

1942 - 1952

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Commoners duly convened by notices posted on the Principal doors of the Churches of the Parishes and Ecclesiastical Districts to which the Forest extends, by notice sent to each Commoner more than 14 days prior to this date and by advertisement in two newspapers circulating in the neighbourhood to wit, The Sussex Daily News and the East Grinstead Observer, and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, at 1.30 p.m.

J. R. Owen Esq. J.P. Chairman.
Col A. E. Barchard
S. J. Marsh Esq.
W. Edge Esq.
Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, D.S.O.
G.D. Haslam Esq.
Wm. Mitchell Esq.
Miss Helen C. Hett
John Rowe Esq.
F.T. Ridley Esq.
Miss Beatrice Swire
Mrs. H. L. Stevenson and
H.R. Waters Esq.

Apologies for absence were received from Admiral Beamish, Mr. H.H. Hardy and Miss Bainton.

The Clerk reads copy of the notice convening this meeting.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN. On the proposition of Mr. G. D. Haslam it was RESOLVED that Mr. J.R. Owen be elected Chairman of this meeting.

2. MINUTES. The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read approved and signed.

3. METHOD OF CONVENING MEETING. The Clerk reported that on making enquiries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries he was informed that it was not possible for the Ministry to sanction any departure from the procedure laid down in the Award.

4. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS. The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill three vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Mr. F.T. Ridley, Rear Admiral Beamish and. Lt. Col. G. R. Miller and on the proposition of Mr. G. D. Haslam seconded by Mr. John Rowe it was RESOLVED that the three retiring Conservators be re-elected.

The Chairman expressed his pleasure at the re-election of the three Conservators and assured the meeting that the Board were always ready to receive and give sympathetic consideration to any suggestions which the Commoners may make.

5. ELECTION OF RECREATION GROUND SUPERINTENDENTS. It was proposed Mr. S.J. Marsh seconded by Mr. F.T. Ridley and RESOLVED that the Recreation Ground Superintendents be re-elected as follows:-

Nutley	Lt. Col. G.R. Miller D.S.O.
Fairwarp	Col. A. E. Barchard
Colemans Hatch	Mr. J. R. Owen J.P.
Forest Row	Mr. C. G. de Rougemont.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS. The Chairman stated that the Forest land had been looked after remarkably well in spite of the difficult conditions obtaining and the Rangers had carried out their duties in a very satisfactory manner.

7. MISS HETT. FIRE BREAKS. Miss Hett enquired whether the Board would arrange for the provision of fire breaks in the piece of woodland acquired by the County Council for the equivalent areas. It was RESOLVED that the Maresfield Committee be instructed to meet Miss Hett on the spot and report to the General Purposes Committee.

8. FOOTPATH AT NUTLEY. Mr. S. J. Marsh drew attention to the bad state of a footpath near Nutley which had been cut up by the Military. The Chairman undertook to arrange for a military officer to meet Mr. Marsh and inspect.

9. LIGHTS ON FOREST DURING BLACKOUT. Miss Swire reported that she had been asked to raise the question of lights on the Forest. The Chairman informed her that on receipt of facts the matter would be dealt with.

10. VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN. On the proposition of Mr .S. J. Marsh a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman for his able conduct of the meeting.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A MEETING of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 4th December 1940 at 2 p.m.

J.R. Owen Esq. J.P. Chairman
J. Godwin King Esq. C.B.E., Vice Chairman.
Col. A.E. Barchard
Major Gen. Sir H. Bruce Williams K.C.B. D.S.O.
J.H.H. Griffen Esq.
A.F. Harland Esq.
G.D. Haslam Esq. J.P.
S.J. Marsh Esq.
Lt. Col. G.R. Miller D.S.O.
Wm. Mitchell Esq.
F.H. Nias Esq. J.P.
F.E. Richards Esq.
F.T. Ridley Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
and Harry Waters Esq.

Apologies for absence were received from Admiral T.P.H. Beamish and H.R. Hardy Esq.

1. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board were read confirmed and signed.

2. TOWN PLANNING AGREEMENT. (p. 355). The Clerk reported that the engrossments of the Agreement were With the County Council for execution.

3. EQUIVALENT AREAS. (p. 355). The Clerk reported that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries did not approve of any alteration being made to the Award Map but required a copy of the Order of the Ministry of Transport to be attached to the Award. Noted.

4. MISS WALTERS. ALLEGED ENCROACHMENT (p. 356) The Clerk reported that farther correspondence had been received from Miss Walters' Solicitors who had forwarded a tracing showing the boundaries of the land purchased by their Client from the Land Commissioners in 1885. He had forwarded the correspondence and plan to Mr. H. Waters who had made an inspection and reported that the point at issue was not the original boundary but that Miss Walters had erected a fence outside her boundary to protect her hedge which had been neglected. Miss Walters' Solicitors had been informed of his report and a reply from them was awaited. It was RESOLVED that the Board adhere to its previous decision and Miss Walters be called upon to remove the fence or put it in a position so as to cause no encroachment.

5. ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST GOLF CLUB (p. 356) (a) Acknowledgment.

A letter was read from The Secretary of the Golf Club enquiring whether any further remission of acknowledgment would be granted by the Board. It was RESOLVED that he be informed that the remission will be operative for the duration of the war. (b) Cattle on Greens. A further letter from the Secretary was read complaining of damage by cattle being driven over the Club's Greens which it was alleged was caused by cattle belonging to Mr. R. Holmes of Colemans Hatch. It was RESOLVED that Mr. Holmes be requested to exercise care when driving his cattle so as to cause as little damage as possible to the fairway.

6. MILITARY OCCUPATION OF FOREST (p. 359). Major General Sir Hugh

Bruce Williams reported that representations had been made regarding the misuse of the Forest by certain colonial troops who were ignorant of local conditions,, and as a result a compensation Officer had now been appointed to work with General Hildyard which it is hoped would avoid misunderstandings in the future.

7. MEMBERSHIP. (p. 337). The Clerk reported that the East Sussex

County Council had re-appointed the following to serve for the three years ending 1943:

Col. A.E. Barchard.

Col. R.S. Clarke, M.P.

H.W. Looker Esq.

J. Godwin King Esq. And

F.E. Richards Esq.

The Chairman expressed his pleasure at the re-appointment.

8. HEAD RANGER'S REPORT. The following report was received from the Head Ranger.

1, Pixton Lodge Villas,

Forest Row

Sirs,

Since reporting to you last the Rangers have cut firebreaks at Wych Cross Clump and Ghylls Lap Clump and have replanted 20 young trees that have died during the year. They have also returned all the clay they could find to a bomb crater near the road at Tyle Lodge and collected forest rates.

I consider the risk of large forest fires from February on is very great. (The forest would burn today during daylight.) I propose subject to your approval to cut 500 fire brooms from the Forest during January and place them at intervals about the Forest. Also to cut another 600 fire brooms and deliver to the military camps in the area if they will accept them.

Gypsies have become very prevalent in the Forest during the past few weeks.

Hours of cutting.

	Nicholas	Kirby	Day
Wych Cross Clump	18	12	16
Ghylls Lap Clumps	8	8	8

Yours faithfully

H.T. NICHOLAS

It was RESOLVED that fire brooms be supplied to the various military units and that the necessary wire be purchased for binding them.

9. TRENCHES ON FOREST. Mr. Marsh reported that there were still some trenches on the Nutley - Duddleswell Road which had not been filled in. The Chairman undertook to communicate with the Compensation Officer on the matter.

10. TREES AT CAMP HILL. It having been reported that the fence round the newly planted trees at Camp Hill had been removed, it was RESOLVED that it be renewed and the Head Ranger instructed accordingly.

11. ANNUAL COMMONERS' MEETING. The Chairman reported that at the Commoners' Meeting held prior to this meeting the three retiring Conservators, Admiral Beamish, Colonel Miller and Mr. F.T. Ridley were re-elected.

