	-	12
Hemsley, James	Neves Farm	47	2	27
Hudson, William	Chuckhatch	5	3	30
Divall, Leonard	Brickyard	6	1	32
Bellingham, William	Newbridge Mill	10	2	35
Driffell, William	Plumber	11	3	12
Wright, Nicholas	Hodore Farm	280	3	7
Woods, Matthews S.	Hook Farm	23	-	-
Grosvenor				
Elliott, Mrs	House and land	4	1	20
Peckham, Miss	"	10	1	21
King, Robert	Dorset Arms Inn & land	23	-	-
Kenward, William	Land	5	1	33
Swift, William	Perry Hill	245	2	20
Baines, John	Stairs Farm	47	3	34
Langridge, Mrs	Hartfield Smithy	4	1	35
Barpot, John	Bolebrook Mill	24	1	28
Shoesmith, William		7	2	29
Miles, William	Chuckhatch	1	1	11
Parish of Buxted				
Best, Edwin	Chillies Farm	107	2	35
Bingham, William	Newnham Park	85	1	8

It was resolved that any of Lord De la Warr's tenants who may be found who may be found taking litter be called upon to prove user in respect of their holdings consistent with the judgement in Hale v. De la Warr.

James Smithers and Thomas Homewood encroachments

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the resolution passed at the last Meeting he wrote to Mr. James Smithers and Mr. Thomas Homewood calling on them at once to abate the encroachments made by them along their frontage to the high road from Fryars Gate to Crowborough and warning them that proceedings would be taken if they neglected to comply.

That Homewood had replied that when he purchased the freehold of his property Mr. Nicholson told him he could see no harm in his taking in the frontage. To which the Clerk replied that he could see the Board today at noon if he left the land unenclosed in the meantime.

That Mr. Nicholson had replied to the Clerks enquiry that it would be an improvement and was not worth troubling about.

Also that Mr. Alfred Hoath the Road Surveyor had written alleging that the frontage was the freehold of Smithers and Homewood and giving various reasons why it should be enclosed.

Mr. Homewood attended before the Board and produced his Deed of Conveyance and admitted that there was fully 4 yards between the water table of the road and the front of the old bank which he had removed.

After discussion it was resolved that he and Mr. Smithers be required to put back their fence to the old boundary forthwith.

Polehampton litter taking

A letter was read from Messrs Langham, son and Dawson in reply to the Clerk's communication to Mr. Polehampton and the Clerk was directed to reply that Mr. Polehampton must comply with the terms of the resolution already communicated to him.

Appointment of Superintendent Forest Row Recreation Ground

It was proposed by Mr. A. Turner seconded by Mr. M. Sandford and unanimously resolved that Mr. Robert William Peregrine Birch be appointed Superintendent of the Forest Row Recreation Ground and be being present accepted the office.

Power to expend rates Cricket Grounds

A letter was read from the Board of Agriculture in reply to an enquiry of Clerk expressing the opinion that the Conservators have no power to expend the Forest rates in fencing the Cricket grounds.

Ranger's telescope

Mr. Birch reported that in accordance with the resolution passed at the last meeting he had purchased a Deer stalking telescope for the Ranger at the cost of £ 2:16:0. It was resolved that the same be approved and a cheque drawn for the amount.

Forest Row Committee

The Forest Row Committee reported that various cottagers at Tompsetts Bank has clothes posts on the Forest and recommended that no clothes posts be allowed except on spots where they can cause no annoyance to neighbours and then only on a licence from the Conservators and that the owners of clothes posts not complying with these conditions be required to remove the same. That Mr. Philpot had not removed his duck house and that he be required to do so. That Mr. Wm. Miles has 2 fowl houses Mr. Todman a chicken house and Mr. Geo. Miles a shed all on the Forest all these ought to be removed and that permission should only be granted to put moveable chicken coops on the Forest. That if there are various stacks of faggots and poles on the Forest and that if cottagers are allowed to store them they should be placed close to their own fences and so as not to interfere with the view or convenience of neighbours.

It was resolved that the next meeting of the Conservators be held on Saturday 13th May at 11 a.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 13th May 1893 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. Thomas Colgate

Mr. William Carr
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. James F. Hope
Mr. L. Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance at the Bank amounted to £78:3:5 that a cheque would be required that day for salary due to the Ranger amounting to £ 12:10:0 and that the balance of money in hand was already covered by the outstanding liabilities for Clerks salary disbursement.

Notice to make rate

It was thereupon proposed by Mr. Du Croz seconded by Mr. Sandford and resolved that the Clerk be prepared with the necessary documents for the making of a rate at the next meeting and that notice of same be placed on the agenda.

John Collins conviction van and tent, John Collins summons withdrawn

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting John Collins was prosecuted at the Uckfield Bench for permitting a tent and van to remain on the Forest and was convicted and fined 2/6 including costs and that at the suggestion of the Bench a similar summons against his son was withdrawn

Military manoeuvres

The Clerk laid on the table a print of the mobilisation Regulations furnished by the General Commanding. Also a copy of the notice with regard to the supply of dairy produce which he had prepared and circulated throughout the Forest and neighbourhood in accordance with the instructions given at the last meeting.

An application was read from the Rev. A.J. Swainson, Vicar of Forest Row for permission to erect a tent on the Forest near the Forest Row Camp during the approaching manoeuvres for use as a Club and reading room for the sale of refreshments and for entertainments and possibly religious services. It was resolved that the application be granted subject to such conditions as the Forest Row Committee may deem it necessary to impose.

An application was also made by Mr. W. Wigmore of the Bricklayers Arms Crowborough for permission to erect a tent near the Crowborough Camp, for the purpose of supplying the public with refreshments. It was resolved that the application be granted subject to similar conditions to be fixed by the Crowborough Committee –

The Clerk was directed to write to the General Commanding the South Eastern District pointing out that in consequence of the present drought there was every reason to apprehend that fires would be likely to occur amongst the gorse and heather on the Forest and begging that he would provide fire parties at the various camps with instructions to act promptly in extinguishing fires that might occur on the Forest.

It was proposed by Mr. Colgate seconded by Mr. Sandford and resolved that 5 men be employed to assist the Ranger in discharge of his duties during the manoeuvres at salaries about 4/- per day. The men to be selected and engaged and their beats fixed by the Chairman assisted by the Ranger. The men to wear broad bands of green on their arm with the word "Ranger" printed on it and to be supplied with boards marked "Forest Ranger", to be put up over their places of abode during the manoeuvres.

The Clerk was directed to write to the Chief Constable informing him of these arrangements and also to express the hope that he would draught a sufficient number of County Police on the Forest during the manoeuvres to maintain proper order.

Mr. Elphinstone Barchard's claim to common

A letter was read from Mr. Elphinstone Barchard stating that in consequence of a domestic bereavement he was unable to attend the meeting to support his claim to rights of common but sent his man Jenner to answer any questions. It was resolved that the Clerk inform Mr. Barchard that the Conservators were unable to enter into the

question without knowing what part of his property he claims for and for other details connected with the claim and that they would be happy to go into the matter at any subsequent meeting he was able to attend.

Excavating for road materials

It was resolved that in granting licences to the Road Surveyors to take road materials from the Forest they be informed that where they desire to continue working an existing pit the following year then if they fill back the earth as they work along and securely fence the excavation they be not required to fill up the working unless in the following year they do not continue to work it.

Road Surveyors Licences

The under mentioned Road Surveyors applied for licences for the year ending 25th March 1894:-

Mr. William Eade for Buxted to dig stone and gravel from open pits between Duddleswell and Pound Gate and at Kings Standing. This was granted subject to his arranging with the Surveyor of Maresfield to securely fence in the Kings Standing pit from which both have been working.

Mr. James Richardson for Hartfield applied to dig stone from the old pits between Wrens Warren and Gills Lap from the existing pit at High Beeches. This was granted.

Mr. James Diplock for Maresfield applied for permission to dig materials but the Ranger having reported that he had not complied with the conditions of his licence, the application was adjourned until the next meeting to give him an opportunity of complying therewith. He was also informed that he must arrange with the Surveyor of Buxted to fence the pit at Kings Standing which they have both been working

Mr. Alfred Hoath for Withyham applied for permission to dig sand stone and gravel from open pits near St. Johns Church Crowborough and near the 500 acres. The Ranger having reported that he had failed in one or two instances to comply with his licence it was resolved that his application be granted but that his licence be retained until he should have complied with the requirements of last years licence to the satisfaction of the Ranger.

Mr. George Fenner of Fletching applied for a licence to dig hard stone and gravel from the existing pits or quarries near the Isle of Thorns and the application was granted.

County Council Licence for Road Materials

A letter was read from the District Surveyor to the County Council expressing regret that the Board had prohibited the opening of new ground & hoping that they would allow him to take 150 yards of gravel from the excavation he had commenced at Duddleswell. It was resolved that he may take 150 yards from the working commenced on the condition that he fill up & level it & replaced the top spit afterwards, but that he be informed that with that exception the Board regret they must adhere to the resolutions communicated to him by the Clerk on the 13th April.

Ordnance Map for Board Rooms

It was resolved that the Clerk purchase a 6 inch Ordnance Map of the Forest to be mounted & coloured for the use of the Board rooms.

Mr. Polehampton litter buying

The Clerk read a correspondence that had passed between him and Mr. Polehampton's Solicitors with regard to the purchasing of litter from the Forest. It was resolved that as Mr. Polehampton had acted under a misapprehension & that on the understanding he will not again purchase litter from the Forest the Board will not take further steps in the matter either against himself or those who cut for him, being of the opinion that it would not be fair to prosecute the men he employed as they appear to have acted under the impression he had a right.

Fords Green road

The Superintendent of the Fords Green Cricket Ground having reported that Sir Spencer Wilson had metalled a portion of the road but had not completed it. It was resolved that the Clerk apply to him to complete it as speedily as possible.

Forest Row encroachments

It was also resolved that the Clerk meet the Forest Row Committee at Tompsetts Bank the date to be arranged for the purpose of inspecting all the trespasses & making arrangements in the terms of the Committee's report.

Charles Tester's encroachment

The Ranger's report was then gone through & the Clerk stated that he had written to Mr. Charles Tester of Browns Brook, who was reported to have his fence out on one side about 2 feet, to abate same, but had not yet received any reply.

James Smithers and Thomas Homewood encroachments

The Ranger reported that the encroachments made by James Smithers & Thomas Homewood had not been abated and it was resolved that the Clerk again give them notice to throw out the encroachments & that unless they do so within 10 days he proceed against them under the resolution of the 4th March last.

Mr. Wormald turf cutting

The Ranger having reported that a quantity of turf had been cut from the Forest & taken away by direction of Mr. Wormald bailiff, it was resolved that the Clerk point out to Mr. Wormald that he had committed a serious breach of the Byelaws & call upon him to relay the spot with turf as soon as the weather is suitable for the purposes.

W.J. Walsham Putting Out Fence

Mr. Nicholson having written to say that Mr. W.J. Walsham was erecting a post & wire fence outside of his copyhold near Broadstone Warren about 3 feet from the stem of his hedge & he had told him that, if the ditch was his, he might do so; it was resolved that the Ranger inspect the place in order to ascertain whether there was an old ditch & whether it belonged to the enclosure.

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on Saturday the 10th June at 11 am.

Cheque for Ranger

It was also resolved that a cheque be drawn for:

The Ranger – 10 weeks salary and
house rent to 15th inst. £12:10:0

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 3rd June 1893 at 11 am.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner (in the Chair)
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. Wm. Carr
Mr. Thos. Colgate
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. L. Midgley
Mr. J. Ridley
Mr. M. Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance at the Bank of £ 65:13:5.

Rate Made

The Clerk having reported that the Funds in hand would be exhausted by payment of the current liabilities and having produced an estimate of the annual expenses it was proposed by Mr. F.A. Du Croz seconded by Mr. Thos. Colgate and unanimously resolved that a rate be made for defraying the expenses of the Conservators in the

execution of their duties under the Award made under the provisions of the Inclosure Acts 1843 to 1878 and the Commons Regulation (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act 1885 to be levied upon the respective owners of the rights of Common upon the Forest at the rate of Six pence per acre in respect of the acreage of their respective lands to which such rights attach which Commoners and their respective acreages aforesaid and the respective sums payable by them are hereinafter set out, namely;

Name	Address	Acreage
Arbuthnot, W.R. Esq.	Plawhatch, East Grinstead	200
Ashdown, Mr. Thomas	Friars Gate, Withyham, Tunbridge Wells	3
Banister F.D. Esq.	Stone House, Forest Row, East Grinstead	50
Bashford, Mr. John	Forest Row, East Grinstead	15
Birch, Peregrine Esq	The Priory, Forest Row, East Grinstead	88
Birch, Robert W.P. Esq	The Priory, Forest Row, East Grinstead	12
Butler, Rev. J.B.M.	The Rectory, Maresfield, Uckfield	100
Bell, C.W. Esq.	Yewhurst, East Grinstead	180
Carr Mr. William	Nutley, Uckfield	8
Colchester The Rt Hon Lord	Carlton Club, Pall Mall, S.W	213
Cope & Buckley Messrs	C/o Cope & Co, 3 Gt. George St. Westminster Ltd	5
Colgate, Thomas Esq	Sheffield Park, Uckfield	4
Cook Miss. A.	The Hall, Nutley, Uckfield	16
Dashwood, John Esq	East Grinstead	4
Dadswell, Mr. Robert	C/o Mr. Spencer Tester, Browns Brook, Buxted, Uckfield	1
DuCroze F.A. Esq	Court Lands, West Hoathly, East Grinstead	80
Edgar Mrs.	Forest Row, East Grinstead	24
Edwards, Mr. Robert Devises of	Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	10
Fleet, Mr. George	Shortbridge, Piltown, Uckfield	2 ½
Freshfield, H.R. Esq	Kidbrooke Park, East Grinstead	200
Fuller Miss Millicent	Vaughans, Fletching, Uckfield	10
Goard, Mrs. Philippa Philcox	Forest Row Green	3 ¾
Goldsmiths, Mrs. Sophia	Fairwarp, Maresfield Uckfield	1
Goldsmiths Company	Goldsmiths Hall, London, E.C.	100
Hale G.C. Esq	32 **** Road, Tunbridge Wells	68
Hambley, Mrs. Mary	Fryars Gate, Withyham, Tunbridge Wells	2
Head, Mr. John	31 High Street, Lewes	10
Hills, A.H. Esq	High Hurst Wood, Buxted, Uckfield	40
Hoadley, Mr. Edward	Dane Hill, Uckfield	8
Hoare, Alfred Esq	37 Fleet Street, London, E.C.	101
Hoath, Mrs. Lydia	Fryars Gate, Withyham, Tunbridge Wells	4
Hoath, Mr. Amos	Temple's School, Montpelier Road, Brighton	3
Hooker, Mr. John	Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	7
Hope, James F. Esq	Hurons Ghyll, Buxted (late Wilsons Devises)	193
ditto	Late Duke of Norfolk's	118
Hyde, Thomas Esq	Pixton Hill, Forest Row, East Grinstead	103
Kenward, Mr. John	Fletching, Uckfield	74
Keys, Mr. R. W.	Forest View, Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells	8 ½
Knight, Mr. Thomas James	Budletts, Maresfield, Uckfield	2
Larnach, D. Esq	Brambletye, East Grinstead	500
Leppard, Mrs. Elizabeth Ellen	c/o Mr. J. Champard, Beulah Road, Sutton	3 ¾
Leslie, J.E. Cranston Esq & others	17 Bedford Row, London W.C. (late Cranston)	140
Lewis, Mrs. Lucy Rose	White House Farm, near Maresfield Uckfield	12
Lyell, Mr. John Wishart	c/o Messrs Lyell Brothers, Lewes	½
Magrath, Dr. John	The Elms, Forest Row, East Grinstead (late Chattertons)	7

Marriott, Mr. & Miss	c/o Messrs Hastie, 65 Lincolns Inn Fields, W.C. (late Cranston)	121 ½
Maynard, Mr. George	Old Ashdown Farm, Forest Row, East Grinstead	5
Melville, Mrs.	8 Argyll R. Kensington, S.W.	64
Midgley, Llewellyn Esq	Birch Grove Lodge, near East Grinstead (Late Chatterton)	13
Miles, Mr. William	Forest Row, East Grinstead	1
McAndrew, John Esq	Holly Hill, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	196
Nesbitt, Mrs.	Oldland, Buxted, Uckfield	285
Noble, Captain	Forest Lodge, Nutley, Uckfield	15
Norman, Mr. Henry	Fairwarp, Maresfield, Uckfield	6
Page Mr. Jesse	Summerford Farm, ** Fairwarp, Uckfield	
Page Mr. William	Summerford Farm, ** Fairwarp, Uckfield	
Taylor, Mr. George Edward	Summerford Farm, ** Fairwarp, Uckfield	4
Portman, The Rt. Hon. Lord	22 Portman Square, London, W.	130
Peckham, Rev. H.J.	Vicarage, Nutley, Uckfield	2 ½
ditto	Land adjoining (late Marriott)	1 ½
Ridley Mr. Joseph	Misbourne Farm, Horney Common, Nutley, Uckfield	14
Ridley Mr. Joseph	Millbrook, Nutley, Uckfield	12 ½
Sadleur Mrs., the wife of The Rev. Canon	C/o Joseph Turner Esq. East Grinstead	185
Sandford, Mark Esq.	Maresfield, Uckfield	1 ½
Sayers, Mr. Stephen	Forest Row, East Grinstead	¼
Sheffield, Earl of	Sheffield Park, Fletching, Uckfield	946
Shelley, Lady	Maresfield Park, Maresfield, Uckfield	1706
ditto	Land – Late Chattertons Lot 12	4
Shoebridge, Mr. Thomas Richardson	Nutley, Uckfield	¼
Shoebridge, W. Thomas	Uckfield (late Marriott)	3
Stapley, Mr. George	Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells	2
Streatfield, R.J. Esq	"The Rocks", Uckfield	240
Turner, Albert Esq.	Nutley, Uckfield	12 ½
ditto	Late Lady Shelley	50
Turner, Charles Esq	Oakhurst, East Grinstead	4
Turner, William Esq	Nutley, Uckfield	17
Tapps-Gervis, Miss Clara	c/o Arthur Hastie, Esq, East Grinstead	925
Wallis Mr. Joseph P.	Coopers Arms Crowborough Tunbridge Wells	2 ½
Waters Mr. Isaac	Forest Row, East Grinstead	5
Whitewood Mr. F. J.	Nutley, Uckfield	¼
Whitewood Mr. Henry	Claygates Farm, Buxted	86
Wilson Mr. Edward	Mount Pleasant, Fairwarp, Uckfield	1
Wilson Sir Spencer M. Maryon Bart	"Searles", Fletching, Uckfield	1265
Wickens Mr. J. H	Dane Hill, Uckfield, (late Chatterton)	30
Wood John Edgar Esq	55 Grays Inn Road, Holborn W. C	4
Woods Mr. S. Grosvenor Esq	9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn London W. C.	498
Wormald, Edward Esq	The Beacon, Chelwood, Nutley, Uckfield (late Marriott)	57
Wood, Mr. Charles	Maresfield, Uckfield	12
Young Mr. William	Fincham, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	23

Mr. Polehampton litter buying

The Clerk produced from Mr. Polehampton's Solicitors undertaking not to purchase forest litter in future.

Elphinstone Barchard claim to rights

Mr. Elphinstone Barchard attended before the Board to claim Forest rights for the whole of his property in Duddleswell containing 13a. 1r. 30p. it was proved that the N.E. enclosure containing about 1 ½ acres were enclosed within 45 years last past, that rights could not therefore be established in respect of it but as regards the remaining 12a. 1r. 30p. evidence was given showing user for 40 years past and the consideration of the claim was then adjourned for production of evidence carrying the user back further.

Wormald turf cutting

A letter was read from Mr. Wormald stating that the turf cutting reported at the last meeting was done without his knowledge or authority and undertaking to have the damage made good.

Military manoeuvres compensation

The Board having enquired into the damage done to the Forest by reason of the visit of the Military which they have estimated at £62.12.6. It was resolved that the Clerk apply to the Military Authority for payment of the same.

Road Surveyor of Maresfield licence to dig

Mr James Diplock Road Surveyor of Maresfield attended and applied for a Licence to dig gravel at Fairwarp and near the Isle of Thorns and stone on Stonehill, all in existing pits.

The Ranger having reported that Mr. Diplock had now complied with the conditions of last year's licence it was resolved that his licence be granted.

Plawhatch Forest gate complaint

Mr. John Ridley (or Gurr) of the Goat complains that the Plawhatch gate has been altered by Mr. Arbuthnot so that it does not effectually keep the Commoners' cattle on the Forest. It was resolved that the Board avail themselves of Mr. Du Croz's offer to visit the spot, and that if any alteration is necessary Mr. Arbuthnot to do the same.

Mr. Francis Lucas trespass

The Ranger having reported that Mr. Francis Lucas of Greenhall Forest Row has enlarged the pond outside his boundary and has constructed an island in it. The Clerk is directed to write to him on the subject.

John Mepham's encroachment

The attention of the Board having been drawn to the fact that John Mepham of Crowborough, who some years ago made an encroachment adjoining sale No. 67 and who in July 1889 by direction of the Ranger made two long gaps in the fence of the encroachment so that the Commoners cattle might enter has re-enclosed the same it was resolved that the Clerk give him notice to entirely remove the bank or fence round the encroachment and that if he neglect to do so within a reasonable time the Clerk take proceedings against him in the County Court to compel its abatement.

Encroachments Mr. Powell employed

Mr. Sandford reported that as it had been found necessary to instruct Mr. Hubert Powell, Surveyor of Lewes to survey the encroachments near Crowborough made by James Smithers, Thomas Homewood and John Mepham he had accompanied Mr. Powell on his visit of Friday last and that some of the encroachments had been thrown out.

Appointment of Superintendent of Cricket Ground at Chelwood

It was resolved that Mr. Llewellyn Midgley be appointed Superintendent of Cricket Ground at Chelwood.

Fencing dangerous pit at Crowborough

Mr. Sandford reported that he had instructed Mr. A. Hoath to fence in a dangerous pit near Crowborough for the prevention of accident during the recent manoeuvres at an expense of £1.1.0. It was resolved that Mr. Sandford's action on the matter be confirmed and that Mr. Hoath's charge be paid.

Stone quarry High Cross Road dangerous

The attention of the Board having been drawn to the fact that the stone quarry worked by Mr. John Bashford by the side of the high road from Forest Row to Wych Cross was dangerous and insufficiently protected and that the

earth removed from the quarry was not properly levelled back it was resolved that the Clerk write to Messrs. Hunt & Co. drawing their attention to the same.

It was resolved that the next meeting of the Board take place on Saturday the 15th July next.

Also that a cheque be drawn in favour of
The Clerk, for petty disbursements to date £18.9.9.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 15th July 1893 at 11 am.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner (in the Chair)
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. William Carr
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the new rate was coming in and that the balance at the Bank was now £165:18:4 besides which the Clerk had received £13.9.4 in hand.

A letter was read from the General Commanding South Eastern District thanking the Board for the facilities afforded to the Troops in connection with the recent mobilisation on the Forest/

Military manoeuvres compensation negotiation

Mr. Sandford reported that the Chairman, Mr. Ridley and he met Colonel Grattan and the umpire on Wednesday last with reference to the claim for damage in connection with the recent military manoeuvres, that Mr. Ridley and he (Mr. Sandford) accompanied them over the Forest and that ultimately Colonel Grattan proposed to recommend payment of the Board's disbursements and 30 guineas to include the Arbitrators fee of £1.10.0, in lieu of £49.8.0. the amount claimed for damage.

On the proposal of Mr. Birch seconded by Mr. Nicholson it was resolved that the Clerk be authorised to accept the offer and that the thanks of the Board be accorded to the Chairman, Mr. Sandford and Mr. Ridley for their valuable services in bringing the negotiation to a satisfactory termination.

Elphinstone Barchard claim to rights admitted

Mr. Elphinstone Barchard then attended in support of his claim to Forest rights and tendered Mrs. Sophia Inns aged 75 years wife of John Inns who was brought up and resided close to Duddleswell nearly all her life and her evidence having been taken and considered by the Board it was resolved that Mr. Barchard had established his claim and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of 12 acres and he therefore paid the Forest rate in respect thereof.

Mrs. Sophia Inns claim to rights rejected

Mrs. Inns then claimed rights of common in respect of her property at Duddleswell but as it appeared on enquiry that the property as held of Lord De la Warr on a tenancy at will her claim would not be sustained.

Stephen Smith alleged encroachment

The Ranger drew attention to the alleged encroachment in front of Mr. Stephen Smith's holding at Crowborough belonging to Mr. William Taylor consisting of a coachhouse built on an enclosure stated to have been put up to protect an apple tree; the other a cartlodge which Mr. Smith alleged was an old erection. The ranger was directed to make further enquiries as to the length of time the two spots had been enclosed.

Sheep turned out

The attention of the Conservators having been drawn to the subject of sheep being illegally turned out on the Forest, the Clerk was directed to prepare a notice to be served on all persons who take in sheep to winter warning them that they would not be allowed to turn them on the Forest.

Bye Laws boards to be renewed

The Chairman was requested to undertake the duty of having the Bye Law Boards repaired or replaced in such positions as he may deem expedient.

County Council putting materials on Fords Green

The Clerk reported that he had written to Mr. Tucker, the District Surveyor to the County Council complaining of road materials having been deposited on Fords Green and he had promised to look into the matter.

James Smithers encroachment abated

The Ranger reported that James Smithers had thrown out his encroachment at Mardens Hill Crowborough and re-levelled the surface

Charles Tester and James Izzard encroachment abated

Also that Charles Tester of Brown's Brook and James Izzard of the nursery Nutley had thrown out their encroachments.

Dr. Griffin tent on Forest

Also that Dr. Griffin of Crowborough had erected a tent on the Forest near St. John's Church in which he had a patient. The Clerk was directed to write to him drawing his attention to the Bye Laws and requiring him to remove the tent.

James Morphew heath cutting

Also that on the 1st July he saw James Morphew of Nutley with several bundles of heath ready to cart away. It was resolved that the Clerk prosecute him.

John Ridley or Gurr Clay on Forest

Also that on the 29th June John Ridley or Gurr of the Goat had shot down about 40 or 50 loads of clay on the Forest near his house. It was resolved that the Clerk prosecute him.

Jabez Parris Mr. Holcombe George Brill John Friend taking litter

The Ranger reported that a quantity of boggy growth, that is, grass and rushes, had been cut on the Forest near Kidbrooke that from information received he saw Jabez Parris and William Holcombe both Tompsetts Bank on 19th June and both admitted they had had some cut.

Also that on 26th June he saw George Brill, Tompsetts Bank, and found him topping his stack with some of the litter.

Also that on the 3rd July he saw John Friend of Forest Row raking together some of the rushes and grass.

It was resolved that the Clerk prosecute Brill and that any of the other men whom the Ranger could ascertain had had any of the grass and rushes should also be prosecuted.

The Forest Row Committee then presented their report which was read and it was Resolved that the report be entered on the Minutes:-

The Forest Row Committee consisting of Mr. Birch, Mr. Du Croz, Mr. Hyde and Mr. Midgley met the Clerk and Ranger at Tompsetts Bank on Saturday the 10th June 1893 and report on the following encroachments and trespasses:-

Todman Encroach.

Todman – tenant of Isaac Waters has a chicken run which must be removed

Isaac Waters encroachment

Isaac Waters has 3 posts still standing outside his farm gate, the remains of an encroachment on which the Clerk reported on the 1st June 1889. These must be removed.

Mr. Wheatley trespass

Abraham Wheatley had 2 carts, the body of a chaise and some cordwood on the Forest outside his gate. These must be removed.

James Cook trespass

James Cook of Warren View has two litter stacks and a manure heap outside his gate. It is not clear whether manure has not been put up on the sport for very many years, but the litter stacks must be removed and he was so informed.

Mr. Walsham trespass

Mr. W. J. Walsham, in a hollow outside his premises some quantity of paper rubbish had been thrown contrary to the Bye Laws, which must be removed. He has also altered the boundary of his property on the north and west sides. On the north side there appears to have been no ditch outside his hedge but he has put a post and wire fence outside of it. On the west side there appears at sometime to have been a ditch which has been filled in; a barbed wire fence has been put all along this side on the outside edge of the former ditch and the space between the hedge and the fence has been planted with hollies etc. Outside the barbed wire fence a new ditch has been cut. With a view to avoid any dispute in the future the Clerk was directed to write to Mr. Walsham requiring a letter from him acknowledging that the wire fence is the extreme limit of his property and requesting him to fill up the ditch forthwith, but if Mr. Walsham desires to lay a drain pipe in the ditch before filling it up the Committee see no objection provided he acknowledges that the drain is laid in the open Forest by permission of the Conservators.

F.R. Lucas trespass

The Committee then inspected a pond on the open Forest near Mr. F.R. Lucas' property, which pond he has cleaned out and somewhat enlarged. They saw Mr. Lucas who stated that he had only done what he thought was beneficial to the Commoners and that he claimed no right whatever to the pond itself. The Committee were of opinion that if Mr. Lucas writes to the Clerk to that effect no further action need be taken in the matter.

Miles encroachment

George Miles of Pages Gill has a lodge and cart standing outside his boundary. These must be removed.

John Jones trespass

John Jones had 3 carts lying on the Forest which must be removed. It was also stated that he had horses turned out on the Forest. The Ranger is to enquire as to this.

Henry Budgeon encroachment

The Committee examined Henry (formerly erroneously described as William) Budgeon's encroachments. Those referred to in previous reports comprise a potato plot which appears to have been enclosed before the Regulation award was made, and as Budgeon was entitled to have purchased this enclosure the Committee do not see how they can now interfere with it.

The chicken house adjoining is now dilapidated and open to the road and the Common.

A wooden lodge about 6 ft x 8 ft near the Potato plot was, they are informed, placed there by him about 7 years ago when he ceased to be the tenant of Mr. Cook. Mr. Cook promised to ascertain and give the exact date, but is

unwilling as a neighbour to give evidence. If evidence can be obtained from anyone else to prove the date when the lodge was placed there Budgeon should be required to remove it and failing that should be prosecuted or the Conservators should take steps to remove it.

Budgeon has within the last few days built an enclosed lodge 4'6" x 5'6" on the Forest against the back of his pigstyes, so recently erected that the Committee could see through, the chicks the grass there growing on the ground. Steps should be taken to compel its removal.

Wm. Miles encroachment

William Miles has for several years had a wooden lodge near the Recreation Ground built on the site of an older lodge and this, it appears, cannot be interfered with, but within a few years past he has put up another lodge close by coloured red which must be removed.

Faggot Stacks

Faggot stacks A number of faggot stacks are placed about the Forest and in many cases some distance from the cottages of those persons who own them. They take up space and disfigure the Forest. The Ranger was directed to procure a list of these stacks. The Committee are strongly of opinion that no one should be allowed to have a faggot stack on the Forest unless they either obtain a licence from the Conservators or give a written undertaking to remove it when required and that authorised faggot stacks should be placed as close as applicable to their owners boundary and not where they disfigure the Forest.

Philpotts

Philpotts chicken run is still in existence. Mrs. Cook – Philpott's Landlord - stated that she is taking proceedings in the County Court to obtain possession of her property and will then at once have the chicken run removed.

R.W. Peregrine Birch

Fredr. A. Du Croz

Thomas Hyde

Llewellyn Midgley

Todman Chicken Run

It was resolved that Todman have notice to remove his chicken run failing which the Ranger to remove it.

Isaac Waters Posts

That Isaac Waters have notice to remove the three posts failing which they be removed.

James Cook Stacks

That the Ranger ascertain before next Meeting whether James Cook had removed his stack.

Mr. Walsham fill up ditch

That the Clerk call upon Mr. Walsham to fill in the ditch cut on the Forest outside the South Western boundary of his property and properly level the surface.

Mr. Nicholson on behalf of the Lord objected to his being permitted to lay any drain pipe in the ditch before filling it up.

Mr. F.R. Lucas disclaims right on pond

The Clerk had a letter from Mr. F.R. Lucas stating that he cleaned out the pond near his property on account of its dirty condition but that it did not adjoin his boundary and that he claimed no right over it.

George Miles remove his lodge & carts

The Ranger was directed to serve notice on George Miles to remove his lodge and carts and on John Jones to remove his carts from the Forest

It was resolved to postpone the consideration of Budgeon's case till next Meeting.

List of Faggot Stacks

The Ranger produced a list of faggot stacks on the Forest at Tompsetts Bank.

******* of licence**

It was Resolved that the Clerk prepare a licence to cottages to place a faggot stack on a defined spot.

Philpotts chicken run

The Ranger was directed to report before next Meeting whether Philpotts chicken run had been removed.

It was resolved that the next Meeting take place on the 19th August at 11:15.

Cheques

It was Resolved that cheques be drawn:

For the Ranger 9 weeks salary	
and house rent to 17th inst. -	£11:5:0
E. Stanford map for Board room	£2:10:6

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 19th August 1893 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. C. W. Bell
Mr. W. Carr
Mr. J. Colgate
Mr. Thomas Hyde
Mr. E. A. Nicholson
Mr. J. Ridley
Mr. M. Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read & confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance at the Bank was £165:12:2 and that he was in hand £30:4:9.

Military manoeuvre compensation not paid

Also that he had not yet received the compensation from the Military Authority.

Sheep grazing

That he had sent a notice to ten farmers round the Forest who, it was stated to him, were making a practice of taking in sheep to winter and turning them out on the Forest warning them such a practice is illegal and that any person found transgressing would be prosecuted.

On the proposition of Mr. Bell it was resolved that the Clerk notify through the press that sheep are not commonable on the Forest & that to avoid inconvenience the Conservators will feel bound to prevent sheep grazing on the Forest after the 31st December next.

Fords Green County Council claim as to **road

Also that with reference to the road materials laid on Fords Green the County Clerk claimed the rights within 25 feet of the centre of the hard road and the Clerk advised that such claim was correct.

John Mepham Thomas Homewood injunctions granted.

Also that on Wednesday last at the East Grinstead County Court the Clerk obtained injunctions against John Mepham & Thomas Homewood requiring them to throw out their respective encroachments at Crowborough within 14 days and prohibiting them from renewing them, and the Defendants were ordered to pay the costs in each case, and that in the case of Homewood the old boundary of his property having been destroyed and its position being uncertain the encroachment had been treated by agreement as of an uniform depth of 12 feet.

Dr. Griffin Tent removed

The Clerk reported that Dr. Griffin had removed the tent he had placed on the Forest at Crowborough and read the correspondence which had passed.

W. J. Walsham Acknowledgement

A letter was read from Mr. W.J. Walsham stating that the wire fence on the N.W. side or front of his house was only put up to prevent cattle destroying the hedge and admitting that it was the extreme outside boundary of his property.

And that in accordance with the Board's requirement he had ordered the ditch made outside his South-West boundary to be filled up.

Mr. Albert Turner claim to rights admitted

Mr. Albert Turner then withdrew the Chair while the Board considered his claim to Forest rights in respect of the following properties:

5-2-13

Land containing 5A. 2R. 13P with two houses thereon late Cameron called the Nursery Ground situate opposite his house in Nutley comprising two grants by the Lord of the Manor of Duddleswell made in 1792 & 1793.

3-0-0

A cottage and half an acre of land late Standen's and 2½ acres of land late waste of the Forest also late Standen's, both properties situate at Dodds Bottom near Horney Common and formerly copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell.

1-0-0

One acre of land near Sweet Minepits near Nutley late James Wood's and copyhold of the same Manor.

0-1-0

One rood of land with a house and Smith's Forge late Jenner's copyhold of the same Manor and near the Nutley Inn.

About a quarter of an acre of land with a cottage in two tenements lying at Nutley Green adjoining a house formerly called the Bell and abutting to the Highroad to the North copyhold of the Manor of Maresfield.

4-0-29

Land containing 4A. 0R. 29P. called Salley's Field late Wilders and formerly waste of the Manor of Duddleswell.

1-2-0

A cottage and 1 ½ acres of land on the North West side of Fords, Green late James Turner's No. 850 in the Tithe Map of Maresfield Parish and copyhold of the same Manor.

A cottage and about 2 acres of land at Dodds Bottom Late James Farmers.

A piece of freehold land containing about two acres of Nutley late part of Masketts and No. 961 on the Ordnance Map.

The evidence of user having been enquired into, it was proposed by Mr. Colgate seconded by Mr. Carr and resolved that Mr. Albert Turner's claim to Forest rights in respect of the above properties be admitted and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof.

Mr. Turner claimed in respect of other properties but could not establish 60 years user in respect thereof.

Mr. Turner resumed the Chair.

Mr. Inns claim to rights admitted

The Clerk then reported that he had inspected the title deeds of Mr. Alfred George Inns whose claim to Forest rights had been adjourned for the purpose, that his title to a messuage and 4 acres of land in the parish of Maresfield late Chapmans copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell would, support the user but that two other properties for which he claimed were granted in recent years. It was resolved that his claim be admitted in respect of the messuage and 4 acres and his name inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof.

Lady Shelley's claim To Forest rights admitted

Lady Shelley claimed Forest rights in respect of the following properties, viz,

	Tenants	Area		
		A	R	P
Spring Garden Farm	James Hobbs	57	1	36
Whitehouse	W. Osborne	32	0	0
Hole	B. Pendfold	61	0	0
Putlands	Mrs. Waters	38	1	0
ditto	Mrs. Wickens	5	1	0
Boring Wheel Mill	Messrs. Harris & Carr	14	0	0
		207	3	36

The evidence of user having been considered it was proposed by Mr. Turner seconded by Mr. Bell and Resolved that the claim be admitted and that her Ladyship's name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof.

Isaac Waters Posts

It was Resolved that the Ranger remove the four posts which Mr. Isaac Waters put on the Forest.

James Cook, Litter Stack

Also that he serve notice on James Cook to remove his litter stack failing which Mr. Cook to be prosecuted.

Mr. Wheatley's carts etc.

The like with regard to Abraham Wheatley's etc..

George Miles, Lodge & cart

George Miles of Pages Gill not having removed the lodge and cart it was resolved that he be prosecuted.

Henry Budgeon encroachment prosecute

Also that Henry Budgeon be prosecuted in respect of his various encroachments if the Clerk is satisfied they are within the jurisdiction of the Board.

William Miles fowl houses prosecute

William Miles of Tompsetts Bank having neglected to remove the two fowlhouses on the Forest it was resolved that he be prosecuted.

George Brill, Jabez Parris, William Holcombe, John Friend prosecute

In the cases of George Brill, Jabez Parris, William Holcombe and John Friend, these being the first offences, it was resolved that the Clerk be authorised not to prosecute such of them as would write acknowledging the unlawfulness of the act and undertaking not to offend again.

Andrew Wheatley Prosecute

The Ranger having reported that Andrew Wheatley had cut turf in the Forest near Mr. Walsham's property at Tompsetts Bank it was resolved that he be prosecuted.

William Heasman of Grabbs Farm, Sam Heasman of Hoadleys Farm Taking Litter De la Warr tents prove user

The Ranger having reported that two of Lord De la Warr's tenants namely William Heasman of Grabbs Farm, Withyham, and Samuel Heasman of Hoadleys Farm, Crowborough, had been taking brakes from the Forest it was resolved that the Clerk call upon them to furnish evidence of user on their Farm according to the judgement in Hale V. De la Warr.

Jas. Chatfield Thomas Vineall Edmund Pope taking breaks enquire as to user

The Ranger having reported that John Chatfield of Old Workhouse Farm, Fairwarp, Thomas Vineall of Crowborough Gate and Edmond Pope of the Crow and Gate had been taking brakes from the Forest it was resolved that the Clerk enquire of them whether they were in a position to show 60 years user in respect of the land they occupy.

Thomas Divall Taking Brakes enquire

The Ranger having reported that Thomas Divall of Jumpers Town Chuck Hatch, tenant of Mr. William Bellingham of Newbridge had been cutting brakes at Kids Hill it was resolved that the Clerk make a similar enquiry of Mr. Bellingham.

George Philcox Taking Brakes enquire

The like Mr. Geo: Philcox of Newbridge, whose sons had been cutting brakes

Geo: Histed Tent

The Ranger having reported that Mr. George Histed of the Brambletye Castle Hotel erected a tent near the Rifle Range at Pages Gill on the 5th August, the Clerk was directed to warn him that if he should repeat the offence he would be prosecuted.

Alfred Oakley's Lodgers Golfing

Persons lodging in the house of Alfred Oakley, near Wych Cross, having been reported as using the Forest for the purposes of golf, the Clerk was directed to write to him cautioning him that such acts could not be done without due authority.

Alfred Oakley, George Britt, Richard Leppard Warning not to turn out

The Clerk was also directed to write to the said Alfred Oakley and to George Britt and Richard Leppard, also near Wych Cross, warning them in case their cattle were found on the Forest they would be prosecuted.

George Box, Caesar Bennett Cutting Brake acknowledgement or prosecution.

It was Resolved that George Box and Caesar Bennett, who had been found cutting brakes on the Forest, be called on to write acknowledging the unlawfulness of their act and promising not to repeat it, failing which the Clerk to prosecute them.

Wood & Son cutting brakes Warn

Messrs of Wood & son of Woodlands Nursery having employed a considerable number of men cutting brakes on the Forest the Clerk was directed to write to them cautioning them that brakes could only be used for manuring the land entitled to rights and not for the purposed of trade.

William Sweetman, Stephen Smith, Harry King, cutting brakes for sale prosecute

William Sweetman and Stephen Smith both of Horney Common and Harry King of Nutley having been found cutting brakes for sale the Clerk was directed to prosecute them.

It was Resolved that the next Meeting of the Conservators be held on Saturday, the 30th September at 11 a.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 30th day of September 1893 at 11 a.m.

Present :-

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair

Mr. C.W. Bell

Mr. R.W.P. Birch

Mr. William Carr

Mr. Thomas Colgate

Mr. I.F. Hope

Mr. Ll. Midgley

Mr. E.A. Nicholson

Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance at the Bank was £ 241:5:11 and of rates collected but not yet paid in £ 24:6:6.

War Department compensation paid

Also that since the last Meeting he had received the compensation from the War Department amounting to £ 44:14:6, and paid it into the Bank.

John Mephram, Thomas Homewood costs paid

That John Mephram and Thomas Homewood against whose encroachments injunctions were recently granted had paid the taxed costs into Court.

Geo. Miles convicted

That at the East Grinstead Bench held on the 4th inst. George Miles was convicted of a breach of Byelaw 3 and fined 1/-, the Bench remitting the costs.

Henry Budgen case adjourned

Henry Budgen was prosecuted for a breach of the same byelaw in respect of the hut he recently erected at Tompsetts Bank and for suffering to remain the wooden hut chicken house and triangular enclosure in the fork of the road, that the Bench having intimated that they would convict, they at the Clerk's suggestion adjourned the case till the next Court stating that if the things were removed in the meantime they would impose only a nominal fine and costs, but that if he neglected to comply he would be fined more heavily.

William Miles convicted

That William Miles was convicted of a breach of the same byelaw in respect of two fowl houses and was fined 5/- & costs.

John Ridley or Gurr convicted

That John Ridley or Gurr was convicted of a breach of Byelaw 15 in depositing clay on the Forest and was fined 5/- & costs.

Andrew Wheatley convicted

That Andrew Wheatley of Coleman's Hatch was convicted of a breach of Byelaw 8 for cutting turf for George Mitchell of Forest Row and fined 5/-. The Bench intimated that in their opinion Mr. Mitchell should be prosecuted.

Geo. Brill, William Holcombe submitted

That George Brill and William Holcombe had written acknowledging that they had done wrong in cutting rushes as previously reported and promising not to repeat it.

It was resolved that as Andrew Wheatley had been prosecuted for cutting turf, the Board were of opinion that this would be a sufficient warning without punishing Mr. Mitchell.

Caesar Bennett submitted

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Caesar Bennett acknowledging that he had no right to cut brakes.

Isaac Waters posts removed

The Ranger reported that he had removed Isaac Waters' posts.

Messrs. Wood brakes

A letter was read from Messrs. William Wood & Son stating that the brakes they had cut on the Forest were used for manuring their land and that the brakes they used for packing they purchased at Old Lodge and Pippingford.

The Clerk reported that of the 5 prosecutions at the last Uckfield Bench.

Geo. Farmer case dismissed

The summons against George Farmer of Cackle Street was dismissed as he produced an authority from Isaac Appleby occupier of land entitled to rights, though Farmer had made a different statement to the Ranger.

Henry King not served

The summons against Henry King of Nutley who had cut for Mrs. Wickham was not proceeded with as the Police had failed to effect service.

Geo. Chatfield adjourned

George Chatfield of Dodds Bank alleged he was employed by Mr. Horace Payne Blacksmith of Nutley who occupied land entitled to rights, though he had given a different account to the Ranger and the case was adjourned for Defendant to bring Mr. Payne as a witness.

Stephen Smith, William Sweetman convicted

Stephen Smith and William Sweetman both of Horney Common were convicted of unlawfully cutting brakes and sent to prison for 3 days each having refused to pay, Smith 2/- fine & 2/6 costs, and Sweetman 2/- fine. The Bench remitted the costs of prosecution in each case.

Duddleswell New Road

Mr. Elphinstone Barchard attended on behalf of the Committee engaged in promoting the metalling of the road from Duddleswell to Pound Gate and stated that the Committee had now collected nearly the whole of the estimated cost of the work, that the Buxted Vestry had passed a resolution agreeing to take over the road as soon as it was properly metalled to the uniform width of 15 feet and that Earl de la Warr as owner of the soil had given his consent and had also authorised the Committee to take stone for the road from the Forest.

It was proposed by Mr. Bell seconded by Mr. Birch and unanimously resolved that the Committee be authorised to proceed with the work and that so far as this Board was concerned the Committee might excavate the stone where requisite on condition that they protect the excavations and afterwards fill up and level the same.

Grubbs Farm & Hoadley Farm Withyham Earl De la Warr's Tenants prove 60 years user –

Evidence was then taken as to the right of Samuel Heasman occupier of Hoadley Farm Withyham and William Heasman occupier of Grubbs Farm Withyham to take brakes and litter by reason of user under the terms of the judgement in Hale v De la Warr.

Mr. George Taylor of Crowborough, Charcoal Burner, stated he had known Hoadley Farm at Withyham all his life. His father took the Farm when he was 11 years of age, and remained about 25 years there; it was then 20 acres in extent. His father had litter from the Forest all the time and witness cut for him. Another 10 acres adjoining also belonging to the Dorset family called Inholmes now part of the Farm was then occupied by Francis Box, who exercised Forest rights in respect thereof, and both properties had to the witness knowledge exercised rights on the Forest down to the present time. Mr. Samuel Heasman is the present tenant under Earl De la Warr of the 20 and 10 acres.

Grubbs Farm about 50 acres belonged when witness was a boy to Mr. Chappel and it was farmed by a bailiff. It was sold to Earl De la Warr about 50 years ago. Before that time he remembers that the Farm used Forest litter

George Neve aged 81 stated he was born and lived all his life close to the Forest at Withyham and was acquainted as a boy with Abraham Hall the tenant of the Farm whose son and he went to School together and were great friends and he knew that the successive occupiers of the Farm down to the present time had litter and brakes from the Forest.

It was proposed by Mr. M. Sandford seconded by Mr. Birch and Resolved that the user in respect of those two Farms had been established to the satisfaction of the Board.

Mrs. Mary Diplock's Claim to Forest Rights for Crow & Gate Allowed:

Mrs. Mary Diplock of Hope Farm Ightham near Sevenoaks owner of the Crow and Gate Public house and 15 acres of land adjoining attended and claimed Forest rights for the same; she stated that the principal part is Copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell and about a quarter of an acre was held of the Manor of Framfield.

Charles Tester of Browns Brook stated he was aged over 80 and had lived at Duddleswell and Browns Brook all his life - when he was a boy the tenant of the property was named Powell who was succeeded by his son and grandson. One Winter then became tenant, then his daughter Mrs. Duval and now Pope. He remembered that all the Powells and Winter had Forest litter and turned out their stock on the Forest.

Spencer Tester of Browns Brooks stated he remembered the property over 60 years and confirmed previous witness.

Mrs. Duval formerly Charlotte Winter stated she came to the house with her father over 50 years ago; after her father's death the property was sold to Mrs. Diplock and Mrs. Duval continued tenant – till about 15 years ago. All her father's and her time he and she turned out stock on the Forest and had Forest litter without interruption.

Edmund Pope the present tenant for 2 years proved similar during his time.

It was resolved that Mrs. Diplock had established her claim respect of the House and 15 acres held of Duddleswell only and that her name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon she paid the current rate.

Spencer Wickens Claims to Forest Rights for Several Properties Allowed

Mr. Spencer Wickens of Chelwood Common attended and claimed Forest rights in respect of:-

Upper Stone House and 5 acres of land situate at Chelwood Common and copyhold of the Manor of Horsted Keynes, Broadhurst. He purchased it in 1880 and it is occupied with 5 acres of modern enclosure by Spencer Wickens junior.

A house and 3 acres of land situate opposite the Coach & Horses at Chelwood Common Copyhold of the same Manor and called Pollards. Claimant purchased it in 1879 and now occupies it.

Four acres of land late Wheeler's situate on Chelwood, 2 acres whereof are near a Copyhold called Aggins Crops, formerly George Jarrett's, and the other 2 acres adjoin a property formerly Thomas Barrett's. The whole are numbered 247, 248, 249, 278 & 279 in the Parish Map, are copyhold of the same Manor, paying a quit rent of 8/, and are in the occupation of Dr. J.B. Flanagan.

A cottage in two tenements and half an acre of land at Chelwood Common and numbered 227 & 228 in the Parish Map, formerly Browning's Copyhold of the same Manor paying a quit rent of 2/6.

Two acres of land formerly waste with two Cottages at Chelwood Common, formerly Friends, Copyhold of the same Manor and paying a quit rent of 4/-.

The documents of title having been produced and George Baker of Chelwood Common aged 82 having given evidence of over 60 years user in respect of all these properties.