12. FINANCES

Receipts since last meeting. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received.

Forest Rates	£208.5.0
Local Authorities Contributions	£91.19.4

Bank Accounts The Bank Pass Books were produced showing a credit balance on General Account of £319.19.11 and on Wages Account of £8.6.1.

Accounts for payment The following accounts were submitted and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

Barrett of Battle Printing	1.1.0
Sussex Daily News Advertising	1.1.0
Farncombe & Co. (1928) Ltd. Advertising	1.2.0
H. & E. Waters. Wire etc.	1.10.6
Cartage	0.10.6
Martin's Garage Motor Cycle accessories	0.6.0
Geo. Martin & Son, ditto	1.5.6
Kirby H. Postages etc.	0.9.0
Nicholas. H.T. ditto	0.10.3
Sun Insurance Office Ltd. 1st Premium on Fidelity Bonds	0.14.0
Commons Preservation Society Subscription	1.1.0
Council for the Preservation of Rural England. Subscription	1.1.0
Fovargue R.W. ¼ years salary to 31 st December	
ditto Petty Payments	10.1.9
ditto Postages	10.18.11
ditto Telephones	1.10.0
Wages account credit.	100.0.0

13. REPORTED ENCROACHMENT BY D. WELLER. Mr. Waters reported that D. Weller concerning whom there had been previous complaints of encroachment had now built a stone and mortar hut on the Forest near Cripps Corner. It was RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Forest Row Committee to inspect and report.

14. FUTURE MEETINGS. It was RESOLVED that meetings in 1941 be held on the First Wednesdays in February, April, July, October and December.

J.R. Owen
Chairman.

A MEETING of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 5th February 1941 at 2 p.m.

J. R. Owen Esq. J.P. Chairman
J. Godwin King Esq. C.B.E., J.P. Vice Chairman
Col. A.E. Barchard
Lt. Col. G.R. Miller D.S.O.
Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish M.P.
F.E. Richards Esq.
A.F. Harland Esq.
H.R. Waters Esq.
G.D. Haslam Esq.
Major Gen. Sir H. Bruce Williams K.C.B., D.S.O.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN. It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. J.R. Owen be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year. Mr. Owen having taken the Chair thanked the Board for their support in his first year of Office and for their expression of continued confidence in him. It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. Godwin King be appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. CULTIVATION OF THE FOREST. The Clerk reported that following representations by Mr. R.A. Poyntz Roberts regarding the possibility of ploughing part of the Forest in the neighbourhood of Chelwood Gate and Wych Cross the advisability of the scheme had been referred to the War Agricultural Executive Committee on the instructions of the Chairman. The following report was read.

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY WAR AGRICULTURAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COUNTY HALL
LEWES

3 February 1941

R.E.B. JESSE

R.W. Fovargue Esq.,
1, Upper Lake,
Battle.

Dear Mr. Fovargue,

With reference to our telephone conversation, the Chairman of the War Agriculture Committee and myself inspected the land on Ashdown Forest in company with Mr. Poyntz Roberts.

As you are of course aware there is a very considerable acreage of land which could be ploughed and Mr. Poyntz Roberts had in mind about 50 acres of such land. At the present time it is carrying very little except gorse, heather and very rough grass. I am arranging to have soil analyses made but there was every indication that on the land selected there was a sufficient depth of soil to grow useful crops provided sufficient lime and phosphates can be obtained. We feel certain that potatoes can be grown quite well on this soil and, after the acidity has been corrected, that useful crops of oats and rye could be obtained.

After the land has produced two or three arable crops it could then be seeded down with a grass mixture which would give grazing incomparably better than that which the land now provides.

One of the greatest difficulties would appear to be the question of fencing, as it will of course be essential to protect crops from sheep grazing on the Forest.

Yours truly,

R.H.B. JESSE.

Executive Officer

Mr. Poyntz Roberts attended the meeting and answered various questions. It was pointed out inter alia that the area had been subject to many Forest fires in the west. On his withdrawal, following discussions it was RESOLVED that the Board await the result of the analysis and when received the matter be referred to the Emergency Committee for further consideration but that such Committee should be satisfied any proposed scheme was necessary in the national interest and advocated by the War Agricultural Committee.

3. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

4. MILITARY OCCUPATION OF FOREST. The Chairman reported that working arrangements with the military had been far from satisfactory and as a result of prolonged negotiations he had eventually arranged with the Corps Commander to appoint a Compensation Officer for the Ashdown Forest Area. The Officer originally appointed had now been moved and he was interviewing the newly appointed Officer today. He asked the Board to express an opinion on the desirability of live shells being used during the course of training over the Forest and the Board decided that this should not be permitted; further in order that the relations between the military and the Board should be more closely defined the Chairman be advised in case of need to seek a ruling from the Secretary of State for War. The Chairman reported that a supply of fire brooms were being issued to the military so that they could assist in extinguishing Forest fires. Mr. Owen then left the meeting to interview the new Compensation Officer and the Vice Chairmen took the Chair.

5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES. It was unanimously RESOLVED that the Standing Committees (as under) be re-elected.

General Purposes Committee.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman ex officio, Admiral Beamish, Maj. Gen. Sir H. Bruce Williams, Col. R.S. Clerks. M.P., Messrs. A.F. Harland, H.R. Hardy, F.E. Richards, John Rowe, G.D. Haslam, J.J.E. Griffin, F.H. Nias and H.W. Looker.

Forest Row Committee

The Chairman and Vice Chairman ex officio, Maj. Gen. Sir H. Bruce Williams, Messrs. J.J.E. Griffin, H.R. Hardy, W. Mitchell, J. Rowe and Harry Waters.

Maresfield Committee.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman ex officio, Admiral Beamish, Messrs. A.F. Harland, G.D. Haslam, S.J. Marsh, F.T. Ridley and Lt. Col. G.R. Miller.

Emergency Committee

The Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Chairmen of the Forest Row and Maresfield Committees and J. Rowe.

6. MISS WALTERS. ENCROACHMENT (p.3) The Clerk reported that Miss Walters had now accepted the claims made by the Board and would remove the encroachment as soon as she had recovered from her present illness. APPROVED.

7. ENCROACHMENT. D. WELLER. The Forest Row Committee reported that following the last meeting of the Board they had inspected the area at Cripps Corner and found a stone building had been erected on the Forest by D. Weller and that Major Darwin had also enclosed some land. After consultation with the Lord's Solicitors it had been decided in the special circumstances to permit the encroachment during the lives of the two persons concerned unless a position arose which demanded that the Board should revoke this concession. APPROVED. It was reported that this course had been taken in view of Lord De La Warr's previously expressed opposition to legal proceedings against Weller. In view of difficulties which might arise in other cases if this case were to be regarded as a precedent it was RESOLVED that the Clerk write the Lord's Solicitors pointing out the fears which the Board entertain and expressing their definite opinion that they did not wish the exercise of their duties as a Conservancy to be restricted or prejudiced and desiring the Lord's support in preventing future encroachments on the Forest.

8. MEMBERSHIP. A letter was read from the Clerk of the East Grinstead Urban District Council nominating Mr. J.H.H. Griffin as the representative of this Council.

9. HEAD RANGER'S REPORT.

1, Pixton Lodge Villas,
Forest Row

19th January 1941

Sirs,

Since reporting to you the Rangers have cut a fire breaks around the young trees at St. John's also cut a fire break at Rough Ground (near the land which the Board propose to take over). They have also cut out a patch of dead gorse on the Tompsetts Bank area.

They have almost completed the cutting of a thousand fire brooms.