It was resolved that Mr. Wickens had established his claim in respect of the several properties and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof, and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

J.H. Wickens claim to Forest rights for certain properties allowed

J.H. Wickens of Dane Hill attended and claimed Forest rights in respect of:-

Lower Stone house and 11 acres of land near the Coach and Horses at Chelwood Commons formerly Copyhold of the Manor of Horsted Keynes, Broadhurst

A cottage and 3a. 2r. 8p. of land called Holly Cottage, otherwise Yew Tree Farm situate at Chelwood Common, also formerly Copyhold of the same Manor.

The documents of title having been produced and the same George Baker having given evidence of user extending over 60 years.

It was resolved that Mr. J. H. Wickens had established his claim in respect of both properties and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

Owen Shoebridge Claim to Rights Allowed

Mr. Owen Shoebridge of Crackle Street attended and claimed forest rights in respect of a double dwellinghouse and 3a. 1r. 10p. of freehold land at Cackle Street Maresfield, formerly Thomas Richardson's and late Sophia Shoebridge's.

The documents of title having been produced and William Russell living near Oldlands Gate and aged 86 having given evidence of user extending back over 60 years-

It was resolved that Mr. Shoebridge had established his claim and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the property, and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

George Philcox Claim to Rights Adjourned

Mr. George Philcox of Newbridge Hartfield attended and claimed Forest rights in respect of his property at Newbridge in his own occupation; and evidence of user for over 60 years was given by Abel Elliott of Hartfield aged 80.

It was resolved that the evidence was satisfactory, but that the claim be adjourned till Mr. Philcox should produce his deeds to show the extent of the property and whether the title was sufficient to support the user.

Sylvanus Ridley Claim to Rights Allowed

Sylvanus Ridley of Forest Farm, Dane Hill attended and claimed Forest rights in respect of a house about 3½ acres of land near the Old Duddleswell Turnpike Gate bounded on all sides by the Forest except where it joined a small plot of land belonging to Mrs. Inns.

The documents of title having been produced and Mr. Charles Tester of Browns Brook and another having given evidence of user extending over 60 years.

It was resolved that Mr. Ridley had established his claim and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the property and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

Sylvanus Ridley alleged encroachment Committee appointed to view

The Ranger having reported that he thought Mr. Sylvanus Ridley had made a small encroachment on the frontage of this property.

It was resolved that Messrs Hope, Sandford, and Turner be requested to view the spot with the Ranger and report to the next Meeting.

Thomas Vineall claim to rights disallowed

Mr. Thomas Vineall of Crowborough Gate attended to claim Forest rights in respect of his property there; but on his documents of title being examined, it was found that the claim could not be sustained. As he had cut brakes under the erroneous belief that he had a right; the Board at his request promised not to prosecute, and he was advised to apply in future to the Ranger for a licence.

Thomas and James Page claim to rights for Old Workhouse Farm adjourned

Mr. Thomas Page of Fairwarp attended on behalf of himself and his brother James Page claim Forest rights in respect of the Old Workhouse Farm comprising 10 acres near Fairwarp. The Board were satisfied as to the user but the further consideration of the claim was adjourned for production of the title deeds.

George Box claim to rights allowed

Mr. George Box of Chelwood Common attended to claim Forest rights in respect of a Cottage and 2a.3r.26p. of land at Chelwood being Lot 15 at the auction of the late Mr. Chatterton's Estate.

Evidence having been gone into –

It was resolved that Mr. Box had established his claim in respect of the Cottage and 2a.3r.0p of land (the remainder being an allotment or enclosure in respect of which the claim could not be sustained) and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

Henry Walter claim to rights adjourned

Henry Walter of Brown's Brook attended and claimed Forest rights in respect of his Cottage and about 3 acres of land at Brown's Brook Henry Scott aged 88 having satisfied the Board as to the user the claim was adjourned for production of the title deeds.

Mrs. Wickham claim to rights disallowed

Mr. Daniel Ridley attended on behalf of Mrs. Wickham to claim Forest rights in respect of her property at Nutley, but the title deeds having been examined it was found that it consisted of two grants made in the year 1847 and that 60 years user could not therefore be established.

George F. Attree alleged encroachment Committee to view

A complaint having been made that Mr. George F. Attree of Brighton in fencing the stone quarry on the South-West side of the road leading from Forest Row to Wych Cross had enclosed more land than was necessary, Messrs. Bell and Birch were requested to view the spot and report thereupon.

Cheques

It was Resolved that cheques be drawn as follows:-

Mr. Thomas Colgate fee as Umpire as to damage caused by the military manoeuvres, which fee was paid by War Department - £ 1:10:0

Messrs. Powell & Co. Charges re evidence as to encroachments at Crowborough by Mepham and Homewood	£5:6:0
Samuel Soper – 11 week's salary and house rent as Ranger to 2nd October	£13:15:0

It was resolved that the next Meeting of the Board be held on Saturday the 4th November next at 11 a.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 4th day of November, 1893 at 11 a.m.

Present –

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. R.W.P. Birch.
Mr. W. Carr
Mr. I.F. Hope
Mr. Ll. Midgley
Mr. J. Ridley
Mr. M. Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance at the Bank was £ 246:15:0 and the Clerk had £ 4: 2: 4½ in hand on account of the last rate.

Henry Budgen trespass

Also that Henry Budgen had removed the encroachments complained of and the Bench had ordered him to pay 11/- costs.

William Miles encroachment

Also that William Miles had removed the two Fowlhouses at Tompsett's Bank

Ridley or Gurr trespass

And John Ridley or Gurr had removed the clay referred to at the last Meeting

Henry King summons

Also that Henry King having submitted and paid the costs, the summons against him.

Geo. Chatfield summons

Also that George Chatfield's defence having been found to be correct the Clerk had withdrawn the summons against him.

Also that Lord De la Warr's Agent Mr. Parris had undertaken to see to the repair of the gates at High Beeches

Sylvanus Ridley encroachment

The Committee appointed at the last Meeting to view the encroachments of Sylvanus Ridley reported that they had examined the spot and found a small encroachment which they had directed Mr. Ridley to throw out. The Ranger reported that Mr. Ridley had since complied

Attree's Quarry Wych Cross encroachment

The Committee appointed at the last Meeting to view the fence put up by Mr. Attree round the quarry near Wych Crop reported that they had inspected the fence in question and though he had enclosed more land than was

necessary he had put up a thoroughly substantial fence and they die not think it necessary to require him to put it back

It was resolved that the report be adopted and confirmed

A. Dadswell encroachment

It was resolved that Mr. William Carr be requested to view with the Ranger and make enquiry as to Mr. Alfred Dadswell's alleged encroachment and report to the Clerk.

Thomas & James Page claim admitted

Mr. Thomas Page attended with reference to his claim to rights in respect of the Old Work house Farm – and having evidence as to the title.

It was resolved that the Messrs. Thomas & James Page had satisfied this Board as to the Title, and had established their claim and that their names be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the property and they thereupon paid the current rate for the same

F.W. Whitewood claim admitted

Frederick William Whitewood of Nutley Grocer attended to claim Forest rights in respect of the copyhold House Shop & 2 acres of land which he occupies in Nutley Street, part of the property late Wilden's formerly waste of the Manor of Duddleswell, the title to which was produced by Mr. Albert Turner. Evidence of user having been given.

It was resolved that Mr. Whitewood had established his claim, and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the property and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

John Bennett of Lisburn claim of rights allowed admitted

John Bennett of Lisburn near Nutley attended to claim rights in respect of his 3 houses & 24 acres of land, copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell, formerly John Jarratt's, afterwards his daughter Alice Rachel Jarratt's, the claimant's wife, who left it to him, formerly known as Misbourn's & Billings and then commonly called Lisburn. The claim having been investigated.

It was resolved that Mr. John Bennett had established his claim and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the property, but that as regards 2½ acres of more recent enclosure adjoining the 24 acres, no evidence had been produced and he was cautioned that he could not exercise rights in respect thereof.

Alfred Walter Fairwarp claim to rights adjourned

Alfred Walter of Fairwarp Labourer attended to claim rights in respect of 2 Cottages and 4 acres of land called Marlpits at Fairwarp as his own occupation- Albert Winn being the occupier of the second cottage. He was born on the property 65 years ago, and has lived there all his life, except for 7 or 8 years in his youth. When he was a boy, his father kept a team. During the whole time he lived there, then always had Forest litter and used to turn out the stock. Henry Scott, born 1804, who had lived at Fairwarp and known the property in question all his life gave evidence of user –

It was resolved that the Board was satisfied as to the user, but the claim was adjourned for production of the title deeds.

Humphrey Gasson senior claim admitted

Humphrey Gasson senior of Chelwood Common attended to claim Forest rights in respect of a House & 3½ acres of land at Chelwood Common, Copyhold of the Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst, and abutting to the road from Danehill Tanyard to Nutley on the west and to another road on the South side. He produced his documents showing that the property was copyhold in 1827 having been granted in 1798.

John Wheeler of Chelwood Common aged 75 gave evidence as to user extending over 60 years –

It was resolved the Mr. Gasson had established his claim, and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the property and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

Matthias Baker claim admitted

Matthias Baker of Chelwood Common (by his friend Mr. Humphrey Gasson) claimed rights in respect of 2 acres of copyhold land adjoining Humphrey Gasson's property above described and formerly part of the same tenement – Mr. John Wheeler having given evidence of user for over 60 years last past.

It was resolved that Mr. Matthias Baker had established his claim, and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the property, and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

Elias Turner claim allowed

Elias Turner, of Chelwood Common, attended to claim Forest rights in respect of a Cottage and 3½ acres of land called "Square Hall" at Chelwood Common formerly Gillhams and Copyhold of the Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst and then in the occupation of Luther Cord & Edward Lexey .

Also a Cottage & ¼ acre of land also situate at Chelwood Common known as "Yew Tree Cottage", copyhold of the same Manor formerly Maynard's late Goldsmark, and in the occupation of Trayton Turner.

Also a House, Shop, & 3½ acres of land at Chelwood Common, called "Stone ****" held freely of the same Manor and formerly Frederick Martin's – now in the occupation of George Vincent Masters.

Mr. John Wheeler having given evidence of user for over 60 years –

It was Resolved that Mr. Turner had established his claim and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the 3 properties and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same. He was cautioned that the piece of land containing 1a. 1r. 8p., being the frontage to "Square Hall", was not entitled to rights having been enclosure No. 82 under the enclosure award of the waste lands of the Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst.

John Wheeler claim admitted

John Wheeler of Chelwood Common, Farmer, also attended to claim rights in respect of a Messuage & 16 acres of land at Chelwood Common called "Aggens Croft or Coppice", Copyhold of the Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst in his own occupation.

Also 2½ acres adjoining, also Copyhold of the same Manor and in the occupation of Walter Coppard – Both properties formerly Richard Trill's – afterwards Charles Wheeler's, the claimant's father –

The documents showed that the property was copyhold in 1796 -.

George Baker of Chelwood Common aged 82, who had lived there all his life proved user for over 60 years last past –

It was resolved that Mr. Wheeler had established his claim, and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof, and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

Charles Wheeler claim admitted

Charles Wheeler of Chelwood Common, son of the preceding claimant, attended to claim rights in respect of a Cottage & 2½ acres of land [formerly part of the same tenement as the 2½ acres for which his father claimed] being Copyhold of the Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst and in his own occupation. The documents of title having been produced, and the same George Baker having given evidence of user for 60 years last past

It was resolved that Mr. Charles Wheeler had established his claim, and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the property, and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

Wickens claim admitted

Simeon Wickens as of Chelwood Common, Corn Dealer (by his nephew James Henry Wickens) attended to claim rights in respect of

A Cottage in two tenements, Warehouse & land containing 1a 1r 11p at Chelwood Common, Copyhold of the Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst as far back as 1822, formerly Henry White's and now in claimant's occupation –

Also two messuages each in two tenements with 2a. 3r. 31p. of land at Chelwood Common abutting to the road from Danehill to Nutley on the South West, formerly William Wheeler's and before Welfare's – Copyhold of the same Manor as far back as 1831.

Also a messuage in two tenements with a field called "Lower Field" containing altogether about 2½ acres, also at Chelwood Common, late Richard Clay's – Copyhold of the same Manor, and granted in 1769.

Also a house and land containing together 5a. 1r. 4p. called "Yew Tree Farm", near Coleman's Hatch, Hartfield, formerly Abraham Elliott's, and late Able Elliott's and formerly Copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell (as far back as 1753] but now freehold.

George Edwards of Coleman's Hatch having proved user for over 60 years last past in respect of the Yew Tree Farm and the before – named George Baker in respect of the 3 lots at Chelwood Common.

It was resolved that Mr. Wickens had established his claim, and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the four properties, and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

James Manners claim admitted.

James Manners of Chelwood Common, Farmer, attended to claim rights in respect of a House & 4 acres of land at Chelwood Common called "Bank Side", Copyhold of the said Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst before 1832. Evidence having been given by the claimant, and by the before named George Baker of user for over 60 years last past.

It was Resolved that Mr. Manners had established his claim, and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the property, and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

William Baker claim adjourned

William Baker of Chelwood Common attended to claim rights in respect of a house & 2 acres of land called "Cronkeys Castle", formerly White's, Copyhold of the Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst – Evidence of user for over 60 years last past having been given to the satisfaction of the Board but not as to the title.

It was resolved that, in the event of Mr. Nicholson certifying that the title would sustain the claim, Mr. Baker's name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof.

Thomas Shoebridge claim admitted

Thomas Shoebridge of Nutley attended to claim rights in respect of a Meadow, called "Frogs Wold", at Nutley, containing 2½ acres of land, Copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell, formerly Henry Ridley's:- The documents of title having been produced and Mr. William Carr having proved user for over 60 years last past,

It was resolved that Mr. Shoebridge had established his claim, and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the property, and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

William Martin claim part admitted

William Martin of the Coach & Horses, Chelwood Common attended to claim rights in respect of the Coach & Horses, buildings and land containing 3½ acres at Chelwood Common, Copyhold of the Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst, and he produced the deeds thereof.

Also 4 acres of land adjoining, Copyhold of the same Manor which claimant has recently purchased from Humphrey Streeter. Evidence having been given by the same George Baker of user for over 60 years,

It was resolved that (subject as regards the second-named property to the documents of title supporting the claim) he had established his claim, and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof.

Thomas D. Wood claim adjourned

Thomas Daynes Wood of The Hollies, Bennett Park, Blackheath (by his tenant Thomas Bennett) attended and claimed rights in respect of House & land containing 5¾ acres, called "Little Eggeins Farm" at Chelwood Common. Bennett has been on the property 23 years.

He also claimed for a House & 16 acres of land, called "Great Eggeins" at Chelwood Common; the same George Baker proved user for over 60 years last past –

It was resolved that the user had been satisfactorily proved, but the claim was adjourned for evidence as to the title.

W.A. Hounsom claim adjourned

William Allin Hounsom of New Church Road Brighton (represented by Mr. Charles Sharp Wood of Chelwood Common) claimed rights in respect of "Allens Farm", comprising a house & 25 acres of land at Chelwood Common, which Mr. Wood had occupied for 25 years last past, and during the whole of which time he stated he had exercised rights on the Forest in respect thereof.

The same George Baker carried back the user for over 60 years last past.

It was resolved that the Board was satisfied as to the user, and the claim was adjourned for evidence as to the title.

Mrs. M.R. Bennett claim adjourned

Mrs. Mary Randall Bennett (nee Wood) wife of Mr. Walter Bennett of 49 Wellesley Road Croydon (represented by Mr. Charles Sharp Wood) claimed rights in respect of "Greenfield Farm", comprising a house & 24 acres of land at Chelwood Common also occupied by Mr. Wood for 20 years last past.

Also for a Cottage & 2 acres of land adjoining Greenfield Farm also belonging to Mrs. Bennett and occupied by Thomas ****

Mr. Wood stated that he had exercised rights on the Forest in respect of Greenfield Farm during the whole of the 20 years he had occupied it; and the same George Baker carried back the user for over 60 years last past.

It was resolved that the Board was satisfied as to the use and the claim was adjourned for evidence as to the title.

Jesse Tomsett claim admitted

Jesse Tomsett of Chelwood Common attended to claim rights for a House & 3 acres of land, called "Stone House", Copyhold of the Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst, formerly part of a tenement late Clay's granted in 1769, for the rear of which tenement Mr. Simeon Wickens had established rights; evidence of user having been given and the documents of title produced.

It was resolved that Mr. Tomsett had established his claim and that his name be entered in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

Richard Box claim adjourned

Richard Box of the King's Head, Broadway, Stratford (represented by George Box junior of Sutton's, Stumblewood Common) attended to claim rights in respect of a House & 5a.2r.32p. of land at Stumblewood Common in the Parish of Maresfield.

John Gruder aged 78 living by Chelwood Gate off and on for over 60 years last past gave evidence of user extending over the whole period.

It was resolved that the user was established, and the claim was adjourned for evidence as to the title.

William Adams claim adjourned

William Adams of Newbridge, Hartfield, Shopkeeper attended to claim rights in respect of a House in 3 tenements, Shop & 2 acres of land at Newbridge, known as Moss Cottage, Copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell, late J.N.L. Hickford's, paying a quit rent of 2/6 fine and hereof each of 2/6 certain. The claimant had lived on the property as tenant 15 years and since as owner 5 years, and stated he had during the whole of that period exercised rights on the Forest.

Mrs. Jane Young (nee Sippetts) aged 69 years stated she was born in the house, and had lived in the immediate neighbourhood of it all her life, and gave evidence of user for over 60 years last past.

It was resolved that the evidence of user was sufficient and that, subject to the Clerk being satisfied as to the title, Mr. Adams be placed on Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof.

James Carr claim adjourned

James Carr of Dodds Bank, Nutley, Labourer, attended to claim Forest rights in respect of his house & 1 acre of land in his own occupation at Dodds Bank –

This claim was adjourned for enquiry.

William Taylor claim adjourned

William Taylor of Netherfield, Battle (by James Taylor his son) attended to claim rights for his House, Shop & 2 acres of land on Marden's Hill, Withyham. George Taylor aged 81, who had lived in the immediate neighbourhood all his life, proved user for over 70 years last past –

It was resolved that the user was established, and the claim was adjourned for evidence as to the title.

The same William Taylor also claimed for a House & 1 acre of land called Wren's Leg on Mardens Hill in the occupation of Stephen Smith - Copyhold – taken in 70 years ago by one Saxby.

Benjamin Carr claim adjourned

Benjamin Carr also of Dodds Bank, Nutley Labourer attended to claim Forest rights in respect of his house & 1 acre of land in his own occupation also at Dodds Bank.

This claim also was also adjourned for enquiry afterwards

It was resolved that the claim be adjourned for enquiry.

Sidney Patience dismissed

Sidney Patience, occupier of Wych Cross House & 15 acres of land belonging to the Ashdown Park Estate, attended to claim rights in respect thereof, but as he was acting without the authority of his Landlord the Board felt unable to entertain the application.

William Hoath claim adjourned

William Hoath of Crowborough Town occupier of a House & 5 acres of land, near St John's Church, Crowborough, belonging to Earl De la Warr for 15 years past, attended to claim the right to litter in respect of the land of Lord De la Warr under the terms of judgement in Hale v. De la Warr- and also to claim Forest rights in respect of a freehold house & 1 acre of land at Crowborough belonging to himself.

George Neve of Crowborough, aged 82, stated that the 5 acres formerly belonged to his Father, and were sold by him to Lord De Warr, and he remembered that Hoath's father took in the acre, land belonging to Hoath about 70 years ago and built a house on it for the son – Mr. Neve having given evidence of user in respect of both properties extending back over 60 years last past.

It was resolved that the claims be adjourned to enable the Clerk to communicate with Mr. Nicholson

It was resolved that the Annual General Meeting of Commoners be held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 16th day of December next at 11:30 a.m., and that the Clerk convene the same accordingly.

Albert Turner
Chairman

The Annual Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened by the Clerk by notice on the Church door of each of the parishes or ecclesiastical districts into which the Forest extends and by advertisements in three newspapers circulating in the neighbourhood to wit the Sussex Express the Sussex advertiser and the Southern Weekly News at least 14 days before that date and held on Saturday the 16th day of December 1893 at 11.30 a.m. at the Nutley Inn, Nutley.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner
Mr. W. Carr
Mr. J.F. Hope
Mr. Ll. Midgley
The Rev. H.J. Peekham
Mr. Joseph Ridley (Horney Common)
Mark Sandford
Captain Noble

It was proposed by Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Midgley and unanimously Resolved that Mr. Albert Turner do take the Chair.

Mr. Turner having done so, the Clerk read the notice convening the Meeting and reported the due publication thereof.

Election of Conservators

It was proposed by Mr. Sandford and seconded by Mr. Midgley that Mr. Frederick Augustus Du Croz be re-elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. Ridley and seconded by Mr. Carr that Mr. Thomas Hyde be re-elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by the Rev. H.J. Peckham and seconded by Mr. Turner that Mr. Llewellyn Midgley be re-elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. Hope and seconded by Mr. Carr that Mr. Mark Sandford be re-elected a Conservator.

No other candidate having been proposed the Chairman declared the above four gentlemen duly elected.

At this point Captain Noble joined the Meeting.

Proposed Rifle Range at Kings Standing

Application having been made by Major Farrell adjutant of the Cinque Ports Rifle Volunteer Battalion for reconsideration of the terms and conditions upon which the Conservators would authorise a rifle range near Kings Standing.

It was proposed by Mr. Hope, seconded by Captain Noble & after discussion unanimously resolved that the Conservators be empowered to concern with the owner of the soil in granting a Rifle Range on the Forest near

Kings Standing for the use of the Volunteers on such terms and conditions as they may deem expedient but so that a permanent right is not conceded.

Military manoeuvres

The Chairman mentioned that the Military manoeuvres last summer had passed off satisfactorily and that the War Department had reimbursed the Conservators all extra expenses incurred by them in relation thereto and had paid a fair compensation for damage to the surface of the Forest, which compensation had been applied to the relief of the Forest rate.

Also that the authorities had expressed themselves highly satisfied with the Forest as a manoeuvring ground and would probably apply for permission to use the Forest again either for Volunteer or Regulars or both, and

It was resolved that the Conservators be authorised to give their consent to any such application subject to such conditions as they might deem expedient.

Hard Road Duddleswell to Pound Gate

He also stated that an application was made to the Conservators in January last, to permit the conversion of the green way crossing the Forest from Pound Gate to the high road just above Duddleswell into a hard road.

The application was supported by the entire neighbourhood and being evidently a great public convenience to the Conservators after satisfying themselves that the funds were forthcoming to execute the work, that the maintenance of the road, when completed would be taken over by the Parish, and that Lord De la Warr as owner of the soil had given his consent, felt that they could only be doing their duty in sanctioning the Scheme.

Tunbridge Wells Water

He also stated that a Scheme was on foot, though he believed that nothing had yet been definitely settled, under which the Corporation of the Borough of Tunbridge Wells contemplated resorting to the Forest for a supply of water to be taken from the streams which met on the South side of Pippingford and to be accumulated in a Lake or Reservoir near such junction. The Conservators would of course take cognizance of any scheme that might develop and would if need be convene the Commoners to consider any action that might be necessary to protect their interests.

No other business being brought before the Meeting the proceedings were concluded by a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

A. Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 16th day of December 1893 at noon.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. W. Carr
Mr. J.F. Hope
Mr. L.L. Midgley
Mr. E.A. Nicholson
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Election of Conservators

The Clerk Produced and read the following Certificate and on the proposition of Mr. Carr seconded by Mr. Ridley it was Resolved that the same be entered on the Minutes:-

"To Mr. William Augustus Raper Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest

As Chairman of the Meeting of Commoners duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley this 16th day of December 1893 for the purpose of electing four Conservators, I hereby intimate to you that Mr. Frederick Augustus Du Croz, Mr. Thomas Hyde, Mr. Llewellyn Midgley and Mr. Mark Sandford were elected Conservators of the Forest at such Meeting

Dated this 16th day of December 1893

Albert Turner
Chairman"

The Clerk reported that the balance at the Bank was £ 306: 0:3 & that only a trifling account remained outstanding for rate.

William Bingham Lord De la Warr's Tenant proved user

Mr. William Bingham tenant of Newnham Park Farm containing 87½ acres in Buxted the property of Earl De la Warr attended to claim the right to take litter and brakes from the Forest under the terms of the judgement in Hale v. De la Warr. He stated that he had occupied the Farm for 5 years to last Michaelmas and had each year of his tenancy taken from the Forest litter & brakes which he used on the Farm. Mr. Joseph Bellingham was his predecessor for many years.

Mr. Spencer Tester of Browns Brook stated he was born in 1827. he recollected when he was a boy 4 or years old Michael Dadswell was the occupier of the Farm, he was followed by Samuel Wallis, then Card then Joseph Bellingham then Mr. William Bingham witness knows of his own knowledge that all these tenants down to & including Bingham had had litter and brakes from the Forest for use on the Farms. When witness was a boy he remembered his Father always cut for Dadswell and witness cut for many years for Bellingham.

The claim was *** made under the Regulation No. 161.

It was resolved that the claim had been established.

Hodore Farm Nicholas Wright Lord De la Warr's tenant proved user

Nicholas Wright, tenant of Hodore Farm containing 280 acres, exclusive of woods, in Hartfield, the property of Earl De la Warr attached to claim a similar right. He stated he had occupied the Farm for 31 years to Michaelmas last during the whole of that time he had had brakes and litter from the Forest for use on the Farm.

Richard Shoesmith stated he was aged 74 years, he was bred & born & lived all his life at the Gallipot Hartfield. He remembered Hodore Farm all his life, the successive tenants were Waters, Todd Richard Ratcliff & then Nicholas Wright. He had worked off and on all his life upon the Farm & remembered that all the tenants he had named had been in the habit of having brakes & litter from the Forest for use on the Farm.

The claim was *** made under the above inquisition.

It was resolved that the claim had been established.

Waters Farm Thomas Huggett Earl De la Warr's tenant proved user

A similar claim by user was made on behalf of Mr. Thomas Huggett in respect of Waters Farm containing 106 acres in Hartfield also the property of Earl De la Warr.

The same Richard Shoesmith stated he had known the Farm all his life, that his Father & Uncle used it when he was a boy, & that he had worked on it his early days & off & on since and as it adjoins Hodore Farm which he had also worked on he had had ample means of knowing what was done at Waters Farm. Following his father & uncle the tenants were Thomas Shoesmith (his cousin) George Edwards (Reeve) then his son Walter Edwards for a year or two & then Mr. Thomas Haggett the present tenant. All through witness' life he knew the successive tenants had had litter and brakes from the Forest for use on the Farm.

It was resolved that the user had been established.

Hardy's Estate proved rights

Hector Baker of Danehurst Bailiff aged 43 years attended on behalf of the Trustees of the late Herbert Carey Hardy owners of the Danehurst Estate in the parish of Fletching to claim Forest rights for:-

Dane Hill Farm	William Wood	80.1.13
Mosses Farm	William Awcock	74.1.9
Heaven Farm	Mrs. Adelaide Louise Harrey & others	68.1.12
Sliders Farm	Mr. Simeon Wickens	60.1.24
Little Portmansford	Samuel Batter	13.0.21

		269.1.39

He stated he had worked on the Estate for 16 years and lived close by it all his life and could remember that for 30 years last past the tenants of the several farms had had litter from the Forest and exercised Common rights thereon.

George Baker of Chelwood Common stated he would be 83 years of age on 1st January next. He had lived in the neighbourhood of the Estate all his life. He proved user by the successive occupiers of the several Farms from the time he was 11 years of age & gave interesting details with regard to them.

It was resolved that the Trustees had established the claim and that their names or the name of the tenant for life (if any) be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the said Farms.

William Martin completed proof of rights

William Martins of the Coach & Horses Chelwood Common attended & produced the grant of his property secondly described in the Minutes of the last Meeting and as it was found to be dated 3 June 1831 it was resolved that he had completed his proof and that the property be inserted in the said Schedule.

Richard Box completed proof of rights

Richard Box by George Box junior attended & produced the copy of his admissions to:-

Messuage & 4 pieces of land in Maresfield containing by [space] measurement 5a.2r.24p copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell held by quit rent heriot & fine 10/- each certain.

Also a cottage and piece of land containing 8 rods also in Maresfield Copyhold of the same Manor, held by quit rent, heriot and fine 2/- each, together forming Lot 22 at the auction of the Chatterton Estate and known as Suttons Farm at Stumblewood Common.

It was resolved that Mr. Richard Box had established his claim and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof.

Joseph Horscraft time for removing earth enlarged

A son of Joseph Horscraft of Fairwarp attended to ask time, on the ground of his Father's illness, to remove the earth from a well, which had been deposited on the Forest. It was resolved that the Ranger take no proceedings till after 7th January next.

William Ridley proved rights

William Ridley of Minepits Nutley attended to claim Forest rights in respect of:-

A piece of arable land and cottage containing 3a. 1r. 1p. at Maresfield called "Little Shelf" copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell late Heals before Wheelers before Wartlings, paying a Quit rent of 5/6

Evidence of user having been given.

It was resolved that he established his claim used that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

Joseph Stevenson proved rights

Joseph Stevenson of near the Windmill Nutley attended to claim rights for a piece of land and Cottage near Marl pits formerly part of Lane field containing about one acre abutting to land of Thomas Stevenson on the South and to the property next ****on the east and the Forest on all other sides. Also a piece of land containing 3 roods and one perch or ** **** formerly part of Coneyboro Field Nutley abutting to land of the *****on the South to ***** parish.

Mr. William Carr of Nutley aged 76 had known the property all his life, when he first remembers, the Claimant's father Richard Stevenson used it and the Claimant used it after the father's death down to the present, and remembers that father and son always had litter from the Forest and used it on the land and turned out stock.

It was resolved that Mr. Stevenson had established his claim and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the property and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

Ridley or Gurr proved rights

Timothy John Ridley (otherwise Gurr) of Cripps Corner near the Goat Farm East Grinstead attended to claim Forest rights in respect of a house and 5 acres of land called Cripps Corner in his own occupation near the Goat Farm in the parish of East Grinstead copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell late Banisters and before Paynes paying 2/- quit rent.

A statutory Declaration by George Billings otherwise Page of Three Chimneys Twyford aged 72 was produced proving the user and it was resolved that Mr. Ridley or Gurr has established his claim and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon be paid the current rate for the same.

J.T. Manners amend Schedule

Mr. James Thomas Manners (in the Minutes of the last Meeting called James Manners) was represented by Mr. Lynn from the office of Messrs. Pearless & Sons of East Grinstead who produced Mr. Manners' Title deeds from which it appeared that Mr. Manners owns the following copyholds of the Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst, viz.,

Two acres on Chelwood Common formerly part of the waste granted in 1817 to James Bennett of Maresfield at a quit rent heriot and fine each of ** certain.

Also a piece of land at Chelwood containing ½ acre formerly also waste of the Manor and granted to the same James Bennett in ***** at a quit rent heriot and fine each of 2/- certain.

A piece of land also at Chelwood Common also formerly waste of the Manor containing 2a. 1r. 7p. and granted to the same James Bennett in 1831 at a quit rent heriot and fine each of 5/- certain.

It was resolved that the Schedule of Commoners be rectified by substituting the above properties for the more general description given in the Minutes of the last Meeting.

Alfred Walter claim adjourned

Alfred Walter attended and produced his documents for title relating to the property in respect of which he claimed Forest rights at the last Meeting from which it appeared that he was admitted in 1863 to 2a. 2r. 0p. of land copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell. Also that he held $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre near Lampool Gate Maresfield on a tenancy at will in 1889 in respect of which latter he could claim no rights.

It was resolved that the claim for the 2a. 2r. 0p. be adjourned that the Clerk may ascertain the age of the property.

James Pilbeam claim adjourned

James Philbeam of Dodds Bank Nutley by his son Frederick Philbeam attended to claim Forest rights in respect of a piece of land containing about $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre at Dodds Bank.

Benjamin Carr aged 72 living at Dodds Bank and who has lived there all his life gave evidence of the user.

It was resolved that the Board was satisfied as to the user but the claim was adjourned for production of the title deeds.

Esther Osborne Proved Rights

Matthew Osborne Executor of Obed Osborne late of Annwood Farm Fletching deceased, on behalf of the Widow Esther Osborne devisee for life attended to claim Forest rights in respect of:-

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land with messuage & buildings called "Londonderry" near Nutley in Maresfield late Germans before Brunsdens copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell by the Quit rent of 3/-

Mr. William Carr having proved user.

It was resolved that Mrs. Osborne had established the claim and that her name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon she paid the current rate for the same.

Thomas Osborne Claim Rejected

Thomas Osborne of Innwells Farm claimed Forest rights in respect of 2a. 1r. 9p. of land with 3 cottages, land adjoining to Southward containing 1a. 3r. 9p., land lying Southward of last piece containing 33 perches with cottage adjoining Putlands Farm Duddleswell, but as it was found to have been granted as recently as 3 June 1842 the claim could not be sustained.

Duddleswell New Road - thanks

The Clerk read the following letter and it was resolved that it be entered on the Minutes

"Lewes 11th November 1893

Dear Sir,

Re. Poundgate & Duddleswell New Road

At a Committee Meeting held on the 7th of October it was unanimously resolved that The Secretary write to Mr. W. A. Raper requesting him to thank the Conservators of Ashdown Forest for allowing them to dig the stone necessary for making the above road. But as Mr. Barchard was taken ill almost immediately and subsequently died it is not known if you were ever written to.

At a Committee held yesterday we were appointed Secretaries and requested to communicate with you.

Yours faithfully,
Powell *** *****

W. A. Raper Esq.. Battle"

The Commons at their Meeting this day having passed the following resolution, viz

It was resolved that Messrs. Hope, Sandford & Colgate be empowered to go into the whole matter and report to the next Meeting.

The Clerk reported that John Collins Jr. a gipsy was on 23 October last convicted at East Grinstead Bench of Camping and fined 4/6.

That Thomas Benson & John Beeney were each convicted of in a similar offence on 26th October last at Uckfield Bench and fined 5/- each which fines had been paid.

That James Smith & William Smith were each convicted of a similar offence on 9th November last at Uckfield Bench and fined 5/- each which fines had been paid.

That John Collins Sr. a gipsy was summoned for camping on the Forest on 6th November last but as he did not appear at the East Grinstead Bench on 20th November a warrant was issued.

The Board then went through the Rangers Reports and the following instructions were given viz:-

Robert Newnham of Chelwood Gate, George Coleman of Spring Gardens and William Izzard of Fairwarp be prosecuted for taking litter.

That Thomas Marchant of the Prince of Wales Castle Street and James Diplock of Fairwarp be informed that unless they can establish rights they must be prosecuted.

Edward Wilson of Mount Pleasant Fairwarp be prosecuted for taking litter unless he establish his right.

Mr. Hope undertook to see Charles Gorringe with reference to litter cutting on the 7th November.

It was resolved that the following cheques be drawn.

20:3:6

Sundry Petty disbursement since

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 10th February 1894.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 10th day of February 1894 at 11.15 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair

Mr. R.W.P. Birch

Mr. William Carr

Mr. Thomas Colgate

Mr. F.A. Du Croz

Mr. J. F. Hope

Mr. Ll. Midgley

Mr. E. A. Nicholson

Mr. Joseph Ridley

Mr. Mark Sandford

On the proposal of Mr. Du. Croz seconded by Mr. Birch it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Albert Turner be the Chairman of the Board for the current year.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were then read and confirmed.

The Clerk laid before the Board the account of receipts & expenditure for the year together with the vouchers for the various payments and the same having been examined and audited it was proposed by Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Birch and unanimously resolved that they be approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance of £200:9:10 in hand.

Joseph Horscraft trespass abated

The Ranger reported that Joseph Horscraft had complied with his notice and removed the earth referred to at the last Meeting.

Jabez Parris Ditto

That Jabez Parris has complied with his notice and removed a heap of manure.

Moses Ripley, Absalom Jones convicted of camping

That at the East Grinstead Bench on the 1st January Moses Ripley & Absalom Jones were convicted of camping and respectively fined 1/- with 11/- costs and 1/- with 9/- costs, that Jones had paid and that Ripley having failed to do so a warrant had been issued against him.

Henry Coleman encroachment abated

That Henry Coleman of Spring Gardens who had erected a pig sty on the Forest had received the same after service of notice.

Alfred Chapman encroachment abated

That Alfred Chapman of Fairwarp who had filled in his boundary ditch put his fence out and dug a new ditch outside had restored his boundary after notice.

Alfred Dadswell pigsty established by time

That he found Alfred Dadswell's pigsty was a new one built on the site of an old one which was found on enquiry in 1889 (see pg. 68) to have been established by time.

Mr. Hope reported that he had warned Charles Gorringe through his wife not to cut litter again.

William Taylor claim to rights part admitted part rejected

The Clerk reported that Mr. William Taylor's claim to rights in respect of Wrenns Leg could not be established as the property was at present held by Lord De la Warr on a tenancy at will, but that his title to the shop & 2 acres at Mardens Hill was sufficient and it was resolved that the claim in respect of the latter property be admitted and that Mr. Taylor's name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of thereof.

James Carr, Benjamin Carr, Lacan Carr, James Pilbeam claim to right rejected

That he had ascertained the properties at Dodds Bank for which James Carr, Benjamin Carr, Lacan Carr, James Pilbeam claimed Forest rights were all held on tenancies at will and that their claims to rights consequently failed and he had accordingly warned them by letter.

Alfred Walter claim to rights rejected

That the property for which Alfred Walter of Fairwarp claimed rights at the last Meeting was as to 2a. 2r.0p. granted in 1843 and the remainder was either an accretion to it or comprised in the tenancy at will, that the claim therefore failed and he had warned Mr. Walter accordingly by letter.

William Adams claim to rights admitted

That the property for which William Adams claimed rights at the Meeting of 4th November last was granted as far back as 1718. It was resolved that he had established his claim and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof. But that this does not apply to a small piece of land adjoining & thrown into it which belonged to his wife and was held on a tenancy at will.

Edward Wilson claim to rights Mount Pleasant rejected

That he had ascertained the property at Mount Pleasant Fairwarp for which Edward Wilson claimed Forest rights was held on a tenancy at will till 1890 that the claim consequently failed and he had warned Mr. Wilson accordingly by letter.

Job Tester warned

That Job Tester of Browns Brook whose son & tenant Trayton Tester was found cutting litter on 21st December last held the property of Lord De la Warr on a tenancy at will and he had warned him not to trespass again.

That since the last Meeting Mr. W. A. Hounsom had produced the title deeds to the properties for which a claim was made in his name at the last Meeting, that the titles were amply sufficient to support a user of 60 years and that the claim should stand as follows:-

Mrs. Eliza Hounsom claim to rights admitted

Mrs. Eliza Hounsom (nee Allin) of New Church Road Brighton as owner of the Freehold Farm called Wildimote's otherwise Willmots otherwise Allins Farm containing 20 acres or thereabouts in Fletching held freely of the Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst paying a fine.

Mr. W. A. Hounsom claim to rights admitted

Mr. William Allin Hounsom of the same address as owner of 6 acres of Freehold land called Birchills or Birchitts in Fletching aforesaid formerly held of the Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst paying inter alia a hen and adjoining to the South of Wildimote's aforesaid and a freehold cottage and 2 acres of land called Perrymans Hill in Fletching aforesaid and adjoining to the South of Birchills or Birchitts aforesaid.

It was resolved that Mrs. Eliza Hounsom and Mr. W.A. Hounsom had respectively established their claims in respect of the above properties and that their names be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of their respective properties.

Thomas D. Wood claim to rights admitted

The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting Mr. Thomas Daynes Wood had produced his title deeds to the properties in respect of which he claimed Forest rights namely:-

Firstly all that freehold messuage or tenement buildings and several pieces of land with the appurtenance called Eggants otherwise Eggons or Aggons in Fletching containing by estimation 22a. 2r. 23p. or thereabouts formerly in occupation of Thomas Langford.

Also $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of land in Fletching adjoining above on West side allotted to John Ridley under enclosure of Waste of Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst – present occupier of both the above tenements.

Secondly, a freehold field formerly called Woodfield but now Little Eggants in Fletching containing by estimation 3a. 3r. 38p.

Also 1a. 2r.12p. sold under the Award of Enclosure of the waste of Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst No. 99 being frontage to above. Present occupier of both being Thomas Bennett.

Thirdly a messuage or tenement and 4 acres at Chelswood Common late **** before Lamb's now or late copyhold of Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst quit rent 5d. Five certain 6d. was copyhold in 1842 and earlier known as Lambs. Present occupier Ashdown.

The Clerk stated that Forest rights could not be claimed in respect of the $\frac{3}{4}$ acre and 1a. 2r.12p. enclosed under the Enclosure Award but that the titles to Great Eggants Little Eggants & Lambs were sufficient to support the user, which had been proved.

And it was resolved that Mr. Wood had established his claim in respect of the original 3 properties and that his claim be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof.

Mrs. Mary R. Bennett claims to rights admitted

The Clerk also reported that since the last Meeting Mrs. Mary Randall Bennett had produced her title deeds to the properties in respect of which she claimed Forest rights namely,

Two pieces of land called Collingfords formerly Langridges containing by estimation 6 acres in Fletching now or late copyhold of Manor of Sheffield paying by the year 9d; one hen, 5 eggs & one day's work in harvest, fine at will.

Also a piece of land containing by estimation 2 acres with a cottage Cartlodge & buildings thereon situate at Chelwood Common Fletching abutting to a lane running between the Common & Greenfields Farm on the East and to lands formerly waste on all other sides, copyhold of Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst granted in 1808 to Thomas Streeter Quit rent 4/- fine and heriot certain 4/- each.

Also ** perches adjoining allotted under the Enclosure Award of Waste of Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst and therein numbered 102.

All that messuage or tenement buildings & 6 pieces of land called Grindfield now known as Greenfields containing by estimation 20 acres in Fletching formerly parcel of Wildwinter. Freehold. All which premises are now in occupation of Mr. Charles Sharpe Wood.

The Clerk stated that the allotment No. 102 could not have rights but that as regards the remaining properties the titles were sufficient to support the user which had been proved, and it was resolved that Mrs. Bennett had established her claim that her name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners accordingly.

Wm. Harrison's Devisees claim to rights admitted

Messrs George Robinson Brock of 3 St Peters Road St Leonards on Sea and George Alfred Hollier of 111 Gresham House Old Broad Street London Trustees of the Will of the late William Harrison claimed Forest rights in respect of:-

A Farm called Payne's Corner otherwise Horne Castle Lodge otherwise Hospital Farm containing 32 acres or thereabouts near Plawhatch in the parish of East Grinstead formerly Allions - Copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell.

Also a cottage and about 3a. 3r. 12p. of land called Lavender Platt lying in the Forest near Legs Heath.

Statutory Declarations by John Billings & John Pentecost proving 60 years user were produced and the Conservators being satisfied of the user on other evidence. It was resolved that Messrs. Brock & Hollin had established their claims and that their names be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the two properties.

Mr. Isaac Waters Claim to Rights Adjourned

Isaac Waters of Forest Row attended to claim Forest rights in respect of:-

A cottage & 3 acres of land called Yew Tree Hall lying out on the Forest between the Rist Wood and Foxbury Wood being copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell granted in 1717 at a quit rent of 6/-.

Also a piece of land adjoining the above containing 1½ acres copyhold of same Manor granted in 1793 at a quit rent of 3/-.

Also 2 cottages and 1½ acres of land adjoining copyhold of same Manor granted in 1792 paying 3/- in his own occupation at Tompsetts Bank.

Mr. Waters produced a letter from James Holman Heasman now of Tompsetts Bank aged 82 who was brought up at Yew Tree Farm and had known it all his life, testifying to the user, and he being unable from infirmity to attend before the Board Messrs. Birch and Midgley undertook to see Heasman and to take his evidence and report to the next Meeting.

Henry Hale, Hale Farm proved 60 years user

Mr. Henry Hale tenant under Earl De La Warr of Hale Farm in Withyham containing about 238 acres (including about 10 acres of wood) attended to claim the right to take brakes & litter from the Forest for use on the Farm under the terms of the judgement in Hale v. De La Warr. He stated he was aged 60 and had lived on the Farm from the age of 3 months – he could remember when a boy of 7 or 8 riding home on his father's wagon on the top of a load of Forest litter he had been about the place ever since and remembered that brakes & litter from the Forest have always been used on the Farm.

Abraham Hale aged 83, brother of the Mr. Henry Hale and son of the previous tenant remembered when 22 years of age having litter from the Forest. Also that at that time his father had just hired the Farm that year. Mr. Stenning (grandfather of the present Mr. Stenning of East Grinstead) who was the agent who let the Farm represented that the tenant had the privilege of taking brakes & litter from the Forest and that the tenancy was more valuable in consequence. Also that his father complained of the amount charged in the valuation for the manure on the ground that it contained a quantity of Forest litter.

It was resolved that Mr. Hale had established the user and he was so informed.

George Hudson, Hunts Farm proved 60 years user

Mr. George Hudson tenant under Lord De La Warr of Hunts Farm Withyham containing about 176 acres (including about 6 acres of wood) attended and claimed a similar right under the terms of the judgement. Mr. Hudson stated he had been tenant of the Farm for 15 years last past, and during the whole of that time he has had brakes & litter from the Forest.

George Neaves of Crowborough aged 82 stated he had lived all his life close to the Forest, that when he was a boy Peter Avis was tenant of Hunts Farm and witness often went there, he remembered getting his legs pricked with a rough Forest litter in going across the Forest after Peter Avis' death his son John Avis became tenant and remained there till about 16 years ago and the widow soon after gave up the Farm to Mr. Hudson and witness knew that during all those tenancies Forest & litter and brakes had been used on the Farm.

It was resolved that Mr. George Hudson had established the user and he was so informed.

Charles H. Corbett claim to rights admitted

Mr. Charles H. Corbett of Dane Hill Park attended and claimed Forest rights in respect of:-

Forest Farm containing about 142 acres in Fletching (of which 108a. are wood) formerly Newton's and afterwards Mabbott's then Warburton Davies and late Hugh Hughes'.

Also Danehill or Botches Farm in Fletching & Horsted Keynes containing about 168 acres of which 80 acres are wood formerly Biddulph's afterwards Davies and late Hugh Hughes'.

Also Woodgate Home Farm in Fletching & Horsted Keynes containing about 140 acres of which 29 acres are wood formerly Hutchinson's afterwards Warburton Davies' and late Hugh Hughes'.

Geo. Baker of Chelwood Common aged 83 stated he was born at Dane Hill and with the exception of 4 or 5 years had lived there all his life. When he was a youth Forest Farm belonged to Squire Mabbott who lived at Uckfield but used the Farm and employed a Bailiff named Tyman who hanged himself and the next Bailiff named Whistler shot himself. Mr. Mabbott next let the Farm to Mr. Hother who held it several years. Mr. Hugh Hughes purchased the property while Hother was tenant. Witness worked on the Farm when a boy. He knew that the successive occupier of the property had litter, they used it while he was working there, a great part of it came from the Forest round the Vetchery. Witness cut litter for them in **** Bottom 50 years ago and knew they had continued to use it since. He knew the Farm house (no. 68 on Parish Map) near Wheelers Wood. John Day lived there when witness was a boy and kept 3 horses and 3 cows. Witness knew Wood Gates house which belonged when he was a boy to Squire Hutchinson who occupied it and farmed the Farm. He sold it to Squire Davis who also used the Farm. Partridge was Bailiff to both and witness worked there as a boy under him. The property was sold after Squire Davis' death to Mr. Hugh Hughes and shortly after him the property was bought by Mr. Corbett. Both Hutchinson and Davis and Hughes & Hughes' tenants had had Forest litter and the successive tenants of both properties grazed their cattle on the Forest and not in Chelwood Commons.

It was resolved that Mr. Corbett had established his claim and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the above mentioned properties.

Mrs. Eliza Welfare claims to rights adjourned

Mrs. Eliza Welfare of Hartfield widow by her son William Welfare attended to claim Forest rights in respect of:-

A parcel of land containing 2 acres called House Plat now part of a property called "Stone Cottage" lying on the Forest near the Ridge Hartfield Copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell granted in 1796 at a quit rent of 4/-.

Also 5 several pieces of land with the cottages thereon containing 2a. 1r. 2p. in Hartfield Nos. 104, 105, 106, 107 & 108 in the Title Map, being on the East side of the above granted in 1858.

Joseph Wheatley, Rev. F. Darling claims to rights adjourned

Joseph Wheatley of Hartfield attended to claim in respect of houses.

The Rev. F. Darling also claimed in respect of his property known as the Ridge adjoining the Forest in Hartfield.

George Edwards of Hartfield aged 79 attended to give evidence for each of the above three claimants but his evidence not being satisfactory. It was resolved that all three claims be adjourned for further evidence and enquiry into title.

Richd. C. Farmer claims to rights adjourned

Richard Cecil Farmer of Hartfield Builder attended to claim rights in respect of:-

A cottage & 3a. 2r. 20p. of land at Quabrook Nos. 953 & 954 on the Ordnance Map in the occupation of Daniel Weeden part copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell and a small strip of it adjoining the road formerly part of Quabrook Common.

Richard Shoesmith aged 74 stated he was a native of Hartfield, had lived all his life (except 2 years) at the Gallipot. When witness was a boy Heasman lived in the old house which had since been replaced by a new one. Heasman had litter and he had seen him drive in a wheelbarrow. It was resolved that the Board were satisfied as to the user and the claim was adjourned for evidence as to title.

Henry Walter claims to rights user

Henry Walter of Browns Brook claimed for $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of freehold land at Dodds Bank part of property formerly Thomas Richardson's.

Also for a cottage and about 1 acre of land at Brown's Brook in his own occupation.

Also a plot near thereto for which he pays 2/-.

The claim was adjourned for evidence of user and title.

Joseph Luckens claim to rights adjourned

Mr. Joseph Luckens of Scaynes Hill Lindfield attended to claim rights in respect of Holly Hall Farm a farm comprising 11 acres of which part copyhold and part freehold. As regards the freehold it being an allotment under the Horsted Keynes Broadhurst inclosure, no right can attach. As regards the copyhold George Baker of Chelwood Common aged 83 lived there all his life and gave evidence as to user.

It was resolved that the Board was satisfied as to the user and the case was adjourned for the Clerk to obtain further information as to the title and extent of the copyhold portions.