Hours of cutting

	St John's	Tompsetts Bank	Rough Ground
Nicholas	12	16	0
Kirby	8	20	28
Day	8	28	28

Yours faithfully
H. NICHOLAS

10. FOREST ROW RECREATION GROUND. A letter was read from Mr. De Rougemont (Superintendent of this Ground) calling attention to the necessity of the clearing of gorse which was encroaching over the ground and the faulty condition of the fencing. RESOLVED that he be asked to meet the Forest Row Committee for inspection and report.

11. TIMBER HAULING. The Head Ranger having reported that the Beacon Trailer Company of Crowborough in the course of hauling timber from Prestidge Warren hid caused damage to the Forest. The Company had undertaken to make good the damage and since applied for permission (a) to stack fir cordwood taken from the above warren and (b) to remove a low earth bank to facilitate hauling of timber from Crabtree Plantation. RESOLVED that consent be granted upon the Company paying an acknowledgment of £1 for a period of 8 months and that they deposit a sum not exceeding £20 at the discretion of the Clerk for making good any damage caused to the Forest.

12. FINANCES. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	£133.8.5
Acknowledgements	£38.17.6
Local authorities contributions	£90.0.0

Bank accounts. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing credit balances as follows:

General Account	£359.3.11
Wages Account	£30.7.0

Accounts for payment. The Accounts were submitted and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £165.18.6 but subject to the Chairman's approval in the case of the account in favour of Messrs. Caffyns Ltd.

13. ESTIMATES. The Clerk presented the estimates of expenditure for the present year. RESOLVED that the same be approved and notified to the Local Authorities.

14. EQUIVALENT AREAS. The Clerk reported that the documents had now been completed. Lt. Col. Miller reported that the necessary instructions has been given for clearing the area taken over from Miss Hett.

15. MISS GUGGENHEIM. ROAD. A complaint having been received that this road had been damaged by the military. RESOLVED that she be informed that she should claim direct from them for the necessary reparations.

16. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY. PIPPINGFORD. An application was read from the Central Sussex Electricity Company submitted proposals for alternative routes of overhead lines between Chelwood Gate and Pippingford for a supply at the request of the military authorities. After full discussion it was unanimously RESOLVED that the Board are not prepared to approve either scheme but will raise no objection to an underground cable.

17. STAFF. CLERK'S OFFICE. The Clerk reported that his assistant Mr. Noakes has registered under the Military Service Acts and he thought he could make proper arrangements for a substitute and thus avoid an application for the retention of Mr. Noakes. Approved.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A MEETING of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 2nd April 1941 at 2 p.m.

PRESENT

J. R. Owen Esq., J.P. Chairman.
J. Godwin King Esq., C.B.E. J.P. Vice Chairman.
Maj. Gen. Sir H. Bruce Williams K.C.B., D.S.O.
Col. A.E. Barchard
Lt. Col. G.R. Miller D.S.O. and
Messrs. J.H. Griffin, A.F. Harland, H.W. Looker, S.J. Marsh, W. Mitchell, F.E. Richards, F.T. Ridley, John Rowe and H.R. Waters.

An apology for absence was received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, M.P.

1. MINUTES. The minutes of the last meeting of the Board were read confirmed and signed.

2. CULTIVATION OF FOREST (p.7). A detailed analysis was submitted from the Director of Agriculture in which he reported the following conclusion:

South Eastern Agricultural College,
Wye,
Kent.

3rd March, 1941.

I enclose the results of analysis of the samples of soil from forest land near Wych Cross. As you probably expected, the soils are extremely acid and deficient in mineral matter. If an attempt is made to bring them into cultivation not more than 2 tons per acre of lime should be applied in the first instance and crops which tolerate acid conditions should be grown.

In view of the great shortage of fertilisers for land which is likely to give good return if given a certain amount of manuring, I consider that it would be wasteful to apply fertilisers to this land and that reclamation is best left until times when fertilisers are more plentiful.

Yours sincerely
p.p. N.H. PIPER
Advisory Chemist.

3. MILITARY OCCUPATION OF FOREST (p. 7). The Clerk reported the military had notified the head Ranger that manoeuvres would be held over the Forest area on 17th, 18th and 23rd March and (b) served notice requisitioning two sites near Fords bank, Fairwarp.

The R.A.F. had originally required a site 50 yards square near Hindleap and now sent notice changing to a fresh position near Camp Hill.

4. ENCROACHMENT. D. WELLER (p. 9) A letter was read from Messrs. Hunt & Co., stating they were notifying the Agent, Buckhurst Estate Office of the action taken by the Board at their last meeting with a view to the matter being brought to the attention of Lord De la Warr.

Further discussion took place on the legal position of the Lord in this connection and referred to the Clerk for report at the next resting.

5. FOREST ROW RECREATION GROUND. The following report of the Committee was read:

Tuesday 5th April 1941.

The Forest Row Committee duly met on the above ground to consider the letter received from the Superintendent.

The Committee were unanimously of the opinion that the maintenance of the ground and the upkeep of the surrounding fencing was entirely the responsibility of any such Clubs who were allowed the use of the ground.

Club Pavilion. The roof of this building has now become very unsightly. It was recommended and agreed that the owners of the building should be asked to endeavour to effect some reasonable improvement on the present existing appearance.

J.R. OWEN
Chairman.

RESOLVED that the Clerk forward the same to the Superintendent for appropriate action.

6. TIMBER HAULING, PRESTRIDGE WARREN. The Head Ranger reported that damage had been caused to a Forest bank by the haulage of timber which was eventually traced as the responsibility of Messrs. Chetfield. The Clerk stated he had applied for a deposit and acknowledgment on the usual terms. Approved.

7. MISS GUGGENHEIM. ROAD. The Compensation Officer reported having inspected this road with Miss Guggenheim's Bailiff and understood the matter was now closed.

8. HEAD RANGER'S REPORT.

1, Pixton Lodge Villas,
Forest Row.

26th March 1941.

Sirs,

During the last two months the Rangers have dug up 100 young pine trees (and cut stakes for and staked) and replanted them at Camp Hill Clump. We have also cut a quantity of dead growth by the roadside near Gills Lap.

The "Tunnels" dug and used by the Army (1914-1916) have started to fall in and a Danger board has been erected near them to warn the public at Poundgate. 2 large bombs exploded on the Forest near Wych

Cross and 5 unexploded ones have fallen on the Forest near Spring Gardens making a total of 41 bombs falling on the Forest up to date. There have been three outbreaks of fires, less than six acres were burnt by the three.

Hours worked on:

	Nicholas	Kirby	Day
Camp Hill	29	36	36
Gills Lap	20	18	28

Yours faithfully,
H.T. Nicholas

9. APPLICATION FROM MISS WILSON FOR WATER MAIN. The Clerk reported he had granted consent to connect to the Uckfield R.D.C. water main for supply to Summerford Farm, Fairwarp, on the usual terms. APPROVED.

10. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing credit balances as follows:

General Account	£314.13.5
Wages Account	£52 7.10

Accounts for payment were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn therefore amounting to £161.10.5 subject to the Chairmen passing an account for Head Ranger's motor cycle.

11. RATES. It was RESOLVED that the making of a new rate be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

12. RANGER DAYS CYCLE. RESOLVED that his application for new tubes and covers be approved.

13. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. The Clerk was instructed to report on the present scale of fees.

14. BRACKEN. The Clerk was instructed to report on the possibility of making wider use of large quantities of uncut bracken.

15. MILITARY EXCAVATIONS NEAR POUND GATE SCHOOL. It was reported that the entrances to the underground military excavation in this locality were dangerous and Col. Miller undertook to make arrangements with the Royal Engineers for the execution of any necessary safeguarding protections for the public using that part of the Forest.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A MEETING of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 2nd July 1941 at 3 p.m.

J.R. Owen, Esq., J.P. Chairman
Col. A.E. Barchard
Lt. Col. G.R. Miller D.S.O.
A.F. Harland Esq.
F.E. Richards, Esq.
G.D. Haslam, Esq., J.P.
F.T. Ridley, Esq.
S.J. Marsh, Esq.
John Rowe, Esq.
H.R. Waters, Esq.