Samuel Fox claim to rights rejected

Samuel Fox attended to claim rights for his copyhold property at Dodds Bank held of Duddleswell Manor, but as the documents showed that the property was granted in 1847 he was informed that no right could be established.

George Mitchell Do.

George Mitchell of Pages Gill attended in like manner but it was found that the property was granted in 1852.

Kings Standing proposed rifle range

The Committee appointed at the last Meeting to report with reference to the proposed Rifle Range at Kings Standing brought up their Report which was read and on the proposal of Mr. Midgley seconded by Mr. Ridley it was resolved that the same be adopted and entered on the Minutes viz:-.

Kings Standing Rifle Range

Recommendations of the sub Committee

Your sub Committee recommend that a Rifle Range be granted for the use of the Rotherfield & Crowborough company of the Cinque Ports Rifle Volunteers as applied for on the following provisions

1. That notice boards warning the public of the danger of straying across the Range be set up at the following points:

(1) On the road by the Crow & Gate Inn

- (2) At Pound Gate where the road joins
- (3) Near Kings Standing Clump where the roads join
- (4) At the cross roads at Duddleswell
- (5) At the cross roads at Fairwarp.

2. That in case of death or injury to cattle arising directly from the use of range the responsible officer agree to pay fair compensation to the owners, the same to be determined on the request of either party by an arbitrator whose decision shall be accepted as final by both.
3. That the Conservators reserve the right of withdrawing the use of the range after the lapse of every seven years, a year's clear notice to be given in such case.
4. That all other precautions specified in the War Office regulations for the conduct of Ranges be strictly observed, and that the flagstaff therein enjoined be set upon the highest point of the road between Duddleswell and the point where the road from Hartfield & Groombridge join near Kings Standing Clump.
5. That no right or privilege in the Forest be acquired by any person or persons in respect of this grant and that the grant shall cease to hold good in case the position of the Conservators be affected by any future act of Parliament.

A. Turner
 James F. Hope
 Thomas Colgate
 Mark Sandford
 Jan 18th 1894,

Also that the Clerk be instructed to settle with the proper authority such document as he may consider necessary for carrying out the arrangement, and submit it to the Committee and on their approving the same that the Chairman be authorised to execution behalf of the Board.

The Clerk drew the attention of the Board to the fact that he was obtaining a great deal of valuable information from Messrs Hunt & Co. with reference to the claims to rights without which it would in many cases be difficult to deal with them and that as these enquiries resolved considerable investigation on their part be felt some difficulty in troubling them.

It was resolved that the Clerk be authorised to pay the reasonable charges of Messrs. Hunt in relation to such matters from the commencement of the present year and that the Clerk present the account quarterly.

Chelwood Cricket Ground Authority *** granted**

The Superintendent of the Cricket Ground at Chelwood having applied for permission to change the turf on the cricket ground it was Resolved that he be authorised to do so.

Mr. Elwes to prove rights or be prosecuted.

Mr. E. T. Elwes who was reported by the Ranger for having taken litter from the Forest, not having taken any step to claim rights of Common, it was resolved that he be informed that he must either establish his right forthwith or failing his doing so that the Clerk prosecute him for a breach of the Bye Laws.

Hoyd to prove rights or be prosecuted.

Mr. Hoyd of Willetts Farm Withyham who had been reported by the Ranger for having taken litter from the Forest not having taken any step to claim right in respect of his farm which was stated to belong to a Mr. Haig it was resolved that unless he at once satisfies the Clerk that the property is entitled by reason of user, proceedings be taken against him for a breach of the Bye Laws.

James Diplock claim to rights admitted.

Mr. James Diplock of Maresfield attended to claim rights in respect of :-

Land called "Churchwardens" containing by estimation 10 acres paying yearly 20s/- to use of Poor of Maresfield

Parcel of land called "Springfield" containing by estimation 5 acres in Maresfield paying yearly 10s/-

One cottage & 1 acre of land paying 2s/6d

One cottage & 1 ½ acres of land paying 12d

All which premises are copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell and are stated in the Court rolls as far back as 1837 to constitute a Farm called "Lower Spring Garden Farm" situated near Nutley in Maresfield and containing by estimation 35 acres.

Having produced this documents of title and satisfied the Conservators as to the user it was resolved that he had established his claim & that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the above mentioned property.

Clerk's salary

An application was made by the Clerk for an increase in his salary on the ground that he had since the creation of the Conservators accepted an inadequate sum in consequence of the heavy expenses to which the Commoners had been subjected & that the finances of the Board now justified an increase. The Clerk having withdrawn, his application was considered and it was unanimously resolved that his salary be increased to £100 per annum from the 1st January last.

It was also resolved that the next Meeting of the Board be held on the 3rd day of March next at 11.15 am.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 31st day of March 1894 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair

Mr. W. Carr

Mr. Thomas Colgate

Mr. F.A. Du Croz

Mr. J.F. Hope

Mr. Thomas Hyde

Mr. Lt. Midgley

Mr. J. Ridley

Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed. The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £ 218.9.4.

Road Surveyors Licences

The undermentioned Road Surveyors applied for licences for the year ending 25 March 1895. Each of them was especially reminded of the resolution passed on the 8th April last restricting the digging of materials to existing pits and quarries and licences were granted subject to the above and the other usual conditions.

Buxted

Mr. William Eade for Buxted applied to dig stone & gravel from existing open pits between Duddleswell & Pounds Gate and at King Standing. Granted subject to his arranging with the Surveyor of Maresfield to securely fence in the King Standing pit from which both have been working.

Maresfield

Mr. James Diplock for Maresfield applied to dig stone on Stone hell and gravel at Fairwarp and Isle of Thorns. Granted.

Fletching

Mr. George Fenner for Fletching applied to dig hard stone & gravel from the existing pits and quarries near the Isle of Thorns. Granted.

[Hartfield]

Mr. James Richardson for Hartfield applied to dig stone from the old pits between Wrens Warren and Gills Lap, from the existing pit at High Beeches, and from the old pits beside the green road leading from the cross roads towards the Green ways. Granted

Withyham

Mr. Alfred Hoath for Withyham applied to dig sand gravel from open pits near St. Johns Church, and from open pits between the south of the 500 acres up to Greenwood Gate. Granted and it was especially explained to him that he must not make any trial holes or open up new ground.

Mr. Albert Tucker (of Mayfield), the District Surveyor for the County Council applied for a licence to dig about 100 yards of gravel at Duddleswell and to open new ground if necessary for the purpose. Sand stone from the old pit in front of the Fox Coffee House at Duddleswell on the opposite side of the road to open up ground and take 40 or 50 yards of gravel from the vicinity of the last named pit to remove sand gravel already dug at Fairwarp to dig hard stone & gravel from an old pit on the peat bog to the North East of Lisburn, and from an old pit on the Cricketing Plain near Wych Cross.

On the proposal of Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Midgley it was resolved that having regard to the resolutions passed at the Meetings of this Board on the 8th April & 13th May last a licence be granted to the District Surveyor to take 80 yards being the remainder of the 150 yards of gravel referred to the Resolution of 13th May last & that as regards his other applications only such of them be granted as apply to existing pits that have been actually worked within the last 2 or 3 years.

The Road Surveyor for East Grinstead did not apply.

Sheep

The Ranger reported that he had served notices on the following persons to remove their sheep from the Forest which they had accordingly done.

Card	Alfred
Chapman	Alfred
Divall	Leonard
Divall	Thomas
Divall	William
Heasman	Philip
Hobbs	James
Izzard	William
Miles	William
Osborne	William
Penford	Berrick
Tasker	Edward
Taylor	William
Tester	Spencer (Barns Gate)
Tester	Spencer (Browns Brook)
Tester	Thomas
Todman	John

Walters	John
Weeden	George
Wood	Henry
Wheatley	Jesse

and that the following who had also been served had not complied, viz:-

Adams	William
Burley	Albert
Card	Richard
Heasman	Daniel
Heasman	William
Markwick	William
Minns	Benjamin
Mitchell	Arthur
Mitchell	George
Philcox	George
Scott	Henry
Tester	Alfred
Tester	Charles
Turner	George
Walters	Alfred
Walters	Edward
Walters	Henry
Walters	James
Wheatley	James

After the matter had been discussed it was proposed by Mr. Hope seconded by Mr. Sandford and unanimously resolved that in the case of any Commoner who can show to the satisfaction of the Clerk that he was not duly informed of the decision of the Conservators to have all sheep removed from the Forest, and that he would suffer bona fide loss by complying with this decision, the said Clerk be empowered to take no proceedings in respect of any such trespass of sheep committed up to the 1st of June next.

Mr. Isaac Waters claim to rights admitted

Messrs. Birch and Midgley reported that in accordance with the resolution passed at the last Meeting they had seen James Holman Heasman and taken his evidence and that of his wife who proved to their satisfaction that the successive occupiers of the properties in respect of which Mr. Isaac Waters claimed rights at the last Meeting had turned out on & taken litter from the Forest for over 60 years past and thereupon

It was proposed by Mr. Colgate seconded by Mr. Ridley & resolved that Mr. Isaac Waters had established his claim and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the said property which does not include the land purchased under the award.

Mr. R. C. Farmer part claim admitted

The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting Mr. Richard C. Farmer had produced to him the documents of title from which it appeared that 3 acres of the land was a copyhold tenement of the Manor of Duddleswell granted in 1796 & that the residue is a tenancy at will.

It was proposed by Mr. Ridley seconded by Mr. Du Croz & resolved that Mr. Farmer had established his claim in respect of the copyhold and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of the Commoners in respect thereof.

Messrs. J.J. & T. Luckens claim admitted

The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting he had ascertained that the copyhold portion of the property for which Mr. Joseph Luckens claimed at the last Meeting was vested in Mr. Joseph John Luckens & Mr. Thomas Luckens both of Highbrook Farm West Hoathly, that it comprises altogether 6 acres & was held by copy of Court Roll more than 60 years ago.

It was proposed by Mr. Carr seconded by Mr. Ridley & resolved that the Messrs. Luckens had established their claim & that their names be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the copyhold.

Kings Standing proposed Rifle Range

The Clerk reported that having regard to the report presented by the Committee to the last Meeting with reference to the proposed Rifle Range at Kings Standing and the resolution thereon he had looked carefully into the law and had satisfied himself that the Conservators had no power under the Common Law to grant a valid lease nor did the Acts of Parliament relating to Rifle Ranges confer any power on Conservators and that the officials at the War Office were unable to refer him to any statutory power and that he had written to the adjutant of the Cinque Ports Rifle Volunteers explaining the difficulty & insisting him to refer them to any legal authority on the subject.

E.T. Elwes

Mr. Elwes not having taken any step to establish his right to Common it was resolved that the Clerk give him notice that unless he at once establish his right to use the Forest he must be proceeded against for Breach of Bye Laws.

Crowborough proposed Golf Links

A letter was read from Mr. Alfred Hoath on behalf of the Commoners on the Crowborough side of the Forest stating that at a Meeting of them recently held a resolution was unanimously passed protesting against any portion of the Forest commonly known as Crowborough or St. Johns Forest being used as Golf Links on the ground that there was already insufficient litter or pasture for the Commoners and that Golf Links would still further reduce them.

It was resolved that in case application be made for a Golf Link on that part of the Forest notice be given to Mr. Hoath in order that the Commoners round that part of the Forest may be heard on the matter.

Stevenson Robert Clarke Esq.

The Clerk reported that he had written to Messrs. Daniel Watney & Co. drawing their attention to the extensive user of the Forest by Mr. Clarke's tenants & intimating that he must either establish his right or that the board must treat his tenants as trespassers and that Messrs. Watney had promised to look into the matter and write to him shortly on the subject.

Mr. Wormald's alleged encroachment

The Ranger having reported that Mr. Wormald was in possession of an encroachment on the Forest being a projection of his boundary a little south of the Vetchery and Mr. Wormald's Bailiff having denied any encroachment it was resolved that Messrs. Carr Colgate and Midgley enquire into the matter & report to the next Meeting.

Sylvanus Ridley Trespass

The Ranger having reported that Mr. Sylvanus Ridley has cut a road across the Forest between his house and the road recently hardened from Barnes Gate to Duddleswell & that notwithstanding a warning from the Clerk to desist he had continued making it stating that he would take his chance of having to pay 40s/- costs. It was resolved that unless he at once restored the surface of the Forest to the condition it was in before he touched it and sowed it down with grass seed. The Clerk take proceedings against him to compel compliance.

Greenhall Quarry – dangerous

The Ranger having reported that the Greenhall Quarry worked by the tenant of Earl De la Warr is unsafe and requires fencing and Mr. Nicholson on behalf of Lord De la Warr having replied that it was sufficiently fenced Mr. Midgley undertook to examine it & report to the Clerk thereon forthwith.

Mrs. Scott's Encroachment

The Ranger reported that Mrs. Scott was in occupation of an encroachment opposite Henry Hobbs (her next door neighbour) at Fairwarp upon which certain buildings had been erected. It was resolved that he give her a week's notice to abate same and that if she failed to comply he take steps to abate the same and to employ a man to assist him, taking care to do as little damage as possible to the materials of the enclosure and building.

Thomas Bond to remove deposit

The Clerk reported that Mr. Thomas Bond of West Hoathly who had deposited brick rubbish on the Forest near Plaw Hatch had undertaken to remove it but the Ranger having reported that he had failed to do so. It was resolved that the Clerk proceed against him unless he comply in the course of the ensuing week.

The Ranger having reported that a quantity of old pots, coal scuttles etc. were deposited on the Forest near Plaw Hatch which he was informed had come from Mr. Arbuthnot's, which Mr. Arbuthnot denied. It was resolved that the Ranger make further enquiry and report to the Clerk who was directed to take such action in the matter as he might deem expedient.

John Francis Hewitt claims to rights adjourned

Mrs. Mary Ann Hewitt attended on behalf of her husband John Francis Hewitt of Buckhurst Park Withyham to claim Forest rights in respect of two cottages and garden plot lying near Crowborough Common in Withyham abutting to a wood called Inkams on the north and to the highway from Boxes Gate to Cook's Corner on the south and one other piece of new assert land abutting to the aforesaid highway towards the north and to the Common aforesaid on all other sides late Kembers'.

Also a piece of new assert land formerly waste of the said manor with the cottage thereon situate at Crowborough abutting to land formerly part of the Common all round, late also Kembers both parcels paying 3d. quit rent.

All which premises adjoined and were copyhold of the manor of Framfield as far back as 1783 and were stated in the Court Rolls to contain by admeasurement 2a.0r.3p.

Also a piece of land containing ½ acre No. 21 on Map A of the Award of Enclosure of the waste of the Manor of Framfield.

William Killick of Fryars Gate Labourer in his 79th year who had lived since the age of about 4 close to that part of the Forest adjoining Crowborough stated when he was a boy Edward Tapsell lived on the property and was succeeded by his son-in-law Young. The property was afterwards purchased by William Kember when witness was living with him. He believed Turk was then the tenant. Tapsell Young and Turk used to turn their stock on the waste of Framfield manor from which the cattle may have strayed to Ashdown Forest, but George Taylor and Crittall did not turn. He saw Tapsell load litter on the Forest in his own cart and take it home. Sometimes Master Blackstone would carry it for him. Witness knows all the subsequent tenants except Taylor have had Forest litter. As to Taylor he would not speak.

Mrs. Hewitt remembered the property for 52 years. 52 years ago it belonged to and was occupied Edward Tapsell. Samuel Young bought from him and occupied till he sold to Lord De la Warr who sold it about 1868 to William Kember from whom claimant purchased it about 1876. Turk was the occupier when claimant purchased it and for a good many years before. As soon as claimant purchased it he let it to George Taylor who was succeeded by George Crittall the present occupier. She confirmed Killick's evidence.

The claim was adjourned for the consideration by the Clerk of the legal questions involved.

Thomas Richardson Shoebridge claim to rights admitted

Thomas Richardson Shoebridge of Nutley attended to claim Forest rights in respect of a copyhold property called East Croft at Nutley village held of the Manor of Duddleswell by quit rent of 4/- being a messuage buildings and about 2 acres of land formerly Wildens and adjoining other property formerly part of the same tenement now Mr. F.W. Whitewood's on the west and other part thereof now Mr. Albert Farmer's adjoining on the south for which last named properties Mr. Whitewood and Mr. Turner has respectively established rights of Common.

Evidence of title and user having been given it was resolved that Mr. T. R. Shoebridge had established his claim and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon he paid 1/- the current rate in respect thereof.

Mr. J. R. Haig claim to rights adjourned

Mr. J.R. Haig of Blair Hill Rumbling Bridge Stirling owner of about 750 acres comprising Blackham and adjoining properties in Withyham by his Bailiff Thomas Floyd attended to claim Forest rights in respect of Willetts Farm (part thereof) containing altogether 100 acres and consisting of the property originally known as Willetts Farm, part of a property formerly known as Pound Farm, and part of a property formerly known as Summersales Farm.

John Crowhurst of Lye Parish Kent born at Pound Farm in 1815 stated that Pound Farm at that time belonged to the De la Warr family that he lived there with his father, the tenant, till witness was 24 years old. Pound Farm was then about 120 acres. That when a boy he went as mate with his father's team to the Forest every year for litter and turf which were used on Pound Farm. He also knew Summersales Farm which was then about 60 acres and belonged to the Pearless family of East Grinstead, and Willetts Farm then a little over 100 acres which also belonged to the Pearless family. Obed Woodhams bought Summersale Farm of the Pearless's and used it for some years and then sold it to Mr. Price who sold to Mr. Haig. Witness knew Woodhams and was constantly there and knew he used the Forest litter for he saw it there and was certain it was Forest litter. As to Willetts Farm the first tenant he remembered was Boots, then Turner who also had Summerford Farm. Remember Boots had Forest litter for he saw it there, but he was not quite sure whether Turner had any.

Neither Woodhams, Boots or Turner turned out on the Forest as it was too far off, they turned on Blackham Common.

It was explained to Mr. Floyd that if the Farm originally known as Willetts Farm belonged to the De la Warr's down to 1843, evidence of 60 years continuous user would not establish a right to Common as the ownership of the Farm and of the soil of the Forest were in one & the same person till 1843. That as regards those portions of the Farm formerly parts of Pound Farm & Summersales the same objection did not apply, that Mr. Crowhurst's evidence only brought the user down to 1839 and that evidence of subsequent user must be furnished.

Samuel, William & Charles Heasman claim to right adjourned

Philip Heasman appeared for his father Samuel Heasman, William Heasman and Charles Heasman of Withyham to claim Forest rights in respect of a house and 2 acres of land near the Half Moon at Fryars Gate, in which they were interested in equal shares.

The above named William Killick proved user and it was resolved that the Conservators were satisfied with the evidence of the user and the claim was adjourned for evidence as to the title.

Joseph Wheatley claim to right admitted

Joseph Wheatley of Colemans Hatch Hartfield attended to claim Common rights in respect of a piece of land in Hartfield formerly waste of the manor of Duddleswell with 3 cottages thereon formerly one, containing 4 acres abutting to the land formerly R. Ray's on south and to the Forest on all other parts late Wood's granted in 1802 to be held by copy of Court Roll of the said manor by the quit rent of 8s/- and comprising Nos. 1323, 1324 & part 1326 on the Ordnance Map.

Also a piece of land also formerly waste but now also copy hold of the same manor in Hartfield, containing 1a.1r.1p. & abutting to the preceding property on the south and west and to waste on all other sides paying 5/- . This latter piece however having been granted in 1852 us right could be established in respect of it.

William Divall born at New Bridge aged 77 and who except during one year had lived all his life either at New Bridge or Quabrook, proved user by the successive occupiers for over 60 years past. And the documents of title having being produced. It was resolved that Mr. Wheatley had established his right in respect of the 4 acres and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof & thereupon be paid 2/- being the current rate for the same.

Eliza Welfare claim to rights admitted

Eliza Welfare of Stone Cottage Hartfield attended by Mr. William Welfare to support her claim to rights of Common brought forward at the last Meeting. The documents of title having been produced & evidence of user given by the same William Divall. It was resolved that as to 10a.1r.18p. bought under the Regulation Award &

2a.1r.2p. granted in 1851 us right could be established, but that as regards Stone Cottage & 2a.3r.22p. which was granted in 1796 she had established her claim & that her name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon she paid 1/6d being the current rate for the same.

F. Darling claim to rights passed

The Reverend Frederick Darling by Mr. William Welfare claimed rights of Common in respect of:

Firstly, a piece of land formerly wasted of the Manor of Duddleswell containing 2a. on Ashdown Forest bounded on the North by the road from Colemans Hatch to Wych Cross, on the south by land formerly waste enclosed by Thomas Hendall next herein after described and on the east and west by the Forest.

Secondly, several pieces of land containing 3a.2r.29p. Nos. 111, 112, 113, 114, 115 on the Title Map of Hartfield with a Cottage thereon adjoining to the land firstly herein before described and to that next herein after described on the east.

Thirdly a piece of land containing $\frac{1}{2}$ acre at the southern end of copyhold lands firstly described and abutting on the east to the Forest, with the messuage so called the "Ridge" thereon, Ordnance Nos. 1310,1311,1312,1313. The total acreage of the whole of the property being slightly under 7 acres.

As regards the property secondly described it was found to have been granted as recently as 1851 but no evidence of the age of the other parcels was given.

Mr. William Divall gave evidence of user for over 60 years and the claim was then adjourned for further evidence as to title.

Fords Green new road

It was resolved that if the authority of the board be required for the adoption by the Parish of the new road at Fords Green the Clerk be authorised on behalf of the Board to do all that may be requisite.

Cheque

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn in favour of:-

The Ranger for 11 weeks salary and rent to April 18th inst. £16:5:0

Also that the next Meeting of the Board be held on Saturday the 12th May at the usual hour.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 12th day of May 1894 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Hyde
Mr. L.L. Midgley
Mr. M. Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in had of £194:4:4.

E.T. Elwes

The Clerk reported that he had been in communication with Mr. Elwes Solicitors with regard to his using the Forest but had not been able to get any settlement and the Clerk was directed to press the matter.

Stephenson R. Clarke

Also that he was in communication with Mr. Stephenson R. Clarke's Stewards and he was directed to insist on the matter being cleared up.

Wormald's encroachments

The Committee appointed at the last Meeting to enquire into the alleged encroachment by Mr. Wormald near the Vetchery reported that they had examined the spot and found that two encroachments had taken place one of about 4 rods and another of about 2 rods through the slipping down of the banks with the fences on them and that when the fences were remade they were made by Mr. Wormald's men not on the old site of the fences but on the site to which they had slipped. The Committee were of opinion that these encroachments were made by Wormald's men through ignorance and without his knowledge or authority. It was resolved that the Clerk draw Mr. Wormald's attention to the matter and request him to have his fences put back to their original position.

Greenhall Quarry dangerous

Mr. Midgley reported that he had examined this quarry as arranged at the last Meeting, that a footpath runs near the brink of it where the slightest divergence in the dark would expose a person to a fall of from 8 to 10 feet and that the Commoners' cattle are consequently exposed to the same danger and that it requires fencing round the south west side for a length of from 40 to 50 yards. It was resolved that the Clerk call upon Lord De la Warr's representatives to have it properly fenced.

Mrs. Scott's Encroachment

The Ranger reported that Mrs. Scott had thrown out the encroachment referred to at the last Meeting.

Thomas Bond William Scutt deposit of rubbish; Mr. Arbuthnot's deposit of rubbish

Also that Thomas Bond and William Scutt who admitted having deposited some of the rubbish on the Forest near Plaw Hatch had removed the same – but that some brick and mortar rubbish debris of old building still remained there and that he had ascertained that this rubbish was brought from Plaw Hatch by Mr. Arbuthnot's farm servants. It was Resolved that the Clerk call on Arbuthnot to remove it.

Mrs. Lucy Bains claim to rights admitted

Mrs. Lucy Baines wife of Robert Baines of Bolbrook Farm Hartfield attended by her Solicitor Mr. A. W. Richardson to claim Forest rights in respect of :-

A Cottage of half acre of land at Crowborough late West's, Copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell paying a yearly rent of 6d.

Also a Cottage of 1 acre of land in Withyham late West's, Copyhold holden of the said Manor by the yearly rent of 2/-.

Also 2a .2r of land in Withyham late West's and Copyhold of the said Manor by the yearly rent of 6d.

Also 1a. of land formerly parcel of the waste of the said manor lying in Withyham late West's and copyhold of the said manor by the yearly rent of 2/- all lying together at Boxgate.

Also 2 pieces of land Crowborough containing respectively by admeasurements 3 perches and 28 perches and numbered respectively 37 & 38 on the map to the enclosure award of the manor of Framfield.

George Neve of Crowborough near Boxgate aged 82 stated was born and lived all his life close to Boxgate, he knew the above property which is called Boxgate remembering that when 5 years the property belonged to Robert Neve and was occupied by one Tompsett who remained tenant till his death between 20 and 30 years ago. He was succeeded by one farmer who lived there till his death, then his widow carried it on a short time, and then the

present tenant Amos Frost came. All of these occupiers to witness knowledge turned out stock on and had litter continuously from the Forest.

Amos Frost the present tenant stated he succeeded widow farmer and had occupied the property for 15 years last past and had turned out and had litter and peat turf from the Forest all the time; the present area is 6 acres.

It was resolved that no claim could be admitted in respect of the allotments under the Framfield award but that as regards the remainder the claim had been established and that Mrs. Baines' name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon she paid the current rate of 6d per acre.

Bolbrook Farm claim by Earl De la Warr's tenant admitted

Mr. Baines tenant under Earl De la Warr of Bolbrook Farm in Hartfield containing 280 acres attended to prove taking of litter by the successive occupiers in accordance with the terms of the judgement in *Hale v. De la Warr*.

William Killick of Fryar's Gate Labourer stated he was in his 79th year and had lived ever since 4 years of age on Marden's Hill or close to the Crowborough part of the Forest. He cut litter on the Forest for the tenant of this property over 60 years ago, and cut for the successive occupiers at intervals afterwards. They had it as a regular thing.

Mr. Robert Baines stated that he had been the tenant of the farm for over 14 years and has had litter from Ashdown Forest each year.

It was resolved that the Board is satisfied that the user has been established.

Sylvanus Ridley's trespass

The Clerk reported that by Mr. Sandford's request he has postponed proceeding against Sylvanus Ridley till this Meeting. Mr. Ridley now attended and expressed his regret at having acted without the authority of the Board, and after due consideration it was resolved that on his paying the sum of One pound toward the Conservator's funds and undertaking to fill in the ruts of the two old trackways he had hitherto used to the satisfaction of the Conservators and deposition £2 as security for the due performance of his undertaking he be allowed to complete the road he has commenced from his property to the metalled road and he thereupon paid over to the Clerk the sum of £3.

Pit near Wood's Nursery dangerous

The Ranger reported that the pit near Mr. Wood's Nursery at Fairwarp which he reported dangerous on 14th March and which the Clerk had called on Lord De la Warr's representatives to have fenced had not been fenced and it was resolved the Clerk again draw their attention to it.

Mr. Markwick alleged encroachment

The Ranger reported that Mr. William Markwick near the cricket ground at Duddleswell had made an encroachment; he built a new house up to the south boundary of the land sold under the award and numbered 126 therein and had then built a porch on the Forest and enclosed a strip of about 4 feet of Forest on both sides of the porch and also a strip along the east side of about 4 to 5 feet in width. It was resolved that he be at once required to restore the land to the Forest.

Lewis Carr encroachment

The Ranger reported an encroachment by Lewis Carr in having built a shed and pigsty on the open Forest, near Dodd's Bank and close to his property which he purchased under the Award wherein it is numbered 132 – and that he had failed to comply with a notice to remove which had been served on him by the Ranger. It was resolved that the Clerk give him notice that unless he at once removes them proceedings will be taken.

Noakes Taylor

The Ranger having reported that some of Messrs. Noakes trees still remain on the Forest and that Mr. William Taylor of Cave Gate Farm Crowborough had caused a large quantity of poles to be deposited on the Forest near the Warren it was resolved that both parties be prosecuted.

Lady Shelley claim to rights admitted

Lady Shelly by her agent claimed rights of Common in respect of a cottage & 0.3.27 of land on the east side of an adjoining the premises known as the Prince on Wales beerhouse at Cackle Street Maresfield and lately the property of Charles Marchant deceased. The Clerk reported that the property was entitled, and it was resolved that the claim be admitted and that her Ladyship's name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof & thereupon she paid the current rate for the same.

Thomas Stephenson's Trustees of Will claim to rights admitted

Mr. Lynn from Messrs. Pearless & Sons of East Grinstead attended on behalf of the Trustees of the Will of the late Thomas Stephenson of Nutley to claim Forest rights in respect of :-

A messuage or tenement of 5a.0r.37p. of land at Nutley, late Stephenson's copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell, paying a quit rent of 11/6d,

Also 3 acres of land (residue of 4 acres) also in Nutley late also Stephenson's copyhold of the same manor, paying a quit rent of 4d. Also a piece of land formerly waste adjoining to the above and also to Joseph Stevenson on the North & East and to the Forest on the South & West near Nutley marl pit containing 3a.0r.33p. with the cottage thereon also copyhold of the same manor paying a quit rent of 6s/6d – all which tenements were copyhold in the year 1820 and comprised the numbers 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, & 274 on the Ordnance Map.

Evidence of title and user having been given it was resolved that the claim was established and that the names of the Trustees be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon their representatives paid the current rate for the same.

Samuel, William, Charles Heasman claim to rights admitted

Samuel Heasman and the representatives of William Heasman & of Charles Heasman of Fryar's Gate Withyham attended by Philip Heasman and produced the deeds of the property referred to at the last Meeting in which the property is described as about 2½ acres of land lying close to Fryars Gate in Withyham between the five hundred and the high road from Fryars Gate to the Green Ways. It was resolved that the claim was established and that the names of the Claimants be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon their representatives paid the current rate for the same.

John F. Hewitt Claim & rights rejected

With reference to Mr. John Francis Hewitt's claim to Forest rights made at the last Meeting the Clerk reported that he had been in communication with Mr. Nicholson on the subject who was of opinion that the Common rights attaching to Mr. Hewitt's property had been commuted by the allotment under the Award of enclosure of the waste of the Manor of Framfield and that he (the Clerk) had so informed Mr. Hewitt.

Sheep

The Board being of opinion that sufficient time had been allowed to enable those who had not already removed their sheep from the Forest to do so. It was resolved that the Clerk prosecute those who had neglected to remove their sheep.

Cheque

It was Resolved that a cheque be drawn in favour of:-

Messrs. Hunt & Co. for costs £4:19:0

Also that the next Meeting be held on the 30th June next.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 30th day of June 1894 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair

Mr. William Carr

Mr. Thomas Colgate

Mr. Joseph Ridley

Mr. Mark Sanford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance at the bank was £205.10.4.

Mr. M. Sandford rights

Mr. Mark Sandford having purchased from Lady Shelley the cottages and garden N^o 665 containing 0a.1r.3p part of the 0a.3r.27p at Cackle St., late Marchant's, in respect of which her Ladyship's rights of Common were admitted at the last Meeting, the Clerk was directed to amend the Schedule of Commoners accordingly.

Lady Shelley claim to rights admitted

Lady Shelly also claimed for 2a.3r.30p. of land other part of the property late Marchant's referred to at the last Meeting which she had since purchased and the Board being satisfied as to the user.

It was resolved that the claim had been established and that Lady Shelley's name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon she paid the current rate in respect thereof.

S.R. Clarke claim to rights

Mr. Stephenson R. Clarke by his agent Mr. Walter Daniel Watney attended to claim rights of Common on the Forest in respect of:-

Brook House Farm containing about 145 acres and Battens Farm containing about 30 acres, both in the Parish of West Hoathly and in the occupation of [deleted] but the witnesses to prove user not being present this claim was adjourned.

Claim for Goddards Farm litter only

He also claimed in respect of Goddards Farm let to Mr. William Coomber and which with Goddards Farm Wood (4³/₄ acres) contains altogether 56¹/₂ acres all in the Parish of Lindfield and comprises Ordnance Nos. 92. 95. 96. 97. part 99. 100. 101. 101a. 102. 104. 105. 106. 107. 110. 111. 112. 113. part 135. 136. 137 & 139.

Mr. William Coomber, aged 65, stated that his father and subsequently he had occupied the Farm ever since 1840, that with the exception of 6 years about 1860 he had lived on the Farm ever since 1840 and that during the 6 years referred to he frequently visited it. He remembered his father using litter from Ashdown Forest on the farm from 1840 when he was a boy of 11 and went to School at Horsted and that practically every year since they had obtained litter from the Forest and used it on the Farm; the quantities varying from one or two loads a year to five or six loads a year, and that no objection had ever been raised till last year. He never remembered stock being turned out from the farm on the Forest.

It was pointed out to Mr. Watney that the tenants of several other farms belonging to Mr. Clarke had been found taking litter from the Forest during the last season and Mr. Watney stated he was investigating these cases.

It was resolved that the consideration of Mr. Clarke's claim be adjourned, the Board being of opinion that before proceeding further in the matter, Mr. Clarke should endeavour to ascertain whether any of this property could be identified with the properties set out in the Decree of 1691.

Mr. Wormald's Encroachments

The Clerk read a reply from Mr. Wormald stating that his boundary fence was in exactly the same position and when he purchased 14 years ago and denying any encroachment. It was resolved that the matter be referred to Mr. Colgate and Mr. Sandford (Mr. Midgley being abroad) for the purpose of meeting Mr. Wormald and settling the question.

The Clerk produced a correspondence with Messrs. Hunt & Co with reference to the fencing of the Greenhall Quarry as the pit near Wood's Nursery in which they denied the liability of Lord De la Warr to fence the same and the Clerk was directed to point out that Lord De la Warr had previously recognised his liability by fencing pits and quarries under similar circumstances and so enquire whether they still really disputed the liability, and if so on what ground.

Mr. Markwick encroachment & Lewis Carr encroachment

Mr. William Markwick having written stating that he had not enclosed beyond the boundary of his property. It was resolved that Mr. E.J. Markwick be instructed to measure and plot the land of William Markwick and of Lewis Carr in order to ascertain whether any encroachment had been made.

Sheep

The Ranger having reported that sheep were still on the Forest and having stated the difficulty he found in ascertaining the ownership thereof he was directed to employ assistance with a view to getting a clear case for prosecution.

Mr. Wylie Turf cut

The Ranger having reported that Mr. Wylie of Court House, Nutley, had cut turf from the Forest and taken siftings from the Road Surveyor's employer Joseph Stephenson the Clerk was directed to warn him;

Road Surveyor breach licence

Also to write to the Road Surveyor of Maresfield requiring him to dismiss Joseph Stephenson from his employment in accordance with the terms of his licence.

Abraham Card stack

The Ranger having reported that Abraham Card Broom maker of Tompsetts Bank had placed a stack on the site of Henry Budgen's encroachment which had been thrown out. It was resolved that he be prosecuted if he failed to remove the stack in accordance with the notice served on him by the Ranger.

De la Warr Well materials

The Ranger having reported that materials had been taken from a well in a garden belonging to Lord De la Warr at Fryars Gate occupied by the policeman and had been placed on the Forest, the Clerk was directed to write to his Lordship's Steward calling upon him to remove the materials.

James Stephenson Peat cutting

The Ranger reported that James Stephenson near the Windmill, Nutley, had been cutting peat for fuel without a licence, it was resolved that, unless he undertake not to do so again without permission, proceedings be taken against him for a breach of the Bye Laws.

Cheque

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn in favour of Mr. Samuel Soper for 13 weeks salary and house rent
£16.5.0.

Also that the next Meeting be held on the
18th August next.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 18th day of August 1894.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. W. Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. J.F. Hope
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. M. Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed. The Clerk reported that the balance in the Bank is £189.5.4.

Stephenson R. Clarke – claim admitted as regard, Goddards Farm, litter, others adjourned for evidence

The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting he had gone through the whole of Mr. Stephenson R. Clarke's deeds in London, he was unable to identify any of the properties described in them with the properties set out in the Decree of 1691 but in many cases the deeds did not carry the titles back far enough to do so. It was resolved that Mr. Clarke be informed thereof. Also that the Conservators were satisfied from the evidence furnished at the last Meeting that Goddard's Farm is entitled to take litter from the Forest but not to turn out or take any other profit there from, and that Mr. Clarke's name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof, and that as regards any other portions of his property they will consider any evidence of user he may submit.

Wormald

The Committee reported that they had not been able to meet Mr. Wormald but would do so before the next Meeting.

Greenhall Quarry

Mr. Sandford reported that he visited this Quarry on the 16th inst. company with the Clerk and found the sides had been sloped off so that it might now be considered fairly safe.

Mr. Markwick no encroachment

Mr. E.J. Markwick attended and stated that he had surveyed Mr. William Markwick plot No. 126 on the Award Map and found that he had carried out his fence along the whole of the south side and a short piece on the east side measuring from the south end to the extreme boundary of 3 feet outside the stem of his hedge but that he could not say that there is any actual encroachment.

Lewis Carr no encroachment

Mr. E.J. Markwick also reported as to this plot and as the question of whether the two cases are encroachments or not depends on the actual measurement and plotting made by Mr. Cowper at the time of the award.

It was resolved that the Clerk enquire of Mr. Cowper as to the circumstances connected with its plotting and sale.

Sheep, Alfred Tester convicted

The Clerk reported that on the 16th July last at the East Grinstead Bench Alfred Tester who occupies a cottage and garden only held of the Manor of Maresfield at Forest Row was charged that he being an unauthorised person had kept sheep or suffered them to remain upon the Forest. The case was adjourned at the defendant's request till the 30th ulto. when the Bench convicted and the Clerk stating that the Conservators did not wish to press for a heavy penalty but to make it quite clear to the public that sheep were not commonable and that the Board was therefore bound to insist on their removal. Defendant was fined 2/6d with costs 9/- which he paid. The Clerk stated that he had found it necessary to obtain the attendance of Mr. Nicholson, the Steward of the Manor, as a witness in this case.

Sheep

The Ranger reported that consequent on this decision nearly all the sheep that remained on the Forest had been cleared off but that William Heasman of Page's Gill who occupies only a cottage and garden has, notwithstanding notice about 30 sheep still on the Forest near Plaw Hatch.

It was resolved that if the sheep have not been removed the Clerk prosecute.

John Smith camping convicted

The Clerk reported that John Smith a gipsy was convicted at the Uckfield Bench on the 19th July of camping on the Forest and find 1/- including costs which be paid.

Abraham Card – broom heath stack prosecuted

Also that a summons was issued against Abraham Card of Tompssetts Bank as directed at the last Meeting but was adjourned at the request of the Defendant's Solicitor Mr. Prince till the 27th August and the Ranger reported that meanwhile the Defendant is slowly removing the stack.

Abraham Card – poles on Forest prosecuted

The Ranger also reported that the same person has a quantity of poles lying on the Forest adjoining the high road to Wych Cross and near Tompssetts Bank and that he has neglected to remove them after written notice.

It was resolved that he be prosecuted.

George Philcox claim to rights admitted

With reference to the claim to rights made by George Philcox of New Bridge at the Meeting of the 30th September last the Clerk reported that he had now had an opportunity of examining Mr. Philcox's documents of title and found that he held about 2½ acres of land which had been copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell for over 100 years but that the remaining small portion of his property was a grant made in 1853.

It was resolved that his claim be admitted and his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the 2½ acres but not of the residue.

Spencer Wickens senior register

Mr. Spencer Wickens Sen. of Chelwood Common attended & having satisfied the Board that he had purchased from Lady Shelley the Brook house land at Chelwood in the Parish of Fletching containing 24a. 3r. 23p. and Nos. 443, 469 and 499 in the Ordnance Map in respect of which her Ladyship has hitherto appeared in the Schedule of Commoners the Clerk was directed to amend the Schedule of Commoners accordingly.

John Wood claim to rights adjourned

John Wood of Nutley attended to claim rights of Common in respect of two messuages or tenements barn out buildings and 12 acres of land called Christopher's Fields at Danehill in the parish of Fletching now in the occupation of Frank May held by copy of Court Roll of the Manor of Sheffield.

George Baker of Chelwood Common aged 83 born and lived all his life with the exception of a year or two or close to Dane Hill when he was 11 years old a Mr. James Langridge occupied the Farm. Witness then worked as Carterboy for Mr. Assender who farmed the land close by and then brought litter from Beacon Bank and other parts of Ashdown Forest to Christopher's Fields. The tenant kept no horse. Langridge was succeeded by his son George and George by his son Lewis. Claimant's mother purchased it from Lewis Langridge in 1872. The Langridges turned young stock on the Forest which they wintered.

It was resolved that in the absence of any evidence of user for 22 years past the claim stand over for further information and Mr. Colgate undertook to make enquiry into the matter.

Stephen Elliott application for licence for brakes refused

Stephen Elliott of Chelwood Common attended by his daughter and applied for a licence for brakes but it was explained that as his land lay outside the Forest pale the Conservators could not depart from their resolution limiting licences to occupiers within the pale.

Humphrey Wickham claim to rights disallowed

Mr. Humphrey Wickham, successor to Mrs. Wickham, attended to claim rights in respect of a house and 2 acres and also 1¼ acres at Nutley copyholds of the Manor of Duddleswell but it appearing that both properties were granted as recently as 1847 the claim could not be maintained.

Lord De la Warr's Tenants remove sheep

The Clerk reported that the Ranger having found sheep on the Forest belonging to certain of Lord De la Warr's tenants he wrote Messrs. Hunt & Co. who had given the tenants notice to remove same.

Road Surveyor dismissal of workman

The Clerk reported that Mr. Wyllie of Court House Nutley acknowledged having purchased siftings from Joseph Stevenson who had been employed by the Surveyor of Maresfield to dig road materials under licence from this Board and that he had called on Mr. Diplock in terms of the licence to dismiss Stevenson from his employment.

It was resolved that the Clerk ascertain from Mr. Diplock whether he has dismissed Joseph Stevenson and if he has not, the Clerk give him notice revoking his licence to dig.

Licences

It was resolved that the Ranger do not issue brake litter or peat licences to persons convicted of breaking the Bye Laws without the express authority of the Board.

Payment

It was resolved that the Clerk pay Mr. E.J. Markwick for surveying and plotting the alleged encroachments of Lewis Carr and William Markwick and attending this Meeting the sum of £ 1:11:6.

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 29th September next at 11 o'clock a.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 29th day of September 1894

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. William Carr
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance in the Bank is £179.0.10

Mr. Cowper's survey of encroachments

Also that he had communicated with Mr. Cowper who surveyed the encroachments sold under the Regulation Award for the purpose of obtaining for the use of the Conservators the plans & measurements he made of the encroachments and that Mr. Cowper replied that they would be unintelligible to anyone else, but he would furnish

full particulars of any particular plots we might name; he also stated that he measured in 3 feet outside the stem where the boundary was a hedge, but treated dead fences as the actual boundaries of the encroachments.

It was resolved that the Board has no evidence that Mr. Markwick or Mr. Lewis Carr have encroached.

Abraham Card convicted

The Clerk also reported that Abraham Card was prosecuted at the East Grinstead Bench on 27th August last (1) for stacking broom heath on the Forest (2) for depositing poles on the Forest. He was defended by counsel, but was convicted in each case and condemned to pay the costs and both cases were adjourned to the next Court to fix the penalties, but with the understanding that, if he removed them in the meantime, no penalties would be inflicted, and that the Defendant did remove them before the adjourned Court and paid the costs.

William Heasman sheep convicted

Also that at the same Court William Heasman of Pages Gill was convicted for keeping sheep on the Forest and failing to remove them after notice and was fined 5/- and 6/6d costs which he paid.

Jesse Wheatley sheep

Also that at the court held at East Grinstead on the 24th inst. Jesse Wheatley of Chuck Hatch was prosecuted for a similar offence and that the case was adjourned for a month on the Clerk paying 5/- costs.

Leonard Divall Sheep

Also that at the same court Leonard Divall of the Brickyard Chuck Hatch was prosecuted for a similar offence and that the case was adjourned for a month on the Clerk paying 5/- costs.

It was resolved that the Clerk be authorised, if he deem it desirable, to retain Counsel to appear for the Conservators and to do everything he deems necessary for bringing the proceedings to a satisfactory issue.

Road Surveyor dismissal of workman

The Clerk also reported that Mr. Diplock, Road Surveyor of Maresfield, had written to say that he had dismissed Joseph Stevenson from his employment on the Forest.

Rifle Volunteers using Forest without licence

The Ranger also reported that on Saturday the 8th inst. the East Grinstead, Horsham, the Haywards Heath and the Hurstpierpoint Companies of the Second Volunteer Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment carried out a sham fight on the Forest near Forest Row without having previously obtained the consent of the Conservators. The Clerk was directed to write to the Commanding Officer pointing out that considerable damage had been done to the bracken and that while the Conservators were desirous of assisting the Reserve forces their permission must in future be obtained beforehand.

H.J. Slack manure heap

The Ranger reported that Mr. H.J. Slack of Ashdown Cottage near Tompsetts Bank had a manure heap on the Forest and that he had given him notice to remove it. The Clerk read a correspondence that had passed with Mr. Slack on the subject and the Ranger reported that the heap had since been removed.

Wm. Killick cutting brakes; Edward Taylor receiving same

That Edward Taylor of Fryars Gate had brakes from

Forest which he stated he had purchased from William Killick of Mardens Hill, an old man 79 years of age. The Clerk stated that considering his age he wrote him stating that, if he would send written promise not to trespass again, the Conservators would refrain from prosecuting but he had received no reply. The Ranger was instructed to see the old man and warn him.

Henry Budgen Daniel Charman faggot stacks removed

The Ranger also reported that Henry Budgen and Daniel Charman of Tompsetts Bank had each placed a faggot stack on the site of Henry Budgen's late encroachment and that he served them both on the 12th September with notice to remove within 14 days and that both stacks had since been removed.

Mr. Wormald's alleged encroachment

Mr. Sandford reported that he had visited the site of the alleged encroachments by appointment with Mr. Colgate but that the latter was unable to meet him there.

Robert Steward, Bailiff to Mr. Wormald for 14 years last past, attended before the Board and stated that during all his time the beech tree which it was alleged Mr. Wormald had now included in his fence was inside the fence. The old fence of stake & binder came on the Forest side of the tree, and was replaced last year by oak stumps and Scotch rails.

Stephen Elliott of Stonemead Farm, Maresfield, stated he had known the spot 40 years, that the beech tree had during the whole of that time been within the boundary. He took special notice of the place because his grandfather was formerly owner of the farm.

George Box stated he was aged 72 and had lived all his life in the neighbourhood of the alleged encroachment and knew the beech tree in question, and in his opinion it was on Mr. Wormald's property.

It was resolved that the consideration of the matter be adjourned to the next Meeting for Mr. Colgate's attendance.

Joseph Ridley claim of right rejected

Joseph Ridley of Mill Brook attend to claim Forest rights in respect of a house & 3a. 2r. 31p. of land called Nutley Bank at Nutley in the occupation of Henry Wood. He produced documents showing that it was held on a tenancy at will of Earl De la Warr till the freehold was conveyed to him on 23rd April 1889, so that no right can be claimed in respect of it.

John Wood claim to rights admitted

Mr. John Wood of Nutley who claimed rights at the last Meeting attended and produced as a witness.

Mr. Frank May, the tenant of the property claimed for and stated that he had held the whole for 7 years – he had turned out stock on the Chelwood Common but not on the Forest – he had litter from the Forest each year except the first and the last years.

Mr. John Wood stated that while he occupied before Frank May he had litter occasionally from Ashdown Forest.

It was resolved that Mr. Wood had established his claim, & that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the property and thereupon he paid the current rate in respect thereof.

Cheque

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn in favour of –

The Ranger – 13 weeks salary & rent to 1st prox. £16.5.0.

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 27th October next.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 27th day of October 1894 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. W. Carr
Mr. T. Colgate
Mr. J.F. Hope

Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read & confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance in the Bank accounts to £162:15:10.

Jesse Wheatley Leonard Divall

He also reported that he had retained Mr. E. Marshall Hall to represent the Conservators in these cases but as he was engaged at the Brighton Sessions on Monday last the cases were further adjourned by arrangement till November 5th.

Rifle Volunteers

Also that he had written to the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment as directed at the last Meeting.

Wm. Killick cutting brakes

The Ranger reported that since the last Meeting he had seen William Killick referred to in the Minutes of the last Meeting who promised that he will not cut brakes again without a licence.

John Bennett application to enclose

Mr. John Bennett of Lisburn applied for permission to enclose a bog outside Lisburn but the Board declined to entertain any application from him until he has paid the rate now due from him.

Mr. Wormald's alleged encroachment

The matter of Mr. Wormald's alleged encroachment was adjourned till the next Meeting for a further report from the Committee.

Chas. Philpot drying posts

The Ranger reported that Charles Philpot of Tompsetts Bank having erected on the Forest posts for drying clothes, he had served notice on him to remove them which notice had been complied with.

Stephenson R. Clarke claim to rights

Eliza wife of Isted Miles attended and stated that she was born in 1825 at West Hoathly and had known Brookhouse ever since she was 10 years old, that it contained about 90 acres excluding the wood. The first tenant she could remember was William Wood. Then witness father William Henley hired it in 1836 and remained there till he died in 1856. Then the widow held it for 4 years. Then witness brother Joseph Henley for one year then Isted Miles held it till 1870. A gentleman from London whose name she could not remember then became tenant. Her father & mother had 5 or 6 loads, perhaps more of Forest litter. Every year her husband had Forest litter regularly. Her father turned out young stock on the Forest but she was not certain whether her mother did as she (witness) married and left house, she thought her husband had not turned out. After considering the evidence carefully It was Resolved that the right of Brookhouse Farm, which originally comprised 100 acres and ***** Farm about 32.3.39 both in ***** to take litter only had been established & that on Mr. Stephenson R. Clarke satisfying the Clerk as to the boundaries thereof his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of his property.

William Miles Brakes

The Ranger reported that on 13th August last he found Jacob Heasman of Tompsetts Bank cutting litter on the Forest who stated that he was employed to do so by William Miles Butcher of Highgate a tenant of Mr. George Taylor of Highgate. The Clerk reported that he had written to Mr. Miles on the subject but had received no reply. It was resolved that the Clerk call on Mr. Miles to give an undertaking not to trespass again and that if he failed to give it he be prosecuted.