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, M.P., Lt. Comdr. H. Hardy, Major C.H.N. Adams, and Messrs. Godwin King, H.W. Looker.

1. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board were read confirmed and signed.

2. ENCROACHMENTS. D. WELLER. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting he had received a letter from Mr. Marsh sending report of a case in the County Court against T. Shoebridge in the year 1888 when the Lord had not been joined as a party. After further investigation the Clerk now stated he was satisfied that this position was legally correct and the Board could take action in these cases independently of the Lord of the Manor. In regard to the particular case it was RESOLVED that the Forest Row Committee be asked to view and report.

3. MILITARY OCCUPATION OF THE FOREST. The Chairman reported that (a) the Military had erected a wireless hut at Gills Lap and a camp site was in use between Wych Cross and Twyford for which no application or requisition had been made in either case (b) Tanks were damaging private roads notwithstanding orders had been issued placing these roads out of bounds. This was particularly noticeable near Spring Gardens, Fairwarp (c) digging had taken place in the reserved fir clumps. RESOLVED that the attention of the Corps Commander be called to these matters.

Further that the thanks of the Board be conveyed to the Military for their assistance in dealing with fires and their provision of two water tanks which had proved of great use.

4. BRACKEN CUTTING. A letter was read from the Technical Department of the Ministry of Supply stating that owing to the heavy costs of cutting and transport and low suitability of bracken for the paper industry it was impractical to make use of it.

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. A summary of the present scale which came into operation on the 1st January 1932 was submitted. RESOLVED that the further consideration of the matter be deferred during the war.

6. NOTICE BOARD, BOY SCOUTS CAMP, BROADSTONE WARREN. An application to place a Scout Sign on a direction board leading to this camp was approved by the Chairman on payment of the nominal acknowledgment of 1/- each annually to Lord and Board. RESOLVED that his action be confirmed.

7. RANGER'S HOLIDAYS ETC. It was RESOLVED that each Ranger be allowed to take one week's holiday after the middle of September at a time to be approved by the Chairman.

Ranger Kirby asked for new tyres for his cycle. APPROVED.

Claims for replacing damaged clothing were submitted from the Head Ranger for £4, Ranger Kirby for £2.5.0 and Ranger Day for £2.12.0 and referred to the Chairman for necessary action.

8. MILITARY REQUISITIONS. Notices of requisition had been served in respect of areas near Forest House, Colemans Hatch and between Chelwood Vetchery and Pippingford and referred to Messrs. Wood and Walford and the Lord for necessary attention.

9. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing balances in hand on General Account £187.18.11 and Wages Account £15.19.2.

Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received:-

Acknowledgments	£1.10.6
Ditto	£2.4.6
Uckfield Rural District Council	£15.10.9
Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club	£30.0.0

Payments since the last meeting:-

Refund Cuckfield Rural District Council	£15.14.5
---	----------

Accounts for payment. Cheques were ordered to be drawn in respect of accounts totalling £65.11.0.

Rate. The Clerk reported that the funds of the Conservancy were now exhausted and having produced an estimate of the expenditure for the year amounting to £800 of which £400 is to be borne by the Local Authorities it is proposed by Mr. S.J. Marsh duly seconded 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 Act 1845-1878 the Commons Regulations (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act 1885 and the Ashdown Forest Act 1937 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 owners and their respective acreages and the respective sums payable by them are set out in the Rate Book produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

Financial Adjustment. The Clerk reported that a statement had been circulated to the Local Authorities and contributions during the present year would be adjusted automatically by them when paying their present contributions. He further reported that he would arrange for this statement being prepared at the end of the Financial Year.

Rangers motor cycle. The Chairman reported after examining the accounts he had informed the Head Ranger that greater care must be taken in looking after the machine and that no repairs must be ordered without his previous consent.

10. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. DR. ORMOND. A letter was read from Dr. Ormond enquiring if he could contract out of his share of the joint acknowledgment. RESOLVED that subject to the other licencees agreeing to pay increased acknowledgments consent be granted.

11. HEATHER TURVES. An application from Mr. Durrant of Uckfield had been referred to the Chairman who refused consent in conformity with the established policy of the Board. APPROVED.

12. FOREST ROW RECREATION GROUND. On the request of the Superintendent of this Ground the Chairman had given instructions for the burning of heather and gorse by the Rangers as an act of grace. An application was read from Mr. de Rougemont asking if this could be done once again in 1943 on this condition. APPROVED.

13. BRACKEN BURNING. A letter was read from the Secretary of the War Agricultural Executive Committee suggesting the burning of large areas to improve the pasturage. The Chairman's reply having been read to the meeting RESOLVED that his action be confirmed.

14. HEAD RANGER'S REPORT.

1, Pixton Lodge Villas,
FOREST ROW.

June 24th 1941.

Sirs

Since reporting to you last there have been:-

20 outbreaks of fire of 2 acres or under

5	do.	5	do.	
3	do.	10	do.	
1	do.	25	do.	At Millbrook area
1	do.	30	do.	Twyford area
1	do.	40	do.	Priory Road area

31 outbreaks of fire burning about 166 acres making in all 34 outbreaks and burning about 172 acres this year to date. The Fire Brigades have been in attendance nine times and also the troops, the troops have been a great help. The military authorities have placed a water cart of 400 gallons at Pippingford (3rd. Mons) and another at Hindleap (38th Signals) for the use of the Conservators in fire fighting. The 30 acres burnt at Twyford was caused by enemy action at 3 p.m. The Rangers have cut the dead and burnt growth from the roadsides in the following areas:

	Nicholas	Kirby	Day
Old Lodge area	28	36	36
Colemans Hatch-Wych Cross	32	24	32

Ghylls Lap	12	20	16
Forest Row-Wych Cross	44	56	44

On April 12th I reported two school boys to the Local Police for lighting a fire on the Golf Course (2 acres burnt) they were admonished by the Police. The Stop Bar at Pound Gate School has been destroyed by the army the posts were in poor condition. I would suggest that the replacing of this bar be held over for the time being.

The army have laid an underground water pipe from the Vetchery to Pippingford, they have also erected a few ablution huts on the Forest at Pippingford and at Colemans Hatch. The army are using the Forest at Greenwood Gate as a tank park. The Artillery camped at St. John's are using the areas outside their camp as a Park. The army have erected a hut in the Clump at Ghylls Lap. The troops are cutting down trees and branches in the Forest and in some cases only using them for a very short period.

The Canadian Troops when camping on the Forest are very careless with lights and fires.

The Home Guard burnt a small section of fencing at the Stone Pit at Greenhall Toll which they have now repaired.

The NO LITTER Board at Duddleswell cross roads has been destroyed beyond repair and the one at Tompsetts Bank snapped off at ground level, I have taken the latter to H. & E. Waters for storage. Troops have been digging in Kings Standing Clump. I would respectfully suggest that the Clumps be put out of bounds to all troops and the army be asked to erect boards to that effect.

The Royal Air Force are using a site at Stone Hill for a Light.

The army are using a site at Millbrook for live bomb throwing.

The A.S.C. are using the Hollysdown Quarry as a shooting range.

The Home Guard are using the Quarry at Greenhall-Toll as a rifle range.

Yours faithfully,
H. NICHOLAS.

15. IN COMMITTEE. UCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL. APPLICATION. A letter was read from the Sub Controller asking if an area could be provided on Ashdown Forest for the destruction of unexploded gas bombs. The Chairman reported that after consultation with the Vice Chairman he had arranged with the Regional Office to send an Officer to meet him and view the Forest. The Correspondence had been referred to the Lord's Solicitors for their information. He now suggested that the hollow land below Kings Standing and Crowborough Warren would be suitable. APPROVED.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A MEETING of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday the 1st October 1941 at 2.30 p.m.

J.R. Owen, Esq., J.P. Chairman
J. Godwin King Esq. C.B.E. J.P. Vice Chairman
Sir H. Bruce Williams D.S.O.
Col. A.E. Barchard
Lt. Col. G.R. Miller D.S.O.
J.H. Griffen
G.D. Haslam
H.W. Looker
S.J. Marsh
W. Mitchell
F.T. Ridley
John Rowe
H. Waters

Apologies for absence were received from Admiral Beamish, M.P., Messrs. Harland and Richards.

1. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board were read confirmed and signed.

2. DEATH OF MR. MARYON-WILSON. The Chairman referred in sympathetic terms to the death of Mr. Maryon-Wilson and his valuable activities and long association with the work of the Board which commenced in the year from 1896 and to his Chairmanship from 1900 to 1930. The Members stood in silence as a tribute to his memory.

3. SECRET. KINGS STANDING. A letter was read from H.M. Government Communications Centre applying for the use of an area adjoining the clumps for the erection of a radio station. Mr. Williamson a Technical Representative of the Centre attended in support of the application and having answered various questions it was unanimously RESOLVED that the application be approved in principle and any details be referred to the Emergency Committee with power to act. In view of the nature of the application those present gave a pledge of secrecy.

4. FINANCIAL ADJUSTMENT WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES, (p.17) The Clerk reported that the East Sussex County Council had now accepted the statement and paid their contributions to date.

5. BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION. LICENCE. (p. 16) A letter was read from Mr. Hooker protesting against the acknowledgments and the reduced charges for the licence. RESOLVED that he be informed that the Board are not prepared to vary the terms.

6. ENCROACHMENT. D. WELLER (p. 16) The Clerk reported that there was no report from the Forest Row Committee. Further discussion took place on the policy taken by the Board. It was RESOLVED that the Board adhere to their previous decision but that the Forest Row Committee be asked to view and report.

7. MILITARY OCCUPATION OF FOREST (p. 15) The following matters were reported. Mr. Davey of Messrs. Wood and Walford being in attendance.

(a) Damage to private roads. Correspondence was read from Mr. W. J. Lord and Dr. Jordan in regard to the damage done to their private roads and the action taken in dealing with the complaints was reported. RESOLVED that the attention of the Corps Commander and the Compensation Officer be called to the continuance of this form of damage and they be requested to arrange for notices being provided to stop the military from using private roads on the Forest.

(b) Damage to Clumps. A letter was read from the Compensation Officer stating he had inspected the damage done to the trees which had been knocked down near Crows Nest and had reported to H.Q. 4th Corps with a request that all units using the Forest for training should be instructed to avoid all standing timber however small and the seven clumps be placed out of bounds. Turf. It was agreed to approach the Head Ranger whenever turf is required to be cut so that the area may be approved.

(c) Overhead electricity line, Chapelwood manor to Pippingford. Application having been received for an overhead line for the purpose of supplying electricity to the military at Pippingford. The Chairman had approved the application in the special circumstances for the duration of the war. The line was being laid in such a route as would interfere as little as possible with the amenities. RESOLVED that his action be approved.

(d) Rifle Range Old Lodge. The requisition for a small area of the Forest was presented. It was reported that until this range was ready a temporary range was in use which resulted in traffic being stopped on the main road at Duddleswell whilst firing was in progress and for varying periods.

(e) Shalesbrook. Requisition had been served for the parking place which had been occupied since 22th June, 1941.

(f) St. Johns. The Head Ranger reported that the military were using extra land to that covered by the original requisition and that residents were prevented from using a path giving access to the Forest from the back of their properties. RESOLVED that the Clerk draw the attention of the S.A.Q.C. to both matters. A letter was read from Mr. G.A. Gordon stating the road leading to Ocklye had been stopped by the military. RESOLVED that the attention of the Corps Commander be called to this.

(g) Training Areas etc. The Chairman reported that he had arranged to meet Capt. Priestly for the purpose of setting apart training areas over parts of the Forest. RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to deal with this and any other similar matter.

It was reported that during military exercises over the Forest areas no temporary latrine accommodation had been provided. RESOLVED, that the attention of the Corps Commander be called to the matter for the issue of appropriate instructions.

(h) General use of the Forest area. The following draft letter was presented by Messrs. Wood and Walford:

30th August 1941

Dear Sir,

With reference to our conversation when we toured the Forest on the 28th instant we suggest that there should be an agreement between the Claims Commission on the one part and the Conservators of Ashdown Forest and the Lord of the Manor on the other part.

The Agreement should provide that at the end of the war the Commission will make good or pay the cost of making good all damage which may occur on the Forest on account of Military exercises or training and any damage through traffic accidents or any cause whatever in which the military are concerned. This would not apply to land which has been requisitioned and in respect of which a claim would be made to the War Department Land Agent. It is anticipated that the damage would consist largely of the digging of trenches and other works disturbing the surface of the Forest. These would require to be filled and the earth rammed and the surface left level and re-seeded.

Military damage to Forest tracks, ditches and banks will require making good. Damage to, or destruction of, trees should be paid for. In this connection we suggest that the Forest Ranger's weekly reports be accepted as conclusive evidence of the fact of the cutting. We will endeavour to arrange that the reports specify: situation of the tree, either length and the mid-length quarter girth of the tree or, if it has been removed, the diameter of the butt, and thirdly a statement as to whether the tree was alive or dead at the time of cutting.

The Forest Ranger's reports will contain observations as to military action on the Forest and should they notify any extraordinary damage we would communicate with you with a view to inspecting it as soon as possible after it occurred.

We have in mind items of claim damage to the railings or ornamental trees on Nutley Green and the dumping of excavations in the quarry near St. Johns Camp at Crowborough. We do not wish to define the manner in which compensation should be assessed in this and other matters and we mention them so as to indicate some of the questions that may arise and should be provided for in the Agreement.

Yours faithfully,
WOOD AND WALFORD.

RESOLVED that the same be approved.

8. SHEEP ON FOREST. Correspondence with Mr. Joseph Ball of Heasmans Mead, Forest Row, was read regarding the rights which he claims in respect of his holding. RESOLVED that the same be left on the table.

9. BRACKEN CUTTING. An application having been received from the Ashdown General Land Company to out brakes outside the permitted period was submitted to be approved by the airman. APPROVED.

10. FOREST FIRES. Letters were read from the Uckfield R.D.C. setting out the steps which should be taken to deal with Forest Fires.

11. RANGERS SALARIES ETC. An application was received from the Head Ranger to take on duty at a telephone exchange for 2 hours on 5 nights weekly. Ranger Kirby and Day asked for an increase in their present wages. RESOLVED that the weekly wages of each Ranger be increased for the duration of the War by 7/6d. per

week starting from the next pay day and the Head Ranger be informed he must discontinue his part time duties and if he should not accept this decision notice should be then given to terminate his appointment.

12. NOTICE BOARDS. Application for temporary dale notices for Crows Nest and direction board for the soldiers' rest house at Nutley had been approved by the Chairmen for temporary consent but on no nominal acknowledgment in the latter case. APPROVED.

13. HINDLEAP WARREN. Application was read from the Mid Sussex Timber Company applying for consent to out trees on the Forest to improve the approach road into the Warren where they were cutting timber. APPROVED subject to the work being completed to the satisfaction of the Head Ranger.

14. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing balances in hand on General Amount £488.3.7 and Wages Account £1.10.5.

Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received:

Rates	180.19.6
Acknowledgments	4.7.9
Local Authorities Contributions	
Cuckfield R.D.C.	40.0.0
Uckfield R.D.C.	120.0.0
East Grinstead U.D.C.	20.0.0
East Sussex County Council	100.0.0

The Clerk reported that he has today received a further cheque from the East Sussex County Council for £87.2.1.

The accounts for payment were presented and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £137.2.2.