William Watson Brakes

The Clerk reported that William Watson of Highgate had been found taking brakes from the Forest on 3rd inst. That part of his property was purchased under the Award and the residue was held on a tenancy at will & he had

written Watson that unless he gave a written promise not to take brakes from the Forest again he would be prosecuted and he read a reply received from Watson.

Samuel Fox litter

Samuel Fox of Nutley having been found cutting litter on the Forest on the 6th inst. not being employed by any Commoner but the litter having since been purchased by Mr. Appleby of Fords Green the Clerk stated he had given Fox notice to attend before the Conservators today at noon.

P.H. Phillips litter

The Ranger reported that Mr. P.H. Phillips had obtained litter from the Forest carried for him from St. Johns by Henry Welfare on 8th inst. The Clerk reported that he had applied to Mr. Phillips for an explanation, and had [page finishes abruptly]

3 November 1832 from his grandfather James Ridley Senr. to James Ridley Junr. for £5 for purchase of above 40 rods of land on which James Ridley Junr. built a house. In 1839 April 12 James Ridley Senr. sold to James Ridley Junr. for the remainder of his property with the old house which was pulled down after James Ridley Senr. died. Behind these is about half an acre of land which James Ridley Senr. took in and to which James Ridley Junr. succeeded and which Samuel Ridley now has and for which an acknowledgement is paid.

Henry Scott of Fairwarp born 1804 knew the place all his life & the claimant's father & grandfather. They all above had litter but he does not remember their turning out. The claim was adjourned for further enquiry.

James Pilbeam litter

The Ranger also reported that on the 19th inst. he found Harry Walter of Dodds Bank cutting litter on the Forest who stated he was employed by James Pilbeam of Dodds Bank whose claim to Forest right was investigated & rejected on 10th February last.

It was resolved that the Clerk prosecute Pilbeam if he found that he had employed Harry Walter & that he subpoena Mr. Nicholson to prove Pilbeam's tenure.

Enoch Tyler litter

The Ranger having reported that Enoch Tyler had been taking litter from the Forest the Clerk was directed to call upon him to prove his right to do so.

William Turner claim to rights adjourned

William Turner and his son Arthur Turner of Chelwood Gate attended to claim rights in respect of their properties but having no documents of Title the claims were adjourned.

Annual Meeting Commoners

It was resolved that the Annual General Meeting of Commoners be held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 15th day of December next at 11.30 a.m. and that the Clerk convene the same accordingly and that the next Meeting of Conservators be held on the same day at noon or immediately after the Commoners' Meeting

Albert Turner
Chairman

The Annual Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened by the Clerk by notice on the Church door of each of the Parishes or ecclesiastical districts into which the Forest extends and by advertisements in four newspapers circulating in the neighbourhood to wit the Sussex Express, the Sussex Advertiser, the Southern Weekly News and the East Grinstead Observer at least fourteen days before that date and held on Saturday the 15th day of December 1894 at 11.30 a.m. at Nutley Inn, Nutley.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner Chairman

Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. J.F. Hope
Mr. Ll. Midgley
Mark Sandford

It was proposed by Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Ridley and unanimously resolved that Mr. Albert Turner do take the Chair.

Mr. Turner having done so, the Clerk read the notice convening the Meeting and reported the due publication thereof.

Election of Conservators

It was proposed by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Midgley that the Right Hon: The Earl of Sheffield be reelected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. Sandford and seconded by Mr. Turner that Mr. James Fitzalan Hope be reelected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. Hope and seconded by Mr. Du Croz that Mr. Thomas Colgate be reelected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. Ridley and seconded by Mr. Sandford that Mr. William Carr be reelected a Conservator.

No other candidate having been proposed the Chairman declared the above named four gentlemen duly elected.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 15th December 1894 at noon

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. J.F. Hope
Mr. Ll. Midgley
Mr. J. Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Election of Conservators

The Clerk produced and read the following certificate on the proposition of Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Ridley.

It was resolved that the same be entered on the Minutes

To Mr. William Augustus Raper Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest

As Chairman of the Meeting of Commoners duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley this 15th day of December 1894 for the purpose of electing four Conservators I hereby intimate to you that the Right Hon: The Earl

of Sheffield, Mr. Thomas Colgate, Mr. James Fitzalan Hope and Mr. William Carr were elected Conservators of the Forest at such Meeting

Dated this 15th day of December 1894

Albert Turner
Chairman.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand £168.1.10.

Jesse Wheatley, Leonard Divall sheep

The Clerk reported that he had briefed Mr. E. Marshall Hall to appear for the Conservators in the cases against Leonard Divall & Jesse Wheatley for turning sheep on the Forest. That on the 5th November last before the cases came in Mr. Cripps who defended stated that he should be able to satisfy the Bench in each case that prima facie cases of right were raised which would oust the jurisdiction of the Bench but that this would be an unsatisfactory result as it would not dispose of the merits and he suggested that the cases should be further adjourned that he should in the meantime be furnished with particulars of the grounds on which the Conservators based their proceedings so that he might consider the merits and if he found that the Defendants could not succeed on the merits, he would, instead of raising the question of right, advise them to plead guilty on the understanding that the Conservators asked for merely nominal fines to be imposed. Mr. Marshall Hall had agreed to the proposal and the cases were adjourned till the 17th inst. The Clerk stated he had only that morning received an intimation from Mr. Cripps that he intended to fight the cases on Monday next but as Mr. Marshall Hall was unable to attend and the Clerk would be unable to get his witnesses in time it had been agreed to further adjourn the hearing till the 14th January next.

Frederick Smith convicted of camping

The Clerk also reported that at the East Grinstead Bench on the 5th November last Fredrick Smith was convicted for camping on the Forest and was fined 10/- & 7s/6d costs but had left the neighbourhood without paying.

Rifle Volunteers

The Clerk then read a correspondence which passed with the Colonel Commanding the 2nd Vol. Batt. Royal Sussex Regiment in which application was made for permission to continue to use the Rifle Range at Pages Gill on the Forest & for permission for the 'C' Company to make use of the Forest occasionally for the purpose of drill also stating that in future in case it should be desired to hold a combined drill with other companies of the Battalion application would be made to the Conservators for permission. It was proposed by Mr. Hope seconded by Mr. Colgate and resolved that the permission of the Conservators be granted to the Battalion to use the Rifle Range and 'C' Company to drill on the Forest in accordance with the application it being understood that the consent of Lord Viscount Cantelupe the present owner of the soil in succession to Earl De la Warr be also obtained. Also that in case of application for combined drills the Clerk be and is hereby authorised to give the consent of the Conservators where it may appear expedient. That the permission above granted be revocable at will.

Footbridge ** application to bridge**

The Clerk then read the following letter from the Coroner for East Sussex

Lewes
21st Nov: 1894

Dear Sir,

On the 16th inst. my Deputy Mr. Edward Bedford held an inquest on the body of Harriet Miles who was accidentally drowned while attempting to cross a brook to immediate West of White's Farm near Forest Row.

The Jury added the following Rider to their verdict

“That the Conservators of Ashdown Forest be asked to erect a Footbridge with a Handrail to it over the Footbridge Brook to the immediate West of White’s farm”

I believe you act for the Conservators and shall be glad if you will bring this matter before the proper authorities as soon as possible.’

I am, dear Sirs
Yours truly
Geo. E. Hillman

Messrs Raper
Solicitors
Battle

It was resolved that while the Conservators were not in a position to put a bridge over the stream they would be willing to give their consent to the bridge being erected by anyone disposed to do so.

Stephenson R. Clarke claim to rights admitted

The Clerk reported that Mr. Clarke had satisfied him as to the boundaries of Brook House Farm and Battens Farm and had deposited with him a map showing the boundaries thereof as well as of Goddards Farm and it was resolved that Mr. Clarke’s name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof.

John Porter claims to rights adm.

Mr. John Porter of Ringmer attended to claim Common rights in respect of:

A messuage or tenement and garden orchard and 4 pieces of land containing 8 acres in Fletching formerly parcel of lands called Hunts Inhams copyhold of the Manor of Sheffield and held by copy of Court Roll as far back as 1766 (then owner John Child) being the enclosures numbered 399, 400, 402, & 433 on the Ordnance Map.

Also a piece of land containing 40 rods late waste adjoining the above mentioned copyhold being frontage to the Common, and granted to him in 1872 to hold by copy of Court Roll of the same Manor.

Also a freehold messuage or tenement with buildings and land containing together 7 acres called Great Collingford also in Fletching and comprising the Nos. 427, 428 & 432 on the Ordnance Map.

Also 2 freehold pieces of land containing 6 acres called Bartletts also in Fletching and comprising the Nos. 460, 461 & 463 in the Ordnance Map.

All which freehold lands belonged to Frances Napp heiress of William Knell in 1744 the documents of titles having been examined by the Clerk, George Baker of Chelwood Common and Henry Martin of Dane Hill attended and proved user in respect of each of the three properties for 60 years last past to the satisfaction of the Board.

It was resolved that Mr. Porter has established his claim (except the 40 rods which had been granted within the prescribed period) and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the old Copyhold and the freeholds and there upon he paid the current rate for the same.

Ellen Cook claim to rights adm.

Ellen Cook wife of James Cook of Tompsetts Bank Forest Row attended by her husband to claim rights in respect of two enclosures of land containing about 2 acres with a messuage in 3 tenements at Tompsetts Bank late Waghorns copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell granted in 1792 & Nos. 2248, 2249 & part 2247 in the Ordnance Map. James Heasman of Pages Gill & James Cook having proved user for 60 years last past to the satisfaction of the Conservators it was resolved that Mrs. Cook had established her claim and that her name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon she paid the current rate for the same.

Edw. Bates claims rights adj.

Edward Bates aged 54 owner of Alksford Farm Lye Green Withyham attended to claim rights in respect of the said Farm containing between 80 & 90 acres, the property belonging to his grandfather Mr. Patching in 1823 his uncle Mr. Thomas Patching succeeded and from him it passed to claimant. He stated that the Farm or part was held of the Manor of Framfield but did not produce any documents of title. William Killick aged 80 on Monday lives at Fryars Gate and had done so over 70 years when 11 years old went to live at Alksford Farm under Mr. Patching the grandfather for 6 months in the winter. He had litter there. Mr. Patching lived on there for many years but witness did not cut for him. He was succeeded by his son Thomas Patching about 1860 and witness cut early every winter for him, for about 20 years but not since, he never worked on the farm for Mr. Thomas Patching. Mr. Bates stated that he remembered litter being had by his uncle on the Farm about 45 (sic) years ago. He stated that he himself had every year during the last 20 years used litter on the Farm which he understood was Forest litter, and he also produced a very carefully kept book of account in his grandfather's writing which contained entries of payment for litter (but not specifying whether it was Forest litter nor not) viz:-

1823 November 8 loads

1824 December 9 loads

1834 November 2 loads

1848 November 2 loads

He also claimed in respect of 10 acres of land near Crows Nest Crowborough but produced no evidence of title or user. His claims were adjourned till the next Meeting to enable him to bring further evidence.

Enoch Tyler claims to right part admitted

Enoch Tyler of Horney Common attended to claim Common rights on the Forest in respect of a messuage 4 cottages building garden and land containing 8a 0r 10p at Whitehouse Common in Maresfield bounded on the West from the highroad from Maresfield to London and on the South by the highroad from Cinder heap to the said London Road all formerly copyhold of Manor of Duddleswell part of which was old enclosure containing 5a 2r 30p Nos. 956, 957, 958, 959 & 961 in the title Map of the parish. The remainder being frontage to the side road enclosed since that date, claimant had occupied the whole about 20 years past and has taken litter from the Forest and turned out cattle every year and used it on the property.

Mr. William Carr gave evidence proving the user in respect of the old enclosures for 60 years both as to taking litter and turning out. It was resolved that Mr. Tyler had established his claim in respect of the old enclosures containing 5a 2r 30p but not of the modern enclosures and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the old enclosures and there upon he paid the current rate of the same.

Thomas Marchant claims rights adm:

Thomas Marchant of Cackle Street Maresfield attended to claim rights of Common on the Forest in respect of the Prince of Wales Beerhouse and 5 acres of land at Cackle Street copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell. Evidence of user for 60 years last past having been given to the satisfaction of the Board. It was resolved that Mr. Marchant had established his claim and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon he paid the current rate for the same.

Charles Marchant Trustees rights admitted

Charles Marchant also attended to claim rights of Common on the Forest on behalf of the Trustees of the will of the Late Charles Marchant in respect of a double cottage and about 4 acres of land at Cackle Street opposite the Prince of Wales Beerhouse copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell. Evidence of user for 60 years last past having been given to the satisfaction of the Board. It was resolved that the Trustees had established their claim and that their names be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof and thereupon Mr. Marchant paid the current rate for the same.

Sir Geo. Stirling claim – rights adjourned

Richard Luxford tenant of Florence Farm (former owner John Killick) and Killiecrinkie Farm (former owner Brett) both in Groombridge together about 150 acres and both now belonging to Sir George Stirling of Burns Wood Groombridge. William Killick of Fryars Gate gave evidence that 62 or 63 years ago he cut litter for John Killick of

Groombridge, he did not go home with the litter and therefore did not know where it was carried, was paid 10/- a load. He was very indefinite as to how long he cut, he and 3 Walters cut together. He gave exactly similar evidence as to cutting litter for Mr. Clifton who was bailiff for Mr. Brett.

Mr. Luxford stated that he had occupied both farms for 25 years last past except during an interval of 18 months, he had had litter from the Forest every year but had never turned out stock. It was resolved that the claim be deferred for the owner to take up the matter and for further evidence.

Col. Pope's tenant *** claims rights**

Mr. C. J. Farncombe tenant of Tanyard Farm Dane hill which belonged to Colonel Pope attended and disclaimed taking or having any intention to take litter from the Forest as reported by the Ranger on the 6th November. He stated that he had never heard that his Farm had a right.

James Pilbeam taking litter cautioned

James Pilbeam of Dodds Bank Nutley who is stone deaf and his daughter Ann Pilbeam attended with reference to the report of the Ranger that Mary Walters of Dodds Bank was found on the 19th October, cutting litter which he stated was for James Pilbeam. The daughter stated that some time in October she saw Mary Walter cutting litter on the Forest he had 3 or 4 lumps cut she asked him if what he had cut was sold, he said 'No'. Then asked if he could supply her father with a load. He said he could have what he had cut and he would cut some more to make up a load, but he only supplied three quarters of a load for which she paid him 6/-. The Board cautioned James Pilbeam that he had no right to take litter from the Forest and that if he wanted litter at any future time he must apply to the Rangers for a license.

Samuel Ridley claims to rights disallowed.

The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting he had ascertained from Messrs Hunt & Co. that the land in respect of which Mr. Samuel Ridley claimed rights of Common at the last Meeting are held on a tenancy at will from the Lord of the Manor and that the claim cannot therefore be sustained. It was resolved the Clerk also inform Mr. Ridley.

Henry Scott, Henry Scott Junior Alfred Chapman

That they also informed him that Henry Scott, Henry Scott Jr., Alfred Chapman all of Fairwarp who were reported by the Ranger for cutting litter also hold on tenancies at Will of the Lord of the Manor.

Spencer Tester – digging gravel

The Ranger reported that Spencer Tester who was digging gravel on the Forest stated that he was doing so for Mr. Hope. Mr. Hope stated that he was not aware of the fact and would make enquiry.

Alfred Thorpe cutting litter cautioned

Alfred Thorpe of near the Fox Duddleswell attended by direction of the Board in reference to a Report of the Ranger that he had offered litter for sale and there being a doubt about it he was cautioned that he must not cut litters unless he had a previous order to cut it for a Commoner.

John Sitford taking litter cautioned

John Sitford of Cinder Vale Horsted Keynes attended and admitted that he had cut litter on the Forest on the 22nd November thinking that anyone might cut. He was cautioned that the property he occupied had no right and he must not cut again under pain of being prosecuted.

Forest Row Golf Club alleged trespasses

Complaint having been made to the Conservator that the Forest Row Golf Club are committing breaches of the Bye Laws by interfering with the surface of the Forest. It was resolved that the Ranger be directed to give particular attention to the matter and report to the Clerk in case any breach of the Bye Laws is committed and that the Clerk at once write to the Hon. Sec. warning him thereof.

James Carr alleged encroachment

The Ranger having reported that Mr. Jas. Carr of Dodds Bank had made an encroachment on one side of his property he attended by direction of the Clerk and denied that he had encroached. It was resolved that Messrs Carr and Ridley view the spot and report to the next Meeting.

Mr. Wormald alleged encroachment - report

The Committee appointed to enquire into alleged encroachment made by Mr. Wormald presented their report as follows:

Ashdown Forest

Alleged encroachment by Mr. Wormald near the Vetchery Wood

Gentlemen,

As your Committee appointed to consider and investigate this matter, we now beg to report that having called in and taken the evidence of persons living in the immediate neighbourhood we are unable to find that any encroachment has been made by Mr. Wormald.

We are Gentlemen,

Yours truly,

Thomas Colgate

Mark Sandford

Dec: 18th 1894

It was resolved that the report be entered on the Minutes.

P. H. Phillips taking litter

The Clerk reported that he had invited Mr. P.H. Phillips of Crowborough to produce his title deeds with a view to ascertaining whether the title would support a claim by user, but that Mr. Phillips had declined to bring them to him and offered to let him see them if he would call. It was resolved that the Clerk inform Mr. Phillips unless and until he satisfied the Conservators that he had a right he would be prosecuted if he should take litter again from the Forest.

Alfred Chapman taking litter prosecute

The Ranger reported that on the 9th November he found Alfred Chapman of Fairwarp had a stack of Forest litter on his premises. That he had shortly before offered to give him a licence but he had refused to have one. It was resolved that the Clerk prosecute him.

Edward Fox taking litter

The Ranger also reported that on the 9th November he saw Edward Fox of Cackle Street who had taken litter from the Forest that he pleaded ignorance and had promised that in future he would apply for a licence.

Gardiner taking litter

The Ranger reported that on the 20th November he saw Aaron Wright cutting litter on the Forest near Chelwood who stated he was employed by Mr. C. Gardiner of Chelwood Common Baker tenant of Mr. Wormald. It was resolved that the Clerk write him explaining that this portion of Mr. Wormald's property has no rights on the Forest and warning him that he must not trespass again.

Budd Budd taking litter

The Ranger reported that on the 13th December he visited the farm of Mr. Budd Budd and found from 12 to 18 wagon loads of Forest litter as he believed on his own land and not on that he hired from Mr. Du Croz. It was resolved that the Clerk ask Mr. Du Croz to direct his Bailiff to accompany the Ranger and point out the boundaries of the properties so that the Ranger might ascertain on whose land it was.

James Gilham taking litter

The Ranger reported that James Gilham of Fords Green whose name is not on the Schedule of Commoners had had Forest litter and stated to had rights and should continue to take litter till required by the Conservators to desist. It was resolved that the Clerk write to his Solicitors Messrs. Pearless on the subject.

William Markwick taking litter

The Ranger also reported that on the 14th December he found William Markwick who lives on his own property near the Fox Duddleswell had a stack of Forest litter on the Forest adjoining his premises and that his wife stated she thought he had rights.

Thomas Tester taking litter

Also on the 5th December he saw Thomas Tester a tenant of Nesbit near Barnes Gate in possession of a load of Forest litter.

William Turner taking litter

Also that on the 8th December he saw William Turner of Spring Gardens cutting litter for himself.

It was resolved that the Clerk write to each of the above three persons warning them that they had no Forest rights and that they must in future apply for a licence to take litter or would be prosecuted if they took without.

George Inns disturbing surface

The Ranger reported that on 8th December he found that George Inns had been removing mould from Forest and he explained that he was levelling a road to a pond. It was resolved that the Clerk write him that he had broken the Bye Laws and would be prosecuted unless he at once saw the Chairman and made satisfactory amends.

The Clerk having reported that the funds in hand together with the outstanding rates now due would be nearly exhausted by the cheques now drawn

Notice to Make Rate

It was resolved that he give notice on the agenda for the next Meeting to make a rate and that he be prepared with the necessary documents for the purpose.

Cheques

It was resolved that the following cheques be drawn viz:-

The Ranger 13 weeks salary and rent to 31st inst.	£ 16.5.0
Petty cash disbursements during the year:	£ 2.5.3

Messrs Hunt Currey and Co. charges for attending to give evidence on various occasions and furnishing information:	£ 13.4.8
--	----------

The Clerk a year's salary to 31st inst:	£100.0.0
---	----------

Ditto his payments during the year:	£16.8.8
-------------------------------------	---------

Thanks to Chairman

On the proposal of Mr. Stanford seconded by Mr. Hope a hearty vote of thanks was voted to the Chairman for his able impartial and judicious conduct in the Chair during the past year.

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 26th January next at 11 a. m.

The Meeting closed at 6 p. m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 26th January 1895 at 11 a. m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
 Mr. R. W. P. Birch
 Mr. William Carr
 Mr. J. F. Hope
 Mr. Thomas Hyde
 Mr. E.A. Nicholson
 Mr. Joseph Ridley
 Mr. Mark Sandford

Lord Cantelupe's Nominee

The Clerk reported that Lord Viscount Cantelupe the now Lord of the Manor of Duddleswell had by writing nominated Edward Andrews Nicholson or in his absence James Hubert Senior both of Lewes ***** to be a Conservator and that such nomination had been deposited with the Clerk.

Chairman for Year

It was proposed by Mr. Birch, seconded by Mr. Mark Sandford, and unanimously resolved that Mr. Albert Turner be the Chairman of the Board for the current year.

Mr. Turner having taken the Chair, the Clerk read the Minutes of the last Meeting which was then confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £ 15.7.3.

Accounts for 1894 passed

The Clerk laid before the Board the account of the receipts and expenditure for the year 1894 together with the vouchers for the various payments and the same having been examined and audited. It was proposed by Mr. Carr, seconded by Mr. Birch and resolved that they be approved and signed by the Chairman and that the usual summary be sent to every Commoner.

Rate Made

The Clerk having reported that the funds in hand would be exhausted by payment of the current liabilities and having produced an estimate of the annual expenses. It was proposed by Mr. Turner seconded by Mr. Sandford and unanimously resolved that a rate be made for defraying the expenses of the Conservators in the execution of their duties under the Award made under the provisions of the Inclosure Acts 1845 to 1878 and the Commons Regulation (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act 1885 to be levied upon the respective owners of the rights of Common upon the Forest at the rate of sixpence per acre in respect of the acreage of their respective lands to which such rights attach which Commoners and their respective acreages aforesaid and the respective sums payable to them are hereafter set out namely:-

Adams, Mr.	Newbridge, Hartfield	2	0	1	0
William	-----	----	----	--	----
Arbuthnot, W.R.	Plawhatch, East Grinstead	----	5	0	0
Esq.	-----	200			
	Chelwood Common Dane Hill Uckfield		----	--	----
Baker Mr. Matthias	-----	----	0	1	0
	Chelwood Common Dane Hill Uckfield	----			
Baker Mr. William	-----	2	----	--	----
	Stone House, Forest Row, East Grinstead		0	1	0
Banister F.D. Esq.,	-----	----			
	Duddleswell Uckfield	----	----	--	----

Barchard Francis Esq.	-----	2	1	15	6
-----	Forest Row East Grinstead	----	----	--	----
Bashford, Mr. John	-----	----	0	6	6
-----	Bolbrook Farm Hartfield	71			
Baines Mrs. Lucy	-----	----	----	--	----
-----	-----	----	0	7	6
Bennett Mrs.	49 Wellesley Road, Croydon	----			
Mary Randall	-----	12	----	--	----
-----	Lisburn Nutley Uckfield		0	3	0
Bennett Mr. John	-----	----			
-----	-----	----	----	--	----
Birch Peregrine	The Priory Forest Row East Grinstead	15	0	14	0
-----	-----				
Birch Robert W.P. Esq.	The Priory Forest Row East Grinstead	----	----	--	----
-----	-----	----	0	12	0
-----	Chelwood Common Dane Hill Uckfield	5¼			
Box Mr. George	-----	----	----	--	----
-----	Kings Head Broadway Stratford	----	2	4	0
Box Mr. Richard	-----	----			
-----	The Rectory Maresfield Uckfield	28	----	--	----
Butler, Rev. J.B.M.	-----		0	6	0
-----	Nutley Uckfield	----			
-----	-----	----	----	--	----
Carr Mr. William	-----	24	0	1	6
-----	C/o Daniel Watney & sons				
-----	33 Poultry London	----	----	--	----
Clark Stephenson R. Esq.	-----	----	0	3	0
-----	-----	88			
-----	Carlton Club		----	--	----
Colchester The R. Hon. Lord	Pall Mall SW	----	2	10	0
-----	-----	----			
-----	-----	12	----	--	----
Colgate Thomas Esq.	Sheffield Park Uckfield		0	4	0
-----	-----	----			
-----	-----	----	----	--	----
Cook Mrs. A	The Hall Nutley Uckfield	3	4	15	6
-----	-----				
Cook Mrs. A	Barrack Cottages Late W. Turner	----			
-----	-----	----	----	--	----
-----	Tompsetts Bank, Forest Row, East Grinstead	5¾	5	6	6
Cook Mrs Ellen	-----				
-----	c/o Cope & Co. 3 Gr. George St Westminster S.W.	----			
Cope & Buckley Messrs	-----	----	----	--	----
-----	Dane Hill Park Uckfield	100	0	2	0
-----	-----				
Corbett, Charles Esq.	-----	----	----	--	----
-----	c/o Mr. Spencer Tester Brown's Brook, Buxted	----	0	8	0
-----	-----	8	----	--	----
Dadswell, Mr. Robert	The Ridge Hartfield		0	11	*
-----	-----	----			
-----	-----	----	----	--	----
Darling The Rev. F	Lower Spring Gardens Farm Maresfield	191	0	1	0
-----	-----				
Diplock Mr. James	Hope Farm Ightham nr. Sevenoaks		----	--	----

----- Diplock Mrs Mary -----	Court Lands West Hoathly E. Grinstead -----	----	0	2	6
Du Croz F. A. Esq. -----	Hartfield Tunbridge Wells -----	213	----	--	----
Edwards Mr. Robert Devises -----	Hartfield Tunbridge Wells -----	4	5	16	6
Farmer Mr. Rich. Cecil -----	Shortbridge Piltdown Uckfield -----	----	----	--	----
Fleet Mr. George -----	Kidbrooke Park East Grinstead -----	16	----	2	0
Freshfield Mrs -----	Vaughans Fletching Uckfield -----	----	0	17	6
Fuller Miss Millicent -----	Chelwood Common Dane Hill Uckfield -----	*8 1/2	----	--	----
Gasson Mr. Humphrey -----	Forest Row Green -----	2	0	7	6
Goard Mr. Phillips Philcox -----	Maresfield Uckfield -----	5	----	--	----
Goldsmith Mrs. Sophia -----	Goldsmith's Hall London E.C. -----	----	0	1	6
Goldsmith s' Company -----	Harbury Forest Row East Grinstead -----	233	----	--	----
Grieve Norman W. -----	c/o Joseph Turner Esq. East Grinstead -----	----	0	1	3
Hale The Misses -----	Fryars' Gate Withyham Tun. Wells -----	1	----	--	----
Hambley Mrs. Mary -----	Danehurst, Uckfield -----	----	5	0	0
Hardy Guy Chas. -----	C/o G. R. Brock Esq. 2 St. Peter's Rd. St. Leonard's -----	4	----	5	0
Harrison Esq. deceased The Trustees of William -----	31 High St. Lewes -----	35	0	2	0
Head Mr. John -----	Fryars Gate Withyham Tun. Wells -----	15	----	--	----
Heasman Messrs -----	Fryars Gate Withyham Tun. Wells -----	----	----	0	6
1. Samuel 2. William -----	Fryars Gate Withyham Tun. Wells -----	80	----	10	0
3. Charles -----	High Hurst Wood Buxted Uckfield -----	----	2	--	----
Hills A.H. Esq. -----	Dane Hill Uckfield -----	10	----	2	0
			0	--	----
			----	14	0

Hoadley, Mr. Edward	37 Fleet Sr. London E.C.	----	1	--	----
-----	-----	3	----	1	0
Hoare Alfred Esq.	Fryars Gate Withyham Tunbridge Wells	-----	0	--	----
-----	-----	-----	-----	8	6
Hoath Mrs. Lydia	Temples School Montpellier Rd Brighton	-----	2½	7	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	--	----
Hoath Mrs. Amos	Hartfield Tunbridge Wells	-----	-----	18	0
-----	-----	-----	0	--	----
Hooker Mr. John	Hérons Ghyll Buxted Uckfield	-----	200	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hope James F.	(Perrymans Grove late A.H. Hills	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hope James F.	New Church Rd. Brighton	-----	-----	--	----
-----	-----	-	----	5	0
Hounsom, W. Allin Esq. J.P.	-----	10	0	-----	-----
-----	Cleveland New Church Rd.	-----	-----	1	6
Hounsom Mrs. Eliza	Brighton	-----	0	-----	-----
-----	-----	-	-----	-----	-----
Hyde Thomas Esq.	Pixton Hill Forest Row East Grinstead	-----	3½	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Inns, W. Alfred George	Mount Pleasant, Fairwarp, Uckfield	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-	-----	-----	-----
Kenward, Mr. Robert	Fletching, Uckfield	3	-----	--	----
-----	-----	¾	-----	0	0
-----	-----	1	-----	-----	-----
Forest View, Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells	-----	-----	-----	--	----
Keys, Mr. R.W.	-----	-----	-----	4	0
-----	Budletts, Maresfield	-----	0	-----	-----
-----	-----	-	-----	--	----
Knight, Mr. Tho. James	-----	1	-----	10	6
-----	-----	2	-----	-----	-----
Repres. Of deceased	-----	-----	-----	--	----
-----	Brambletye, East Grinstead	-----	-----	2	0
-----	-----	-	0	-----	-----
Larnach, D.	c/o Mr. J.C. Lampard, 72 Beulah Road, Sutton	100	-----	--	----
-----	-----	-----	-----	1	6
-----	-----	-----	0	-----	-----
Leppard, Mrs. Elizabeth Ellen	-----	-----	-----	--	----
-----	17 Bedford Row, London, W.C.	-	----	3	6
-----	-----	4	0	-----	-----
-----	Milk House Farm, nr. Maresfield	-----	-----	--	----
Leslie J.E.	-----	-----	-----	15	6
-----	Scaynes Hill Haywards Heath	-----	7	-----	-----
-----	-----	-	-----	--	----
Lewis, Mrs Lucy Rose	-----	68	----	**	*
-----	-----	-----	*	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	--	----
Luckins, Messrs (1) Joseph John (2) Thomas	c/o Messrs. Lyell, Lewes	-----	-----	4	0
-----	-----	-	0	-----	-----
-----	-----	2	-----	-----	-----
-----	The Elms, Forest Row, East Grinstead	-----	-----	--	----
Lyell, Mr. John	-----	-----	-----	10	0

Wishart	Chelwood Common, Dane Hill, Uckfield	----	0	--	----
-----	-----	-		--	----
Magrath, Dr. John	c/o Mr. Charles Marchant, Cackle Street,	296	----	11	6
-----	Maresfield, Uckfield	$\frac{1}{2}$	2		
Manners Mr. James				--	----
Thos.		----	----	2	0
-----		----	0		
Marchant, deceased	-----	-			
Devises	Cackle St. Maresfield, Uckfield	35		--	----
Of Mr. Charles	-----	$\frac{3}{4}$	----	17	0
Osborne	c/o Messrs. Hastie, 65 Lincolns Inn Field, W.C.		1		
-----	-----			--	----
Marchant, Mr.	Fryars Gate, Withyham,		----	4	3
Thomas			0		
-----	-----	----			
Marriott, Mr &	Coach & Horses, Dane Hill, Uckfield	----		--	----
Miss	-----	-	----	1	0
-----	Cold Harbour Farm, Forest Row, E. Grinstead	10	0		
Martin, Mrs. Sarah	-----				
Anne	8 Argyll R. Kensington, S.W.	----			
-----	-----	----		--	----
Martin, Mr. William	Birch Grove Lodge, near East Grinstead	-	----		
-----	-----	$2\frac{1}{2}$		10	0
Maynard, Mr.	-----		12	--	----
George	Forest Row, East Grinstead		----	1	$10\frac{1}{2}$
-----	-----		0		
Melville, Mrs.	Holly Hill, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells				
-----	-----				
Midgley Llewellyn	-----			--	----
Esq.	Oldlands, Buxted, Uckfield		----	10	0
-----	-----	----	3		
Miles, Mr. William	Forest Lodge, Nutley, Uckfield	----		--	----
-----	-----	-	----	6	6
McAndrew John	-----	40	0		
Esq. J.P.	Fairwarp, Maresfield, Uckfield			--	----
-----	-----	----	----	3	0
Nesbitt, Mrs.	Londonderry, Nutley, Uckfield	----	0		
-----	-----	-			
Noble Captain	Summerford Farm,	8			
William	near Fairwarp, Uckfield				
-----	-----	----		--	----
Norman, Mr.	ditto	----	----	0	3
Henry		-	0		
-----	-----	101		--	----
Osborne, Mrs.	ditto		----	3	6
Esther			0		
-----	-----	----		--	----
Page, Mrs. Jesse	Fairwarp, Uckfield	-	----	2	6
-----	-----	4	0		
Page, Mr. William				--	----
-----	-----	----	----	2	0
Taylor, Mr. Geo.	-----	----	0		
Edward	Nutley Vicarage, Uckfield	-			
-----	-----	3			
Pages, Messrs.	Newbridge, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells				

Thos. & James	-----	----			
-----	22 Portman Square, London, W.	----		--	----
Peckham, Rev. H.J.	-----	-	----	2	6
-----	-----	7	0		
Philcox, Mr.	Ringmer, Lewes	----	----	--	----
-----	-----	----		0	9
-----	-----	----	3		
Portman, The Rt.	Misbourne Farm, Horney Common, Nutley, Uckfield	-		--	----
Hon. Lord	-----	311	----	1	6
-----	Millbrook, Nutley, Uckfield		0		
Porter, Mr. John	-----	----		--	----
-----	Part Lot 7 late William Turner	----	----	4	0
Ridley, Mr. Joseph	-----	-	0		
-----	Forest Farm, Danehill, Uckfield	**		--	----
Ridley Mr. Joseph	Late Trustees of Thomas Stevenson		----	2	6
-----	-----	----	0		
Ridley Mr. Joseph	Cripps Corner, Ashdown Forest, E. Grinstead	----		--	----
-----	-----	-	----	12	0
Ridley Mr. Sylvanus	-----	8	1		
-----	Minepits, Nutley, Uckfield			--6	----
-----	-----		----		6
-----	C/o Joseph Turner Esq.	----	0		
Ridley (or Gurr)	East Grinstead	----		--	
Mr. Timothy	-----	-		0	----
-----	-----	20	----		6
Ridley, Mr. William	-----		0	--	
-----	-----	----		18	----
Sadlier Mrs., the	Maresfield, Uckfield	----	----		0
wife of	-----	-	4		
the Rev. Canon	-----	103		--	
-----	Forest Row, East Grinstead			2	----
Sandford, Mark	-----	----	----		6
Esq.	Sheffield Park, Fletching, Uckfield	----	7	--	
-----	-----	-		7	----
Sayers, Mr. Stephen	-----	4	----		6
-----	Cackle St, Maresfield, Uckfield		0		
Sheffield, The Rt.	-----			--	
Hon. Earl	Nutley, Uckfield	----		3	----
-----	-----	----			0
Shoebridge, Mr.	-----	-	0	--	
Owen	Nutley, Uckfield	74		1	----
-----	-----				6
Shoebridge Mr.	-----	----	0	--	
Thomas	-----	----		2	----
-----	Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells	-	----		0
Shoebridge, Mr.	-----	8½	0		
Thomas	near Windmill, Nutley, Uckfield				
Richardson	-----				
-----	"The Rocks", Uckfield	----			
Stapley, Mr. George	-----	----			
-----	-----	-			
Stevenson, Mr.	c/o Arthur Hastie, Esq., East Grinstead	2		--	
Joseph	-----			5	----
-----	-----				0
Streatfeild, R.I. Esq.	Darvell Beech Farm, Battle		0		

----- Tapps, Gervis Miss Clara -----	----- Chelwood Common, Dane Hill, Uckfield -----	----- ----- -		-- 2 ----	
----- Taylor Mr. William -----	Nutley Uckfield Lot 3 late William Turner Late F.J. Whitewood -----	500 -----	0 -----	-- 1 ----	0 ----
----- Tomsett, Mr. Jesse -----	----- Oakhurst East Grinstead -----	----- - 3¾	0 -----	-- 5 ----	6 ----
----- Turner Albert Esq. -----	----- Chelwood Common, Danehill, Uckfield -----	----- 3 -----	----- -----	5 -----	0 ----
----- Turner Charles Esq. -----	Nutley, Uckfield -----	----- ----- 140	----- ----- 0	10 -----	----- 6 ----
----- Turner Mr. Elias -----	Horney Common, Uckfield -----	----- -----	----- -----	7 -----	----- 0 ----
----- Turner, William Esq. -----	----- "Coopers Arms" Crowborough, -----	----- 12 -----	0 -----	-- 6 ----	----- 3 ----
----- Tyler Mr. Enoch -----	Forest Row, East Grinstead -----	----- -----	0 -----	-- 10 ----	----- -----
----- Wallis Mr. Joseph P. -----	Stone Cottage, Hartfield, Tun. Wells -----	6 -----	----- 0	----- --	0 ----
----- Waters Mr. Isaac -----	Coleman's Hatch, Hartfield. Tunbridge -----	----- -----	----- 0	2 -----	----- 0 ----
----- Welfare Mrs. Eliza -----	Chelwood Common, Dane Hill, Uckfield Late John Wheeler -----	----- -----	0 -----	7 -----	6 ----
----- Wheatley Mr. Joseph -----	ditto -----	½ -----	----- 0	2 -----	----- 6 ----
----- Wheeler Mr. Charles -----	Nutley, Uckfield -----	----- 7 -----	----- -----	-- 2 ----	----- ----- 0 ----
----- Wheeler, Mr. John -----	Nutley, Uckfield -----	----- ----- 5	0 -----	-- 12 ----	----- ----- 6 ----
----- Whitewood, Mr. John -----	Claygates Farm Buxted -----	----- -----	4 -----	----- -----	----- -----
----- Whitewood Mr. James -----	Dane Hill, Uckfield -----	4 -----	----- -----	-- 1 ----	----- 0 ----
----- Whitewood, Mr. Henry -----	Chelwood Common, Dane Hill, Uckfield Late John Wheeler -----	----- -----	0 -----	-- 0 ----	----- ----- 1½ ----
----- Wickens Mr. J. H -----	Chelwood Common, Dane Hill, Uckfield -----	----- -----	0 -----	-- 18 ----	----- -----
----- Wickens Mr. Simeon -----	Mount Pleasant, Fairwarp, Uckfield -----	-5 -----	----- 23	----- -----	0 ----
----- Wickens Mr. Spencer Snr. -----	"Searles", Fletching, Uckfield -----	----- -----	----- -----	-- 2 ----	----- 0 ----
----- ----- -----	Nutley Uckfield -----	121 -----	0 -----	-- -----	----- -----

----- Wilson Mr. Edward -----	----- 55 Grays Inn Road, Holborn W. C -----	1/2	---	3	---
----- Wilson Sir Spencer M. -----	----- 9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn London W. C. -----	---	0	--	0
Maryon Bart -----	----- -----	---	---	1	---
----- Wood, Mr. John -----	----- The Hollies, Bennett Park, Blackheath, Kent -----	-	---	---	0
----- Wood John Edgar -----	----- The Beacon, Chelwood, Nutley, -----	3	0	---	---
----- Woods M.S. -----	----- Maresfield, Uckfield -----	---	0	--	0
----- Wood, Mr. Thomas Daynes -----	----- Fincham, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells -----	---	0	---	---
----- Wormald, Edward Esq. -----	----- -----	5	---	0	---
----- Wood, Mr. Charles -----	----- -----	---	6	--	0
----- Young Mr. William -----	----- -----	---	---	2	---
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Sheep cases

The Clerk reported that having been informed that Lord Cantelupe had taken up the sheep cases and instructed Messrs. W. C. Cripps & Son to fight them, he invited Lord Cantelupe to meet him and talk the matter over without prejudice on either side. Lord Cantelupe called on him on the 2nd instant and the Clerk pointed out that, having regard to the judgements in Dorset v. Newnham in 1693 and in Hale v. De la Warr in 1882, his Lordship was altogether debarred from pasturage on the Forest either by himself or his tenants and that his Lordship therefore

had no interest in supporting the Defendants in the sheep cases; that, as it was important they should be disposed of as soon as possible, he suggested the Chairman and Clerk should meet Lord Cantelupe and his legal adviser in order to discuss the matter, that the conference took place at Mr. Nicholson's office at Lewes on the 8th instant when Mr. Nicholson expressed an opinion that Lord Cantelupe could establish a right in some of his tenants to graze on the Forest. The Clerk suggested that the Defendants should plead guilty in accordance with the arrangement with Mr. Cripps, but on the understanding that Divall's doing so should not prejudice Lord Cantelupe claim either in respect of Divall's or any other holding, that Mr. Nicholson should furnish the Clerk with a statement as to what holdings Lord Cantelupe claimed for and upon what grounds so that the matter might be submitted to the Conservators with a view to getting it judicially decided upon a special case. Lord Cantelupe, however, objected to the Defendants pleading guilty, but undertook that the Defendants should consent to an adjournment pending the consideration of his claims.

The cases were accordingly adjourned by agreement till the 11th February next, but the Bench had intimated that, unless then proceeded with, they would dismiss the summonses.

That the Clerk then asked Mr. Nicholson for his statement and he had replied that he thought the list of farms sent some time before, i.e. the list of farms in respect of which he had claimed the right to take litter, which list is entered on the Minutes of the Meeting of the 8th April 1893 supplied the information. The Clerk pointed out that this list comprised 4100 acres, and amounted to a claim of about two-fifths of the pasturage of the Forest.

Also that under the Decree in *Dorset v. Newnham* in 1693 Lord Cantelupe predecessors in title were permitted to enclose about 7500 acres of the Forest on the express condition that the remaining 6400 acres should be left open for the Commoners, that it was Decreed that the Commoners should have the sole Common pasturage and herbage of the 6400 acres, and that the Plaintiffs their heirs and assigns tenants and farmers should be for ever excluded from having or claiming any Common of pastures or herbage therein – and that this Decree was confirmed by the judgement in *Hale v. De La Warr* in 1882.

The following letter was then read:-

Sheffield Park
Uckfield January 25 1895

To the Chairman of the Ashdown Forest Conservators.

Dear Sir,

I am exceedingly sorry that I shall be unable to attend the Meeting at the Nutley Inn tomorrow as I see by the Agenda that the sheep question is to be discussed with reference to Lord Cantelupe's claim. I trust that the Conservators present may hold fast to the line of action they have taken up - as they have the most absolute right on their side whilst Lord Cantelupe has none – and the question is moreover one of the greatest importance to the Commoners and increasingly so in these hard times of Agriculture. I have just been discussing the question with Lord Sheffield and His Lordship has asked me to say that he takes exactly the same view of the case my own and thinks it would be wrong to give way on any specific point in the matter. According to my view of the case the principal points the Conservators have to stand to are:

1. The fact of having caused a large number of sheep to be legally removed from the Forest already on the strength of the absolute fact that sheep are not commonable animals.
2. That Lord Cantelupe as Lord of the Manor has no right whatever to pasturage on the Forest.
3. That it would be an act of gross injustice to those who have already removed their sheep if Lord Cantelupe were allowed to retain those of his Tenants.

I should not object to joining a majority of Conservators in allowing Lord Cantelupe the advantage of some grazing rights for Commonable animals for some of his lands on or near the Forest, but this only as an act of grace and friendship and certainly not as a right but this would require to be embodied in a very carefully drawn Agreement.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly
Thomas Colgate

After a full discussion it was proposed by Mr. Birch and seconded by Mr. Carr that, as it appears probable that the Magistrates' jurisdiction may be ousted, the summonses be withdrawn with a view to the whole question of sheep being tried in the High Court.

An Amendment was then proposed by Mr. Hope and seconded by Mr. Turner that the Clerk proceed with the prosecutions in the cases of Leonard Divall and Jesse Wheatley but that he ask for a normal penalty only should the Defendants plead guilty. The Amendment having been put five of the Conservators present voted for it, while two only voted for the resolution and the Chairman declared the Amendment carried.

Authorities to litter cutters

On the proposition of Mr. Sandford, seconded by Mr. Hope, it was resolved that, when the Clerk sends out the application for the rate, he impress upon each Commoner the desirability of when employing men to cut litter or brakes for them of giving them a printed or written order specifying the number of loads they are to cut and the date of the order and direct them to produce it to the Ranger whenever called upon. Also that the Clerk prepare and have printed a form of order and furnish each Commoner with copies thereof for use.

Lady Shelley application to make temporary road granted

The Chairman then left the room, and Mr. Hope having been voted to the Chair during his absence Mr. Sandford stated that Lady Shelley had granted to Mr. Turner a lease of a field at Nutley No. 246 on the Ordnance Map for the purpose of brick making, that the roadway out of this field was across a portion of the Forest at the South East corner of the field to the highroad from Nutley to Minepits, and in order that the damage to the Forest by carting bricks from the field might be minimised, he applied on behalf of Lady Shelley that a temporary roadway might be made across a much narrower strip of the Forest from the middle of the East side of the field to the said high road. It was proposed by Mr. Birch, seconded by Mr. Ridley and resolved (Mr. Sandford not voting) that permission be granted to substitute a roadway at the point above indicated on condition that her Ladyship undertake to discontinue it whenever required by the Board and thereupon to restore and returf the surface and that in the meantime until such discontinuance and restoration her Ladyship undertake to pay the Board 1/- per annum by way of compensation and acknowledgement.

Mr. Turner then returned and resumed the chair.

The Rev. S.P. Macartney claim to rights adjourned

The Rev. Sydney P. Macartney, the owner of a property on the Forest at Shalesbrook in the Parish of East Grinstead comprising Numbers 2308, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2321, 2322 on the Ordnance Map containing 4 acres - 0 roods - 26 perches attended to claim rights of common on the Forest in respect thereof. He produced muniments of title showing that the property comprised the following copyholds of Duddleswell Manor which he had purchased in 1889 as follows:

From Mr. George Underwood Two pieces of land formerly waste with a messuage thereon containing together by estimation 1a. 1r. 2p., one piece adjoining to land of William Miles on the North East and to the road from Tompsetts Bank to Shalesbrook on the South, the other by Shalesbrook on the East and by a small road between the land of William Miles and the piece of land in description on the West late Weeding's and before Blackstone's and paying a quit rent of 2/9^d.

From Mr. William Miles a piece of land with the cottages thereon containing by estimation 1a. 2r. 0p. near Tompsetts Bank in East Grinstead abutting to lands of William Miles on the East to lands late of Thomas Blackstone and since of Daniel Weeding on the South and to the Forest on all other parts paying a quit rent of 3/-.

Mr. Nicholson stated in a letter to the Clerk of 7th December last that these tenements were granted as copyhold in 1779 and 1795 respectively.

Abel Eliot aged 81 who had lived in the Parish of Hartfield all his life stated that when he was a youth he remembered that the property belonged to Blackstone. Afterwards Weeding used part of it and William Miles the rest. He remembered that Blackstone had litter from the Forest regularly as far back as 66 years ago, and that Weeding also did the same. Witness knew of it because he used to go round selling meat. Both Blackstone and Weeding turned out. He could not speak as to the last 20 years.

Mr. Macartney stated that William Dival, an old resident at Quabrook, could give evidence as to this, but was too unwell to attend that day, and the claim was thereupon adjourned for him to produce evidence as to the last twenty years.

The Rev. S.P. Macartney permission to gravel road

The Reverend S.P. Macartney then applied for permission to gravel the old cart track running from the Southern end of Chapel Lane to the West side of his property, and it was proposed by Mr. Birch, seconded by Mr. Sandford, and resolved that permission be granted so far as the Conservators are concerned.

Mr. Job Luxford of Tompsetts Bank attended with reference to a report made by the Ranger that he was interfering with the soil of the Forest adjoining the quarry near Mr. Macartney's and explained that he was merely making a necessary road into the quarry (see his letter of 19th January 1895). The matter having been enquired into, it was resolved that the Board was satisfied that Mr. Luxford was only doing what is necessary.

Mr. Budd Budd claim to rights

A letter was read from Mr. Budd Budd stating that he thought he could prove litter had been used on the Restlands and the land he had recently purchased from the Twyford Estate for over 60 years, but that he did not propose to produce his deeds and left the matter in the hands of the Conservators and, if they were of opinion that he had no rights, he would discontinue taking Forest Litter. It was resolved that the Clerk inform Mr. Budd Budd that the matter must be settled and that he must either establish a right or undertake not to trespass again, or they must proceed against him under the Byelaws.

Adam Heath claim to rights rejected

Adam Heath of Withyham attended to claim rights of common on the Forest in respect of his Mill house and land known as Motts Mill, Withyham. He produced the copy of his admission to the property as copyhold of the Manor of Framfield in 1892 under the description of:

A quarter acre of land formerly part of Motts Mill Common in Withyham adjoining tenement next described on the North paying a quit rent of 1^d.

Half an acre of new assert land with a Cottage at Motts Mill Common and

0a. 1r. 1p. No. 3 awarded to the proprietors of above in satisfaction of their rights on the Waste.

The Chairman explained to Claimant that the tenants of the Manor of Framfield had rights of common on the Waste of Framfield Manor and no rights on Ashdown Forest and that when the Waste of Framfield Manor was enclosed he had received an allotment in compensation for his rights on Framfield Waste, and it was resolved that the Board cannot entertain his claim and the Chairman cautioned him that he must not use the Forest.