15. ST JOHNS C O R E SCHOOL. PLAYGROUNDS. Application was read from Miss Swann on behalf of the managers to cut a small area of Forest for a playground was approved. It was further agreed that the County Surveyor be requested to arrange for the removal of the sundry tar barrels.

16. EQUIVALENT AREAS. The Clerk reported correspondence with the County Surveyor from which it transpired that the County Council had not complied with their covenants under the Conveyance but their attention had now been directed to this.

17. HEAD RANGERS REPORT. The following report was received from the Head Ranger:

1, Pixton Lodge Villas
Forest Row.

27th September 1941.

Sirs,

Since reporting to you last there have been 4 outbreaks of fire in the Forest burning 14 acres in all. The Crowborough Fire brigade water dam with 2 men and the tank water carts in the area assisted to put the peat out.

The Rangers gave out fire breaks at the Tree Clumps.

	Nicholas	Kirby	Day
Green Hall	16	12	16
Crown Nest	12	8	8
Kings Standing	4	12	8
St. Johns	4	4	4
Ghylls Lap	4	4	4

The burnt gorse by the road at Millbrook has been cut and burnt also we have out a lot of Gorse etc. around the trees at Wych Cross cross roads to save the trees in case of fire

	Nicholas	Kirby	Day
Millbrook	36	28	28
Wych Cross cross roads	30	42	48

I visited the Crows Nest area with the Military Compensation Officer and showed him a number of trees destroyed by the Tanks. He placed the Clumps out of bounds to the troops and has since forwarded to me notices to erect in the Clumps forbidding their use by the Army. The Army have erected a fence round the Clump at Ghylls Lap and have also fenced off a piece of ground near Colemans Hatch. The 47th School of Battle are using an area near Stone Hill for firing live trench mortar shells and machine gun bullets and at times they close the road from Nutley to Duddleswell cross roads. The Tank Corps and Engineers are using a piece of ground near the Crows Nest for digging and blasting. Part of a Company of 7th 8th Fusiliers are camped on the Forest at Cripps Corner. The military camp at St. Johns are using a part of the Forest on the opposite side of the road to the Camp and have erected tents there. The Canadian Troops are at present camped on the Forest near the road from Fords Green to Wych Cross to the Goat and on to the Priory. The Weald Electricity Supply Company have laid an underground cable on the Forest alongside the road in the Prelude Area. Mr. Abe Turner, School Farm, Birch Grove, Haywards Heath has stacked a quantity of cord wood on the Forest at Cripps Corner and Twyford.

Yours faithfully,
H.T. Nicholas,

T.P.H. Beamish
Chairman.

A MEETING OF THE BOARD duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 3rd December 1941 at 2 p.m.

Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish C.B., R.N., M.P.
Col. A.E. Barchard
Major Gen. Sir H. Bruce Williams D.S.O.
J.H.H. Griffin, Esq. J.P.
A.F. Harland Esq.
G.D. Haslam Esq.
H.W. Looker Esq.
Lt. Col. G.R. Miller
S.J. Marsh, Esq.
Wm. Mitchell, Esq.
F.E. Richards Esq.
F.T. Ridley, Esq.

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Messrs. H.R. Hardy and H.R. Waters.

1. CHAIRMAN. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman it was unanimously RESOLVED that Rear Admiral Beamish be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

2. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board were read, confirmed and signed.

3. EQUIVALENT AREAS. The Clerk reported that this matter had been mentioned at the Commoners Meeting as the County Council had not completed the fencing in accordance with the covenants in the Conveyance when it was decided that the County Surveyor be asked to send a representative to meet the Head Ranger on the site. APPROVED.

4. D. WELLER. ENCROACHMENT. The Clerk reported that the Forest Row Committee had not met so far. RESOLVED that the further consideration of the matter be deferred until that Committee next meets

5. THE BURN, COLEMANS HATCH. The Clerk reported fully on the correspondence which had passed between Messrs. Ouvry & Co., Lord De La Warr's, London Solicitors, and himself in regard to a conveyance in the year 1924 under which the Lord conveyed to Mr. Barolet the right to draw and use water from a spring on the Forest without prejudice to the rights of the Conservators. It had also been alternatively contended on two occasions that the spring was not on the Forest. After two separate inspections by the Head Ranger it was conclusively proved that the spring referred to in the Conveyance was on the Forest and the Solicitors notified accordingly after each inspection. The matter raising an important question of principle in relation to the Commoners' rights it was RESOLVED that the Chairman of this Meeting be requested to write Lord De La Warr drawing his attention to the Board's position in protecting the rights of the Commoners with a view of preventing any recurrence of this form of Conveyance in the future; further that the Clerk also write to the Solicitors to the like effect,

6. ANNUAL COMMONERS MEETING. It was reported that (a) Messrs. Hardy, Haslam and Rowe the retiring members had been re-elected (b) the Board be asked to cut fire breaks in the neighbourhood of Miss Hett's property at Nutley again this year.

7. HEAD RANGER. Application having been received from the Head Postmaster, East Grinstead, to continue the Head Rangers services as a part time telephonist until a successor was trained was referred to and approved by the Chairman. CONFIRMED.

8. HEAD RANGERS REPORT.

28th November, 1941.

1, Pixton Lodge Villas,
Forest Row. No. 182.

Sirs,

Since reporting to you the Rangers have cut and burnt an area of gorse and heather at Wych Cross cross roads in order to preserve the trees from fire and to open out a dangerous blind corner. (Nicholas 94 hours, Kirby 108 hours, Day 116 hours) Cutting and burning at Wych Cross. The Army tanks are using an area from Chelwood Gate to the Five Hundred including the New Pond area they have broken down a lot of gorse and in places have chewed the Forest very badly particularly the Greenwood Gate area. The camp at Crows Nest is being fenced and when the fence is completed it will enclose (about) 60 acres, an underground water pipe has been laid from Pound Gate, an electric cable is being laid from Crowborough Warren and a drainage pipe from the Camp about 200 yards out into the Forest, both underground. A quantity of rubbish was dumped on the Forest by the Army (Golf Links and Kingstanding). They have removed the rubbish from the Golf Links. The County Council have provided two sleeper bridges, have cut the barbed wire fence in two places and split the hedge in two places at Rough Ground.

The Commoners have greatly increased their cutting of litter this season.

Tours faithfully,
E.T. NICHOLAS

To the Conservators of Ashdown Forest.

9. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing balances in hand on General Account, £487.12.2 and balance due to the Bank on Wages Account for £2.8.7.

Receipts. The following amounts have been received since the last meeting:

Rates	£98.15.9
Acknowledgments	£0.11.0

Accounts for payment. The accounts were presented and it was resolved that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £167.18.2.

Wages Account. It was RESOLVED that Barclays Bank be instructed to transfer sums of £30 from General Account to this Account as often as may be necessary to keep the same in credit.

10. MEETINGS, 1942. RESOLVED that the meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 4th February, 1st April, 1st July, 7th October and 2nd December, 1942.

11. LICENCE. CROWS NEST. A letter was read from the Solicitors acting for the new owner stating they proposed to transfer the Licence for the road as it contained no provision for consent being necessary. The Clerk asked that the position be regularised as it was found more convenient if he could keep in touch with changes of ownership in this way. RESOLVED that the existing licence be revoked and a new licence be granted in the present form as regards consent to assign.

12. MILITARY OCCUPATION OF THE FOREST. The Board discussed the following matters in Committee when Mr. Davey was present. (a) Damage to Private Roads. Correspondence with Mr. Marsh and the Chairman was read. It was hoped that the District Claims Officer would have been able to attend this meeting. RESOLVED that the Clerk get into touch with him with a view to satisfactory working arrangements being arrived at and report. The Read Ranger reported he had seen the Compensation Officer on this matter and that the claims of Mr. Lord and Dr. Jordan were in process of settlement. The Military were not prepared to erect "Out of Bounds" Notices.

(b) Kingstanding. The following memorandum was presented, discussed and approved.

HEADS OF AGREEMENT between the Conservators of Ashdown Forest and the Lord of the Manor as landlord, and His Majesty's Government Communications Centre as tenant.

Term. From the 1st day of October, 1941 for such period as possession by the tenant could be retained if Defence Regulation No. 51 had been invoked.

Rent The annual rent calculated at the rate of four shillings (4/-) per acre to be paid to the Conservators in respect of loss of grazing.

Reinstatement The tenant to agree to reinstate the land at the end of the occupation in the same condition as it was on the 30th September 1941 as evidenced by a record to be attached to the agreement. In particular all structures above the ground to be removed and the foundations removed to a depth of 1'6". The surface soil to be levelled and sown with a mixture of grass seed approved by the Landlord.

All works carried out below ground level to be removed and excavations filled, rammed and surface soil replaced, levelled and seeded.

In connection with this work it is recognised that the area coloured yellow on the plan was not level on the 30th September owing to previous surface works. It shall not be the responsibility of the tenant to leave this yellow area level but if they erect a building or carry out work on this yellow area they should be required to make good as previously stated.

In view of the fact that the presence of the structures and works on the land materially increases the risk of enemy attack the tenant's responsibility to make good shall extend to the filling and levelling of bomb craters whether on or adjacent to the land included in this tenancy. Note a distance of 500 yards from the nearest point of the enclosing fence.

Damages The tenant to agree to pay to the Landlord the cost of carrying out any works of reinstatement which they have failed to do or which they have not satisfactorily executed.

Default of agreement Disputes are to be referred to an arbitrator to be appointed by the President of the Land Agents Society.

Indemnity The tenant to hold the Landlord indemnified against any claim for loss or damage to persons or property arising on account of any works carried out by the tenant.

Water supply, electricity and drainage. The Landlord to grant a wayleave for water supply, electric cable and drainage shown respectively by blue, yellow and red lines on the plan attached. The construction of these works to be approved by the Landlord. The reinstatement, damages and indemnity clauses to apply.

Costs and fees The tenant will reimburse the landlord in respect of the respective solicitors' costs and disbursements and surveyors fees and expenses.

RESOLVED that if the draft agreement follows the foregoing terms the Clerk and the Chairman be authorised to execute the same on behalf of the Board; alternatively they be requested to report to the Emergency Committee if there is any important variation proposed by the Centre.

(c) Claims Commission. The following correspondence was submitted by Messrs. Wood and Walford:

HD/HMA

15th November, 1941.

Ashdown Forest

With reference to your letter of the 3rd instant which we did not receive until the 13th instant we gather that the Claims Commission is unwilling to enter into an agreement on the lines of our letter of the 25th October. We shall be glad to know if the Claims Commission is prepared to treat the Conservators in the manner proposed in our letter. If this is not the case we should be grateful if you will kindly inform us in what respect your proposals will differ.

We have in mind the following points.

1. Will the Claims Commission admit claims for damage on account of training, traffic accidents or any case in which the Military are concerned apart from requisitioned land.
2. Will the Claims Commission accept the Forest Ranger's reports as conclusive evidence of damage to trees?
3. Must damage be notified immediately it is observed or can an omnibus claim be substantiated at the end of the war?
4. Will the Claims Commission meet the legal costs and disbursements of the Conservators and Lord of the Manor and our fees and expenses in connection with the Record of Condition at the outbreak of the war?
5. Are the Claims Commission prepared to accept the Record as correct?
6. Do the Claims Commission in general accept as binding on themselves the principles set out in our letter of the 26th Oct.

Yours faithfully,

Wood and Walford.

The District Claims Officer Claims Commission,
Downs House, Dukes Drive, Eastbourne.

Downs House
Dukes Drive,
Meads
Eastbourne, 17.11.41.

Dear Sirs,

Ashdown Forest

In reply to your letter of 15/11/41, ref. RD/HMA, I will recommend Claims Commission to consider entering into an agreement on the lines suggested in your letter dated 25/10/41.

The following answers are given to the queries in your letter of the 15/11/41.

1. In principle, Yes, provided this office is advised of each and every occurrence.
2. The answer is Yes, providing trees are destroyed. Superficial injury such as barking or breaking off small limbs, it is assumed would not be classed as real damages. Reports should be made at regular intervals by you.
3. Damage must be notified so that a final claim can be agreed.

4. What amount is suggested? Fees already incurred? And does the schedule you mention exist? I will then submit to H.Q. for a ruling.

5. Answer to this question is Yes, subject to perusal of the record named and a lodgement of a duplicate.

6. Subject to the conditions above the answer is in the affirmative.

Yours faithfully,

Capt. R.E.

District Claims Officer.

Messrs. Wood and Walford, East Grinstead, Sussex.

RESOLVED that the Surveyors be instructed to complete the negotiations on the forgoing terms, and the arrangement be then embodied in a formal agreement and the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to execute the same on behalf of the Board. (d) St. Johns Camp. A letter was read from H.Q. 4th Corps stating that they could not re-open the road mentioned by Mr. Gordon. A letter was read from the S.A.Q.C., stating that the fencing which interfered with this path at Ocklye had been set back to its correct position. (e) Isle of Thorns. The camp site having been de-requisitioned, Messrs. Wood and Walford reported that they have negotiated the following settlements of claims.

3 Nov. 1941.

		A c	Date requisitioned	Compensatio n: Conservators	Rent Lord	Give n up	
HC/SX/8 14	Bunkers Hill, St. Johns	7 4	2.3.40	14.16.0	£10		agreed
HC/SX/1 988	Isle of Thorns	2 1	6.6.40	2.12.6	£10	17.1 0.41	Do.
E/SX/968	Vetchery & Pippingford	2 4	10.6.41	10.6.41	£1.1 0		Do.
HC/SX/1 039 HC/SX/1 09	Old Workhouse. Small detached site	5 ¼	26.3.40; 5.3.41	1.7.6.	£1.1 0		Do.
E/SX/539	Wych Cross Place	8 ½	?	0.10.0.	nil		Do.
E/SX/129 7	Colemans Hatch	1	8.4.41	0.5.0.	nil		Do.
E/SX/141 0	Marlpits	4	11.4.41	1.0.0	nil		Do.
E/SX/188 3 E/SX/177 8	Nutley Green. To be cancelled	2	1.9.41	1.0.0	nil		Do.
E/SX/155 0	Shalesbrook	2	27.6.41	Under consideration			
E/SX/174 5	Rifle Range – Old Lodge		1.10.41	1.0.0.	nil		Do.

RESOLVED that the same be approved and the Clerk authorised to sign the necessary agreements. (f) Grenade Range for Home Guard. It was reported that the Chairman had approved this application. A site was in use on the Royal Ashdown Forest Ladies Golf Club. CONFIRMED. (g) Surveyors Fees. The position of the Lord and Conservators in regard to the fees payable to Messrs. Wood and Walford for their services having regard to the fact

that fees were recoverable from the Military, on the basis in small cases of £2.2.0 for them and £1.1.0 each to Lord's Solicitors and Clerk. RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Clerk for inquiry and report.

J.R. Owen
Chairman.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Commoners duly convened by notices posted on the Principal doors of the Churches of the Parishes and Ecclesiastical Districts to which the Forest extends, by notice sent to each Commoner more than 14 days prior to this date and by advertisement in two newspapers circulating in the neighbourhood to wit, The Sussex Daily News and the East Grinstead Observer, and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, at 1.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Chairman for meeting
G.D. Haslam Esq.
J. Rowe Esq.
F.T. Ridley Esq.
W. Mitchell Esq.
Col. Barchard
T.A.R. Mottram
Miss H.C. Hett
Miss B. Swire
Mr. N. Stephens
Mr. Parsons
Commander Marsh

The Clerk reads copy of the notice convening this meeting.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN. On the proposition of Mr. G. D. Haslam it was RESOLVED that Col. Miller be elected Chairman of this meeting.