Mr. Edward Bates claim to rights rejected

Mr. Edward Bates of Alksford Farm, Withyham, attended to give further evidence in support of his claim to rights. He stated the Farm contained 63 acres. He produced another account book of his Grandfather which contained entries of payments on 27th October and 3rd November 1838 to C. Tester for "one load litter 10/- on each occasion, and he admitted that the land at Crowborough, for which he claimed a right, was an allotment of waste of the Manor of Framfield made in respect of Alksford Farm when the Waste was enclosed. The Chairman explained that copyholders of the Manor of Framfield formerly enjoyed rights of Common on the Waste of that Manor, but had no rights on the Forest, that when their Waste was enclosed they received compensation by allotment that there was no evidence that the litter purchased by his Grandfather had been taken from the Forest, whereas the

presumption was that it was taken from Framfield Common, and that, even if it had been taken from the Forest, the evidence of use during his Grandfather's time since 1834 only referred to 2 loads in 1838 and 2 loads in 1848, which did not establish a continuous user. And thereupon it was resolved that Mr. Bates had failed to establish his claim.

William Obbard Lord Cantelupe's tenant claim to litter admitted

William Obbard of Cherry Gardens Farm, Withyham, tenant of Lord Cantelupe, attended to claim right to litter on the Forest under the judgement in Hale v. De la Warr in respect of the Cherry Garden Farm containing just over 6 acres. He stated that about 65 years ago his father William Obbard hired the cottage and he continued to occupy it till about 25 years ago when he hired the land also and Claimant succeeded him. When his father first hired the Cottage, Mr. Chewter, who lived opposite, used the land and he and his son after him continued to use the land till Claimant's father took it. The land was all grass. Claimant, who is aged 54, can remember Chewter always had litter and never used straw; he did not of his own knowledge know where the litter came from. His father used litter every year, except one, during the ten years he used it; Witness never fetched it. Since Claimant became the tenant about 15 years ago, he had had litter every year from the Forest. He always employed others to fetch it, having no horse. His father sometimes employed Martin of Mardens Hill to cut for him. Two sons of Tom Killick have generally cut Witness's litter.

William Killick of Fryar's Gate, 80 years old, stated he had lived there all his life, except about two years of his youth. 63 or 64 years ago his Uncle Thomas Killick (now dead) tenant of Buggles Farm Lye Green carried litter for Chewter, to the best of Witness's belief, every year Witness sometimes saw Killick loading on the Forest on Church Hill, i.e. on the East side of the Five hundred and sometimes saw his team carrying litter along the road, and sometimes Witness walked with it from Lye Green to Chewter's in order to get a ride back in the wagon and saw it unloaded at Cherry Garden Farm.

It was resolved that Mr. Obbard had established the user to the satisfaction of the Board and the Chairman informed him thereof.

Alfred Hoath Junior Lord Cantelupe's tenant claim to litter adjourned

Alfred Hoath, Junior, tenant under Lord Cantelupe, of Whitehouse Farm containing 95 acres near Fryars Gate, attended to claim the right to take litter from the Forest for use on the farm under the judgement in Hale v. De la Warr.

The above named William Killick, stated the first tenant of the farm he remembered was William Avis, who died there about 50 years ago and was followed by William Killick, Witness' cousin (now dead) who quitted about 12 years ago. Charles Marden then became tenant for about ten years, and the Claimant followed two years ago.

Witness remembers seeing Avis's team loading litter on Church Hill, i.e. on East side of the Five Hundred and saw litter stacked in Avis's yard. He worked occasionally for his cousin William Killick and a man named Walters and Witness frequently cut litter for him on the Forest as long as he remained there. Witness saw three or four loads of Forest litter there at one time or another in Marden's time.

It was resolved that the claim be adjourned in order that Mr. Thomas Killick may attend and give evidence.

At this point certain Conservators had to leave and those **** proceeded *****

Stephenson R. Clarke's claim to rights

The Clerk read a correspondence that had taken place since the last Meeting between Messrs. Daniel Watney and Sons and himself in which Messrs. Watney stated that at the Meeting on the 27th October last after hearing the evidence with reference to Brookhouse Farm, the Chairman announced that the Board considered that Mr. Stephenson R. Clarke had established the right by user to turn out stock as well as to take litter. All the members of the Board now present who were present on the 27th October, namely, the Chairman, Mr. Carr, Mr. Ridley and Mr. Sandford stated that, while satisfied that Mr. Clarke had established the user as to litter, they came to the conclusion that he had failed to establish the right to turn out and that the Minutes of the Meeting of the 27th October last correctly recorded the resolution they had arrived at and It was resolved that the Clerk inform Messrs. Watney

thereof and at the same time state that the Board are still ready to hear any evidence with reference to turning out stock.

James Gilham litter

The Clerk reported that, in accordance with the resolution of the last Meeting, he wrote to Messrs. Pearless with reference to Mr. James Gilham's alleged claim to rights, and that Messrs. Pearless had acknowledged his letter and promised to write to him later but had not done so. It was resolved that the Clerk write to them that the matter must be cleared up by the next Meeting

Isaac Waters encroachment

The Ranger having reported that Mr. Isaac Waters of Tompsetts Bank was building a shed, which extended two feet beyond the centre of his hedge, and that there was no ditch outside the hedge which was an old one, It was resolved that the Clerk give Mr. Isaac Waters notice to abate the encroachment.

Frederick Winchester litter

The Clerk stated that, the Ranger having reported that on the 12th inst. he found a wagon on the Forest near Wych Cross preparing to load litter for Mr. Frederick Winchester of Goddenwich Farm, Lindfield, a tenant of Mr. Stephenson R. Clarke, he (the Clerk) wrote to Messrs. Watney, who replied that Mr. Winchester was not acting with Mr. Clarke's authority and that they were writing Mr. Winchester on the subject.

It was resolved that the Clerk call on Mr. Winchester for an undertaking not to trespass again.

John Collins camping convicted

The Ranger reported that on the 14th inst. John Collins was convicted by the East Grinstead Bench of trespassing on the Forest, and was fined £1 with 7/- costs, or in default 14 days imprisonment, that the man had left the neighbourhood, but the Police were on the look out for him.

Thomas Martin litter

The Ranger having reported that on the 18th inst. he found Alfred Tester of Forest Row cutting litter on the Forest near Greenhall, who stated he was employed by Thomas Martin, Blacksmith, of Forest Row, It was resolved that the Clerk warn Mr. Martin that he must either establish a right or, if again found trespassing, will be prosecuted.

Alfred Tester litter

The Ranger also reported that the same Alfred Tester had a heap of Forest litter on his own premises, that on cautioning him Tester applied for a licence, but that, as Tester's property lay outside the Forest pale, he declined to give him one. It was resolved that the Clerk warn him that his landlady Mrs. Defew [Defoe?] of 110 Ethel Terrace, Mead, West Croydon must establish a right, or if he trespassed again he would be prosecuted.

Gravel pit at Fairwarp dangerous

The Ranger having reported that parts of the old gravel pit near the Nursery at Fairwarp are very dangerous and require fencing,

Enclosures near Barnes Gate

Also that pieces of the Forest on each side of the new road from Duddleswell to Barnes Gate where it debouches on the high road from Tunbridge Wells to Uckfield had been enclosed with post and rail fences,

It was resolved that Mr. Sandford's offer to inspect the pit and enclosures be accepted and that he report to the next Meeting.

Timothy J. Ridley alleged encroachment

The Ranger reported that Timothy John Ridley or Gurr of Cripps Corner near the Goat was making an enclosure on the East side of his property and in the Ranger's opinion encroaching on the Forest and justified doing so by a letter from the Clerk about 6 years ago; It was resolved that the Clerk look into the matter and report to the next Meeting.

It was also resolved that the next Meeting be held on Saturday the 16th February next at 11 a.m.

The Meeting terminated at 5 p.m.

A. Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 16th day of February 1895 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the chair
Mr. William Carr
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. James F. Hope
Mr. Llewellyn Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Rate confirmed

The Clerk reported that on the 31st ulto. the Board of Agriculture confirmed the rate made at the last Meeting.

That £ 91:7:4 had already been received on account thereof and that the balance at the Bank amounted to £104:3:1.

Sheep cases

The Clerk reported that, as Monday the 11th inst. the date to which these cases had been adjourned was the first day of Lewes Assizes, the Counsel on both sides, without the Clerk's consent and notwithstanding his informing them that the Conservators strongly objected to any further adjournment, had obtained the consent of the Magistrates to further adjourn the cases sine die and the Clerk read a letter he had received from Mr. Marshall Hall as follows:-

122 Victoria Street SW
Feb 8

My dear Mr. Raper,

I was unable to wire you as a telegram I expected went wrong. Hastie personally to oblige me has adjourned the case (with consent of Magistrates for a month) as I found that in all human probability I should have to return my brief on Monday. Now what I suggest is this, try and get the other side to consent to refer the whole thing to the arbitration of Mr. Elton Q.C., the greatest authority on the matter as I am anxious if possible to avoid endless litigation.

Kind regards

Yours very truly
E. Marshall Hall

W.A. Raper Esq.

It was resolved that the Clerk use his utmost endeavours to get the sheep prosecutions disposed of at the Bench on the 25th instant and that unless Mr. Marshall Hall is able to guarantee that they shall be heard on that day or the following Court he be requested to return his brief at once.

Authorities to litter cutters

The Clerk laid on the table a form of authority to litter cutters which he had prepared and printed in pursuance of the resolution of the last Meeting also a copy of the notice he had sent with forms of authority of each Commoner.

Lady Shelley temporary road

The Clerk laid on the table the undertaking signed by Lady Shelley's agent in accordance with the resolution passed at the last Meeting and reported that her Ladyship had paid the acknowledgment.

Gravel pit Fairwarp fence it

Mr. Sandford reported that he had inspected the old gravel pit near the Nursery at Fairwarp and found that the part which the Road Surveyor of Maresfield was working was dangerous and required fencing, It was resolved that the Clerk call upon the Surveyor to fence it effectually forthwith.

Enclosures near Barnes Gate

Mr. Sandford also reported that he had inspected the enclosures made on each side of the new road from Duddleswell to Barnes Gate next the highroad from Tunbridge Wells to Uckfield that they consisted of a deep gully on either side which would be very dangerous for cattle if closed at one end and were at the same time a danger to the highroad if left open at that end. It was resolved that the Clerk explain the matter to Messrs. Powell & Co. who represent the Committee which made the new road and inform them that, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, if they will give a written undertaking to remove the fences at the ends of each encroachment when required by the Board, the latter will not interfere with the enclosures at present.

Henry Norman encroachment

The Ranger reported that Mr. Henry Norman of Fairwarp had fenced off with hop poles a portion of the Forest about 17 yards long by 8 or 9 yards broad near Summerford at Fairwarp. Mr. Sandford stated that he had seen it that it was of a temporary character and that it was erected for the purpose of guiding cattle to and from the Stockyard. It was resolved that the Clerk inform Mr. Norman that it is impossible to allow the enclosure to remain and require him to remove the fence at once.

Gravel pit near Workhouse Farm shift fence

The Ranger reported that the Surveyor of Maresfield had applied for permission to shift the fence at the pit he is working near the Workhouse Farm in order to take in more ground for excavating as he had worked up to the fence. It was resolved that he be allowed to shift it not exceeding 20 feet from the present edge of the pit.

Mr. Wormald's alleged encroachments

Mr. Wormald having written to ask the result of the enquiries made with reference to his alleged encroachments, It was resolved that the Clerk send him a copy of the report made by the Committee thereon.

Isaac Waters alleged encroachment

A letter was read from Mr. Isaac Waters denying that he had encroached on the Forest at Tompsetts Bank, claiming that he was entitled to three feet from the stem of the hedge and that his building was only carried out two feet, It was resolved that Messrs Midgley and Hyde be requested to inspect the spot and report to the next Meeting and particularly to see whether there were any indications of a ditch having existed at any time outside the hedge.

Timothy J. Ridley or Gurr alleged encroachment

The Clerk reported that he had been unable to visit the site of the alleged encroachment by Timothy John Ridley or Gurr and it was resolved that the matter be adjourned to enable him to do so.

Frederick Winchester trespass

The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Frederick Winchester stating that if his farm had not a right to take litter he would do without it and that he understood the Ranger to say when he saw him that he could have litter. The Ranger stated that he had made no such statement It was resolved that the Clerk inform Mr. Winchester thereof and explain that his farm had no rights on the Forest and warn him that he would be prosecuted if he was found trespassing again.

Mr. Budd Budd claim to rights adjourned

Mr. Frederick John Budd Budd attended by his son Mr. F.W. Budd Budd in support of his claim to rights of common on the Forest in respect of Denmans Farm, Swedes or Swedeland Farm, Piplye or Restland Farm, and Westlands or late Dennetts Farm, all in West Hoathly. Mr. George Billings aged 74 and Michael Murrell both of whom had lived in the vicinity all their lives having given evidence with reference to the properties. It was resolved that the claim be adjourned to enable Mr. Budd Budd to bring a witness named J. Baker of West Hoathly and any other evidence in support of his claim.

Rev. S.P. Macartney claim to rights admitted

Henry Mitchell, aged 52, who had lived close to the Rev. S.P. Macartney's property ever since he was five years of age, gave evidence that the successive occupiers of both portions of Mr. Macartney's property including Mr. Macartney himself had had Forest litter nearly every year during the last 40 years and that Mr. Macartney's predecessors had turned out cows and young stock during that period. It was resolved that Mr. Macartney had established his claim to rights of common on the Forest and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the property.

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 16th day of March next at 11 a.m.

The Meeting terminated at 4 p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 30th day of March 1895 at 11 a.m.Present:-

Mr. Albert Turner in the chair
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. Llewellyn Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

Lady Shelley's death

Before proceeding to the business of the Meeting the Chairman stated that in consequence of the death on Friday the 15th instant of Lady Shelley, the largest Commoner, he and other Conservators felt it impossible to hold the Meeting of the Board on the following day and had accordingly given directions for its adjournment to this date. He stated that he could not allow the occasion to pass without referring to the prominent part Lady Shelley took in defending the rights of the Commoners when attacked by the Lord of the Manor. By the promptness with which her Ladyship came forward to guarantee a large share of the expenses, others were encouraged and a protracted and anxious litigation resulted in vindicating the Commoners rights and placing the Forest under the control of this Board. During its eight years existence her Ladyship had taken a keen interest in the working of the Conservancy and on several occasions attended for the purpose of recording her vote at the elections of Conservators. Under these circumstances he felt they would all wish to support him in the proposal he was about to make viz. That this Board desires to record its grateful appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered by the late Lady Shelley in preserving the Commoners rights and protecting the Forest from extinction and its deed regret at the loss of so staunch and generous a friend and patron and to tender to Mr. and Mrs. Pechell its respectful sympathy in the great loss they have sustained.

The resolution having been seconded was passed unanimously and it was further resolved that the Clerk forward a copy of the proceedings to the Mr. Pechell.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were then read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that he had received altogether £154:12:1 on account of the new rate and produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £169:19:4.

Sheep cases

The Clerk reported that the prosecutions of Leonard Dival and Jesse Wheatley for turning sheep on the Forest were heard at East Grinstead on the 11th March when Mr. Moore appeared for the Conservators and Mr. Hubert Chitty for the Defendants, that after hearing evidence in the case of Dival the Bench held that a bona fide claim of right had been set up and that their jurisdiction was consequently ousted and they therefore dismissed the summons but declined to award costs to the Defendants. The Clerk thereupon withdrew the summons against Wheatley.

After discussing the position fully it was proposed by Mr. Colgate seconded by Mr. Sandford and unanimously resolved that the Clerk take the opinion of some good counsel other than Mr. Marshall Hall as to the prospect of succeeding in civil proceedings against Dival and go to the Court in which the proceedings should be taken whether County Court or Superior Court and as to the possibility and desirability of joining his Landlord Lord Cantelupe as a Co defendant.

Enclosures near Barnes Gate

The Clerk read an undertaking signed by Messrs. Powell & Co. in accordance with the resolution passed at the last Meeting and the same was approved.

Isaac Waters, Timothy J. Ridley or Gurr alleged encroachment

The Committees appointed to view these encroachments having been prevented by illness from doing so the consideration thereof was adjourned till the next Meeting.

Gravel pit Fairwarp fence it

The Ranger reported that the Road Surveyor had only partially fenced the gravel pit near the Nursery at Fairwarp. It was resolved that the Clerk write to Mr. Vater the Surveyor of the Uckfield Rural District Council who had now taken over the control of the highways requesting him to complete the work and at the same time to inform him of the resolution passed at the last Meeting with reference to the pit near the Workhouse Farm at Fairwarp.

Henry Norman

The Ranger reported that Mr. Norman had removed the fence referred to at the last Meeting.

F. Winchester litter

The Clerk read a further correspondence that had passed with Mr. F. Winchester with reference to his cutting litter in which the Clerk again reminded him that if he trespassed again he would be prosecuted.

Joseph Stevenson Road Surveyor authority to employ

Mr. Joseph Stevenson who at the instance of the Board was sometime since dismissed by the Road Surveyor of Maresfield from his employment for having sold siftings obtained when digging for the Surveyor attended before the Board to ask them to permit him again to be employed and having given his promise not again to sell siftings without the express authority of Lord Cantelupe's agent It was resolved that the objection to his employment be withdrawn and that the Surveyor of Highways be informed thereof.

James Gilham claim to rights

The Clerk read a correspondence which had passed with Messrs. Pearless & Sons with reference to this claim to rights in which the Clerk pointed out if Mr. Gilham was possessed of rights of common they were extinguished by the deed of Enfranchisement which had been produced and which contained no re-grant of common.

As the case appeared to be a somewhat hard one the Clerk undertook to confer with Mr. Nicholson on the subject.

Mr. Budd Budd claim to rights part admitted

Mr. Budd Budd Junior attended with further witnesses and the evidence of William Awcock having been heard It was resolved that Mr. Budd Budd had established his claim to rights in respect of 8a.3r.15p Nos. 576, 761,763 &

771 on the Ordnance Map lately part of Twyford Estate. 111a.2r.27p. Nos. 764, 765, 768, 769, 770, 776,777, 778, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786,788, 789, 790, 791, 792,793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 801, 802, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810 & 811 on the Ordnance Map being Denman's, Swedes, Piplye or Restland and Westlands or late Dennetts and 24a.1r.36p. Nos. 803, 804 & 805 on the Ordnance Map lately part of Broadhurst Farm all in the parish of West Hoathly and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof.

Sylvanus Ridley repair of surface

The Ranger reported that Mr. Sylvanus Ridley had satisfactorily filled in the ruts of the two old trackways referred to in the Minutes of the Meeting of the 12th day of May 1894 and it was resolved that his deposit of £2 be returned to him.

Sylvanus Ridley alleged encroachment

The Ranger having reported on the 19th February that Mr. Ridley was moving his hedge out along the South west side of Nos. 48 and 49 Ordnance numbers part of Crows Nest Buxted, Mr. Ridley explained that he was only moving the bank and planting a hedge on the outer side of the site of the bank and not taking in any part of the ditch It was resolved that the Conservators see no reason to interfere so long as he keeps inside the line of the ditch.

William Stevenson litter

The Ranger reported that on the 2nd instant he found William Stevenson (Grunter) of the Brickyard Nutley loading up litter for himself and that he is a tenant of Mr. John Wood of Nutley It was resolved that the Clerk communicate with his Landlord on the subject.

Ashdown Royal Forest Golf Club breaches of byelaws

The Clerk reported that in pursuance of the resolution passed at the Meeting of the 15th December last, the Ranger having reported that serious breaches of Bye law 8 were being committed by the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club he (the Clerk) wrote to the Hon. Sec. of the Club stating that the matter would be considered at the Meeting of the 26th January and giving him the opportunity of attending to explain. The Clerk reported at that Meeting that no reply had been received and no-one attended before the Board on behalf of the Club and no action was then taken.

The Ranger now reported that on the 15th March he found that near Quabrook on the Forest a path was being made and gravel laid down in length from 90 to 100 yards by about two yards wide from one link to another and that a fresh link was being made there.

It was stated that a change of Hon. Sec. had taken place which might account for the neglect and it was resolved that the Clerk write to the new Hon. Sec. drawing his attention to the subject and request him to attend the next Meeting.

Reginald Ashby Lord Cantelupe's tenant litter

The Ranger having reported that on the 21st instant on the Forest near Friars Gate he saw Samuel Heasman loading litter for Mr. Reginald Ashby of Lodgefield Farm, Withyham, a tenant of Lord Cantelupe, it was resolved that the Clerk give him notice to attend the next Meeting.

John Collins Senior camping

The Ranger reported that John Collins Senior against whom a summons for camping on the Forest was issued at the Uckfield Bench in June last but which could not then be served was recently served and the case heard at the Uckfield Bench on Thursday last and the Bench dismissed the Defendant with a caution.

Alfred Hoath Junior Lord Cantelupe's tenant claim to litter allowed in part

Mr. Alfred Hoath Junior attended with Thomas Killick a witness aged 72, who was born at Lye Green, Withyham and had lived in the immediate vicinity of Whitehouse Farm till about twenty years ago, and having heard his evidence as to use It was resolved that the Board is satisfied that the successive occupiers of Whitehouse Farm have taken litter for the full period of 60 years last past.

Rifle Volunteers application for turf

An application from the Captain commanding the C (East Grinstead) Company of the 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment for permission to cut some turf for repairs to the rifle butt near Tompsetts Bank was considered and It was resolved that the Clerk reply, that subject to the permission of Lord Cantelupe being obtained, the Conservators consent, subject to the spot from which the turf is taken being approved by the Ranger.

Cheques

It was resolved that the following cheques be drawn, viz:-

The Ranger, 11 weeks salary and house

Rent to the 18th instant £13:15:0

Mr. Sylvanus Ridley,

deposit to be returned as above £2:0:0

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on Saturday the 25th May next at 11 a.m.

The Meeting terminated at 4:15 p.m.

A. Turner

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 25th day of May 1895 at 11 a.m.

Present:-

Mr. Albert Turner in the chair

Mr. William Carr

Mr. Thomas Colgate

Mr. F.A. Du Croz

Mr. J.F. Hope

Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £221.2.7.

Mrs. Pechell

The Clerk reported that he forwarded to Mr. Pechell a copy of the resolution of condolence passed at the last Meeting, and he read a letter he had received from Mr. Pechell in acknowledgment in which he raised the question whether having regard to Mrs. Pechell's large interest in the Forest and the impossibility on account of her health of her being able to vote personally she could vote by proxy or power of attorney.

Can Commoners vote by proxy

It was resolved that the Clerk apply to the Board of Agriculture to ascertain whether there is any means, by amending the Award or otherwise, by which Commoners can be enabled to record their votes by power of attorney or proxy at Meetings of Commoners when unable to attend personally, and to draw particular attention to the case of Mrs. Pechell, who is owner of 1896 acres out of a total of about 11,000 acres and who is permanently disabled by ill health from voting in person.

Road Surveyors licences

The undermentioned Road Surveyors applied for licences for the year ending 25th March 1896. Each of the applicants was especially reminded of the resolution passed on the 8th April 1893, restricting the digging of materials to existing pits and quarries and licences were granted subject to the above and the other usual conditions.

Mr. Hy. Vater Road Surveyor to the Uckfield Rural District Council in respect of the parishes of Maresfield Fletching and Buxted:-

Gravel near the Isle of Thorns, near Pippingford, at Birchbank, at King's Standing, and at the Devils Rookery, Stone on Stone hill
Sand gravel near Fairwarp and Brazier's Bank.

Mr. Albert Tucker District Surveyor for the County Council

Hard stone and gravel and stone at the Cricketing Plain and Rushy Bottom
Sand stone on the West side of the Fox Coffee Tavern at Duddleswell
Sand gravel at Fairwarp
Gravel at King's Standing

Mr. James Richardson Road Surveyor for Hartfield

Stone near Wrens Warren and Gills Lap and beside the Green road leading from the Cross Roads towards the Green ways

Mr. Alfred Hoath Road Surveyor for Withyham

Stone and sand gravel near St. John's Church Crowborough and between the South of these 500 acres and Greenwood Gate.

Mr. W.W. Gale Surveyor to the East Grinstead Urban District Council.

Stone and Gravel within the Parish of East Grinstead.

It was resolved that the Ranger take care that no new trial holes be made by Road Surveyors and particularly near King's Standing and Rushy Bottom.

Cricket Ground control of unchanged

Mr. Sandford in pursuance of notice enquired whether there was any ground for supposing that the control of the Cricketing Grounds set out on the Forest under the Provisional Order and Award had passed under the recent Local Government Act from the control of the Conservators to that of the Parish Councils. The Clerk explained that the Cricketing Grounds remain under the control of the Conservators and that the Parish Councils have nothing to do with them.

Golf Club to make hard road

Mr. Chignell the Honorary Sec. of the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club attended and applied for permission to metal the existing trackway from the South End of Chapel Lane across the Forest to the new Golf Club House recently erected on Ordnance no. 2313 and it appearing that the Forest on each side of this track way had been very much cut up in consequence of the condition of the track way rendering it impassable and that to metal it would lead to the traffic being confined to the road.

It was resolved that subject to the Club obtaining Lord Cantelupe's consent, the Conservators assent to the track being metalled.

Rifle Butts Pages Gill recasing

The Clerk reported that Mr. Hyde and Mr. Midgley met the Sergt. Instructor at the Rifle Butts at Page's Gill and finding that they were very much in need of recasing had (subject to the Commanding Officer obtaining the consent of Lord Cantelupe) authorised the taking of turf from the surface of the Forest at a spot close to the Butts, for the purpose aforesaid impressing on him that the surface of the ground should be levelled as far as practicable

Sylvanus Ridley taking turf, William Hazelden warned

The Ranger having reported that Sylvanus Ridley of Crows Nest had a stack of Forest turf built on the Forest and that William Morpew had also a stack of Forest turf on his premises cut for him by William Hazelden of Duddleswell, It was resolved that the Clerk call upon Ridley and Morpew to give a written promise not to take turf again from the Forest without the authority of the Board and that in default of their giving such promise he should

prosecute them for a breach of the bye laws. Also William Hazelden be warned not to cut turf for any person who does not produce to him a licence to take turf.

T.J. Ridley or Gurr encroachment

The Clerk reported that he had inspected the fence which Timothy John Ridley or Gurr was carrying beyond his boundary at Cripps Corner and found that it was evidently intended for the commencement of an encroachment, the Ranger reported that since the Clerk had visited the spot Ridley had considerably extended the fence. Ridley attended in pursuance of a notice from the Clerk and stated that he was not making an encroachment but simply putting up a fence to protect cattle from a dangerous spot and alleged that permission was given him to do this in June 1889. The Clerk pointed out that no such permission was given but that a totally different spot was then referred to and that Ridley was then informed that if he desired to fence that spot he must make application to the Conservators, but that no such application was made.

The Chairman undertook to visit the spot before the next Meeting.

John Willis licence for coconut stand

John Willis of Chapel Lane Forest Row applied for permission to place baskets for coconut shies on the Forest near Tompsetts Bank on Whit Monday. It was resolved that a written authority be given him subject to the Ranger being authorised to change the spot if he found it desirable.

Cheques

It was resolved that cheques be drawn as follows

The Ranger ten weeks salary and house rent to the 27 th inst.	£12.10.0
Messrs Hunt Currey and Co. cost re sheep prosecution	£2.9.0
The Clerk on account Disbursements	£30.0.0

Also that the next Meeting be held on Saturday the 22nd June next at the usual hour.

The Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 22nd day of June 1895 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the chair
Mr. William Carr
Mr. J.F. Hope
Mr. L.L. Midgley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Joseph Ridley

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance at the Bank amounts to £176.3.7.

Commoners proxies

Also that with reference to the question asked at the last Meeting whether a Commoner can vote by proxy the Board of Agriculture were not prepared to give any advice but considered that the Award already made exhausted the power given by the Act cannot be amended The Clerk stated that he had been in correspondence with Mrs. Pechell's Solicitors on the subject and had offered to assist them in settling a case for the opinion of Counsel and to pay half the Counsel's fee for advising thereon but had not yet received a reply from them.

Road Surveyor Licence

Mr. William Orrin Surveyor for the Rural portion of the Parish of East Grinstead applied for permission to take stone from the Forest at Leggs Heath for use on the parish roads, stating that he did not propose to make any pit but simply to fill up some of the rough holes and ease the other ground.

It was resolved that his application be approved and that a licence be granted to him for the current year on the usual conditions.

Timothy J. Ridley or Gurr encroachment abated

The Ranger reported that Timothy John Ridley or Gurr has entirely abated the encroachment referred to at the last Meeting.

William Morphew Sylvanus Ridley peat

The Clerk reported that he wrote to William Morphew and Sylvanus Ridley with reference to their taking turf without a licence, but had received no reply. There being some uncertainty whether the letters had been delivered. It was resolved that the Ranger call on both parties for their undertakings as prescribed at the last Meeting and report the result to the next Meeting.

Sylvanus Ridley trespass

Also that he report to the next Meeting whether Sylvanus Ridley had complied with the notice served on him on the 30th May last to remove a stack of peat and heap of brick rubbish etc. which he had put on the Forest.

Mr. Birch gravel digging

The Ranger having reported that on the 8th May he found Levi Carr digging gravel from an old pit on the Forest for Mr. Birch. The Clerk stated that he had ascertained that no authority had been given him by Lord Cantelupe's reeve and on writing to Mr. George Birch on the subject he replied claiming a right to dig and stating he had done so for something under 25 years. It was resolved that the Clerk inform Lord Cantelupe's Solicitors thereof.

Mr. Arbuthnot claim to enclose

Mr. P.J.M. Arbuthnot attended on behalf of his father with reference to the strip of land lying between the North side of the Cold Harbour Farm and Leggs Heath Gate and bounded by the Plaw Wood on the west and the High road to East Grinstead on the East, which strip of land he was under the impression belonged to the Plaw Hatch Estate and he stated in confirmation that a barn belonging to his father had stood on the strip for many years. The Official Map was produced and it was explained to Mr. Arbuthnot that while his father had acquired title to the barn itself the strip of land formed part of the open Forest under their jurisdiction and could not be enclosed

Thos. Divall rushes

The Ranger reported that on 13th June he saw that Thos. Divall of Jumpers Town Chuck Hatch had a load of rushes or boggy growth which appeared to have been cut from the Forest at Newbridge but he had not legal proof thereof it was resolved that the Clerk write to Divall pointing out he had no right to take rushes or other growth from the Forest and that if found doing so again he would be prosecuted.

David Bennett rushes

The Ranger reported that on the same day he found David Bennett of Edgemount Farm near Newbridge had also taken a quantity of the same growth from the Forest and he found his son aged about 10 years cutting more who hurried away when he saw the Ranger. It was resolved that the Clerk write Bennett to the like effect.

John Yeoman peat

The Ranger reported that on the 18th inst. he saw Daniel Ridley of Hill top Farm Nutley loading peat for John Yeoman of Nutley. It was resolved that the Clerk inform John Yeoman who is outside the ancient pale of the

Forest that no one can take peat without a licence and licences are only granted to Cottagers within the Forest pale and warn him that if he has peat again from the Forest he will be prosecuted.

Pit at St. John's confirmed Crowborough unfenced

The Ranger reported that the fence round an old disused pit at St. John's Crowborough had been removed leaving it in a dangerous condition. It was resolved that the Clerk call upon the road Surveyor of the Parish to securely fence the same in accordance with the provisions of the Highway Act 1885

Richard Stevenson peat

The Ranger reported that on 21st inst he saw Richard Stevenson at Londonderry near Nutley building a peat stack and warned him but Stevenson claimed a right by use of his father and himself. It was resolved that the Clerk warn him that he can have no right and that if he offend again the Conservators will feel bound to prosecute him.

Sheep

The Clerk laid before the Meeting the opinion of Counsel with reference to taking civil proceedings against persons twining sheep on the Forest and the consideration of it was adjourned to enable the Clerk to lay further material before Counsel It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on Saturday 10th August next at the usual hour

The Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 10th day of August 1895.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. James F. Hope
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the balance at the Bank amounts to £225:5:1.

Sheep cases counsel's opinion

The Clerk then read the opinions written by Mr. James W. Clark upon the Sheep question which were in effect:-

1. In the case of the Lord or his tenants he was of opinion that upon proof of long user the Court would presume a grant or release by all the Commoners to the Lord of a right to turn out sheep in respect of the particular tenement.
2. As regards Wheatley he was of opinion that the Court would on proof of 60 years user hold that there was a title against the owner of the soil under the Prescription Act and against the Commoners by presumption of a grant or release from them all.
3. In the absence of an express grant the right would be limit to tenancy and couchancy.
4. That the proper plaintiff would be a Commoner or Common suing on behalf of the Class
5. That neither the Conservators nor their Clerk would be proper plaintiffs.
6. That the Conservators could not apply the rates in payment of costs or in indemnifying a Commoner suing as Plaintiff

They are a mere statutory body with none but the statutory powers derived from the Act of 1876 and the Provisional Order and Confirmation Act. They are not owners of the soil and have no right of action, unless given by Statute. So far as the Conservators are concerned the wrongful turning out of sheep is in the nature of a criminal

offence and is not proper ground for a civil action It was resolved that the matter be put on the Agenda for the next Meeting so that the whole subject may be gone into.

Stephen Smart, Ruben Matthews, John Fuller prosecuted for camping. Bench ruled not an offence

The Clerk reported that at the Uckfield Bench on the 25th ult. Stephen Smart Ruben Matthews and John Fuller were separately prosecuted for a Breach of Bye Law No. 3 in that being unauthorised persons they had each suffered a van to remain on the Forest near Chelwood Gate. The Bench referring to the sealed Bye Laws found that the words "encamp upon the Common" had been struck out of this Bye Law before confirmation by the Home Secretary and they came to the conclusion that this was an encampment and that an encampment was not prohibited by the Bye Law and accordingly dismissed the summons. They however on the application of the Clerk agreed to grant a case to the Superior Court whether their reading of the byelaw is correct or not. Having regard to the uncertainty of finding the Defendants to serve with the case Resolved that the case be not proceeded with but that the Clerk take the next satisfactory case before the Uckfield Bench.

Commoner's power to vote by proxy Clerk authorised to join Mrs. Pechell's Solicitor in taking Counsel's opinion

Mr. Sandford stated that Sir Thomas Paine, Mrs. Pechell's Solicitor, requested him to state that Mrs. Pechell would gladly avail herself of the proposal to share the expense of taking an opinion as to the power of Commoners to vote by proxy or power of Attorney at Meetings of Commoners and the Clerk was authorised to join with Sir Thomas Paine in taking an opinion accordingly.

Sylvanus Ridley stack on Forest prosecute

The Ranger having reported that Sylvanus Ridley had failed to move the stack of peat pursuant to the notice served on him on the 30th May last It was resolved that if he fail to comply he be prosecuted for a breach of bye law No. 3.

Sylvanus Ridley William Morphew taking peat

It was resolved that no action be taken at present against Sylvanus Ridley and William Morphew for taking peat as reported at last Meeting.

Pit near Priory Forest Row dangerous

The Ranger having reported that the pit near the Priory Forest Row from which Levi Card dug gravel for Mr. Birch is in a dangerous state It was resolved that the Clerk draw Messrs Hunt & Co.'s attention to it.

James Hobbs Upper Spring Gardens Peat Licence

It was resolved that the Ranger be authorised to issue a licence to Mr. James Hobbs of Upper Spring Gardens Farm to take two load of peat for fuel from the Black plains on the Forest.

Peat Licences extension of Class to whom granted

Resolved that where any person living within the Pale of the Forest and above the class of Cottagers apply to the Ranger for a licence for peat for fuel the Ranger consult the Chairman and if the Chairman consider it a suitable case he authorise the Ranger to grant a licence.

Samuel Ridley Fairwarp taking brakes prosecute

The Ranger having reported that on 5th August inst. he saw Samuel Ridley of Fairwarp cutting brakes for himself and it appearing that the property he occupies and owns has no rights and was enclosed within 60 years It was resolved that the Clerk prosecute if he deem it ***** and be authorised to secure the attendance of Mr. Nicholson to give evidence as to the title

Ashdown Park Estate enquiry to rights. Reply none

A letter was read from the Rev. George C. Fisher enquiry whether Ashdown Park Estate has rights on the Forest It was resolved that the Clerk inform Mr. Fisher that the property is not entitled to Forest Rights and that his predecessor Mr. Tompson acknowledged that this was the case

Cheque

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn for:-

The Ranger – 11 weeks salary and rent to 12th instant
£ 13.15.0

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 26th October next at 11 a.m.

The Meeting adjourned at 2.45 p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 26th day of October 1895

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. W. Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. James F. Hope
Mr. L.L. Midgley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed

The Clerk reported that the balance at the Bank amounts to £211.10.1

Forest Row - Golf Club – Application to extend links

The Clerk read a letter dated the 20th September from the Hon. Sec. of the Forest Row Golf Club stating that it might be necessary to give up the home greens and asking permission to extend the course towards Holly Hill and make greens in that direction. Also a letter of 24th October desiring to postpone the application

Forest Row Rifle Range complaint

The Clerk reported that he had received complaints from Dr. Walsham of Warrenside Forest Row the effect that sometime in July Mrs. and Miss Uthoff were playing croquet on his lawn about 5 p.m. when rifle practice was going on at the Range and that within a few Minutes of each other two bullets passed close by them and cut the bushes on the lawn near at hand. The Clerk wrote to the Officer Commanding the 2nd Volunteer Battalion requesting that the matter might be enquired into and asking him to make any suggestions which would ensure the safety of persons living in the vicinity of the range. The Clerk subsequently wrote that all the Conservators desired was to ensure the safety of man and beast and suggested that if the Range could be made safe by altering the direction of the line of fire, a Committee of the Conservators might meet the Adjutant and Inspection of Musketry on the spot. He had since received a copy of a report made by the District Inspector of Musketry to the effect that he had visited the Range and considered it quite safe.

It was resolved that the Clerk forward a copy of the report of the District Inspector of Musketry to Mr. Walsham and inform him that the Conservators are unable to help him any further.

Maresfield Parish Council Cricket Grounds

The Clerk reported he had received a letter from the Clerk to the Maresfield Parish Council enquiring whether in his opinion the management of the three recreation grounds on the Forest passed under the Local Government Act 1894 to the Parish Council and read his reply thereto setting out the reasons why these cricket grounds remain under the control of the Conservators.

Bye Law Board

It was resolved that the question of renewing the Bye Law Boards be deferred for the present.

Timothy J. Ridley and Elphick private dispute

The Clerk read a correspondence containing complaints from Mr. Elphick the tenant of Hospital Farm, and Mr. Timothy John Ridley or Gurr, the owner and occupier of Spring Garden Farm with reference to a spring just above Hospital Farm. Each party attended and alleged that the other had diverted the water from him. It was also stated that someone had polluted with tar and soot the pool below which is fed from the spring. After hearing Mr. Elphick and Mr. Ridley who were in attendance It was resolved that the Conservators have nothing to do with their private disputes, but that if anyone is found disturbing the soil or polluting the water, the Board will prosecute. This resolution was read to both the parties, and the Clerk undertook to forward a copy of the Bye Laws to Mr. Ridley.

W. Gilbert claim to rights

The Clerk laid before the Board a correspondence he had had with Mr. William Gilbert of 103 St. Stephens Avenue, Shepherds Bush, London, who claimed rights of Common on the Forest in respect of his farms called Allgates Goodwins and Cockerells at Horsted Keynes. It was resolved that the Clerk give him notice to attend the next Meeting with all necessary plans, documents and witnesses to enable them to enquire into his claim.

Dangerous quarry at St. John's

The Ranger reported that he had made enquires and learnt that the last stone taken from the dangerous quarry at St. John's Crowborough was taken about 30 years ago to build the Coopers Arms a royalty being paid to Lord De La Warr. It was resolved that the Clerk inform Messrs Hunt thereof and urge Lord Cantelupe to renew the fence.

Sheep cases - Amendment of Commons Act 1876 proposed

The Conservators then proceeded to consider their position with reference to the sheep question. The Clerk pointed out that Counsel's opinion that the Conservators have no power to take civil proceedings applied not merely to the sheep cases but to all matters and that the Board who were appointed specifically for the purpose of protecting the rights of the Commoners and protecting the Forest from encroachments and trespasses were in consequence powerless to discharge their duties where a dependant raised a claim of right. The question having been asked what would be the cost of promoting a bill in Parliament to obtain the power of taking civil proceedings, the Clerk stated that it would probably cost £500, and that it was extremely doubtful whether Parliament would pass a bill giving exceptional power to one body of Conservators only. He advised that the Board of Agriculture should be approached with a view to their introducing a general bill to amend the Commons Act 1876 and he mentioned that in addition to giving Conservators power to take civil proceedings where necessary for protecting the Forest from encroachments and trespasses and protecting the rights of the Commoners other amendments were desirable such as a power for Commoner to vote at their Meetings by proxy, and a power where Commoners had obtained a Regulation Order for improvement only to subsequently obtain, if desired, a Regulation Order for adjustment of rights. It was resolved that Mr. Hope be requested to approach the Board of Agriculture with a view to inducing them to introduce a bill for the above purposes in the next Session of Parliament, and this Mr. Hope consented to do

Mr. F. Gray permission to mend cart track on the Forest

Mr. Frederick Gray of Pippingford having applied for permission fill up the ruts in the cart track crossing the Forest from near his **** gate to the Three Wards bridge, It was resolved that permission be granted provided that the material used for the purpose be taken on such manner as not to leave a hole or disfigure the surface of the Forest.

Mr. H. Taylor claim to litter

A letter was read from Mr. H. Taylor, the tenant of Summerford Farm on the Buckhurst Estate, claiming a right to litter from the Forest. It was resolved that he be requested to attend the next Meeting with what evidence of user he can produce.

The Rev. G.C. Fisher's enquiry as to rights

The Rev. G.C. Fisher's application, which was considered at the last Meeting, was further considered and a Conservator having reminded the Board that Mr. Thompson (Mr. Fisher's predecessor in title) had written in his

lifetime disclaiming any rights on the Forest, It was resolved that the Clerk look up the letter and inform Mr. Fisher of its contents.

Alfred Oakley trespasses

It was also resolved that the consideration of the trespasses by Mr. Alfred Oakley, one of Mr. Fisher's tenants, be deferred pending the correspondence with Mr. Fisher.

William Markwick litter taking

The Ranger reported that on the 12th August he found Henry Scott Junior of Spring Gardens raking together brakes for William Markwick, who owns and occupies a property adjoining the Duddleswell recreation ground. It was resolved that the Clerk enquire into the matter and if he consider there is a case, that he prosecute William Markwick.

Alfred Thorpe and James Ridley - selling brakes

The Ranger also reported that on Monday 12th August Alfred Thorpe and James Ridley, both of Fairwarp sold a load of brakes to Mrs. Fitness, Grocer of Crowborough and one to Walter Wigmore of the Bricklayers Arms. Crowborough the Ranger saw the brakes and identified them as Forest brakes and William Carr of Marlpits Nutley, saw Thorpe and Ridley on that day proceeding with a load of brakes on the new road from Pound Gate going towards Crowborough. It was resolved that the Clerk make enquiry and if he consider there is a case that he prosecute Thorpe and Ridley.

John Stephens taking brakes, Richard Card taking litter

The Ranger reported that on 17th August he found John Stephens a tenant of Richard Card, near Quabrook taking brakes from the Forest, and on the 17th October he found Arthur Mitchell cutting litter for Richard Card. It was resolved that the Clerk write to Stephens and Card pointing out that their holdings have no rights and warning them that they must not again take litter or brakes without first obtaining a licence from the Ranger.

Forest Row Golf Club disturbing soil

The Ranger reported that on the 30th September he found Richard Card near Quabrook taking soil from one part of the Forest and filling in ruts on another part of the Forest and that Card stated he was employed by the Forest Row Golf Club. It was resolved that the Clerk write to the Hon. Sec. of the Club pointing out that it was a breach of the bye laws and that such acts must not be done without a licence.

John Burns cutting litter, William Killick George Stevens cutting litter

The Ranger reported that on 1st October Thomas Chuter of Crowborough was cutting litter near St. John's Crowborough and stated he was employed by Mr. John Burns owner and occupier of Woodburn Farm Withyham and George Stevens of Crowborough tenant of William Killick of Seaford was cutting litter near the same place for himself. It was resolved that the Clerk write to the owners on the subject.

Edwin Best of Chillies taking litter

The Ranger reported that on the 7th October near Pound Gate he saw Edwin Best of Chillies Farm Buxted taking litter off the Forest for his own use. It was stated that this Farm formerly had rights and was lately acquired by Earl De La Warr under an exchange. It was resolved that the Clerk look into the matter and report to the next Meeting.

David Bennett collecting litter

The Ranger reported that on the 11th October he saw Henry Sherbourne of Newbridge raking together litter for David Bennett tenant of Edgemount Farm, Newbridge belonging to the Misses Hale. The Clerk being unable to state off hand whether the Misses Hale pay rates for this property. It was resolved that he look into the matter to ascertain whether this property has rights.

Ernest Ovenden taking litter, John Hewitt

The Ranger reported that on the 15th October he saw Henry Welfare of Cooks Corner Farm loading a wagon with litter for Ernest Ovenden of New Road Crowborough tenant of Mr. John Hewitt of Withyham. It was resolved that the Clerk write warning him that the property has no rights.

James Bransden purchasing litter from Henry Scott

The Ranger reported that on the 16th October at Spring Gardens he found James Bransden of Maresfield tenant of Mrs. Dampier of Lewes loading up litter for himself which he stated had been sold to him by Henry Scott of Spring Gardens. It was resolved that the Clerk write to Mr. Bransden pointing out that he has no right and require him to give a written undertaking not to obtain litter from the Forest again, failing which the Clerk prosecute him and that the Clerk prosecute Henry Scott if he can see a reasonable prospect of obtaining a conviction.

Henry Jones taking litter

The Ranger reported that on 24th October hearing that Henry Jones of Chelwood had taken a load of litter from the Forest he called on Jones and saw the litter and that Jones stated his father and Grandfather had always had litter from the Forest. It was resolved that the Clerk inform him that if he claimed a right he must attend the next Meeting with evidence, that the Conservators might consider the claim

Cheques

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn for

The Ranger 11 weeks salary and rent to 28th inst. £13.15.0.

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 23rd November next at 11 a.m.

The Meeting adjourned about 6 p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 23rd November 1895 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the chair
Mr. C. W. Bell
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. J.F. Hope
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that there was a balance of £ 202.13.9 at the Bank and that he had £ 2.4.0 in hand.

The Clerk read his reply to the Adjutant 2nd Vol. Batt. Royal Sussex Regiment dated 4th October last with reference to the Forest Row Rifle Range and a rejoinder from the Adjutant requesting this Board to fix a day after the first week in January for a Committee of Conservators to meet the Musketry Inspector on the spot. The Clerk was directed to bring the matter before the next Meeting.

William Gilbert claim to rights

Mr. William Gilbert attended to claim rights of common on the Forest in respect of Allgates Farm containing 40 acres and Waxend or Voxend Farm containing 26 acres both in Horsted Keynes and produced George Herbert Mighall of Horsted Keynes who gave evidence that Forest litter had been used for 25 years past first by his father and afterwards by the successive occupiers of Allgates Farm – Also that his father subsequently became tenant about 21 years ago of Waxend or Voxend and held it for about 5 years his father had litter from the Forest in each of those years, the Farm was all pasture land and he had no other litter. Mr. Gilbert produced certain documents of title and it was resolved that the Clerk look into the same and communicate with Mr. Gilbert as to any other evidence required.

Rev. G.C. Fisher claim

The Clerk reported he had written to the Reverend G.C. Fisher as directed at the last Meeting.

William Markwick

The Clerk reported that having enquired of Messrs Hunt. as to the nature of Mr. William Markwick's title to the main part of his property adjoining the Duddleswell Cricket Ground they had replied they could find no trace of payment by him or his predecessor Richard Thorpe of any rent or acknowledgment and that Mr. Markwick had apparently acquired a title by possession. This being so, the Clerk considered it inadvisable to prosecute and had given Mr. Markwick notice, if he thought he was entitled to rights of common, to attend before the Conservators today with the necessary evidence, but he was not present.

Alfred Thorpe James Ridley

The Clerk reported that on Monday last summonses were issued against James Ridley for removing brakes from the Forest and against Alfred Thorpe for abetting him and that the summonses were made returnable on the 5th December next. It was resolved that Mr. Mark Sandford be requested to attend the Court and produce the last sealed rate.

John Stephens Richard Card taking litter

The Clerk reported that he wrote to John Stephens and Richard Card as directed at the last Meeting and Card had replied claiming rights of common in respect of his Holly Farm. It was resolved that notice be given him to attend the next Meeting with his Title deeds and evidence in support of his claim.

Mr. Hope's report

Mr. Hope made a report on the points as to which he had been requested to communicate with the Board of Agriculture and it was resolved that the Clerk write formally to the Board of Agriculture requesting their opinion whether a Commoner can vote by proxy at Commoner's Meetings.

Proxies apply to Board of Agriculture, Amendment of Commons Act 1876

It was also resolved that the Clerk be instructed to prepare and lay before the Board of Agriculture a statement pointing out the difficulties under which the Board labour in consequence of their not having the power to take civil proceedings for enforcing the duties cast upon them by the civil proceedings for enforcing the duties cast upon them by the Common's Regulation (Ashdown Forest) Provision Order Confirmation Act 1885 and begging them to promote a Bill in Parliament conferring the necessary powers on Boards of Conservators.

Cantelupe Lord *** to *******

It was also proposed by Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Bell and resolved that the Chairman and Mr. Hope be requested to approach Lord Cantelupe with a view to bringing about an understanding between his Lordship and the Board on the points of difference between them to report the result of their communications to the Board for consideration.

Forest Row Golf Club – trespass

The Clerk read a reply from the Secretary to the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club admitting that Richard Card was employed to fill up ruts made by timber wagons and had taken the earth from lumps over which he carefully replaced the turf – and that the work improved the surface and the Hon. Secretary asked that if a license was necessary for such ordinary repairs the Conservators should grant him a general one.

It was resolved that the Board does not see its way to grant the Club a general authority, but hereby authorises the Clerk from time to time to give the Board's consent to such matter as the filling in of ruts and the repair of putting and tee greens on reasonable conditions as to making good the surface of the Forest where interfered with for the purpose – but that any larger matters must be submitted to the Board.

Dangerous Quarry at St. John's

The Clerk read a letter from Messrs Hunt & Co. stating that Mr. Hudson had inspected the pit at St. John's and found it properly fenced. But the Ranger stated he had since met Mr. Hudson and found the latter had mistaken the pit, and the Clerk was directed to inform Messrs Hunt thereof.

Mr. Henry Taylor claim to litter

The Clerk stated that pursuant to the resolution of the last Meeting he had requested Mr. Henry Taylor to attend the Meeting today at 12.30 in case he was able to show that the successive occupiers of Summerford Farm had had litter from the Forest in the terms of the judgement in *Hale v De La Warr*, but Mr. Taylor did not attend.

John Burns claim to rights

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the resolution at the last Meeting he wrote to Mr. John Burns requesting, if he thought he could establish a right to common by proof of 60 years user that he would attend this Meeting at 1.30 with the necessary evidence and he read a reply from Mr. Burns alleging that his own user of 24 years established a right and that if the Conservators were not satisfied and would pay his expenses he would bring them the deeds of his property for inspection. It was resolved that he be informed he must attend the next Meeting with the proper evidence if he claimed a right.

William Killick litter

The Clerk reported that he had written to Mr. William Killick of Seaford as directed at the last Meeting but had received no reply.

Edwin Best James Gillham

The Clerk reported that he was not yet able to report on these matters but would do so at the next Meeting.

Mr. James Gillham who attended was granted a licence to take litter in the meantime without prejudice on either side.

David Bennett Misses Hale's tenant

The Clerk read a correspondence with Miss Hale in which she stated her belief that Edgemount was entitled to rights, but promised to look into her papers and write further.

Thomas Marten Berry Farm enquiry as to rights

The Clerk reported that Mr. Thomas Marten of Berry Farm Ardingly, tenant of Mr. Stephenson R. Clarke, had enquired whether his Farm had rights and that he had replied in the negative.

Henry Jones claim to rights

Mr. Henry Jones attended to claim rights in respect of his property at Chelwood, but as it was an enclosure made under the inclosure of the Waste of Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst within the last 20 or 30 years it was explained to him that the properties could by no possibility have rights on the Forest.

Alfred Scott taking litter

The Ranger reported that on 1st October he saw Alfred Scott of Paines Hill Fairwarp who owns his holding raking litter for himself on the Forest near Old Lodge.

And on 2nd instant he saw a son of Samuel Ridley of Fairwarp cutting litter on the Forest near Lisburn for his father who owns his holding.

It was resolved that the Clerk enquire as to the tenure of the two holdings.

James Taylor cutting green turf

The Clerk reported that on 7th instant he found that James Taylor of Mardens Hill had cut green turf from the Forest near Mardens Hill. It was resolved that the Clerk require him to give a written undertaking not to repeat the offence, or, in default, that he prosecute him.

Reginald Ashby Lord Cantelupe's tenant taking litter; Mr. J.T. Hall Lord Cantelupe's tenant taking litter

The Ranger reported that on 7th instant he saw a wagon being loaded with litter on the Forest near Fryars Gate for Mr. Reginald Ashby of Lodge Field Farm, Withyham, and one for Mr. J.T. Hall of Han Farm Withyham, both

being tenants of Lord Cantelupe. It was resolved that the Clerk call on them to establish user under the terms of the judgement in Hale v De la Warr.

Edward Turner litter

The Ranger reported that on the 18th instant he saw Edward Turner of Chelwood Common cutting litter on the Forest near the Vetchery for Peter Martin of Chelwood Gate, who is tenant of Mrs. Pechell and also occupies land of his own and that some of the litter was taken to his own land and as it appeared that this land was enclosed under the Horsted Keynes Broadhurst enclosure, It was resolved that the Clerk require him to give an undertaking not to take litter again for use on his own land, or, in default, prosecute him.

Stream adjoining Crowborough Warren dangerous

The Ranger having reported that in consequence of the action of the stream near the sluice of the Corn Mill at Crowborough Warren the high bank of the stream had been eaten away, learning a fall of about 20 feet which was dangerous to the Commoner's cattle, It was resolved that the Ranger be authorised to put up a two-rail larch fence to protect the spot and that he make a plan of this part of the stream so as to present a record of the boundary of the Forest.

It was resolved that the Annual Meeting of Commoners be held at the Nutley Inn on Saturday the 21st December next at noon

Also that the next Meeting of the Board be held on the same date at 11 a.m.

The Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

The Annual Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened by the Clerk by notice on the Church door of each of the parishes or ecclesiastical districts into which the Forest extends and by advertisements in four newspapers circulating in the neighbourhood, to wit the Sussex Express the Sussex Advertiser the East Sussex News and the Southern Weekly News, at least fourteen days before this date and held on Saturday the 21st day of December 1895 at noon at the Nutley Inn , Nutley.

Present

Mr. James F. Hope in the chair
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. Ll. Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley (Horney Common)
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. Albert Turner

Election of Conservators

The Clerk reported that the retiring Conservators were:- Mr. Albert Turner, Mr. Joseph Ridley (Horney Common), Mr. Charles William Bell and Mr. Robert William Peregrine Birch

It was proposed by Mr. Colgate seconded by Mr. Sandford and unanimously resolved that Mr. Hope do take the chair

It was proposed by Mr. Ll. Midgley and seconded by Mr. William Carr that Mr. Albert Turner be re elected a Conservator

It was proposed by Mr. Sandford and seconded by Mr. Albert Turner that Mr. Joseph Ridley of Horney Common be re-elected a Conservator

It was proposed by Mr. Colgate and seconded by Mr. Sandford that Mr. Guy Charles Hardy of Tremaines Horsted Keynes be elected a Conservator

It was proposed by Mr. Joseph Ridley and seconded by Mr. A. Turner that Mr. R.W. Peregrine Birch be re elected a Conservator

No other candidates having been proposed the Chairman declared the above named four gentlemen duly elected

James F. Hope
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 21st December 1895 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the chair
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. J.F. Hope
Mr. Ll. Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Elected Conservators

The Clerk produced and read the following certificate and on the proposition of Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Carr It was resolved that the same be entered on the Minutes

To Mr. William Augustus Raper Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest

As Chairman of the Meeting of Commoners duly convened and held at Nutley Inn, Nutley, this 21st day of December 1895 for the purpose of electing four Conservators I hereby intimate to you that Mr. Albert Turner of Nutley, Mr. Joseph Ridley of Horney Common Maresfield, Mr. Guy Charles Hardy of Tremaines, Horsted Keynes and Mr. Robert William Peregrine Birch of the Priory, Forest Row, were elected Conservators of the Forest at such Meeting.

Dated this 21st day of December 1895

James F. Hope
Chairman

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book and the cheque book showing a balance in hand of £210.5.9

Lord Cantelupe

Mr. Hope reported that Mr. Turner and he had met Lord Cantelupe on Saturday last under the Chairmanship of Mr. Francis Barchard they had had a very satisfactory talk and Lord Cantelupe appeared disposed to meet them in a favourable manner and that they were to meet again, after which the Committee would probably be in a position to report to the Board

Alfred Thorpe and James Ridley

The Clerk reported that on Thursday last the summonses against James Ridley for removing brakes and Alfred Thorpe for abetting him were heard at the Uckfield Bench and were dismissed, the witnesses giving evidence in the witness box as to dates and hours altogether different from that which they had given to the Ranger and Clerk

Thomas Marchant

The Clerk also reported that at the same Bench Thomas Marchant, one of the Commoners, was summoned under Sec. 25 of the Highway Act 1864 for suffering three beast to stray on the highway in front of Captain Noble's grounds and that by instruction of the Chairman he appeared for the Defendant and produced evidence to show that the road and grass at the side were within the Forest boundary and that the stock had been turned out on the Forest and had only reached the road shortly before they were found by the constable, who stated that he found two of them grazing on the grass one on each side of the road and the third on the metalled road. The Clerk submitted to the Bench that the highway passed over the Common, and that the case came within the exception mentioned in the section that, if this were not so, then as the cattle were entitled to graze the grass the penalty could be inflicted only in respect of the one animal found in the road, but he submitted that in that case as this animal had accidentally escaped and for a short time only the Bench ought to follow the dictum of Cockburn Q.C. in *Golding v Stocking* and not convict. The Bench however convicted and imposed a penalty of sixpence in respect of each of the three beast, but on the application of the Clerk they agreed to grant a case to the Superior Court.

Alfred Ridley

The Clerk reported that at the East Grinstead Bench on Monday last Alfred Ridley was convicted of allowing a tent to remain on the Forest and was fined 5/- and 7/- costs, which he paid.

Richard Card taking litter

The reported he had written to Richard Card requiring him to attend this Meeting with his deeds and evidence in support of his claim and read a reply from Card declining to come but offering to produce his documents at his house. It was resolved that the Clerk see Card when he is next in the vicinity of Forest Row.

Henry Taylor Lord Cantelupe's tenant claim to litter

The Clerk reported that as Mr. Taylor did not attend the last Meeting he had given him notice to attend the present and read his reply that he was too unwell to attend.

John Burns claim to litter

The Clerk reported he had written to Mr. Burns as directed at the last Meeting giving him notice to attend this Meeting but had not received any reply. It was resolved that he have notice to attend the next Meeting.

John Killick litter

The Clerk reported that he had written as directed at the last Meeting to Mr. Killick (whose Christian name was John and not William) and he had received a reply promising to attend a subsequent Meeting, if given a weeks notice. It was resolved that the Clerk give him notice to attend the next Meeting.

J.T. Hall and Reginald Ashby Lord Cantelupe's tenants - Claims to litter

The Clerk reported that he wrote as directed at the last Meeting requesting Mr. Reginald Ashby and Mr. Hall to attend and support their claims at this Meeting and he read replies which he had received that they would be unable to attend this Meeting and stating the grounds of their claims. It was resolved that the matter stand over for the present.

Proxies Board of Agriculture

The Clerk reported that he had written to the Board of Agriculture requesting their opinion whether a Commoner can vote by proxy at Commoners Meetings and the Board had replied that they had no jurisdiction to determine such questions but that having regard to the wording of the Award it would appear that proxies could not be used.

Amendment of Commons Act 1876

The Clerk also reported that he had prepared and laid before the Board of Agriculture a statement pointing out the difficulties under which the Board labour in being unable to take civil proceedings and begging them to promote legislation conferring such a power on Boards of Conservators, and that he subsequently urged them to provide at the same time for Commoners voting by proxy and that the Board had replied that the suggestions would be carefully considered in the event of any suitable opportunity presenting itself for legislation.

Forest Row Golf Club

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Forest Row Golf Club asking permission to make two new greens on the hill beyond the Rifle Range. It was resolved that so far as the Conservators are concerned they assent to the request on condition that such of the surface of the Forest as might be thereby disturbed be properly re-turfed and the work completed to satisfaction of the Ranger.

Dangerous Quarry at St. John's

The Clerk reported that he had not yet heard from Messrs Hunt on this matter.

James Taylor cutting green turf

The Clerk reported that he had written to James Taylor as directed at the last Meeting but had not as yet received any reply.

Stream adjoining Crowborough Warren

The Ranger reported that the dangerous bank of the stream adjoining Crowborough Warren which required a fence was about 100 yards being much longer than was anticipated at the last Meeting. It was resolved that Messrs Sandford and Joseph Ridley view the spot and report at the next Meeting.

The Reverend John L Ogle hedge

A letter was read from the Reverend John L Ogle of Aegen Gill Forest Row stating that one of his boundary hedges was destroyed and asking permission to put a fence outside his ground to protect the new hedge he was about to plant. The Ranger reported that Mr. Ogle had planted two young fir trees outside his fence in the Forest. It was resolved that provided he at once remove the two fir trees, permission be granted to him to put up a fence outside the property while the new hedge is growing so that the fence is placed within three feet of the stem of the old hedge and that he undertake in writing to remove the fence when required by the Board

R.A.D. Beeching application to plant refused

An application was read from Mr. R.A. Dallas Beeching requesting permission to plant outside his property on the Forest three young poplars in his garden which were injuring his fruit and vegetables. It was resolved that Mr. Beeching be informed that the Board has no power to authorise planting on the Forest and that had they such power they could not consent to the request.

F. Ovenden application to make approach granted

An application was read from Mr. F. Ovenden for permission to make a roadway from his property on Mardens Hill Withyham Nos. 1121 on the large Ordnance Survey across a few feet of Forest to the highroad at Mardens Hill. It was resolved that so far as the Conservators are concerned, they do not object to his cutting a road not exceeding ten feet in width from the Northern end of his frontage, provided the work is carried out to the satisfaction of the Ranger.

Forest Row Rifle Range

It was resolved that Messrs Colgate, Hyde and Midgley be appointed a Committee to meet this District Inspector of Musketry at the Range and that the Clerk propose the afternoon of Wednesday January * for the purpose.

Cheques

It was resolved that the following cheques be drawn viz:-

The Ranger nine weeks salary and

rent to 30 th instant	£11.5.0
Ditto petty disbursements for the year <u>£2.2.3</u>	£13.7.3
The Clerk – One year's salary to 31 st instant	£100.0.0
Ditto Balance of costs and disbursements to date	£65.0.3

Accounts for 1895

The Clerk laid before the Board the account of the receipts and expenditure for the 1895 together with the vouchers for the various payments and the same having been examined and audited it was resolved that they be approved and signed by the Chairman and that the usual summary be sent to every Commoner.

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 25th January next unless Mr. Hope's Committee desired to report to the Board at an earlier date.

The Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 25th January 1896 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the chair
Mr. Mark Sandford Chairman pro.tem. as below
Mr. E.A. Nicholson representing Earl De la Warr
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. J.F. Hope
Mr. Thomas Hyde
Mr. Ll. Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley

Temporary Chairman elected

The first business of the Meeting being the election of a Chairman of the Board for the current year. Mr. Sandford was voted to the Chair for the purpose of conducting the election.

Election of Chairman for the year

Mr. Sandford proposed and Mr. Birch seconded that Mr. Albert Turner be re-elected Chairman for the current year. Mr. Turner expressed a strong wish to be relieved of the office and proposed that Mr. James Fitzalan Hope be the Chairman for the year. This was seconded by Mr. Colgate. Mr. Hope stated that he was unwilling to be nominated if there was any prospect of Mr. Turner reconsidering his determination. Mr. Turner having been strongly urged to reconsider the matter Mr. Sandford put his proposal to the Meeting and it was carried nem. con. Mr. Turner not voting.

Mr. Sandford then vacated the chair and Mr. Turner having taken it thanked the Board for the compliment they had paid him.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were then read and confirmed

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £31.14.3.

Rate defaulters to be proceeded against

He also reported that the rated made in January last had been collected with the exception of a few small Commoners who had been applied to three times without result

It was proposed by Mr. Birch seconded by Mr. Colgate and resolved that the Clerk take the necessary steps to recover the rates from all defaulters who had admitted by previous payment their liability

Rate nearly expended

The Clerk reported that the funds in hand together with the outstanding rates now due would nearly be absorbed by the current expenses

Report of Mr. Hope's Committee

Mr. Hope reported that in pursuance of the resolution passed by the Board on the 23rd November last, an interview was arranged with Lord Cantelupe and took place at the Public Hall, Uckfield on December the 14th Lord Cantelupe, Mr. Kirk (his Lordship's Secretary), Mr. Hope and Mr. Turner were present and by their joint request Mr. Francis Barchard presided over their deliberation

The Committee asked Lord Cantelupe to consent to an order for adjustment of rights under the Commons Act 1876. Lord Cantelupe thereupon made a counterproposal that a piece of the open Forest near Wrens Warren should be given up to him to be enclosed and held as his own private property, freed from all rights over the rest of the Forest of which he is Lord. After discussing the matter the conference was adjourned the details and size of the piece of Forest to be given up to Lord Cantelupe being left for future discussion a memorandum of the terms of the proposal having been drawn up and signed by Mr. Barchard. It was decided by the Committee to submit to Lord Cantelupe at the next conference an agreement which should put the proposed settlement into a precise and definite shape and provide for the promotion of a private bill to carry it into effect. The draft was prepared by Mr. Wolstenholme on the instructions of the Clerk at the suggestion of his parliamentary agents. Two or three days before the adjourned conference Mr. Hope sent a copy to Mr. Barchard asking him to look through it and see whether it fairly embodied the proposed arrangement and at the same time he informed Lord Cantelupe that he had done so.

The second Conference was held at Horsted Place on the 10th January the same parties being present as on the first occasion and Lord Cantelupe then stipulated that so much of the open Forest as was bounded on the West by the road from Chuck Hatch to Maresfield and on the East by the Five hundred and the highroad from the South East corner of the Five hundred to its junction with the first mentioned road should be given up to him. The Committee stated that this was impossible and after some further negotiation and upon the advice of Mr. Barchard the Committee agreed to give up so much of the piece in question as lay to the North of Straight line drawn from the junction (South of Gill's Lap) of the road from Chuck Hatch with the road from New Bridge to a point on the road from Lye Green to Maresfield marked 653 on the Ordnance Map. Also by Lord Cantelupe's particular request a strip of land on the East side of the Five hundred and bounded on the East by a line drawn from the point at the Friars Gate where the drive leading into the Five hundred joins the aforesaid road from Lye Green to Maresfield to the point on the latter road marked 485 on the six inch Ordnance Map and then along the Western side of the said road to the above mentioned point marked 653. Some minor alterations were then made in the text of the agreement and Mr. Barchard having stated in the hearing of the conference that the Agreement would involve the surrender by Lord Cantelupe of all his interest in the Forest and in the Manor of Duddleswell his Lordship initialled the various alterations in the agreement and signed it and the Committee did the same. The original was left in Mr. Barchard's custody and each party had a copy.

The Agreement having been read to the Meeting Mr. Hope proceeded to state that a day or two later he received from Lord Cantelupe a letter dated the 11th January stating that in going through the Agreement with his Solicitor his Lordship was surprised to find that he was to hand over the tenancies at will and the copyholds – that the enfranchisements of these would represent several hundreds of pounds which he could not be expected to hand over in addition to the freehold of the Forest and asking that the tenancies at will and the copyholds should be

taken out of the Agreement in as much as he had understood at the first conference that no surrender of his copyhold rights was to be included in the proposed settlement.

Mr. Hope read two letters he had written in reply on the 13th and 21st respectively, of which the tenour was that he could not admit Lord Cantelupe's contention and could give no definite answer without consultation with his colleagues

Mr. Sandford stated that as the representative of Mrs. Pechell, the largest Commoner, his instructions were to oppose the proposal arrangement and that Mrs. Pechell's Solicitor, Sir Thomas Paine, considered the Conservators had no power to expend the Forest rates in promoting a Bill in Parliament.

It having been suggested that the Committee had exceeded their powers Mr. Birch stated that even if they had done so the Board was indebted to them but that there was no use in going to Parliament unless all parties were unanimous.

The proposal that had been thrown out to provide for the expenses of promoting the Bill By the sale of small portions of the open Forest was likely, in his opinion, to lead to opposition from property owners who might be affected by sales near their properties and it would be necessary to consider and define the portions of Forest proposed to be so dealt with.

The consideration of the Report adjourned

After some further discussion it was proposed by Mr. Birch seconded by Mr. Sandford and unanimously resolved that the matter be adjourned till the next Meeting in order that the members may consider the merits and practicability of the scheme embodied in the Provisional Agreement.

Extracts from the Provisional Agreement to be sent to each Conservator

It was also proposed by Mr. Hope seconded by Mr. Midgley and resolved that in the meantime a copy of clauses 1 and 2 of the Agreement to be furnished to each Conservator.

John Burns claim to litter

The Clerk reported that he had given Mr. John Burns notice to attend this Meeting but that he was not present.

Elizabeth Killick claim to rights rejected

Elizabeth Killick, wife of John Killick of Seaford, owner of a house called Providence House and about 1½ acres of land on the Forest near Crowborough applied in the person of her husband to be acknowledged as a Commoner on the Forest in respect of the above mentioned property. But on investigation it was found that the Western portion of the property formed encroachment no. 68 containing 0a. 3r. 13p which was sold to her under the regulation award and that the remainder was held of Earl De la Warr on a tenancy at will, and it was thereupon explained to the applicant that neither portion of the property was entitled to rights, but that being a small holding inside the Forest Pale the Ranger was permitted to grant licences to the occupier to take a reasonable quantity of brakes or litter for use on the land. The Ranger stated that he had already given the occupier licences to take litter.

James Taylor Green turf prosecute

With reference to James Taylor of Mardens Hill who was reported to the Meeting held on the 23rd November last for cutting green turf on the Forest, the Ranger reported that since the last Meeting he had called on Taylor and advised him to write to the Clerk as directed but that Taylor declined to do so on the ground that other people did the same kind of thing. It was resolved that the Clerk prosecute him.

Stream adjoining Crowborough Warren

Messrs Sandford and Ridley reported that they had been unable to visit the bank of the Stream adjoining Crowborough Warren and desired to be relieved of the office Mr. Nicholson reminded the Board that the Conservators had no authority to drive posts into the soil without the consent of the Lord and Mr. Sandford stated he had come to the conclusion that it was not the business of the Conservators to erect the fence and he objected to the rates being expended thereon. The Clerk pointed out that it was for the protection of the Commoners and

their cattle and he apprehended the Lord's sanction could be obtained but no resolution being proposed the matter dropped.

Forest Row Rifle Range

The Clerk reported that in consequence of a change of District Inspector of Musketry the Meeting with the Committee which it was proposed should take place on the 8th January had fallen through and the new Inspector desired the Committee to name a fresh day. It was resolved that the Clerk write proposing to meet at the Range on Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday the 12th, 13th or 15th of February at 3 p.m.

Richard Card taking litter

The Clerk stated that he had in consequence not yet seen Mr. Richard Card as arranged at the last Meeting

Peter Martin cutting litter

The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting he had received a letter from Peter Martin acknowledging that he had taken litter from the Forest in Contravention of the Bye laws and undertaking not to repeat the offence.

William Gilbert claim to rights

The Clerk reported that he had examined the documents Mr. William Gilbert handed to him at the last Meeting and found that Allgates Farm about 40 acres in respect of which he claimed rights was part of the 80 acres in Horsted Keynes for which John Newnham Senior claimed in the suit of 1689 and was therefore entitled to rights, and that he had written to Mr. Gilbert for further information with regard to Voxends for which he was waiting.

Benjamin Stephenson digging gravel for Mr. Wyllie

The Ranger reported that on the 31st December last near Duddleswell he saw Benjamin Stephenson of near the Windmill Nutley digging gravel who stated that he was employed to do so by Mr. Wyllie of Nutley. It was resolved that the Clerk write to Mr. Wyllie enquiring whether Stephenson was employed by him and if so whether he had Lord De la Warr authority.

Alfred Ridley camping

The Ranger reported that on the 15th January he found Alfred Ridley encamped again on the Forest near the Goat and that he had issued a summons against him returnable at the East Grinstead Bench on Wednesday next.

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on Saturday the 7th March at 11 a.m.

The Meeting adjourned at 3.30 p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 7th day of March 1896 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the chair
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Guy C. Hardy
Mr. James F. Hope
Mr. Ll. Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £31.14.3.

Mr. Wyllie Gravel

A letter was read from Mr. Wyllie stating that he had the authority of Mr. Hudson for taking gravel from the Forest as reported at the last Meeting.

James Taylor turf

The Clerk reported that James Taylor had written undertaking not to cut any more turf without permission.

Richard Card claim to rights

Also that he had called on Mr. Richard Card at Holly Farm, Forest Row, and inspected his deeds and found that the title to a cottage and three quarters of an acre, Copyhold of Duddleswell Manor paying three shillings quit rent, and to One acre South of the Cottage, also Copyhold of the same Manor paying Two shillings quit rent, both forming part of the Holly Hill Farm was sufficient to establish a right if user of 60 years could be proved, but that a cottage and half an acre, other part of the property, was held under a grant made in 1852. It was resolved that the Clerk inform Mr. Card thereof and give him notice to attend the next Meeting with evidence of user.

Forest Row Rifle Range

The Committee appointed on the 21st December last to meet the District Inspector of Musketry at the Rifle Range at Page's Gill. Forest Row, reported as follows:-

On the 15th ult^o. your Committee met at the Rifle Range, Page's Gill, Forest Row, the District Musketry Inspector and the adjutant of the 2nd V. B. Royal Sussex Regiment and Captain Oxley, and after going over the ground with them found that Dr. Walsham's house was outside the danger zone carefully laid down by the Royal Engineers and that any bullet which passed into his property must have struck the ground short of the target and ricocheted sideways from a stone, so that the occurrence might have taken place even if the direction of the range had been different. The Committee consider that there would be less possibility of such an occurrence in the future if the range is limited to 600 yards as the shooting stations for higher ranges would bring Dr. Walsham's house somewhat nearer to the line of fire. The Committee are also of opinion that for the protection of persons crossing the Forest more warnings should be exhibited when firing takes place. They therefore recommend that the range be limited to 600 yards and that flagstaffs be put up two on conspicuous points on the Western Edge of the danger zone. One on the open Forest between Ashdown Cottage and Broadstone Warren and one at the gate leading out of the Broadstone Warren near the Rifle Butts. That notice Boards be affixed to each flagstaff warning persons that when the red flag is hoisted upon it firing is going on at the range and it is dangerous to pass the staff and that red flags of not less than 4 ft by 4 ft be exhibited on each staff during firing and for not less than fifteen Minutes before firing commences

On the proposal of Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Ridley it was resolved that the Report be received and adopted, and a copy thereof forwarded to the Officer commanding the Regiment with a request for an assurance that firing from any range above the 600 yards will be discontinued for the future.

Forest Row Rifle Range extension

A letter was read from the Colonel dated 25th ulto desiring that the permission to use the Range granted by letter of 19th December 1894 might be extended 2000 yards in near of the butts in order to comply with the new Regulations. It was proposed by Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Ridley and resolved that the Clerk explain to the Colonel that only a small portion of the Forest lay within the line of fire within 2000 yards of the rear of the butts and that Broadstone Warren and other private properties not under the control of the Conservators lay within the 2000 yards, and that so far as regards the open Forest the Conservators are willing to extend the licence the required distance.

Mr. Hope's Committee

Mr. Hope reported that since the last Meeting he had written to Lord De la Warr in reply to his Lordship's letter of the 11th January last stating that he personally was not disposed to stand out for the transfer of the Manor to the Conservators but that if they were to go back upon the Agreement the extent of land to be surrendered to his Lordship for enclosure would have be reconsidered.

New Committee appointed

The powers of Messrs Hope and Turner to negotiate with Lord Cantelupe having expired it was proposed by Mr. Midgley seconded by Mr. Ridley and unanimously resolved that Messrs Turner, Hope, Sandford, Birch and Hardy be appointed a Committee to take up the negotiation with Lord De la Warr with the fullest discretion to negotiate subject to confirmation by the Board, it being understood that any arrangement ultimately arrived at must be submitted to the Commoners for their approval.

The Clerk instructions as to documents

The Clerk referred to the objections made at the last Meeting to his having at the request of Sir Thomas Paine, the Solicitor of Mrs. Pechell, the largest Commoner, forwarded to him two or three days before the last Meeting a copy of the provisional Agreement with Lord Cantelupe to enable him to confer with her representative on the Board. He also stated that since the last Meeting a Conservator had applied to him to supply him with a list of the Commoners which in consequence of the remarks made at the last Meeting he had reluctantly declined to supply and he applied to the Board for instructions for his guidance in the future with reference to producing or supplying copies of documents belonging to the Conservators. It was resolved that the Clerk be and is hereby instructed to exercise his discretion with reference to any such applications in the future.

Nutley Recreation Ground Tree planting

Mr. Thomas Shoebridge Junior Secretary of the Nutley Cricket Club attended and pointed out that the recreation ground on Fords Green and that portion of the high road which passes it are situated one at the highest points and exposed to the full force of every wind and that with a view to sheltering persons using the recreation ground and the high road the Club had instructed him to apply for permission to plant a row of trees along the fence which enclosed the recreation ground on the side next to the high road and also Three rows of Trees on the open Forest on the opposite side of the high road. It was resolved that the Clerk enquire of Lord De la Warr's Solicitor, whether so far as his Lordship's rights in the soil extend, he is willing to assent to the request and that in that case the Conservators will not raise any objection provided the planting is carried out under the direction of the Superintendent of the Recreation Ground.

Joseph Ridley (Mill Brook) alleged encroachment

Mr. Joseph Ridley of Mill Brook attended to answer a complaint of the Ranger that he had taken in a strip of the Forest adjoining his property at Mill Brook. The Board being unable to understand his explanations, it was resolved that Messrs Turner, Midgley and Hardy be appointed a Committee to view the spot and report to the next Meeting.

Rate nearly expended

The Clerk having reported that the funds in hand together with the outstanding rates now due would be nearly exhausted by the expenses already incurred. It was resolved that he give notice on the Agenda for the next Meeting to make a rate and that he be prepared with the necessary documents for the purpose.

Uckfield Rural Council – Licence for gravel

The Clerk also reported that having received an application from the Surveyor of the Uckfield Rural District Council to take about 40 yards of gravel from the pit near the Crow and Gate from which gravel was recently dug for the new road to Barnes Gate he had authorised him to take the gravel accordingly upon the conditions of the licence already granted to him.

Dangerous pit near Chelwood Gate

The Ranger reported that the fence round the pit near Chelwood Gate worked by the Surveyor of the Uckfield Rural District Council had been removed apparently by Gypsies and the Clerk was directed to call upon the Surveyor to renew the fence.

John Beeney, Frederick Fuller camping

The Ranger reported that at the East Grinstead Petty Sessions on the 10th February last. John Beeney and Frederick Fuller were charged with camping on the Forest and were discharged with a caution – and

John Collins Junior, George Smith camping

that John Collins Junior and George Smith were convicted of similar offences and were each fined 2/6^d with 7/6^d - and as they did not appear warrants of execution were issued.

Alfred Ridley camping

Also that at the same Court on the 24th February last Alfred Ridley was charged with a similar offence but as he did not attend a warrant was issued for his apprehension.

Cheque

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn for

The Ranger Ten weeks salary and rent to the 9th inst £ 12.10.0.

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 2nd May.

The Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley, on Saturday the 2nd day of May 1896 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the chair
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. William Carr
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. Guy C. Hardy
Mr. L.L. Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £19.4.3.

Rate

The Clerk having reported that the funds in hand would be exhausted by payment of current liabilities and having produced an estimate of the annual expenses It was proposed by Mr. Joseph Ridley, seconded by Mr. William Carr and unanimously resolved that a rate be made for defraying the expenses of the Conservators in the execution of their duties under the Award made under the provisions of the Inclosure Acts 1845 to 1878 and the Commons Regulation (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act 1885 to be levied upon the respective owners of the rights of Common upon the Forest at the rate of Sixpence per acre in respect of the acreage of their respective lands to which such rights attach which Commoners and their respective acreages aforesaid and the respective sums payable by them are hereafter set out namely.

Name	Address	Acreage	Amount
------	---------	---------	--------

Payable £ s d

Adams, Mr.	Moss Cottage, Newbridge, Hartfield	2	0	1	0
-----	-----	-----	----	--	--
Appleby Mr. Isaac	Fords Green Nutley Uckfield	1/2	0	0	6
-----	-----				

Arbuthnot W.R. Esq.	PlawHatch East Grinstead	----- 200	----- 5	----- 0	----- 0
Baker Mr. Matthias	Chelwood Common Dane Hill Uckfield	2		1	
Baker Mr. William	----- Chelwood Common Dane Hill Uckfield	----- 2	----- ---	----- 1	----- --
Banister F.D. Esq.,	----- Stone House, Forest Row, East Grinstead	----- 71	----- 1	----- 15	----- --
Barchard Francis Esq.	----- Duddleswell Uckfield	----- 12	----- ---	----- 6	----- --
Bashford, Mr. John	----- Forest Row East Grinstead	----- 15	----- 0	----- 7	----- --
Baines Mrs. Lucy	----- Bolbrook Farm Hartfield	----- 15	----- 0	----- -	----- 6
Bell C.W.	----- Bennett Mr. John	----- 5¼	----- 0	----- --	----- --
Bennett Mr. John	----- Yewhurst East Grinstead	----- 180	----- 4	----- 12	----- 3
Birch Peregrine	----- Lisburn Nutley Uckfield	----- 24	----- 0	----- --	----- --
Birch Robert W.P. Esq.	----- The Priory Forest Row East Grinstead	----- 88	----- 2	----- --	----- --
Box Mr. George	----- The Priory Forest Row East Grinstead	----- 12	----- 0	----- --	----- --
Box Mr. Richard	----- Chelwood Common Dane Hill Uckfield	----- 3	----- 0	----- --	----- 6
Browning Mr. William	----- Kings Head Broadway Stratford	----- 5¾	----- 0	----- --	----- --
Budd Budd Fred. I.	----- Chelwood Common Dane Hill Uckfield	----- 1¼	----- 0	----- --	----- 6
Butler The Rev. J.B.M.	----- Restlands West Hoathly East Grinstead	----- 145	----- 3	----- --	----- 6
Card Mr. Job	----- The Rectory Maresfield Uckfield	----- 100	----- 2	----- --	----- 0
Carr Mr. William	----- Holly Farm **** *	----- 1¾	----- 0	----- 4	----- 0
Clarke Stephenson R. Esq.	----- C/o Daniel Watney & sons	----- 8	----- 0	----- --	----- 0
Colchester The R. Hon. Lord	----- 33 Poultry London	----- 15	----- --	----- 15	----- --
Colgate Thomas Esq.	----- Cook Mrs. A	----- 191	----- 4	----- 6	----- --
Cook Mrs. A	----- Carlton Club	----- 191	----- 4	----- 6	----- --

----- Cook Mrs Ellen -----	Pall Mall SW -----	-----	-----	-- 6	-----
----- Cope & Buckley Messrs -----	Sheffield Park Uckfield -----	213	5	--2	6
----- Corbett, Charles Esq. -----	The Hall Nutley Uckfield -----	-----	-----	--	--
----- Dadswell, Mr. Robert -----	Barrack Cottages Late W.Turner -----Tompsetts Bank, Forest Row, East Grinstead	4	0	8	0
----- Darling The Rev. F -----	-----	-----	-----	--	--
----- Diplock Mr. James -----	C/o Cope & Co. 3 Gr. George St Westminster S.W.	16	0	1	6
----- Diplock Mrs Mary -----	-----	-----	-----	--	--
----- Du Croz F. A. Esq. -----	Dane Hill Park Uckfield	2	0	2	0
----- Edwards Mr. Robert Devises -----	C/o Mr. Spencer Tester Brown's Brook, Buxted	-----	-----	--	--
----- Farmer Mr. Rich. Cecil -----	The Ridge Hartfield -----	5	0	16	6
----- Fleet Mr. George -----	-----	-----	-----	--	--
----- Freshfield Mrs -----	Lower Spring Gardens Farm Maresfield	233	5	0	6
----- Fuller Miss Millicent -----	-----	-----	-----	--	--
----- Gasson Mr. Humphrey -----	Hope Farm Ightham nr. Sevenoaks -----	1	0	2	6
----- Gilbert William Esq. -----	Court Lands West Hoathly E. Grinstead	4	0	17	0
----- Gillham Mr. James -----	-----	-----	-----	--	--
----- Goard Mr. Phillips Philcox -----	Hartfield Tunbridge Wells -----	35	0	7	6
----- Goldsmith Mrs. Sophia -----	-----	-----	-----	--	--
----- Goldsmith s' Company -----	Hartfield Tunbridge Wells -----	15	0	0	6
----- Grieve Norman W. -----	Shortbridge Piltdown Uckfield	-----	-----	--	--
----- Hale The Misses -----	-----	-----	-----	--	--
	Kidbrooke Park East Grinstead	80	2	5	0
	-----	-----	-----	--	--
	Vaughans Fletching Uckfield -----	10	0	--	0
	-----	-----	-----	1	-----
	Chelwood Common Dane Hill Uckfield	-----	-----	--	--
	-----	3	0	1	6
	C/o Messrs. Norton *** & Gilbert, 79 Queen St., Cheapside	-----	-----	--	--
	-----	2½	0	0	3
	Nutley Uckfield	-----	-----	--	--
	-----	200	5	5	0
	-----	-----	-----	--	--
	-----	10	0	2	0

----- Hambley Mrs. Mary -----	Forest Row Green	----- 3½	----- 0	----- 0	----- 0
Hardy Guy Chas. -----	----- Maresfield Uckfield	----- 40	----- 1	----- --	----- 0
Harrison Esq. deceased The Trustees of William -----	----- Goldsmith's Hall London E.C.	----- 2¼	----- 0	----- 1	----- 6
Head Mr. John -----	----- Harbury Forest Row East Grinstead	----- -----	----- -----	----- -----	----- -----
Heasman Messrs	C/o Joseph Turner Esq. East Grinstead	3¾	0	--	10½
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1. Samuel 2. William	Fryars' Gate Withyham Tun. Wells	----- 1	----- 0	----- 10	----- 6
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
3. Charles	Tremaines Horsted Keynes Sussex	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hillhouse J.	C/o G. R. Brock Esq. 2 St. Peter's Rd. St. Leonard's	100	2	2	0
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hills A.H. Esq.	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	31 High St. Lewes	68	1	1	8
Hoadley, Mr. Edward	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	Fryars Gate Withyham Tun. Wells	2	0	8	0
Hoare Alfred Esq.	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	Fryars Gate Withyham Tun. Wells	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hoath Mrs. Lydia	-----	296½	7	18	6
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hoath Mrs. Amos	Fryars Gate Withyham Tun. Wells	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hooker Mr. John	33 Chancery Lane London E.C.	35¾	0	-----	0
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hope James F.	High Hurst Wood Buxted Uckfield	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	5	-----
Hope James F.	Dane Hill Uckfield	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hounsom, W. Allin Esq. J.P.	-----	10	0	1	5
-----	37 Fleet Sr. London E.C.	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	2½	0	-----	6
Hounsom Mrs. Eliza	Fryars Gate Withyham Tunbridge Wells	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hyde Thomas Esq.	Temples School Montpellier Rd Brighton	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	--	-----
Hyde Thomas Esq	-----	-----	-----	0	-----
-----	Hartfield Tunbridge Wells	-----	-----	-----	-----
Inns, W. Alfred George	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	Hérons Ghyll Buxted Uckfield	1	0	2	6
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kenward, Mr. Robert	(Perrymans Grove late A.H. Hills	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	3½	0	4	0

----- Keys, Mr. R.W.	Cleveland New Church Rd. Brighton	----- 8	----- 0	----- 10	----- 0
----- Wood ****	Cleveland New Church Rd. Brighton	----- 101	----- 2	----- 2	----- 6
----- Knight, Mr. Tho. James Repres. Of deceased	Pixton Hill Forest Row East Grinstead (late Mrs. Edgar)	----- 4	----- 0	----- 1	----- 0
----- Larnach, D.	----- Mount Pleasant, Fairwarp, Uckfield	----- 3	----- 0	----- 3	----- 6
----- Leppard, Mrs. Elizabeth Ellen	----- Fletching, Uckfield	----- 7	----- 0	----- 15	----- 6
----- Leslie J.E.	----- Forest View, Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells	----- 311	----- 7	----- 18	----- 6
----- Luckins, Messrs (1) Joseph John (2) Thomas	----- ***** c/o Mr. Luther Knight Cocking Midhurst	----- 36½	----- 0	----- 4	----- 6
----- Lyll, Mr. John Wishart	----- c/o *****	----- 8	----- 0	----- 10	----- 0
----- Macartney, The Rev. S.P	----- Brambletye, East Grinstead C/o Mr. J.C. Lampard, 72 Beulah Road, Sutton	----- 20	----- 0	----- 3	----- 0
----- Magrath, Dr. John	----- 17 Bedford Row, London, W.C.	----- 24	----- 0	----- 2	----- 0
----- Manners Mr. James Thos.	----- Scaynes Hill Haywards Heath	----- 4	----- 0	----- 17	----- 0
----- Marchant, deceased Devises Of Mr. Charles Osborne	----- 74	----- 1	----- 4	----- 0	----- 0
----- Marchant, Mr. Thomas	----- Lewes	----- 8½	----- 0	----- --	----- 6
----- Marriott, Mr & Miss	----- Shalesbrook Forest Row	----- -----	----- -----	----- 1	----- --
----- Martin, Avis Mrs. Sarah Anne	----- The Elms, Forest Row, East Grinstead	----- 2	----- 0	----- --	----- 0
----- Martin, Mr. William	----- Chelwood Common, Dane Hill, Uckfield	----- -----	----- -----	----- 10	----- --
----- Maynard, Mr. George	----- C/o Mr. Charles Marchant, Cackle	----- 500	----- 12	----- 1	----- 0

Melville, Mrs.	Street,	-----	----		--
-----	Maresfield, Uckfield	-----	----		--
Midgley Llewellyn Esq.		3¾	0		10½
-----				--	
Miles, Mr. William	-----			10	
-----	Cackle St. Maresfield, Uckfield	-----	----	--	--
McAndrew John Esq. J.P.	-----	140	3	3	0
-----	C/o Messrs. Hastie, 65 Lincolns Inn Field, W.C.	-----	----		--
Nesbitt, Mrs.	-----	6	0		0
-----	Rose Cottage Fryars Gate, Withyham, Tun Wells			--	
Noble Captain William	-----			0	

Norman, Mr. Henry	Coach & Horses, Dane Hill, Uckfield	-----	----	--	--
-----		½	0	2	3
-----	Cold Harbour Farm, Forest Row, E. Grinstead	-----	----	--3	--
Osborne, Mrs. Esther	-----	4¼	0		6
-----	8 Argyll R. Kensington, S.W.			--2	
Page, Mrs. Jesse	-----				--
-----	Birch Grove Lodge, near East Grinstead	7	0	--	6
Page, Mr. William				2	
-----					--
Taylor, Mr. Geo. Edward	-----	5	0		6
-----	Forest Row, East Grinstead				--
-----					--
Pages, Messrs. Thos. & James	Holly Hill, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	4	0		0
-----				--	
Pechell Mrs. Blanche	-----			2	
-----	Oldlands, Buxted, Uckfield			--	
-----	Forest Lodge, Nutley, Uckfield			0	
-----					--
-----		5	0	--	6
Peckham, Rev. H.J.	Fairwarp, Maresfield, Uckfield			1	
-----					--
Philcox, Mr.	Londonderry, Nutley, Uckfield	121½	3		9
-----				--	
-----	Summerford Farm, near Fairwarp, Uckfield	-----	----	4	--
Portman, The Rt. Hon. Lord		3	0		6
-----	ditto			--	
Porter, Mr. John				2	
-----					--
-----		7½	0	--	0
Ridley, Mr. Joseph	ditto				
-----				12	
-----					--
Ridley Mr. Joseph	-----	5	0	--	6
-----	Fairwarp, Uckfield			6	
Ridley Mr. Joseph	-----				--
-----		64	1		0
Ridley Mr. Sylvanus	-----			--	
-----				0	--
-----	c/o Mark Sandford Esq. Maresfield	13	0		6

----- Ridley (or Gurr) Mr. Timothy	Park, Uckfield (late Lady Shelley) ----- Nutley Vicarage, Uckfield	----- ----- $\frac{3}{4}$	----- ----- 0	-- 18 --	----- ----- 6
----- Ridley, Mr. William	Newbridge, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	----- ----- 196	----- ----- 4	-- --2 --	----- ----- 0
----- Ridley Mrs. Lucy Rose	----- 22 Portman Square, London, W.	----- ----- -----	----- ----- -----	7 ----- -----	----- ----- -----
----- Sadler Mrs., the wife of the Rev. Canon	----- Ringmer, Lewes	----- ----- 285	----- ----- 9	-- 3 --	----- ----- 6
----- Sandford, Mark Esq.	Misbourne Farm, Horney Common, Nutley, Uckfield	----- ----- 15	----- ----- 0	-- 1 --	----- ----- 6
----- Sayers, Mr. Stephen	Millbrook, Nutley, Uckfield	----- ----- 6	----- ----- 0	--2 ----- -----	-- 0 -----
----- Sheffield, The Rt. Hon. Earl	Part Lot 7 late William Turner ----- Forest Farm, Danehill, Uckfield	----- ----- 2½	----- ----- 0	----- ----- -----	----- ----- 6
----- Shoebridge, Mr. Owen	Late Trustees of Thomas Stevenson ----- Cripps Corner, Ashdown Forest, E.	----- ----- 4	----- ----- 0	----- ----- -----	----- ----- 0
----- Shoebridge Mr. Thomas	Grinstead	----- ----- -----	----- ----- -----	-- 5 -----	----- ----- -----
----- Shoebridge, Mr. Thomas Richardson	Minepits, Nutley, Uckfield ----- Whitehouse Farm Maresfield Uckfield	----- ----- -----	----- ----- -----	-- 8 -----	----- ----- -----
----- Southdown Brewery Co.	----- C/o Joseph Turner Esq. East Grinstead	----- ----- 10	----- ----- 0	----- ----- -----	----- ----- 0
----- Stapley, Mr. George	----- ----- -----	----- ----- -----	----- ----- -----	-- 2 -----	----- ----- -----
----- Stevenson, Mr. Joseph	----- ----- Maresfield, Uckfield	----- ----- 1896½	----- ----- 47	-- 1 -----	-- 6 -----
----- Streatfeild, R.I. Esq.	----- ----- -----	----- ----- -----	----- ----- -----	-- ----- -----	----- ----- -----
----- Tapps, Gervis Miss Clara	Forest Row, East Grinstead ----- Sheffield Park, Fletching, Uckfield	----- ----- 4	----- ----- 0	5 ----- -----	-- 0 -----
----- Taylor Mr. William	----- ----- -----	----- ----- 2½	----- ----- 0	-- 10 -----	-- 6 -----
----- Tomsett, Mr. Jesse	Cackle St, Maresfield, Uckfield	----- ----- -----	----- ----- -----	-- ----- -----	----- ----- -----
----- Turner Albert Esq.	Nutley, Uckfield	----- ----- 130	----- ----- 3	7 ----- -----	0 ----- -----
----- ----- -----	Nutley, Uckfield	----- ----- 21	----- ----- 0	-- ----- -----	-- ----- 6
----- Turner Charles Esq.	----- ----- -----	----- ----- -----	----- ----- -----	-- 10 -----	----- ----- -----

----- Turner Mr. Elias -----	Lewes (late Dashwood)	14	0	--	0
----- Turner Mr. James -----	Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells	12½	---	7	--
----- Turner, William Esq. -----	near Windmill, Nutley, Uckfield	7	0	--	0
----- Tyler Mr. Enoch -----	"The Rocks", Uckfield	3½	---	2	--
----- Randall *** -----	c/o Arthur Hastie, Esq., East	11½	0	--	6
----- Uridge, Mr. Wm. (late Bennett)	Grinstead	5	0	--	6
----- Wallis Mr. Joseph P. -----	Darvell Beech Farm, Battle	3¼	0	12	0
----- Waters Mr. Isaac -----	Chelwood Common, Dane Hill, Uckfield	12	0	--	0
----- Welfare Mrs. Eliza -----	Nutley Uckfield	185	4	--	6
----- Wheatley Mr. Joseph -----	Lot 3 late William Turner	---	---	0	--
----- Wheeler Mr. Charles -----	Late F.J. Whitewood	1¼	0	2	1½
----- Whitewood, Mr. James -----	Oakhurst East Grinstead	---	---	--	--
----- Whitewood, Mr. Henry -----	Chelwood Common, Danhill, Uckfield	946	23	3	0
----- Wickens Mr. I. H -----	Hugletts Pit, Maresfield (Lot 2 late Wm, Turner)	---	---	1	--
----- Wickens Mr. Simeon -----	Nutley, Uckfield (***** & Hollies)	---	---	--	--
----- Wickens Mr. Spencer Snr. -----	Horney Common, Uckfield	3½	0	1	0
----- Wilson Mr. Edward -----	***** c/o Messrs Livesey Woolley & ****	---	---	--	--
----- Wilson Sir Spencer M. Maryon Bart -----	Pavilion Buildings Brighton	5¾	0	2	0
----- Wood, Mr. John -----	"Coopers Arms" Crowborough,	2	0	1	0
----- Wood John Edgar -----	Forest Row, East Grinstead	---	---	--	--
----- Woods M.S. -----	Stone Cottage, Hartfield, Tun. Wells	4	0	0	--
	Coleman's Hatch, Hartfield.	---	---	--	--
	Tunbridge	---	---	0	--
	Chelwood Common, Dane Hill, Uckfield	2	0	0	0
	Late John Wheeler	---	---	--	--

Grosvenor Esq.	Nutley, Uckfield	-----	----	--	--
Wood, Mr. Thomas Daynes	-----	1¾	0		0
Wormald, Edward Esq.	Claygates Farm Buxted	-----	----	--1	--
Wood, Mr. Charles	Dane Hill, Uckfield	-----	----	1	--
Young Mr. William	Chelwood Common, Dane Hill, Uckfield	-----	----	--	6
	Late John Wheeler	-----	----	1	--
	Chelwood Common, Dane Hill, Uckfield	-----	----	2	--
	-----	3	0	--	6
	Mount Pleasant, Fairwarp, Uckfield	-----	----	2	--
	"Searles", Fletching, Uckfield	-----	----	--	6
	-----	3		4	
	Nutley Uckfield	-----	----	--	0
	-----	¼	0	--	0
	55 Grays Inn Road, Holborn W. C	-----	----	7	--
	9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn London W. C.	-----	----	--	0
	-----	4	0	--	0
	The Hollies, Bennett Park, Blackheath, Kent	-----	----	1	--
	-----	15	0	--	6
	The Beacon, Chelwood, Nutley, Maresfield, Uckfield	-----	----	14	--
	-----	1¼	0	--	0
	-----	5¾	0	--	0
	-----	28	0	1	--
	Fincham, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	-----	----	--	0
	-----	-----	----	3	--
	-----	2½	0	--	3
	-----	6	0	2	--
	-----	3	0	--	0
	-----	-----	----	1	--
	-----	4	0	--	6
	-----	-----	----	1	--
	-----	-----	----	1	--
	-----	-----	----	--	0
	-----	-----	----	1	--
	-----	-----	----	--	0

		-----	----	--	
		2½	0	3	--
		2½	0	--	6
				2	6
		-----	----	--	
		2	0	--	0
				6	
		-----	----	--	
		86	2	8	0
				--	
		-----	----	0	--
		44½	1		6
				--	
		-----	----	0	--
		12¼	0		6
				--	
		16	0	12	0
		-----	----		--
		39½	1		0
				--	
		-----	----	6	--
		1	0		6
				--	
		-----	----	2	--
		1265	31		6
				--	
				9	
		-----	----		--
		12	0		0
				--	
		-----	----	15	--
		4	0		0
				--	
		-----	----	--	--
		498	12	8	0
				--	
		-----	----	6	--
		30¾	0		6
				--	
				11	
		-----	----		--
		57	1	--	6
		-----	----		--
		12	0		0
		-----	----		--
		23	0		6
		-----	----		--

Country Council Uckfield Rural Road Surveyor's Licences extended

The Clerk reported that having received applications from the District Surveyor of the County Council and from the Surveyor of the Uckfield Rural District Council for permission to continue that he did not claim any Forest rights in respect of his land at Horsted Keynes. The Clerk then wrote to inform Mr. Edwards he had committed a breach of the Bye Laws but that as he did not appear to have been previously reported the Conservators were disposed not to proceed against him provided he at once wrote undertaking not to take litter from the Forest again. The tenant replied the litter he had had was not used on Lucas – Farm. The Ranger reported that he called in consequence and saw Mr. Edwards who then admitted he had the litter for use on the property he hired from Mr. Cardwell. It was resolved that the Clerk inform Mr. Edwards that he must give the undertaking required or must be proceeded against.

Fords Green Tree – Planting

The Clerk also reported that Messrs Hunt had written on the 2nd April stating that Lord De la Warr saw no objection to the proposed tree planting at Fords Green and that he had informed the Superintendent of the Cricket Ground thereof.

James Gillham's Rights Admitted

Also that he had looked further into the question of Mr. James Gillham's claim to common rights and was satisfied that the enforcement of his property did not deprive him of them and he had written to Mr. Gillham to that effect and had inserted his name in the rate.

The lands in respect of which Mr. Gillham is entitled to rights are:

A piece of land near Pricketts Hatch otherwise Ford Green in Maresfield containing 4 perches or thereabouts abutting to the Green on East whereon was formerly erected a wooden chapel or lecture room Copyhold of the Manor of Duddleswell Quit Rent 6^d by appointment.

A cottage and one road of land thereto adjoining Copyhold of the same Manor Quit Rent 6^d

A piece of land containing 1a 3r 36p near Pricketts Hatch adjoining the aforesaid cottage and land Copyhold of the same Manor yearly Rent 3^s/6^d by apportionment.

The above 3 tenements were formerly parts of an old tenement held as copyhold in 1798 by James Gasson and were enfranchised by Mr. Gillham in 1892.

But the following which had been held till 1893 on a tenancy at will and was then purchased from the De la Warr Trustees was not entitled to rights viz.

A piece of land containing 11 perches adjoining Fords Green and at the South extremity of Mr. James Gillham's Copyhold.

Frederick Gray

A letter was read from Mr. Frederick Gray of Pippingford stating that he found it necessary to put up a new fence between his Seven Beech Field and the Forest in order to keep sheep from getting through and that in order to do this effectually it would be necessary to make the fence straight and he asked the consent of the Conservators to do so on a give and take principle. It was resolved that the Clerk reply that they have no power to alter the boundaries of the Forest.

William Morphew Broomstack

The Ranger reported that William Morphew who occupied a small holding on the Forest near Barnes Gate had a stack of broom making material on the Forest adjoining his holding – that on the 30th March he served notice on Morphew's son at his house requiring him to move it within 14 days but that he had not complied. It appearing that the occupiers had stacked fagots on the spot for many years. It was resolved that the Board pass on to the next business.

Geo. F. Attree Alleged Trespass

A letter was read from Mr. Douglas Freshfield drawing attention to an alleged encroachment by Mr. George F. Attree in front of the Cherry Orchard opposite the North East corner of Hindleap Warren

The Ranger and several of the Conservators having visited the spot then examined the Maps and were satisfied that the fence which Mr. Attree had put up is only the renewal of an old enclosure and it was resolved that the Clerk inform Mr. Freshfield thereof and refer him for confirmation to the large scale Ordnance Map.

Bye Laws resealing

The Clerk reported that he had attended at the Home Office with reference to getting a fresh copy of the Bye Laws sealed but was informed that only in the event of the loss of the original could a copy be sealed and that there was some question whether such copy would be evidence.

Forest Row Cricket Ground resignation Of Superintendent

A letter was read from Mr. R.W.P. Birch tendering his resignation of the Office of Superintendent of the Forest Row Cricket Ground on the ground that owing to frequent absence from home he was unable to properly discharge the duties of the Office. It was resolved that Mr. Birch's resignation be accepted with very much regret to take effect on his successor being appointed and that the Clerk place on the Agenda for the next Meeting the appointment of a successor.

Duddleswell Cricket Ground Retirement of Superintendent

Mr. Sandford gave notice that in consequence of Mr. Frederick Albert Lane having left the neighbourhood he would move at the next Meeting the appointment of a Superintendent to the Duddleswell Cricket Ground in his stead.

W.V.K. Stenning complaint as to injury to Forest

Mr. Timothy John Ridley or Gurr attended and complained of the serious injury to the road leading to his property (Cripps Corner) by Mr. W.V.K. Stenning Timber Merchant of East Grinstead by dragging timber in all directions across the Forest from Horncastle Wood.

The Clerk read a letter he had already written by Mr. Stenning on the subject and it was resolved that he press for a reply.

It was resolved that the Clerk make an extract from the Regulation Award and Bye Laws so far as they relate to the control of the Cricket Grounds and have 50 copies printed for posting up from time to time at the Cricket Grounds.

List Of Commoners to be printed

Also that he have the list of Commoners with their addresses and acreages printed for the use of the Members of the Board.

Henry Collins camping convicted

The Ranger reported that on the 1st May instant Henry Collins was convicted at the East Grinstead petty sessions of camping on the Forest and was fined 20^s/- and 14^s/9 cost and refusing to pay he was committed to prison for 14 days.

Dangerous Pit near Chelwood Gate Fenced

The Ranger reported that the dangerous pit near Chelwood Gate had been fenced by the Surveyor to the Uckfield Rural District Council.

Fagot Stacks

The Chairman gave notice that he would bring before the Meeting the subject of fagot stacks with a view to considering the expediency of granting cottages within the Forest pale licences to place a fagot stack on the Forest outside their holdings.

Dangerous Pit near Hospital Farm

The Ranger having reported that a pit near Hospital Farm from which Mr. Parsons and Mr. Timothy John Ridley or Gurr have from time to time had materials was in a condition dangerous to man and beast. It was resolved that the Clerk call upon Earl De la Warr to have it properly fenced.

Cheque

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn for:

The Ranger 8 weeks salary and rent to 4th inst. £10.0.0.

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 27th June next unless the Chairman see reason to convene the Meeting at an earlier date.

The Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 27th day of June 1896 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. R.W.P. Birch
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Rate Sealed

The Clerk reported that the rate made on the 2nd May last was sealed by the Board of Agriculture on the 6th May last and that he had collected £128.4.10 of the amount.

Balance in hand

He produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance of £137.9.1. in hand.

Samuel Edwards taking litter undertaking given

He reported that he had a correspondence with Mr. Samuel Edwards and with his Landlord Mr. A.M. Cardwell and the latter stated that he did not claim any Forest rights for his land in Horsted Keynes.

Mr. A.M. Cardwell sold the land, Mr. H.C. Wyld Purchaser declines to claim rights

It appearing that Mr. Cardwell had since sold Mr. Edward's holding to a Mr. H. Cecil Wyld and Mr. Edwards had written undertaking not to take any more litter from the Forest till Mr. Wyld has established a right. The Clerk wrote to Mr. Wyld who replied that it was not worth his while to claim rights.

Mr. Stenning undertaking to make good damage

The Clerk reported that Mr. Stenning had written undertaking to make good as soon as possible the damage done to the surface of the Forest by drawing trees across it out of Horncastle Wood. The Ranger reported that nothing had been done. It was resolved that the matter stand over till the Autumn when the work could be most advantageously done.

Stephen Elliott removing litter in close time

The Clerk reported that he had warned Mr. Stephen Elliott that the Bye Laws prohibited the removal of litter after the month of March notwithstanding that it was cut before close time.

Dangerous Pit near Hospital Farm

The Clerk reported that he wrote to Messrs. Hunt to fence the dangerous pit near Hospital Farm and they had replied that there was a prospect of letting it, in which case they would stipulate with the tenant to fence it, but they recognised that in the event of their not letting they must have it done.

J. Wills – Licence For coconut stand

The Clerk reported that he had issued a licence to J. Wills of Forest Row to put his coconut stand on the Forest on Whit Monday on the same conditions as before.

Forest Row Cricket Ground Superintendent appointed

It was proposed by Mr. Birch seconded by Mr. Sandford and unanimously resolved that Dr. John Magrath of Forest Row be appointed Superintendent of the Forest Row Cricket ground.

Duddleswell Cricket Ground Appointment of Superintendent postponed

By Mr. Sandford's request it was resolved that the appointment of a Superintendent of the Cricket Ground near Duddleswell stand over till the next Meeting.

Application for Cricket Ground near the Ridge

A letter was read from the Rev. Sydney V. Macartney asking permission for the lads of the Ridge district to make use again of a cricket ground on the Forest which they had formerly used and for that purpose to mow the heath. It was resolved that the Clerk inform him that Bye Law No. 11 which has the force of an Act of Parliament prohibits any person (including the Conservators) from cutting litter between the months of April and September both inclusive, but that his application has the sympathy of the Conservators and that if he will renew it in September next they will be prepared to give it their favourable consideration.

Richard Card Claim to Rights admitted

Mr. Richard Card of Holly Farm near Forest Row attended to claim rights in respect of the property on which the Clerk reported at the Meeting held on the 7th March last. The evidence of the applicant aged 71 and of William Divall aged 79 having been taken. It was resolved that Mr. R. Card had established his claim in respect of the cottage and three-quarters of an acre of land and of the one acre of land adjoining thereto and that his name be entered in the Schedule of Commoners, and he thereupon paid 1/- being the amount of the current rate in respect thereof.

Misses Hale – Claim to rights part allowed

Mr. Joseph Turner attended on behalf of the Misses Hale to claim rights on the Forest in respect of Little Claypits containing 2 acres, The Gill containing $\frac{3}{4}$ acre and Edgemount containing 5 acres all on the Forest within the Parish of Hartfield.

The Clerk stated that the title deeds of the properties had been produced to him by the Misses Hale's Solicitors and he reported that a piece of land containing by estimation 1 acre with the messuage and brick kiln part of Edgemount had been held by Copy of Court Roll of the Manor of Duddleswell for 60 years last past but that the remainder of Edgemount and the whole of Little Claypits and the Gill were grants of Waste of the Manor made in 1851 and 1852 by the Lord with the consent of the homage to be held as Copyhold. The Board therefore declined to hear evidence of user except in respect of the ancient part of Edgemount. Evidence of user in respect thereof was then given by William Divall aged 79 and Mr. Joseph Turner.

It was resolved that the Misses Hale had established their claim in respect of the messuage and 1 acre – ancient part of Edgemount and that their names be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof.

Fagot Stacks

It was resolved that the Clerk place the subject of fagot stacks on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

Kings Standing proposed Rifle Ranges

A letter was read from Colonel Brookfield Commanding the Cinque Ports Rifle Volunteers asking the Conservators pending the provision by the Government of long Rangers to assist him in securing a temporary range for the use of the 'G' Company.

It was resolved that Messrs. Hope Colgate and Sandford be re-appointed a Committee to go into the whole matter with Colonel Brookfield with a view to assisting him and to report to the Board.

Complaint as to sheep

A letter was read from Mr. J. Edwards a Commoner at Hartfield, complaining that sheep are still turned out on the Forest in large numbers and eat up all the best of the pasture and the litter. It was resolved that the consideration of the letter stand over pending the report of the De la Warr Committee being presented.

Dodds Bank dangerous pit

The Ranger reported that a pit which was being worked near Dodds Bank was extremely dangerous. Mr. Albert Turner undertook to fence it.

Uckfield Rural Council irregular digging

The Ranger reported that the Surveyor of the Uckfield Rural District Council was reopening old trial holes which had been grown over. It was resolved that the Clerk require him to desist and make good.

Frank Turner carrying litter in close time

The Ranger reported that on the 18th instant he found a man on the Forest loading a cart with litter (which had been cut three or four months ago) for Frank Turner of Chelwood Common Tenant of Mr. Simeon Wickens a Commoner. It was resolved that the Clerk point out to Mr. Wickens that this is a breach of Bye Law 11 and request him to warn his tenant to desist.

Forest Row Golf Club – cutting brakes

The Ranger reported that on the 20th June at Tompsetts Bank and at Colemans Hatch a man employed by the Forest Row Golf Club was cutting brakes in the track of the Golf players. It was resolved that the Clerk write the Secretary drawing his attention to Bye Law 11 and informing him that it must be strictly adhered to.

Coleman's Hatch dangerous pits

The Ranger reported that two pits within 200 or 300 yards of each other at Colemans Hatch worked by the East Grinstead Rural District Council are dangerous to man and beast. It was resolved that the Clerk write to the Surveyor (Mr. Alfred Hoath) calling on him to securely fence them at once.

Cheques

It was resolved that the following cheques be drawn:

The Ranger 8 weeks salary and house rent to 29 th instant	£10.0.0
The Clerk cash disbursements as per list	£14.19.5
The Clerk Half year's salary as Clerk to the 30 th instant	£50.0.0

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 22nd August next unless the Chairman see occasion to fix an earlier date.

The Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Albert Turner Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 22nd day of August 1896 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair

Mr. William Carr

Mr. Thomas Colgate

Mr. F. A. Du Croz

Mr. Ll. Midgley

Mr. Joseph Ridley

Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £113.14.5.

Changes of Bankers

Messrs Molineux & Co. the Lewes Old Bank having joined a combination of Bankers which had been formed into the firm of Barclay & Co. Limited. It was resolved that the Banking account of the Conservators be continued with the new firm.

Dangerous Pit near Hospital Farm

The Ranger reported that the dangerous pit near Hospital Farm has been let to Mr. Timothy John Ridley or Gurr and that he has fenced it in.

Dangerous pit at Dodds Bank

The Ranger reported that the dangerous pit at Dodds Bank was being fenced in by Mr. Turner.

Kings Standing proposed Rifle Range

Mr. Colgate reported that the Committee, appointed at the last Meeting, met Captain Ashurst, the Adjutant of the Cinque Ports Rifle Volunteers, near Kings Standing, that Captain Ashurst desired permission to make and use a Rifle Range on the same site as was selected in 1892. It was left to Captain Ashurst to consult the Authorities with a view to making a formal application, and the Committee unanimously recommend that in the event of an application being received, permission be granted on the same terms as formerly offered.

Uckfield Rural Council irregular digging

The Ranger reported that the Surveyor of the Uckfield Rural District Council had desisted from reopening any more old trial holes and had filled in such as he had reopened

Colemans Hatch dangerous pits

The Ranger reported that Mr. Alfred Hatch the Surveyor had fenced in the two dangerous pits at Colemans Hatch which were reported at the last Meeting.

Duddleswell Cricket Ground appointment of Superintendent

Mr. Sandford requested that the appointment of Superintendent of the Duddleswell Cricket Ground stand over till the next Meeting.

Fagot Stacks – Licences for

After a careful consideration of the subject of Fagot Stacks on the Forest. It was proposed by Mr. Turner seconded by Mr. Joseph Ridley and unanimously resolved that it is desirable that the Conservators be empowered to grant to such persons as they may deem deserving, being occupiers of cottages in or adjoining the Forest licences to place fagot stacks Forest adjoining their holdings, and in positions to be approved by the Conservators or their Ranger, such licences not to be granted for a longer period than one year and to be revocable or renewable at the pleasure of the Conservators. It was proposed by Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Carr and unanimously resolved, that application be made to Earl De la Warr to consent to the Conservators granting such licence that the Ranger be

directed to prepare a complete list of all Fagot Stacks now on the Forest with the names of the persons to whom they belong and showing by reference to the large Ordnance Map the cottages which the owners of such stacks occupy and stating as far as he can ascertain how long fagot stacks have been placed on the Forest by the successive occupiers.

Road By Marl pits Farm – Improvement

A letter was read from the Surveyor of the Uckfield Rural District Council stating that the Maresfield Parish Council wished a dangerous depression on the South side of the road from Nutley to Duddleswell, where it passes to the South of Marl pits Farm should be filled up for about 6 feet in width and fenced and a hedge planted and asking leave to use for the purpose some heaps of roads sidings lying on the Forest on both sides of the road. It was resolved that the Conservators have no objection to his carrying out the work.

Mr. Hood Barrs Application

An application was read from Mr. Hood Barrs who had purchased a piece of land on the Forest called “The Rocks” near Chelwood Gate on which he proposes to build for permission to make a road over the Forest.

It was proposed that Mr. Colgate, Mr. Midgley and Mr. Sandford be appointed a Committee to consider the application and report to the next Meeting. And that the Clerk write to Mr. Hood Barrs and invite him to meet the Committee on the spot on Saturday next at 3:30 p.m.

Zacariah Carr Planting

The Ranger reported that Zacariah Carr had planted with laurels and other shrubs a part of the Forest by the side of his property at Dodds Bank. Also that Sylvanus Ridley had enclosed a small piece of Forest and planted it with shrubs. It was resolved that the Range in each case give 14 days notice to remove them and in default have them removed.

Simeon Wickens sheep

Also that on the 10th July at Chelwood he met a boy driving about 60 sheep on to the Forest who stated they belonged to Mr. Simeon Wickens, of Dane Hill who had just bought them and was going to fatten them.

Benjamin Minns Peat for fuel

Also that on the 22nd July near Duddleswell he saw Benjamin Minns, and Laban Turk both living near the Windmill Nutley loading a cart with peat for Benjamin Minns who had not obtained a licence. It was resolved that the Clerk apply for Lord De la Warr's consent to proceed against Benjamin Minns who had obtained licences in former years.

Richard Stevenson Peat for fuel

Also that Richard Stevenson, who occupies a cottage and 3 & 4 acres of land at Millbrook belonging to Sir Spencer Wilson Bart and who had hired Colin Godman's Farm from Lord Sheffield from Michelmas next had taken 2 or 3 cart loads of turf for fuel from the Forest and deposited it at Colin Godman's for his own use during the coming Winter. Mr. Colgate stated he thought Stevenson had probably acted under an erroneous impression that he was entitled to do this, Stevenson having asked him whether the Farm had Forest rights. Mr. Colgate undertook to see Stevenson and explain and he thought he would no doubt apologise and promise not to take it again.

Joseph Ridley Millbrook Peat for fuel

Also that Mr. Joseph Ridley of Millbrook had had cut a considerable quantity of turf for fuel on the Forest, on the West side of the high road from Nutley to Wych Cross without obtaining a licence. It was resolved that the Clerk search up former proceedings against him and write and warn him.

Rushy Bottom proposed cricket ground

Also that on 25th July he found a part of the Forest at Rushy Bottom had been mown and marked out for a Cricket Ground for the men employed on the Ashdown Park Estate Captained by the Rev. Mr. Gordon of Wych Cross. It was resolved that the Clerk point out Mr. Gordon that this is a breach of the Bye Laws which could not be permitted and that as certain Cricket Grounds had been set out under the Award the Conservators have no power to increase their number.

Sarah Coates, Matilda Coates, Sarah Ann Davis, Alice Collins camping

Also that he had summoned Sarah Coates, Matilda Coates, Sarah Ann Davis, and Alice Collins at East Grinstead Bench on the 3rd August for having vans on the Forest, that at the hearing on 10th August they did not appear and warrants were issued for their apprehension. That Sarah Ann Davis and Alice Collins were subsequently traced and on the 21st August were fined 5/- and 26/10d costs and 5/- & 26/4d costs respectively which they paid.

Noah Roder, Albert Hobbs brakes

Also that on 4th August at St. John's he saw the son of Noah Roder and Albert Hobbs both of Crowborough Town cutting brakes for their respective Fathers, tenants of Mr. Joseph P. Wallis who is a Commoner. It was resolved that the Clerk ascertain whether they occupied land in respect of which Mr. Wallis is entitled.

Jasper Ashdown Senior brakes

Also that on the same day and place he saw Jasper Ashdown Senior of St. John's raking together brakes for use on his own property. It was resolved that the Clerk call on him to establish a right or else not to take brakes in future.

Daniel Heasman brakes

Also that on 7th August near Hartfield Grove the Ranger saw Daniel Heasman of Newbridge cutting brakes for use on his own property. It was resolved that the Clerk treat him in the same way.

William Francis brakes

Also that on the 11th August near Pippingford the Ranger saw William Francis of Church Lane Nutley cutting brakes for use on the property he hires of Mr. J. Whitewood of Totease Farm Buxted. It was resolved that the Clerk write to Mr. Whitewood on the subject.

John Porter, James Stevenson peat for fuel

The Ranger also reported that on the 17th August near the Windmill Nutley he met John Porter bringing a load of turf for fuel to his house which he stated he had bought from John Stevenson of the same locality. And that he saw a stack of Forest turf at James Stevenson's house. Neither party having obtained a licence. It was resolved that if the Clerk can obtain satisfactory evidence as to the age of the house occupied by John Porter which it is believed was built about 20 years ago, he proceed against Stevenson either at the County Court or Petty Sessions at his discretion and subpoena John Porter.

Chelwood Trespasses – list of

It was resolved that the Ranger make a list for the information of the next Meeting of all persons who turn out from the neighbourhood of Chelwood.

Cheque

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn for:

The Ranger 8 weeks salary and house rent to the 24th inst: £10.0.0.

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on Saturday the 17th October next or such earlier date as the Chairman may deem it necessary to fix.

The Meeting terminated at 3 p.m.

Alfred Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 17th October 1896 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair

Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. Guy C. Hardy
Mr. Ll. Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Death of Mr. R. W. P. Birch

The Chairman then referred to the great loss sustained since the last Meeting by the death of Mr. R.W.P. Birch and on his proposition seconded by Mr. Sandford it was unanimously resolved: That the Conservators have heard with the deepest regret of the death since the last Meeting of their colleague, Mr. Robert W. Peregrine Birch, who, from the time of his election as a Conservator in 1891 took the keenest interest in the business of the Board and by his valuable advice and assistance materially contributed to the solution of many important questions that have come before the Board. The Conservators desire to record their sense of the great loss they have sustained in his untimely death and to tender to the members of his family their most sincere sympathy in their sorrow.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £103.14.5

Rifle Range Kings Standing

An application was read from the Adjutant of the Cinque Ports Rifle near Kings Standing and a rough plan of the site accompanied the application. After due deliberation and having regard to the report presented to the last Meeting by the Committee appointed to consider the matter it was resolved that this Board grants to the Colonel Commanding the Cinque Ports Rifle Volunteers Battalion (subject to his obtaining the consent of Earl De la Warr as owner of the soil) permission to make and use a rifle range on the Forest near Kings Standing on the site shown on the plan, on the terms and conditions of the recommendations made by a Committee to the Meeting of the 10th February 1894 with this additional condition "That if any serious objection should be made on the part of Commoners to the user of the range such user should be discontinued on notice to that effect being given by this Board to the Colonel Commanding and that the Commanding Officer pay an acknowledgement of 1/- on every 1st January to this Board so long as the licence continues in force".

Jasper Ashdown Sr. claim to rights adjourned

Jasper Ashdown Senior of St Johns Crowborough attended to claim rights of common in respect of about an acre of land with three Cottages thereon adjoining the Forest at Crowborough being the South West corner of Ordnance No. 1278 at the junction of the roads from the Vicarage and from Crows Nest. He stated that 1½ perches on the West front was purchased under the Ashdown Forest Award in 1887 and that he succeeded to the remainder of the property on the death of his Father who owned it as far back as 70 years ago but had no deeds relating to it. Evidence having been given which satisfied the Board as to the user. It was resolved that the further consideration of the claim be adjourned to enable the Clerk to make enquiries of Mr. Nicholson with regard to the title and that if satisfactory the claim be admitted on payment of the current rate.

Mrs. Eliza Heasman claim to rights admitted

Mrs. Eliza Heasman wife of Daniel Heasman of New Bridge attended to claim rights of Common in respect of 3 acres of land 2 acres of which with a Cottage thereon being formerly waste of the Manor of Duddleswell granted in 1790 paying a quit rent of 4/- the whole property forming Ordnance Nos. 1409 and part 1411. The documents of title having been produced and examined and evidence of user given to the satisfaction of the Board. It was resolved that the claim be admitted and that Mrs. Heasman's name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the 3 acres and cottage and thereupon she paid the current rate amounting to 1/6^d.

Fagot & Stacks

The Ranger produced a Schedule of the persons who have stacks of faggots or turf on the Forest and it was resolved that the list be entered on the Minutes. This list is as follows:

Names	Description of Encumbrance	No. of yrs.	Address	No. on Map
Jabey Smith	Faggot Stack	20	Twyford	2518
George Richardson	„	10	„	2518
George Box	„	12	„	35
John Ridley or Gurr	„	20	Nr. Twyford	247
Job Mitchell	„	15	Plaw Hatch	2414
John Richardson	Faggot litter & brakes	20	Nr. Lavender Platt	2236
F. Lucas Esq.	„	5	Tompsetts Bank	2244
Dr. Walsham	„	5	„	2250
William Jenner	„	30	„	38
James Charman	„	10	„	2249
Mrs. Welfare	„	11	„	2246
William Watson	„	7	„	2227
John Everest	„	6	„	2249
William Jenner	„	7	„	17
John Blackstone	„	13	„	15
William Miles	„	11	„	16
Mrs. Ellen Cook	„	20	„	2225
Henry Budgeon	„	10	„	89
Mrs. Card	„	11	„	2229
Henry Tester	„	20	„	2245
Mary Blackstone		20	„	2245

John Heasman	Faggot litter & brakes stk	20	Tompsetts Bank	2246
Richard Lippits	„	1	Primrose Alley „	2306
William Heasman	„	1	„	2306
Thomas Miles	„	30	Nr. Colemans Hatch & Broadstone Warren	2341
George Mitchell	„	20	„	2343
Arthur Mitchell	„	20	„	2343
Mark Seymour	Litter stack & old tree trunks	12	„	2353
George Hills	Faggot Stack	10	„	1033
Widow Holmes	„	40	„	1009
James Hudson	Manure heap	10	„	1017
James Wheatley	Faggot stk poles & other wood	30	„	1031
Joseph Wheatley	Faggot stk & other wood	30	Nr. Hartfield Grove	1323
Isaac Wheatley	Faggot Stack	20	„	1325
William Parrish	„	15	„	1325
Amos Killick	„	20	„	1413
Daniel Heasman	„	30	„	1409
George Philcox	Litter Stack	10	Newbridge	1407
Edward Hills	Faggot Stack	10	Nr. the stream	1434

			Newbridge	
David Bennett	Litter Stack	15	Newbridge	1442
Henry Harding	Faggot sth poles & other wood	25	„	1454
Leonard Divall	Faggot Stack	30	Auck Hatch	1458
Isaac Weeding	„	2	„	1462
Thomas Divall	Faggot & peat stack	20	„	1465
James Hudson	Faggot Stack	20	„	1401
George Weeding	„	30	„	1405
William Divall	„	30	„	1405
Walter Adams	„	20	„	1392
Thomas Brown	„	20	Nr. Fords Green	458
James Gilham	„	20	„	456
Bishop (the Policeman)	„	3	„	461
Widow Brown	„	20	„	461
Thomas Brown	„	20	„	461
Joseph Burley	„	25	„	461

Widow Mitchell	Faggot Stack	25	Nr. Wood yard Nutley	454
William Harris	„	15	„	454
James Morphew	„	20	„	454
Alfred Wickham	„	15	Nr. Fords Green	122
Fortunatus Horscraft	„	10	„	123
Charles Bedwell	„	30	Cackle Street	595
Albert Scott	„	12	„	602
James Sargeant	„	20	„	602
Stephen Penfold	„	7	Nr. The Sand Pit Nutley	596
Benjamin Carr (Widow of)	„	60	Dodds Bottom	479
Zacariah Carr	„	40	„	135
George Tunks	„	20	„	480
Frederick Walters	„	20	„	584
Albert Tunks	„	20	„	481
Lewis Carr	„	30	„	132
Edward Walter	„	10	„	479
Henry Walter	„	10	„	479
Albert Cook	„	6 mths	„	137
Hannah Best	Faggot & litter stack	20	Dodds Bank	587
John Inman	Faggot litter & brakes	15	„	136 a
William Wickham	Faggot Stack	10	„	136
James Tester	„	30	„	130
Charles Ridley	Faggot & brakes *	20	Forest Bank	466
Henry Carr	Faggot Stack	20	„	476
John Ridley	„	10	„	467
Philadelphia Wickham	„	30	„	477
Levi Wickham	„	20	„	476
James Farmer	„	20	Nr. Dodds Bank	478
Thomas Diplock	„	10	Forest Bank	464
Henry Wood	„	12	„	398
Alfred Stevenson	„	20	Back of Forge Nutley	394

Alfred Yeoman	„	4	Forest Bank	397
Jesse Wickham	Faggot Stack	26	Forest Bank	397
Mrs. Rummery	„	30	Nr. Nursery Nutley	390
James Izzard	„	14	„	464
George Stevenson	„	3	Brickyard Lane	344
William Stevenson	Brakes, peat, poles , *	3	Nr. „	346
William Turner	Several loads of broken bricks & litters		Nr. Brickyard	345
Jethro Stevenson	Faggots, brakes & peat stacks	10 or 12	„ Marlpits	129
James Ridley	Faggot brakes & litter	30	„ „	92
James Stevenson	Faggot & peat stacks	20	Nr. Windmill	274
Mr. A. Turner	Faggot Stack		„ Marlpits	
Benjamin Minns	„	20	Nr. Windmill	261
Henry Reed	„	15	„	259 a
George Turner	Faggot & brakes stack	20	„	262
John Porter	Peat Stack	10	„	272
Widow Weeding	Faggot Stack	20	Millbrook	79
Henry Stevenson	„	5	„	234
William Kenward	„	1	„	234
Joseph Ridley	2 faggot stacks & manure heap	25	„	222
James Constable	Litter Stack	5	„	218
James Hobbs	Faggot poles *	40	Spring Gardens	530
Henry Coleman	Faggot Stack	20	„	128
Henry Scott	„	20	„	533
John Reed	„	4	Nr. Duddleswell	508
William Markwick	Faggot, brakes, poles, manure & cart	4	Nr. Recreation ground Duddleswell	534
John Inns	Faggot Stack	30	Duddleswell	38
Henry Norman	Poles & manure	20	Fairwarp	
Jesse Ridley	Faggot Stack	3	„	680
Matthew Tester	„	20	„	677
Joseph Horscraft	Faggots litter & brakes	25	„	152
Samuel Reed	Faggot Stack	15	„	685
Trayton Tester	„	2	„	685
Henry Tidy	„	30	„	656

The Ranger having stated that he believed some of the cattle were turned out on the waste of the Manor of Maresfield near the Beacon and that they strayed thence on to the Forest. It was resolved that application be made to the Lord of the Manor of Maresfield for his consent to the Conservators erecting a fence between the said waste and the Forest with necessary gates in order to prevent stock straying from one to the other.

De la Warr Committee

The Committee appointed on the 7th March last to continue the negotiation with Lord De la Warr reported that they had required of Lord De la Warr whether in the event of their consenting to omit the Manor of Duddleswell and the tenancies at Will from the Agreement his Lordship would undertake to bear the expense of promoting a

Bill in Parliament for enabling the remainder of the Agreement to be carried out, but that he had replied he could not see his way to bear the expense.

Mr. Hood-Barr's application rejected

The Committed appointed at the last Meeting to consider Mr. Hood-Barr's application for permission to make a hard road to the property he had recently purchased near Chelwood Gate reported that they had been unable to come to an Agreement on the matter and that therefore they had no report to present. It was resolved that the Clerk inform Mr. Hood-Barr's that the Board are unable to assent to his request.

Duddleswell Cricket Ground Superintendent

It was resolved that the appointment of a Superintendent of the Duddleswell Cricket Ground be adjourned till the next Meeting.

Mrs. Gertrude Phillips claim to rights adjourned

Mrs. Gertrude Phillips the wife of Mr. Philip Henry Phillips of Brooklands, Crowborough, having claimed rights of common in respect of (1) a house and land containing about 2 ½ acres formerly Copyhold of the Manor of Framfield, (2) a piece of land enclosed under the Award enclosing the waste of Framfield Manor in 1862 and sold by the valuer under the Award to John Relf, (3) a piece of land containing 0a. 1t. 28p. and being an allotment No. 28 under the said enclosure all three properties lying together near Crows Nest and on the North West side of the road from Cooks Corner to Crows Nest. The Clerk reported that he had examined the documents of title and that no claim could be maintained in respect of properties (2) & (3) but that the claim might be sustained in respect of the first property if the claimant could establish the required user. It was resolved that the Clerk write to Mrs. Philips informing her thereof and giving her notice to produce her evidence of user at the next Meeting.

Rates in arrears distraint for

Alfred George Inns having made default in payment of the rates made in the 26th January 1895 and the 2nd May 1896. It was resolved that the same be recovered by distress in pursuance of the provisions of the Regulation Award and that the Clerk do sign the warrant of distress and employ a proper person to levy the same.

It was also resolved that distress be levied in the case of any other Commoners owing two rates, the Clerk to sign the necessary warrants and employ a proper person to enforce them.

Audit Committee

It was resolved that the Chairman, Mr. Colgate and Mr. Sandford be and are hereby appointed a Committee for auditing the current years accounts and report thereon to the next Meeting.

Zachariah Carr planting

The Ranger reported that Zachariah Carr had removed the shrubs referred to at the last Meeting.

T.J. Ridley or Gurr – turf cutting

The Ranger reported that Timothy John Ridley or Gurr had been cutting turf for fuel on the Forest without a licence. It was resolved that as there appears to be an impression among some of the small Commoners that their rights include the cutting of turf for fuel the Clerk write and explain to Mr. Ridley that no person whether Commoner or not is entitled to cut turf for fuel unless he first obtains a licence.

Dangerous Pit near Hartfield Grove

The Ranger reported that part of the fence round a pit near Hartfield Grove worked by Mr. Bashford of Forest Row had been knocked down thus leaving the pit in a dangerous state. It was resolved that the Clerk call on Mr. Bashford to repair the fence.

Charles Tester litter cutting

The Ranger reported that on the 19th September near Barnes Gate he saw the son of Charles Tester (a Tenant of Mrs. Nesbitt) cutting brakes for his father. It was resolved that as Tester's holding has no rights the Clerk warn him he must obtain a licence in future.

Trayton Bailey litter cutting

The Ranger having reported that on the 1st October at Crowborough Gate he found some lumps of litter which he was informed had been cut by Trayton Bailey of Pond Gate. It was resolved that he make further enquiry whether the litter was cut for a Commoner and where it was carried.

Richard Keys taking litter

The Ranger reported that on the 8th instant near Hartfield Grove he saw John Lee of High Street Hartfield cutting litter for Richard Keys of High Street Hartfield Plumber a Tenant of Lord De la Warr. It was resolved that the Clerk write to Mr. Keys requiring an undertaking from him not to take litter again in respect of that holding.

Henry Fermor, De la Warr Tennant taking litter

The Ranger reported that on 13th October near Fryars Gate he saw Amos Dray of Mardens Hill cutting litter for Henry Fermor of Brights Farm, Lye Green, a Tenant of Lord De la Warr. It was resolved that the Clerk call on Mr. Fermor to establish user in terms of the Decree in Hale v. De la Warr at the next Meeting.

It was resolved that the Annual Meeting of Commoners be held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday 19th December next at noon.

Also that the next Meeting of the Board be held on the same day at 11 a.m.

Cheque

It was resolved that a Cheque be drawn for:

The Ranger 8 weeks salary and rent to the 19th instant: £10.0.0

The Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 19th day of December 1896 at noon.Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Elected Conservators

The Clerk produced and read the following certificate and on the proposal of Mr. Colgate seconded by Mr. Ridley it was resolved that the same be entered on the Minutes as follows:

To Mr. William Augustus Raper
Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest

As Chairman of the Meeting of Commoners duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley this 19th day of December 1896 for the purpose of electing five Conservators I hereby intimate you that at such Meeting Mr. Frederick Augustus Du Cruz, Mr. Thomas Hyde, Mr. Llewellyn Midgley and Mr. Mark Sandford were elected Conservators of the Forest in the place of the four Conservators who retire by rotation on the 31st instant and that

Mr. George Maryon Maryon-Wilson was elected a Conservator in the place of the late Mr. Robert William Peregrine Birch who died on the 30th day of August last.

Dated this 19th day of December 1896

Albert Turner
Chairman

Accounts for 1896

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £109.16.11 and stated he had that morning received £ 23. 15. 0 making together £133.11.11 in hand.

Audit Committee Accounts

The Audit Committee appointed at the last Meeting produced the Account book duly entered up and reported that they had examined the accounts for the current year and compared them with the vouchers and found the accounts correct, and that after payment of cheques ordered to be drawn below there would remain a balance in hand of £ 44. 13. 2. It was resolved that the accounts be approved and signed by the Chairman that cheques be drawn as mentioned below and that the usual summary be printed and sent to each Commoner.

Faggot Stack Licences

The Clerk read a letter from Messrs Hunt & Co. assenting on behalf of Earl De la Warr to the proposal of the Conservators that all persons who had had stacks of faggots or turf on the open Forest for less than 60 years adjoining their holdings such licences to be for one year and to be renewable at the pleasure of the Board. And he suggested that such licences should specify the dimensions and situation of each stack. It was resolved that this suggestion be adopted and that the Clerk propose to Messrs Hunt & Co that instead of the licence being annual it be make revocable at pleasure, so as to avoid the labour of renewing so large a number each year, and that if they assent the Clerk prepare a form of licence with Counterfoil and that the Ranger be directed to call on all persons having stacks on the Forest who have not acquired an easement by long user to take a licence.

Chelwood Waste

The Clerk read letters from Messrs Hunt & Co with reference to the proposal to fence off the waste of the Manor of Maresfield near the Beacon from the Forest in which letters Messrs Hunt claimed that part of the land which the Ashdown Forest Map shows to be Forest in fact forms part of the above waste. It was resolved that Messrs Hunt & Co be invited to meet a Committee of Conservators on the spot in the Spring in order to clear the matter up.

Duddleswell Cricket Ground Superintendent

On the proposal of Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Colgate it was resolved that Mr. Frederick John Wood be appointed Superintendent of the Duddleswell Cricket Ground.

Rev. J.B.M. Butler, W. Wood & Sons lay pipe

An application was made from Messrs William Wood & Son for permission to lay a pipe from a hollow near the entrance to the property recently purchased by the Rev. J.B.M. Butler at Duddleswell to drain the water therefrom to the Spring just below and then to fill up the hole. It was resolved that permission be given subject to the work being carried out to the satisfaction of the Ranger and to Messrs. Wood turfing over the surface.

Dangerous Pit near Hartfield Grove

The Ranger reported that Mr. Bashford had reinstated the fence round the pit near Hartfield Grove reported by him at he last Meeting.

Rich. W. Keys taking litter

The Clerk reported that he had written to Mr. R.W. Keys of Hartfield as directed at the last Meeting and Mr. Keys had replied that he could prove user by his predecessors in occupation for a long number of years. It was resolved that the Clerk reply that the property being Lord De la Warr's no amount of user would confer a right and that if he again had litter from the Forest the Conservators would be bound to prosecute him.

Henry Fermor, De la Warr Tenant to prove user

The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Henry Fermor referred to at the last Meeting. It was resolved that he reply that Mr. Fermor prove 60 years user in respect of his Farm.

Joseph Horscraft litter

The Ranger reported that on 20th October last he saw 20 or 30 heaps of litter on the Forest at Fairwarp which Mr. Horscraft admitted had been cut by him and his sons for use on his property at Fairwarp and that he claimed a right.

Samuel Ridley litter

Also that on 3rd November he saw Samuel Ridley of Fairwarp cutting litter for himself on the Forest near old Lodge and again on 20th November near Camphill and again on 12th December near Wrenn's Warren.

Rich. Chapman litter

Also that on 19th November he saw Richard Chapman of Fairwarp loading a cart with litter for his uncle Alfred Chapman of Fairwarp.

It was resolved that the Clerk summon all these parties and subpoena Mr. Nicholson to give evidence to the title to their holdings.

John Cook litter

The Ranger reported that having heard that Robert Newnham of Chelwood had sold a load of litter to John Cook of West Hoathly who is a tenant of Mr. V.U.K. Stenning of East Grinstead he on the 6th November called on Mr. Cook who admitted he had had the litter.

It was resolved that the Clerk enquire of Mr. Stenning whether he claims Forest rights in respect the Farm and if so call on him to furnish the evidence necessary to establish the claim.

J.W. Temple George Smith litter

The Clerk read correspondence from Mr. Temple and his bailiff from which it appeared that the Bailiff had had litter from the Forest not being aware that it was illegal to do so and promising not to offend again. Also that it was cut and loaded by George Smith. It was resolved that the Clerk warn George Smith he had broken the Bye Laws and if caught again the Conservators would prosecute him.

Enoch Langridge claim of right

The Ranger reported that having heard Enoch Langridge of Danehill had had litter from the Forest – he saw Mr. Langridge on the 9th November who admitted it and claimed a right and stated that it was cut and brought to him by William Head of Collingford Farm. It was resolved that the Clerk give Mr. Langridge notice to attend the next Meeting to prove his claim.

The Ranger reported that on the 14th November near Chelwood he met a load of litter being taken by Mr. Edward Sopp of Divals Farm Birch Grove the property of Mr. Simeon Wickens. It was resolved that the Clerk call on Mr. Wickens to prove the right of the Farm.

William Gilbert Voxends Farm

The Ranger reported that on the 18th November he saw James Jenks of West Hoathly Wheeler of Voxends Farm West Hoathly Tenant of Mr. William Gilbert who some time since established his claim to rights in respect of another farm but not of this Farm. It was resolved that the Clerk write to Mr. Gilbert on the subject.

Chillies Farm litter

The Ranger reported that on the 26th November he saw George Kenwood cutting litter on the Forest near Crowborough Gate for Mr. Edwin Best the tenant of Chillies Farm Buxted belonging to Earl De la Warr. It was resolved that the Clerk write to Messrs Hunt on the subject.

Thomas Fuller camping

The Ranger reported that at the East Grinstead Bench on the 14th instant Thomas Fuller was convicted of camping on the Forest and was fined 5/- & 7/- costs and was allowed 14 days to pay.

The Ranger having reported that Andrew Buckman of Chelwood Gate occupier of a Cottage and land belonging to M. A. Newnham Grocer which was enclosed under the Inclosure of the waste of the Manor of Horsted Keynes Broadhurst is in the habit of turning horses on to the Forest. It was resolved that the Clerk prosecute him. Mr. Midgley stated that he would give evidence of the great danger the horses are to persons passing along the road.

Cheques

The cheques above ordered to be drawn were as follows:

The Clerk half a year's salary to 31 st inst.	£50.0.0.	
Costs:	£14.18.6	
Do. Disbursements:	<u>£9.14.3</u>	
		£74.12.9
 The Ranger 10 weeks salary and house rent to the 28 th instant.	 £12.10.0	
Do. Disbursements	<u>£1.16.0</u>	
		£14.6.0

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 10th April.

The Meeting adjourned at 3.15 p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

The Annual Meeting of the Commoners interested in the Forest duly convened by the Clerk by notice on the Church doors of each of the parishes or ecclesiastical districts into which the Forest extends and by advertisements in four newspapers circulating in the neighbourhood, to wit, The "Sussex Express", The "Sussex Advertiser", The East Sussex News" and the "Southern Weekly News" at least fourteen days before this date and held on Saturday the 19th day of December 1896 at noon at the Nutley Inn, Nutley.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the chair
The Rev. S. P. Macartney
Mr. Richard Cecil Farmer
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. Llewellyn Midgley
Mr. William Carr
Mr. F.A. Du Croz
Mr. J. Hope
Mr. Mark Sandford

It was proposed by Mr. Mark Sandford, seconded by Mr. Thomas Colgate and unanimously resolved that Mr. Albert Turner do take the chair.

Retiring Conservators

The Clerk reported that the retiring Conservators were Messrs Fredrick Augustus Du Croz, Thomas Hyde, Llewellyn Midgley and Mark Sandford and that there was a fifth vacancy to be filled up by reason of the death of Mr. Robert William Peregrine Birch who died on the 30th August last.

It was proposed by Mr. Albert Turner seconded by Mr. William Carr and resolved that Mr. Frederick Augustus Du Croz be re-elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by The Reverend S.P. Macartney seconded by Mr. Llewellyn Midgley and resolved that Mr. Thomas Hyde be re-elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. Mark Sandford seconded by Mr. Thomas Colgate and resolved that Mr. Llewellyn Midgley be re-elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. James T. Hope seconded by Mr. Albert Turner and resolved that Mr. Mark Sandford be re-elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. Mark Sandford seconded by Mr. Albert Turner and resolved that George Maryon Maryon-Wilson be elected a Conservator in the place of the late Mr. Robert William Peregrine Birch deceased.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 19th day of April 1897 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. G. C. Hardy Chairman pro. Tem. as below
Mr. William Carr
Mr. L. Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. George M. Maryon-Wilson

Temporary Chairman elected

This being the first Meeting of the year the first business was the election of a Chairman of the Board for the current year – Mr. G. C. Hardy was voted to the Chair for the purpose of conducting the election.

Chairman elected for the year

It was proposed by Mr. Hardy seconded by Mr. Sandford and unanimously resolved that Mr. Albert Turner be the Chairman of the Board for the current year. Mr. Hardy vacated the chair and Mr. Turner having taken it thanked the Board for the compliment they had paid him.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £57.3.11.

Fagot & Stacks Licences

The Clerk produced the form of licence it was proposed to grant to small occupiers on the Forest to keep stacks of fagots or turf on the open Forest in pursuance of the resolution passed at the last Meeting the Clerk stating that Messrs. Hunt had consented to their being made revocable at pleasure instead of being granted for one year only and it was resolved that the same be approved.

Chelwood Waste

It was resolved that Messrs Hunt be invited to meet a Committee of Conservators for the purpose of settling the boundaries between the Forest and the waste of the Manor of Maresfield near the Beacon before the next Meeting and that Messrs. Colgate, Hardy, Midgley, Sandford and Wilson be appointed a Committee for the purpose.

Duddleswell Cricket Ground Superintendent

The Clerk reported that Mr. Frederick John Wood had written consenting to act as Superintendent of the Duddleswell cricket ground.

Chillies Farm litter

The Clerk reported that Messrs Hunt considered that Chillies Farm Buxted was entitled to rights on the Forest but that he (the Clerk) thought it probable that the right had been merged and it was resolved that the matter stand over till a general settlement of questions with Lord De la Warr could be arrived at.

Mr. A.G. Inns distress for Rate

The Clerk reported that Mr. Parris had visited Mount Pleasant for the purpose of distraining on the effects of Mr. A.G. Inns for arrears of Forest rate but found nothing on the land and was under the impression that the house occupied by Mr. Inns was not upon the rated property. It appeared however on examination of the map that the house forms part of the rated property and it was resolved that the Clerk should direct him to carry out the distress levying in the house if necessary and that the Clerk inform him that the Board would indemnify him in respect thereof.

William Gilbert Voxends Farm

The Clerk reported that he had requested Mr. William Gilbert to clear up the question whether Voxends Farm is entitled to rights and that Mr. Gilbert had replied enquiring what the Conservators required. It was resolved that Mr. Gilbert be informed that it is necessary to prove 60 years user as of rights and that until this should be done the tenant must cease turning out on or taking brakes or litter from the Forest.

Forest Row Rifle Range

The Clerk reported that Captain Oxley had applied for permission to making trench at the Forest Row Rifle Range slightly rider and It was resolved to inform him that the Conservators do not object to his doing so.

Tompsetts Bank fixed wires

A complaint having been received that persons drying clothes on Tompsetts Bank hang them on wires permanently fixed between the drying posts. Mr. Midgley was requested to enquire and report.

Mr. Douglas Freshfield proposed road

An application was read from Messrs Trower Freeling and Parkin Solicitors for Mr. Douglas Freshfield for permission to make a short road across the Forest from the West side of Hindleap Warren to the High road from Forest row to Plaw Hatch but as they were not yet in a position to define ** exact position of the proposed road. It was resolved the consideration of the application be adjourned till the next Meeting and in the meantime Mr. Midgley was requested to inspect and report on the matter.

Road Surveyors Licences

The undermentioned road Surveyors applied for licences for the year ending 25th March 1898 and it was resolved that the same be granted subject to the usual conditions viz:

Mr. Henry Vater Road Surveyor to the Uckfield Rural District Council in respect of the parishes of Buxted Fletching and Maresfield to dig stone and gravel at the following spots on the Forest.

Corner of Prestridge Warren
Near Isle of Thorns
Near Pippingford
Near Birch Bank
On Stone Hill

Near Kings Standing
Near Barnes Gate
At Fairwarp
At Braziers Bank and
Gravel pit between the main road at Fairwarp and Boringwheel Mill

Mr. Albert Tucker District Surveyor to the County Council hardstone and gravel and sandstone at the following places viz;

On the Cricketing plain and
At Rushy bottom
Hardstone and gravel – At pits on top of Millbrook Hill opposite Pippingford Lodge.
Sandstone – On West side of Coffee Tavern at Duddleswell and at Fairwarp.
Gravel – At Kings Standing

Mr. Alfred Hoath Road Surveyor for that portion of the East Grinstead Rural District which comprises Forest Row Hartfield and Withyham stone and sand gravel

Near St. John's Church Crowborough
Between South side of Five hundred and Greenwood Gate
Near guide post on North side of Goat Farm
Near Wrens Warren
Near Gills Lap
Near Colemans Hatch

The Ranger stated that he had to complain to one of Mr. Hoath's men that he was opening new ground and the man stated that Mr. Hoath had informed him that he did not pay any attention to such rubbish. Mr. Hoath stated that he had not given any such instructions to his men and the Chairman warned him that he must strictly observe the terms of his licence.

Mr. Ralph Wilds Surveyor to the East Grinstead Urban District Council to dig stone on Leggs Heath.

Enoch Langridge claim to rights admitted

Mr. Enoch Langridge of Dane Hill attended to claim rights in respect of Four Cottages a Wheelwrights shop and orchard containing rather more than an acre and known as Little Dane Wood Hall at Dane Hill in the parish of Fletching which property comprises two Copyhold tenements of the Manor of Sheffield one late Vinalls granted in 1778 the other late Partridges granted in 1895. Evidence of over 60 years user having been given by Henry Marton of Chelwood aged 71. It was resolved that Mr. Langridge had established his claim to the satisfaction of the Conservators and that his name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect of the property and he thereupon paid the current rate amounting to 1/-.

Mrs. Gertrude Phillips claim to rights admitted

Witnesses attended on behalf of Mrs. Gertrude Phillips and the Conservators having heard the evidence of William Killick aged 82 and Richard Dray aged 80 both of Crowborough. It was resolved that Mrs. Phillips had established her claim to rights on the Forest in respect of the house known as Brooklands and a piece of land containing about two and a half acres formerly Copyhold of the Manor of Framfield granted in 1801 and formerly Taskers and afterwards Relf's situated near Boxes Gate and Crows Nest at Crowborough Town and Nos. 1282 – 1283 & part 1286 on the Ordnance Map and that her name be inserted in the Schedule of Commoners in respect thereof but that her claim in respect of the enclosures on the South East side of the above property and adjoining the new road from St. John's to Withyham could not be admitted as they were allotments granted under the Inclosure Award of the Waste of Framfield Manor made in the year 1862.

Simeon Wickens claim to rights admitted

Simeon Wickens of Chelwood attended to claim rights in respect of Divalls Farm containing nine and a half acres at Birch Grove partly in the Parish of Maresfield and partly in the Parish of Horsted Keynes and bounded on the

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 22th day of May 1897 at 11 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. E.A. Nicholson nominee of the Lord
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. G. C. Hardy
Mr. George M. Maryon Wilson
Mr. Ll. Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £ 88. 9. 5.

Fagot & Stack Licences

The Clerk reported that these licences had been printed and handed to the Ranger with instructions to call on every person who had a stack on the Forest and had commenced stacking on the Forest within 10 days last past to take one.

Stephen Penfold's encroachment

The Clerk reported that immediately after the last Meeting he inspected Stephen Penfold's encroachment and found that he had placed a wooden fence on the Forest some five or six feet outside a very weakly hedge planted in a line with his buildings on the West side of his garden at Dodds Bottom to keep cattle off it till it had grown up and that he had written to warn him that the fence would have to be removed next year.

Charles Steer, William Taylor turf cutting

Letters were read from William Taylor of Tompsetts Bank and Charles Steer of Highgate apologising for having taken turf from the Forest and undertaking not to transgress again and the Ranger reported that Steer had filled up and seeded down the spot from which he had taken it.

T.J. Ridley or Gurr's encroachment

Mr. Midgley reported that on the 14th inst he in company with Mr. Sandford the Clerk and the Ranger inspected the boundaries of the property of Timothy John Ridley or Gurr known as Cripps Corner near Hospital Farm in the parish of East Grinstead and found that the course of the stream which bounded Ridley's property on the East side had been diverted into a new cut further out on the Forest and that work was in progress for enclosing a considerable strip of the Forest between the old watercourse and the new cut. The case was so serious that they had felt it necessary to instruct Mr. Hubert Powell of Lewes to make a careful survey as soon as possible and that this had been done. It was proposed by Mr. Colgate seconded by Mr. Maryon Wilson and unanimously resolved that Mr. Midgley and Mr. Sandford be thanked for their prompt action in the matter. It was proposed by Mr. Hardy seconded by Mr. George Maryon Wilson and unanimously resolved in as much as a conviction under the Bye Laws would not afford any adequate remedy for so glaring a trespass and as it is necessary that a severe example be made and as the Conservators have not the power to take civil proceedings some of the principal Commoners be requested to take proceedings in the County Court under the Commons Act 1876 for an injunction and damages.

As Sir Spencer Wilson had on former occasions very kindly acted as one of the plaintiffs the Clerk was directed to ask him to be good enough to do so in this case.

The Chairman Mr. Hardy and Mr. Midgley being present agreed to be plaintiffs and Mr. Colgate and Mr. Sandford undertook to ask the Earl of Sheffield and Mrs. Pechell respectively to be plaintiffs also. It was proposed by Mr.

Turner seconded by Mr. Maryon Wilson and resolved that the Clerk would be a necessary witness in the case it be suggested to the plaintiffs to retain Mr. W. C. Cripps of Tunbridge Wells to conduct the case.

Mr. Douglas Freshfield proposed road

Mr. Midgley stated that they next visited the place at which Mr. Douglas Freshfield desired to make a hard road out of Hindleap Warren across the Forest to a point marked B.M. 548.6 on the high road from Plaw Hatch to Forest Row that there is no gate at the point at which it is proposed to bring the road out of Warren and no cart may cross the Forest at this point that the Warren has a considerable frontage adjoining this high road a little further South and also a considerable frontage to the high road from Plaw Hatch to Wych Cross. It was resolved that the Board cannot consent to the application and Mr. Nicholson having stated that he would consult Lord De la Warr on the subject, it was further resolved that the reply to Mr. Freshfield be deferred so that if his Lordship takes the same view the Clerk may inform Mr. Freshfield thereof at the same time.

Tompsetts Bank clothes wires

Mr. Midgley reported that they next visited Tompsetts Bank and found that the wires fixed to the drying ports on the Forest belonged to William Miles of Tompsetts Bank, it was explained to Mrs. Miles that while the Conservators did not wish to interfere with the drying of clothes which had been carried on for many years. The lines or wires must be removed when not in actual use, she undertook they should be removed at once and this had been done.

Near Coleman's Hatch ditto

They subsequently met with similar wires on the Forest near Coleman's Hatch which they removed.

John Bashford trespass

They next visited Quabrook and found that Mr. John Bashford had formed a road on the Forest outside the South West boundary of his land placing a considerable quantity of gravel and stone on it and cutting a trench on each side for drainage thereby depriving the Commoners of the pasturage which previously grew there. It was proposed by Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Carr and unanimously resolved that the Clerk write to Mr. Bashford requiring him to remove the materials laid on the Forest, to fill up the trenches or grips and to restore the pasture surface of the Forest within two calendar months from this date, and that unless he at once gave the Clerk a written undertaking to do so and completed the work in a satisfactory manner within the time some of the principal Commoners be requested to take proceeding against him in the County Court under the Commons Act 1876 for an injunction.

Canon Maberly Smith and Job Luxford Trespass

They then viewed a hard road which had been made by Mr. Job Luxford builder of Forest Row across the Forest from a field gate leading out of land at Little Shepherds on which he was building a house for Rev. Canon Maberly Smith to the High Road at Shepherds Hill. They found a length of road had been formed and banked up drains put under it and the surface metalled. That a quantity of stone and gravel excavated from a well had been deposited on the turf outside the property to the South of the gate and building rubbish mixed with shavings had been spread between the new road and the property to the North of the gate burying the turf. The Clerk reported that Canon Smith had declined to go into the matter with him, while Mr. Luxford stated that he had obtained the consent of the Lord of the Manor, which the Steward Mr. Nicholson stated was not the case. It was resolved that as the road had been made and it would be impossible now to restore the surface without very great labour and expense the Conservators would not insist on its removal provided Mr. Luxford at once paid a fine of 40^s/- for the breach of the Bye Law and Canon pay 30/- for having authorised the work and that the stone gravel and other rubbish between the road and the property is at once removed and the surface of the land properly restored.

T. J. Ridley or Gurr and Arthur Box removing litter

The Ranger reported that on the 14th instant he found a quantity of litter which appeared to have been cut before the close time heaped in various heaps on the Forest near the property of Timothy John Ridley or Gurr that on the evening of the 15th instant he saw Arthur Box and two other boys come out of Ridley's place with a cart and load up some of the litter. He did not wait to see them carry it away but he afterwards found several of the heaps had been removed and that a quantity of the same litter was placed in a heap on the Forest just outside Ridley's

buildings. It was resolved that the Clerk prosecute T. J. Ridley or Gurr and any of his Assistants if and when a case can be made out under Bye Law 11.

Dangerous well Dodds Bottom

The Ranger reported that on the Forest at Dodds Bottom there was an old well said to have been dug about 10 years ago for the use of two houses built by T. J. Ridley or Gurr and now belonging to Sylvanus Ridley. That the cover had fallen to pieces and the well was entirely unprotected and very dangerous. The Chairman undertook to see to the matter at once. The Clerk stated that in cases in which applications were made either to the Conservators or to Earl De la Warr as owner of the soil of the Forest for consent to interfere with the surface of the Forest such for example as to make a hard road to carry traffic which otherwise would pass indiscriminated over the turf by parallel tracks it appeared to him that as the consent of both parties was necessary it was inconvenient that each party should give a separate answer and he had suggested to Mr. Nicholson that it would be convenient that in future both parties should first confer with one another and then give an answer agreed on by both. Mr. Nicholson stated he was ready to fall in with suggestion and it was resolved that this arrangement be acted on in future.

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 24th July at 11.30 a.m. unless the Chairman see occasion to convene it earlier.

The Meeting terminated at 2.45 p.m.

Mark Sandford
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 24th day of July 1897 at 11.30 a.m.

Present

Mr. Mark Sandford in the Chair
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. William Carr
Mr. L. Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley

In the absence of Mr. Albert Turner from illness it was proposed by Mr. Colgate seconded by Mr. Midgley and unanimously resolved that Mr. Sandford do take the chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Du Croz death

Mr. F.A. Du Croz having died since the last Meeting it was proposed by Mr. Midgley seconded by Mr. Colgate and unanimously resolved that the Board of Conservators of Ashdown Forest desire to offer to Mrs. Du Croz and family their sincere sympathy in the great loss they have sustained by the death of Mr. Du Croz who as a member of this Board will be greatly missed: he always being a most regular attendant and one whose advice and counsel were always a great assistance to the Board.

Also that a copy of the foregoing resolution be forwarded to Mrs. Du Croz.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £88.9.5.

Timothy J. Ridley or Gurr encroachments

The Clerk reported that an action had been instituted in the County Court at East Grinstead by the Earl of Sheffield, Sir Spencer Wilson Bart., Mrs. Pechell, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Hope, Mr. Midgley and Mr. A. Turner against Timothy John Ridley or Gurr claiming an order on injunction requiring the Defendant to abate he encroachments & referred to at the last Meeting and to restore the surface of the Forest also an injunction restraining him from

making any enclosure or encroachment on the Forest in Future and that the case stands for hearing on the 4th August next.

Application for Tunbridge Wells Volunteers to use Forest Row Rifle Range

An application was read from Major Simpson of the 1st Vol. Batt. Royal West Kent Regiment for permission for the Tunbridge Wells Company to use the Forest Row Rifle Range temporarily until they could obtain a range of their own. Also a letter from Major Oxley of East Grinstead Company stating that he would be glad to assist the arrangement also a letter from Mr. Nicholson stating that Lord De la Warr had written to Major Oxley giving his consent. It was proposed by Mr. Colgate seconded by Mr. Carr and unanimously resolved that the application be granted on the following terms but not to extend beyond the 31st December 1898.

1. That no firing be allowed over a quarter range than 600 yards.
2. That in case of death or injury to cattle of Commoners arising directly from the use of the range Major Simpson undertake to pay fair compensation to the owner of the same to be determined on the request of either party by an Arbitrator whose decision shall be acceptable as final by both parties.
3. That all precautions specified in the war office regulations for the conduct of Ranges be strictly observed.
4. That the Officer or non-commissioned officer in charge of every firing party see that the danger flags are hoisted on all the flagstaffs particularly (a) on the open Forest between Ashdown Cottage and Broad Stone Warren and (b) at the gate leading out of Broad Stone Warren near the Rifle Batts at least 15 Minutes before firing commences and remain hoisted till the firing has ceased and that the notice Boards affixed to each of the last mentioned two flagstaffs are in proper order.
5. That no right or privilege in the Forest be acquired by any person or persons in respect of this licence.
6. That if any serious objection be made on the part of Commoners to the user of the range by the said Company such user shall be discontinued on notice to that effect being given by the Conservators to the Officer commanding the 1st V. B. Royal West Kent Regiment
7. That the Commanding Officer pay an acknowledgement of 1/- on the granting of this licence and 1/- on the 24th July 1898 if the licence shall so long continue in force

Also that it be explained to Major Simpson and Major Oxley that the Conservators make this concession with very great reluctance in order to tide the Tunbridge Wells Volunteers over their temporary difficulty but that as the range has been declared by competent authorities to be very unsuitable for the use of the new rifle the Conservators will not under any circumstances be prepared to extend the arrangement beyond the date above named.

Canon Maberly Smith's trespass & Job Luxford

The Ranger reported that Canon Maberly Smith had since the last Meeting caused the stone gravel and other rubbish between the road and his property to be removed and the surface of the Forest property restored in accordance with the resolution passed at the last Meeting and the Clerk reported that the following fines had been paid to him viz. by Canon Maberly Smith 30/- and by Mr. Job Luxford 40/-.

A. George Inns distrained

The Clerk reported that since the Meeting the rates due from Alfred George Inns had been recovered by distress.

Mr. Freshfield application for road

The Clerk reported that since the Meeting he had received a communication from Mr. Nicholson stating that Lord De la Warr thought it unwise to assent to Mr. Freshfield's application for permission to make a road out of Hindleap Warren over the Forest and that he had thereupon written to Mr. Freshfield's Solicitors informing them that neither the Conservators nor his Lordship could see their way to grant the request.

The Rev. I.L. Ogle's Application

A letter was read from the Rev. I. L. Ogle of Pixtons Gill near Forest Row asking that a tree planted by a well on the Forest near his property might be preserved and be well fenced in.

It was resolved that the matter be referred to Mr. Midgley and other Conservators to inspect and report thereon to the next Meeting.

Rate

The Clerk having reported that the funds in hand with the nominal arrears outstanding were nearly exhausted by the expense already incurred, it was on the proposal of Mr. Midgley resolved that the Clerk give notice on the Agenda for the next Meeting to make a rate and that he be prepared with the necessary documents for the purpose.

Henry Harding stacks

The Ranger reported that Henry Harding tenant of the Misses Hales property known as Little Clay Pots on the Forest at Hartfield had a fagot stack, a stack of brakes or litter fenced round and three stacks of poles on the Forest near his holding and he asked instructions as to granting licences to this person.

It was resolved that the Ranger ascertain the acreage of Harding's holdings and the length of time he had had the various stacks on the Forest and report to the Clerk.

Sylvanus Ridley Stacks

The Ranger also reported that Sylvanus Ridley of Crows Nest had a turf stack about 20 x 9 which was fenced, a fagot stack about 30 x 12 and a stack of brakes and litter about 40 x 18 also fenced on the Forest near his holding.

It was resolved that the Ranger be authorised to grant a licence for one stack only and inform Mr. Ridley that after the current year he could not be allowed to have more than one stack upon the Forest.

W.V.K. Stenning

The Ranger reported that Samuel Moore of Rotherfield was cutting up timber for Mr. W.V.K. Stenning in Hindleap Warren and had dug a water hole about 4 feet square on the Forest and had not complied with the Ranger's request to fill it up.

It was resolved that the Clerk draw Mr. Stenning's attention to the matter.

Cheques

It was resolved that cheques be drawn as follows:

The Ranger 15 weeks salary and	
house rent to 26 th instant	£18.15.0
The Clerk half years salary to 30 th June last	£50.0.0

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on the 11th September next.

The Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn Nutley on Saturday the 11th day of September 1897 at 11.30 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Guy C. Hardy
Mr. Llewellyn Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £25.17.11.

Mr. F.A. Du Croz deceased

The Clerk reported that he had forwarded to Mrs. De Croz a copy of the resolution passed at the last Meeting and he read Mrs. De Croz's reply thanking the Board for their sympathy and appreciation of her late husband.

Timothy J. Ridley or Gurr encroachment

The Clerk reported that on the 4th August last an injunction with costs was awarded against Timothy John Ridley or Gurr in respect of the encroachment referred to at the last Meeting.

Benjamin Minns turf cutting

The Clerk reported that Benjamin Minns of near the Windmill, Nutley, was convicted by the Uckfield Bench on the 19th August last of a breach of Bye Law 8 for taking turf for fuel without authority and was fined 1/- & 10/- costs.

Forest Row Rifle Range, Tunbridge Wells Volunteers

The Clerk laid on the table the terms of arrangement under which the Tunbridge Wells D. & E. Companies of the 1st Vol. Batt. West Kent Regiment are permitted to use temporarily the Range at Pages Gill which terms were signed by Major Simpson commanding the said Companies and the Clerk reported that Major Simpson had paid the acknowledgement of 1/-.

I. Stenning & Son

The Clerk laid before the Board a letter of 28th July last from Messrs. I. Stenning & Son stating that they had long been in the habit of using the Forest for storing timber etc. as occasion required but were desirous of avoiding damage to anyone and disclaimed all knowledge of the water hole complained of having been dug. It was resolved that the Clerk draw the attention of Messrs. Stenning to Bye Law 15 and point out that no one has a right to store timber on the Forest.

The Ranger reported that the water hole had been filled up since the last Meeting.

C.H. Hintley

Mr. C. H. Hintley, Grocer of Forest Row having applied for permission to take brakes and litter from the Forest, the Clerk stated he had replied that licences could be granted only to Cottages within the Pale and enquired whether he was in a position to claim a right as a Commoner to which no reply had been received.

I. Willes Buried Horse

The Clerk reported that Mr. I. Willes of Chapel Lane Forest Row having buried a dead horse on the Forest he gave him notice to remove the same under pain of prosecution and the Ranger reported that he had removed the same accordingly.

Colonel Evans

Colonel Evans of Cookhams West Hoathly, having enquired of the Ranger whether he could take a few loads of soil from the Forest the Clerk stated he wrote to Colonel Evans explaining that with the exception of the Lords limited rights to take brick earth in one could be permitted to remove soil under pain of prosecution.

Rate

The Clerk having reported that the funds in hand would be exhausted by payment of the current liabilities and having produced an estimate of the annual expenses. It was proposed by Mr. Thomas Colgate seconded by Mr. Llewellyn Midgley and unanimously resolved that a rate be made for defraying the expenses of the Conservators in the execution of their duties under the award made under the provisions of the Inclosure Acts 1845 to 1878 and the Commons Regulation (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act 1885 to be levied upon the respective owners of the rights of Common upon the Forest at the rate of 6^d per acre in respect of the acreage of their respective lands to which such rights attach which Commoners and their respective acreage aforesaid and the respective sums payable by them are hereafter set out namely:-

Name	Address	Acreage	Amount £	s	d
Adams, Mr. William	Moss Cottage, Newbridge, Hartfield	2	0	1	0
Appleby Mr. Isaac	Fords Green Nutley Uckfield	1/2	0	0	6
Arbuthnot W.R. Esq.	Plaw Hatch East Grinstead	200	5	0	0
Avis, Mrs Sarah A.	The Hollies, Fryars Gate Withyham (late Martin)	3	0	1	6
Baker Mr. Matthias	Chelwood Common Dane Hill Uckfield	2	0	1	0
Baker Mr. William	Chelwood Common Dane Hill Uckfield	2	0	1	0
Banister F.D. Esq.,	Stone House, Forest Row	71	1	15	6
Barchard Francis Esq	Duddleswell Uckfield	12	0	6	
Bashford, Mr. John	Forest Row East Grinstead	15	0	7	6
Baines Mrs. Lucy	Bolbrook Farm Hartfield	5¼	0	3	0
Bell C.W.	Yewhurst East Grinstead	180	4	10	0
Bennett Repres. of Mr John decd	Lisburn Nutley Uckfield	24	0	12	0
Birch Peregrine	The Priory Forest Row East Grinstead	88	2	4	0
Birch R. W.P. Esq. Decd.	The Priory Forest Row East Grinstead	12	0	6	0
Box Mr. George	Chelwood Common Dane Hill Uckfield	3	0	1	6
Box Mr. Richard	Kings Head Broadway Stratford	5¾	0	3	0
Browning Mr. William	Chelwood Common Dane Hill Uckfield	¼	0	0	6
Budd Budd Fred. I.	Restlands West Hoathly East Grinstead	145	3	12	6
Card Mr. Richard	Holly Farm Forest Row	3¾	0	2	0
Carr Mr. William	Nutley Uckfield	2	0	4	0
Clark ****	Highclere Rectory, Newbury (late	57	1	2	6

	Wormald				
Clarke Stephenson R. Esq.	C/o Daniel Watney & sons 33 Poultry London	191	4	15	6
Colchester The R. Hon. Lord	Carlton Club Pall Mall SW	213	5	6	6
Colgate Thomas Esq	Sheffield Park Uckfield	4	0	2	0
Cook Misses B&F	The Hall Nutley Uckfield	17	0	8	6
Cook Mrs Ellen	Tompsetts Bank, Forest Row, East Grinstead	2	0	1	0
Cope & Buckley Messrs	c/o Cope & Co. 3 Gr. George St Westminster S.W.	5	0	2	6
Corbett, Charles Esq.	Dane Hill Park Uckfield	233	5	16	6
Co**a Mrs	C/o Douglas Young Esq. 51 Coleman St EC (late A.H. Hills)	3½	0	2	0
Dadswell, Mr. Robert	c/o Mr.Spencer Tester Brown's Brook, Buxted	1	0	0	6
Darling The Rev. F	The Ridge Hartfield	4	0	2	0
Diplock Mr. James	Lower Spring Gardens Farm Maresfield	35	0	17	6
Diplock Mrs Mary	Hope Farm Ightham nr. Sevenoaks	15	0	7	6
Du Croz Chas G. Esq.	Court Lands West Hoathly E. Grinstead	80	2	0	0
Farmer Mr. Rich. Cecil	Hartfield Tunbridge Wells	3	0	1	6
Fleet Mr. George	Shortbridge Piltdown Uckfield	2 ½	0	1	3
Freshfield Mrs	Kidbrooke Park East Grinstead	200	5	0	0
Fuller Miss Millicent	Vaughans Fletching Uckfield	10	0	5	0
Gasson Mr. Humphrey	Chelwood Common Dane Hill Uckfield	3 ½	0	2	0
Gilbert William Esq.	C/o Messrs. Norton *** & Gilbert, 79 Queen St., Cheapside	40	1	0	0
Gillham Mr. James	Nutley Uckfield	2 ¼	0	1	6
Goard Mrs. P. P.	Forest Row Green	3 ¾	0	1	10 ½
Goldsmith Mrs. Sophia	Maresfield Uckfield	1	0	0	6

Goldsmiths' Company	Goldsmith's Hall London E.C.	100	2	10	0
Grieve Norman W.	Harbury Forest Row East Grinstead	4	0	2	0
Hale The Misses	c/o Joseph Turner Esq. East Grinstead	68	1	14	6
Hardy Guy Chas.	Tremaines Horsted Keynes Sussex	296 ½	7	16	0
Ditto	(North Northlands)	15			
Harrison Esq. deceased The Trustees of William	C/o G. R. Brock Esq. 2 St. Peter's Rd. St. Leonard's	35 ¾	0	18	0
Head Mr. John	31 High St. Lewes	10	0	5	0
Heasman Mrs. Eliza	Newbridge, Hartfield	3	0	1	6
Heasman Messrs S.W. and C.	Fryars Gate Withyham Tun. Wells	2 ½	0	1	6
Hillhouse J.	33 Chancery Lane London E.C	1	0	0	6
Hoadley, Mr. Edward	Dane Hill, Uckfield	8	0	4	0
	PAGES MISSING IN ORIGINAL BOOK				
Streatfeild, R.I. Esq	c/o Messrs. Powell & Co. Lewes	240	6	0	0
Tamplin & Sons **** Ltd	Phoenix Brewery	½	0	0	6
Tapps, Gervis Miss Clara	c/o Messrs. Hastie, East Grinstead	925	23	2	6
Taylor Mr. William	Darvell Beech Farm, Battle	2	0	1	0
Tetley, Joseph Jnr.	516 Fenchurch St. E.C. (late Edwards)	15	0	7	6
Tomsett, Mr. Jesse	Chelwood Common, Dane Hill, Uckfield	3	0	1	6
Turner Albert Esq.	Nutley	85 ½	2	3	0
Turner Charles Esq	Oakhurst East Grinstead	4	0	2	0
Turner Mr. Elias	Chelwood Common, Danehill,	7 ¼	0	4	0

	Uckfield				
Turner Mr. James	Hugletts Pit, Maresfield	15	0	7	6
Turner, William Esq	Nutley, Uckfield	$\frac{1}{4}$	0	1	0
Tyler Mr. Enoch	Horney Common, Uckfield	$5 \frac{3}{4}$	0	3	0
Wallis Mr. Joseph P.	"Coopers Arms" Crowborough,	$2 \frac{1}{2}$	0	1	3
Waters Mr. Isaac	Forest Row, East Grinstead	6	0	3	0
Welfare Mrs. Eliza	Stone Cottage, Hartfield, Tun. Wells	3	0	1	6
Wheatley Mr. Joseph	Coleman's Hatch, Hartfield. Tunbridge	4	0	2	0
Wheeler Mr. Charles	Chelwood Common, Dane Hill, Uckfield	5	0	2	6
Whitewood, Mr. James	Buxted, Uckfield	2	0	1	0
Wickens Mr. I. H	Dane Hill, Uckfield	$44 \frac{1}{2}$	1	2	6
Wickens Mr. Simeon	Chelwood Common, Dane Hill, Uckfield	23	0	16	6
	Divalls Farm in Maresfield & Horsted Keynes	$9 \frac{1}{2}$			
Wickens Mr. Spencer Snr.	Chelwood Common, Dane Hill, Uckfield	15	1	0	6
Wilson Mr. Edward	Mount Pleasant, Fairwarp	1	0	0	6
Wilson Sir Spencer M. Maryon Bart	"Searles", Fletching, Uckfield	1265	40	14	6
Ditto	net acquired from Mrs. Pechell	364			
Wood, Mr. John	Nutley Uckfield	12	0	6	0
Wood, Mr. Jesse	Blacklands Farm, Forest Row (late Keys)	$8 \frac{1}{2}$	0	4	6
Wood John Edgar	55 Grays Inn Road, Holborn W. C	4	0	2	0

Woods M.S. Grosvenor Esq.	9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn London W. C.	498	12	9	0
Wood, Mr. Thomas Daynes	The Hollies, Bennett Park, Blackheath, Kent	30 ¼	0	15	6
Wormald, Edward Esq.	13 South ** St, London W				
Wood, Mr. Charles	Maresfield, Uckfield	12	0	6	0
Young Mr. William	Fincham, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells	23	0	11	6

Henry Harding

Mr. Henry Harding tenant under the Hale of Little Claypits, Hartfield attended with witnesses to claim rights of Common on the Forest in respect of his holding and the Misses Hale's bailiff also attended to produce their Title deeds. The Clerk reported that he had investigated this title and reported on it to the Conservators in June 1896 (p. 427); that part of the land was granted in 1851 and the remainder in 1852 and that consequently 60 years user as of right could not be established and this was explained to Mr. Harding.

The Ranger having reported that Mr. Harding had taken brakes and litter from the Forest, the latter stated that he did so under the impression that his holding had a right but that in future he would not take any without obtaining a licence from the Conservators.

The Ranger stated that Mr. Harding had placed several stacks or heaps on the Forest since the last Meeting and now had altogether nine viz. a faggot stack, a brake or litter stack fenced round and 7 stacks or heaps of wood besides various appliances used in his trade of a turf basket maker and scythe handle maker, the Chairman pointed out to Mr. Harding that it was contrary to the Bye Laws for anyone to lay property on the Forest and that they had no power to make an exception in the case of trade that they would grant him a licence for one faggot stack and one brake or litter stack but that the remaining stacks and heaps and trade appliances must be removed before the 31st December next by which time Mr. Harding stated he would have been able to work up the wood.

Dodds Bottom dangerous well

The Ranger reported that the dangerous well at Dodds Bottom which he had reported on at previous Meetings had now been securely fenced round.

Mr. I.L. Ogle as to fencing spring

Mr. Midgley reported that he had inspected the spring referred to in a letter from the Reverend I.L. Ogle read at the last Meeting and had ascertained that not only Mr. Ogle but various cottages in the neighbourhood obtained water from it and it was very desirable it should be protected from cattle; also that the tree close to it if allowed to grow would afford useful shelter but that the small boys would soon destroy it if it was left unprotected. It was resolved that the Clerk inform Mr. Ogle that the Board are satisfied it would be desirable to fence the spring and tree, that they had no funds which they can legally apply for the purpose but that if he can see his way to raise the requisite amount in the neighbourhood and hand it to them they will have a proper fence put up and a notice board prohibiting persons from polluting the spring or damaging the tree.

Alfred Tester cutting rushes

The Ranger reported that Mr. G. P. Birch saw Alfred Tester of Forest Row cutting rushes on the Forest near the Priory which the Ranger had seen used on Tester's ricks. It was resolved that the Clerk call upon Mr. Tester to give an understanding not to cut rushes again and that in default of his giving in undertaking the Clerk prosecute him if Mr. Birch will give evidence.

Hood–Barr’s timber on forest

The Ranger reported that many months ago Mr. Hood–Barr’s had laid a number of old railway sleepers on the Forest near Chelwood and that they still remain there. It was resolved that the Clerk write to Mr. Hood–Barr’s requiring him to have them removed.

Bye Laws as to amending

It was resolved that notice be given on the Agenda for the next Meeting to consider the ***** of altering the time for commencing brake cutting from 1st August to 1st September and of amending Bye Law 11 accordingly.

Also of making any other amendments in the Bye Laws that might seem expedient.

Cheque

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn for:

The Ranger 7 weeks salary and rent to 13 th instant	£8.15.0
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Also that the next Meeting be held on the 6th November at 11 a.m.

The Meeting terminated at 2:30 p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 6th day of November 1897 at 11.30 a.m.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. Guy C. Hardy
Mr. Thomas Hyde
Mr. Ll. Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. George M. M. Wilson

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand of £196.3.0.

I. Stenning & Son timber stored on Forest

The Clerk read a correspondence that had passed between himself and Messrs. I. Stenning & Son with reference to the storage of timber on the Forest but as there was no contravention of the Bye Laws by storage of timber by them in the Forest at the present time. The Board passed on to the next business.

Rate confirmed

The Clerk reported that the Forest rate made at the last Meeting was duly confirmed by the Board of Agriculture on the 16th September last and that he had collected £176.5.5. on account of same.

Rev. I.L. Ogle's Application

The Clerk read a letter he had received from Rev. I.L. Ogle dated 13th October 1897 in reply to the letter he wrote to him, pursuant to the resolution passed at the last Meeting, in which Mr. Ogle stated that he had never used the water from the spring, that it is now polluted by geese to the danger of the cottages and that some authority ought to look to the matter. It was resolved that the Clerk inform Mr. Ogle that the Conservators have no objection to the Parish Council fencing the spring if they desire to do so.

Alfred Tester cutting rushes convicted

The Clerk reported that Alfred Tester having failed to give a written undertaking not to cut rushes again on the Forest was prosecuted at the East Grinstead Bench on 4th October last for a breach of Bye Law No. 11 and was convicted and fined 5/- with 7/- costs.

William Watson cutting brakes prosecuted

Also that Wm. Watson whom the Ranger on the 24th September last found cutting brakes on the Forest near High Gate for his own use, was prosecuted at the same Court for a breach of Bye Law that he pleaded a right to do so and that the Bench in consequence held that their jurisdiction was ousted and dismissed the summons.

The Clerk stated that a small portion of Watson's holding was purchased under the Regulation Award and the remainder was held on a tenancy at Will of Lord De La Warr until 23rd May 1892 when Watson and his wife purchased the freehold from Lord De La Warr's Trustee. That he had obtained the consent of Lord De La Warr to allow his name to be used in a civils action against Watson, the Clerk indemnifying his Lordship against all costs. It was proposed by Mr. G.C. Hardy seconded by Mr. G.M.M. Wilson and resolved that civil proceedings be commenced against Watson for damages for trespass and for an injunction in the names of his Lordship and of the following Commoners who being present or represented consented to become parties viz. The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Sheffield, Sir Spencer Maryon Maryon-Wilson Bart, Mrs. Pechell, Mr. G.C. Hardy, Mr. Ll. Midgley and Mr. Albert Turner.

Mr. Hood-Barr's Trespass

The Ranger reported that since the last Meeting Mr. Hood Barrs had removed the Railway Sleepers from the Forest.

John Bashford Encroachment

The Clerk reported that at the County Court held at East Grinstead on the 6th October 1897 he obtained an injunction against Mr. John Bashford to remove the road he had made on the Forest and to restore the surface and that Defendant was ordered to pay costs on scale B. The Ranger reported that the road had since been removed and the surface of the Forest restored.

Forest Row Golf Club

Mr. Chignell the Hon. Sec. of the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club attended the Meeting and stated that having heard it rumoured that whatever the Golf Club wanted to do on the Forest was done without the permission of the Conservators and in case this rumour should have come to the ears of the Conservators he desired to state that there was no truth in the rumour and whatever was done by the Golf Club which interfered with the rights to the Forest was done with the sanction of the Conservators.

Rev. I.L. Ogle Request to Cut Turf

The Clerk read a letter he had received from Rev. I. L. Ogle dated 4th November 1897 asking for permission to cut a few pieces of turf from the Forest and that as he could get what he wanted close to his gate he should not be taking much or disfiguring the ground. The Clerk was directed to inform Mr. Ogle that the Conservators could not give him permission.

Application from County Council Surveyor to take gravel

The Clerk reported that he had received an application from Mr. John Hook the District Surveyor of the East Sussex County Council for permission to take the gravel from the Forest near Kings Standing for the repair of the main roads near that place and that he granted a licence for same on the usual conditions. It was resolved that the licence be confirmed.

William Stevenson (Grunter)

The Ranger reported that William Stevenson (Grunter) had put up a shed about 7 yards in width the corrugated iron roof of which overhung the Forest to the extent of about 3 yards and the same rested on 3 posts which had been put up on the Forest.

The Clerk reported that he had written Wm. Stevenson on the 5th October last that unless he removed the encroachments before the 14th October proceedings would be taken against him in the County Court.

The Ranger was directed to ascertain by a view whether the encroachment had been thrown out and to report thereon to the Clerk.

Rev. S.P. Macartney

The Ranger reported that the Rev. S.P. Macartney had taken some gravel from the Forest near his premises at Tompsetts Bank and that the place whence it was taken was left in a dangerous condition.

The Clerk reported that he had written to Messrs Hunt & Co. drawing their attention to the matter.

The Ranger was directed to again to view the spot and report to the Clerk.

T.J. Ridley or Gurr

The Ranger reported that Timothy John Ridley or Gurr was filling in the outer ditch which he had made on the Forest and in respect of which an injunction had been granted against him with material obtained from a neighbouring pit.

T. J. Ridley or Gurr on fresh encroachment

The Ranger reported that on 19th October he discovered that Timothy John Ridley or Gurr was trying to make another encroachment on the West side of his property at Cripps Corner and that he, the Ranger, had thrown out the same.

The Clerk reported that he had since written Ridley or Gurr warning him that if he renewed the attempt to encroach, proceedings would be taken against him instead of throwing it out.

The Ranger was directed to keep observation on the spot and report to the Clerk.

E. Cooper litter

The Ranger reported that Mr. E. Cooper of Ashdown House Buxted had bought litter which he (The Ranger) believed was cut on the Forest, that he saw Mr. Cooper on 11th October who stated it had come from Crowborough Common. The Ranger was directed in future to ascertain from the person who cuts the litter on the Forest whether he was employed to do so or whether he was cutting in the hope of finding a purchaser.

Henry Harbour trespass

The Ranger reported that on 19th October Plaw Hatch he saw Henry Harbour of Crawley Down preparing a space on the Forest to burn charcoal. It was resolved that the Clerk warn Mr. Harbour to desist from trespassing and require him to restore the surface of the Forest to its original condition and that in default proceedings be taken against him.

William Markwick cutting litter

The Ranger reported that Wm. Markwick adjoining Recreation Ground at Duddleswell had a stack of newly got litter, that he had seen Mrs. Markwick who stated that her husband had always had litter and that he declined to apply for a licence. It was resolved that the Clerk call upon him to prove his right to take litter and require him to give an undertaking not to take litter from the Forest until he had done so under pain of prosecution.

Edward Wilson litter

The Ranger reported that Edward Wilson of Mount Pleasant Fairwarp had recently had litter from the Forest which had been supplied by Alfred Scott. The Ranger was directed to enquire whether Scott was employed by Mr. Wilson to cut litter on the Forest for him and report thereon to the Clerk.

Henry Harding

The Ranger reported that he had seen Henry Harding who attended the last Meeting to claim rights to the Forest and offered him a licence for litter which he declined and said that he should get what litter he liked without a licence and that he did not intend to remove any of his stacks from off the Forest. The Ranger was directed to watch and report to the Clerk if he found him taking litter again.

Messrs Stenning

The Clerk was directed to write Messrs J. Stenning & Son and call their attention to the fact that their promise to fill in the cart tracks made by hauling timber out of Horncastle Wood had not been fulfilled and request them to have it done without delay.

Gorringe geese

The Clerk paid a correspondence which had passed between him and Mr. Edward Wilson since the last Meeting with reference to the pollution of a stream running through his property by geese belonging to Mr. William Gorringe near Mount Pleasant.

The Clerk was directed to write Mr. Gorringe that unless he presents his geese polluting the stream he would be prosecuted under Bye Law 16.

Cook's rights

The Ranger reported that finding Mr. John Cook of West Hoathly (a tenant of Mr. Stenning) had employed a man to cut litter for him on the Forest, he saw Mr. Cook and informed him that he could have no litter from the Forest until the right of the property he occupied had been proved.

Audit Committee

It was resolved that the Chairman Mr. Colgate and Mr. Sandford be and are hereby appointed a Committee to audit the current year's accounts and report thereon to the next Meeting.

Bye Laws

It was resolved that the consideration of the question of amending the Bye Laws be deferred till the next Meeting.

Conservators retiring

The Clerk reported that the members of the Board who would retire at the expiration of the current year were the Earl of Sheffield, Mr. James Fitzalan Hope

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The Ranger reported that Edward Wilson of Mount Pleasant Fairwarp had recently had litter from the Forest which had been supplied by Alfred Scott. The Ranger was directed to enquire whether Scott was employed by Mr. Wilson to cut the litter on the Forest for him and report thereon to the Clerk.

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The Ranger was directed to watch and report to the Clerk if he found him taking litter again.

Messrs. Stenning

The Clerk was directed to write Messrs. I. Stenning & Son and call their attention to the fact that their promise to fill in the cart tracks made by hauling timber out of Horncastle Wood had not been fulfilled and request them to have it done without delay.

Gorringe geese

The Clerk read a correspondence which had passed between him and Mr. Edward Wilson since the last Meeting with reference to the pollution of a stream running through his property by geese, belonging to Mr. William Gorringe near Mount Pleasant.

The Clerk was directed to write Mr. Gorringe that unless he prevents his geese polluting the stream he would be prosecuted under Bye Law 16.

Mr. Cook's rights

The Ranger reported that finding that Mr. John Cook of West Hoathley (a tenant of Mr. Stenning) had employed a man to cut litter for him on the Forest. He saw Mr. Cook and informed him that he could have no litter from the Forest until the right of the property he occupied had been proved.

Audit Committee

It was resolved that the Chairman Mr. Colgate and Mr. Sandford be and are hereby appointed a Committee to audit the current year's accounts and report thereon to the next Meeting.

Bye Laws

It was resolved that the consideration of the question of amending the Bye Laws be referred till the next Meeting.

Conservators retiring

The Clerk reported that the members of the Board who would retire at the expiration of the current year were the Earl of Sheffield, Mr. James Fitzalan Hope, Mr. Thomas Colgate and Mr. William Carr and that the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. F. A. Du Croz would have to be filled up.

Annual Meeting of Commoners

It was resolved that the Meeting of Commoners be held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 18th day of December at 11 o'clock a.m.

Next Meeting Conservators

Also that the next Meeting of the Board be held on the same day at 12 o'clock noon.

Notice of Meetings

Also that in future notice of each Board Meeting be sent by post card to each member as soon as the date is fixed. The usual Agenda to follow 7 days before each Meeting.

Cheque for Ranger

It was resolved that a cheque be drawn for:

The Ranger 8 weeks salary and
rent to the 8th instant £10.0.0

The Meeting terminated at 1 o'clock p.m.

Albert Turner
Chairman

The Annual Meeting of the Commoners interested on the Forest duly convened by the Clerk by notice on the Church door of each of the parishes or ecclesiastical districts into which the Forest extends and by advertisements in three newspapers circulating in the neighbourhood, to wit, The "Sussex Express", The East Grinstead Observer" and the "Sussex Advertiser" at least fourteen days before the date and held on Saturday the 18th day of December 1897 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon at the Nutley Inn, Nutley.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the chair
The Rev. Harry J. Peckham
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Thomas Hyde
Mr. L.L. Midgley
Mr. Mark Sandford

It was proposed by Mr. Thomas Colgate seconded by Mr. Midgley and unanimously resolved that Mr. Albert Turner do take the chair.

The Clerk read the notice convening the Meeting and reported that a copy had been sent by post to each Commoner and that it had been advertised in the "Sussex Express", "East Grinstead Observer" and "Sussex Advertiser".

Election of Conservators

The Clerk reported that the retiring Conservators were the Right Hon. The Earl of Sheffield, Messrs William Carr, Thomas Colgate and James Fitzalan Hope and that there was a fifth vacancy to be filled up by reason of the death during the present year of Mr. Frederick Augustus Du Croz.

It was proposed by Mr. A. Turner seconded by Mr. Sandford and resolved that the Right Hon the Earl of Sheffield be re-elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. Colgate seconded by Mr. Peckham and resolved that Mr. William Carr be re-elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. Sandford seconded by Mr. Midgley and resolved that Mr. Thomas Colgate be re-elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. Turner seconded by Mr. Sandford and resolved that Mr. J. F. Hope be re-elected a Conservator.

It was proposed by Mr. Midgley seconded by Mr. T. Hyde and resolved that Mr. Charles Henry Corbett be elected a Conservator in the place of the late Mr. F. A. Du Croz deceased.

A Meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn, Nutley on Saturday the 18th day of December 1897 at 11 noon.

Present

Mr. Albert Turner in the Chair
Mr. Thomas Colgate
Mr. William Carr
Mr. Guy C. Hardy
Mr. Thomas Hyde
Mr. Ll. Midgley
Mr. Joseph Ridley
Mr. Mark Sandford
Mr. George M. Maryon Wilson

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Elected Conservators

The Clerk produced and read the following certificate and it was resolved that the same be entered on the Minutes as follows:

“To Mr. William Augustus Raper
“Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest”

As Chairman of the Meeting of Commoners duly convened and held at the Nutley Inn this 18th day of December 1897 for the purpose of electing five Conservators I hereby intimate to you that at such Meeting The Right Honourable The Earl of Sheffield Mr. William Carr, Mr. Thomas Colgate and Mr. James Fitzalan Hope were elected Conservators of the Forest in the place of the four Conservators who retire by rotation on the 31st instant and that Mr. Charles Henry Corbett was elected a Conservator in the place of the late Mr. Fredrick Augustus Du Croz who died since the last annual election.

“Dated this 18th day of December 1897

Albert Turner
Chairman”

The Clerk produced the Bank Pass Book showing a balance in hand £ 208.18.2

The Audit Committee appointed at the last Meeting produced the account book duly entered up and reported that they had examined the accounts for the current year and checked them with the vouchers and found the accounts correct subject to cheques being drawn for the Ranger £10.1.0 and the Clerk £87.14.4 & 16/10. It was resolved that the accounts be approved and signed by the Chairman and that cheques be drawn as mentioned below. Also that the usual summary be printed and sent to each Commoner.

William Watson trespass submission

The Clerk reported that civil proceedings against William Watson for trespass as recommended at the last Meeting had been rendered unnecessary as after some further correspondence with his Solicitors Messes. W. A. Head & Son of East Grinstead, Watson and his wife had written acknowledgement that after further enquiry they acknowledged their property had no rights on the Forest and promised not to trespass again.

Rev. S. P. Macartney

The Ranger reported that the dangerous pit near Tompsetts Bank from which Rev. S. P. Macartney had taken gravel is been filled in. A foot track passes at the edge of the spot.

Henry Harbour

The Clerk reported that he wrote to Henry Harbour as directed at the last Meeting & received a reply promising to restore the surface.

Wm. Markwick

The Clerk reported that he wrote to Mr. William Markwick as directed at the last Meeting and read a reply on which Mr. Markwick claimed to have cut brakes 35 years and his Father and Grandfather before him, but admitted his holding had not been taken in 60 years and he offered to pay the Forest rate if allowed to cut. The Clerk stated that not having been seen taking the litter now stated on his promises from the Forest it would be difficult to get a conviction. It was resolved that if he is found at any future time cutting or taking brakes or litter from the Forest he be prosecuted.

Edward Wilson – litter

The Ranger reported that Mr. Edward Wilson of Mount Pleasant admitted that he had employed Alfred Scott to cut litter for him as stated at the last Meeting and it appeared that the litter had been carried to Mr. Wilson's property at Mount Pleasant which has no common rights. It was resolved that the Clerk draw his attention to the mistake and call for an undertaking from him not again to take litter for that property without licence.

Forest Row Parish Council Application

The Parish Council of Forest Row having applied for permission to cover in Have-a--care well on the Forest being the spring to which the Rev. I.L. Ogle had called attention at previous Meetings and the Board having examined the drawing submitted by the Council it was resolved that the same be approved.

Forest Row Golf Club Gentlemen

The Clerk produced a correspondence which had passed between him and the Hon. Sec. of the Forest Row Gentlemen's Golf Club with reference to breaches by the Club of Bye Law No. 5 the result of which was that the Secretary stated that they had acted under the impression that they had a general permission from the Board to repair their tees and greens and do other acts necessary for the maintenance and improvement of the links, but that he now found this was a mistake and apologised for the acts done.

The Clerk also stated that the Club having applied for permission to repair their tees and greens he had in exercise of the authority conferred on him by resolution of 23rd November 1895 (p. 390) granted them a licence for that purpose until the 31st December instant.

Forest Row Golf Club – Ladies –

The Clerk reported that exactly the same explanation had been made by the Hon. Sec. of the Ladies Club and a similar licence granted to her.

T. J. Ridley or Gurr encroachment

With reference to the alleged attempt on the part of T. J. Ridley or Gurr to make a fresh encroachment reported by the Ranger at the last Meeting and appearing that Ridley made use of young trees underwood gorse growing near his boundary to the purpose of encroaching and concealing his encroachments and the Board being of opinion that it was desirable to place this temptation out of his reach by cutting such growth for a certain distance round his boundary Mr. Sandford reported that he had seen Mr. Nicholson representing the Lord who expressed his approval of the plan and suggested that the Lord should give his consent to the Conservators cutting. The Board being of opinion that it would have much more effect on the Forest if the cutting was done by his Lordship's men under the direction of his Reeve – it was proposed by Mr. Colgate seconded by Mr. Ridley and resolved that it be left to Mr. Sandford and Mr. Midgley to arrange with his Lordship's representation for cutting the growth by such persons and in such manner as they thought best.

William Gorringe - geese –

The Clerk produced letters from Mr. Edward Wilson of Mount Pleasant Fairwarp complaining that the geese belonging to his neighbour Mr. William Gorringe pollute the stream adjoining his land. It was resolved that the question of geese be considered when the question of amending the Bye Laws is considered.

Bye Laws Amendment

It was resolved that the question of amending the Bye Laws be adjourned to the next Meeting when the new Board would come into office.

Mr. Stevenson (Granter) encroachment

The Ranger reported that Mr. Stevenson had removed from the Forest the posts of the shed referred to at the last Meeting & that the galvanized iron now covered a stack of litter.

Edward Walters Lord De la Warr's – Tenant – litter –

Edward Page Lord De la Warr's – Tenant – litter –

The Ranger reported that on the 11th November he saw Edward Walters of Shadwell Farm Buxted carting a load of litter from the Forest for his own use and on 23rd November he saw Edward Page tenant of Greystone Farm Hurst Wood Buxted loading a cart with litter for himself both these properties belonging to Earl De la Warr and formerly Samudas. It was resolved that the Clerk write to Lord De la Warr's Solicitors either to prove their rights or to warn their tenants not to make use of the Forest.

James Stevenson licence to deposit hop poles

James Stevenson near Windmill Nutley attended and stated he was cutting a large quantity of Hop poles in Pippingford which were sold into Kent and were to be carried away by traction engine, that the engine could not turn & come out of the gate at which the lop poles were brought out and he asked permission to stack the poles on the Forest outside Pippingford for such time as might be necessary to make up the load to be carried away. It was resolved that a licence be granted to him to stack poles on the Forest close to the Pippingford boundary so that no poles be allowed to remain longer than 21 days or after 24th June next.

Cheques

It was resolved that cheques be drawn as above namely:

The Ranger 7 weeks salary and

house rent to 27th instant £8.15.0

Do. Petty disbursements during the year: £1.6.0

£10.1.0

The Clerk half years salary to the 31st instant £50.0.0

Ditto Postage & receipts stamps for the yr. £3.4.11

Ditto Telegrams and travelling expenses: £4.4.10

Ditto Costs of proceedings against

Ridley & Bashford

£13.14.8

Ditto Disbursements for printing, hire of room

Prosecutions advertising etc. £16.9.11

£87.14.4

Ditto Excess of rates paid

into Bank by mistake

£0.16.10

It was resolved that the next Meeting be held on Saturday, the 5th February next at 11 a.m.

The Meeting adjourned at 12.55.

Albert Turner

Chairman