2. MINUTES. The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read approved and signed.

3. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS. The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill three vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. H.R. Hardy, G.D. Haslam and J. Rowe. It was RESOLVED that the three retiring Conservators be re-elected.

4. ELECTION OF RECREATION GROUND SUPERINTENDENTS. It was proposed by Mr. Wm. Mitchell seconded by Mr. F.T. Ridley and RESOLVED that the Recreation Ground Superintendents be re-elected as follows:

:-

Nutley	Lt. Col. G.R. Miller.
Fairwarp	Col. A.E. Barchard.
Colemans Hatch	Mr. J.R. Owen, J.P.
Forest Row	Mr. C.G. de Rougemont.

5. CUTTING OF FIRE BREAKS. Miss Hett asked that this matter might receive attention in her area at Nutley. She was informed this should be referred to the Board.

6. EQUIVALENT AREAS. Miss Hett called attention to the indifferent fencing carried out by the County Council. RESOLVED that the County Surveyor be asked to send a representative to meet the Head Ranger.

7. MILITARY. The Chairman reported that a Liaison Officer had been appointed and was keeping in touch with Mr. Owen in regard to the problems associated with the military use and occupation of the Forest.

[sections 8 and 9 missing from the Minutes]

10. VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN. On the proposition of Mr. J. Rowe a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman for his able conduct of the meeting.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A MEETING of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, on Wednesday, 4th February, 1942 at 2.30 p.m.

J.R. Owen Esq. J.P. Chairman
J. Godwin King, Esq., C.B.E., J.P., Vice Chairman,
Col. A.E. Barchard.
Lt. Col. G.R. Miller D.S.O.
A.F. Harland, Esq.
H.W. Looker, Esq.
W. Mitchell Esq.
S.J. Marsh Esq.
F.H. Nias Esq.
F.E. Richards Esq.
J. Rowe, Esq.
C.H.N. Adams (Major).

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs G.D. Haslam and H.R. Waters.

1 (a) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN RESOLVED unanimously that Mr. J.R. Owen be elected Chairman and Mr. J. Godwin King Vice Chairman for the ensuing year and they be thanked for their past services. They thanked the members for a renewal of the confidence reposed in them.

(b). APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES. It was unanimously RESOLVED that the Standing Committees (as under) be re-elected.

General Purposes Committee.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman ex officio, Admiral Beamish, Maj. Gen. Sir H. Bruce Williams, Col. R.S. Clerks. M.P., Messrs. A.F. Harland, H.R. Hardy, F.E. Richards, John Rowe, G.D. Haslam, J.J.E. Griffin, F.H. Nias and H.W. Looker.

Forest Row Committee.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman ex officio, Maj. Gen. Sir H. Bruce Williams, Messrs. J.J.E. Griffin, H.R. Hardy, W. Mitchell, J. Rowe and Harry Waters.

Maresfield Committee.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman ex officio,, Admiral Beamish, Messrs. A.F. Harland, G.D. Haslam, S.J. Marsh, F.T. Ridley and Lt. Col. G.R. Miller.

Emergency Committee.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Chairmen of the Forest Row and Maresfield Committees and John Rowe.

2. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

3. MESSRS WOOD AND WALFORD'S FEES. A sub-Committee consisting of The Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Col. Miller reported that they had a preliminary discussion with Mr. Davey who submitted the following note of the Fees due to his firm to the 31st December 1941.

Summary of Account

Relating to Claim Commission	£80.6.6
Relating to W.D.L.A.	51.19.6

Relating to Communications Centre	14.14.0
Out of Pocket Expenses.	11.17.1

Mr. Davey attended and gave detailed particulars of the work involved. On his withdrawing from the meeting, the matter was fully discussed and unanimously RESOLVED that,

(a) The Rangers reports of military damage be submitted in future to the Chairman and any case of special importance should be reported to the Emergency Committee for appropriate action but in normal cases the matter be left in his discretion.

(b). Messrs Wood & Walford be asked to render their Account to date but inclusive of the preliminary negotiations with the Claims Commission and plans for the proposed agreement.

(c) A cheque be drawn for £50 on Account of their fees and £11.17.1 for out of pocket expenses.

The Clerk be instructed to ask Admiral Beamish for any assistance he may require in regard to the negotiations for fees to be paid by the appropriate Government department.

4. D. WELLER (page 26). The Chairman stated the Forest Row Committee had been summoned for the 20th January, but was unable to meet owing to the adverse weather conditions. He informed the Board that the position had been fully considered in the first instance when the reasons actuating the Lord and Conservators were considered in granting the temporary Licences. In the circumstances he advised that no form of action should now be taken. RESOLVED that this course be adopted.

5. KINGS STANDING. A letter was read from H.M. Communications Centre stating that Clause 4 of the draft agreement did not conform to the arrangements made on the site. RESOLVED that the Clerk pursue negotiations and report.

6. EQUIVALENT AREAS (page 24) Colonel Miller reported he had inspected the work carried out by the East Sussex County Council and was satisfied that the same had been properly completed.

7. THE BURN, COLEMANS HATCH (page 24) A letter was read from Earl de la Warr to Admiral Beamish enclosing a letter from his Solicitors and regretting that this question had occurred.

8. FIELD RANGER. Application having been received from the Head Postmaster, East Grinstead to continue the part time services of Ranger Nicholas as a telephone operator until the end of February, the Clerk having given consent until this meeting. RESOLVED that the Head Ranger be permitted to continue as requested but that it be intimated no further extension will be granted.

9. AUDIT. The following report was read from the District Auditor.

Five Oaks
Brook Street,
Tonbridge,
Kent.

26th January, 1942.

Gentlemen,

I have to report the completion of the audit of the accounts for the year ended at the 31st December 1940.

No matter arose in connection therewith to which it is thought necessary to direct your attention.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
District Auditor.

10. ESTIMATES. The Board considered the following estimates for the services of the current year.

<u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u>	£	s	d
Clerk's salary.	200	0	0
Petty payments (including hire of room for meetings, telephones and postages)	25	0	0
Head Ranger's Salary	200	0	0
Two Under Rangers ditto	340	0	0
Printing, stationery, advertising and sundries	24	0	0
Petrol, repairs, licence and insurance for Rangers motor and pedal cycles.	34	0	0
Rangers telephones and clothing	25	0	0
Refunds			
Workmens Compensation Insurance.	4	0	0
Audit Stamp.	8	0	0
	860	0	0

RECEIPTS

General Account	£292		
Protection and Improvement Fund	£113		
Miscellaneous	£25.	430	0 0
		430	0 0

£430 payable as follows:-

East Sussex County Council	215	0	0
East Grinstead Urban District Council	0	0	
Uckfield Rural District Council	129	0	0
Cuckfield Rural District Council	43	0	4
	430	0	0

The Financial adjustment will be made in 2nd instalments. Local authorities should pay one half in full now.

RESOLVED that the same be approved and the Clerk be instructed to make the necessary financial adjustment in the second instalment of contribution and the Local Authorities be asked to pay the first instalment in full.

11. HEAD RANGER'S REPORT.

1, Pixton Lodge Villas,
Forest Row.

28th January, 1942,

Sirs,

Since reporting to you last, the Rangers have cut all the Gorse which was broken down by the Army on the Camp Hill, Old Lodge Road. We are now cutting and burning the gorse and thorn trees at the Goat cross roads. This corner was in a very bad condition as a lot of thorns had overgrown the road and were badly blocking the view. This cross road is now carrying a great deal more and faster traffic than it used to.

Hours of cutting.
Camp Hill - Old Lodge Road.
Nicholas 28 Hrs. Kirby 36 Hrs. Day 44 Hrs.

Goat Cross Roads.

Nicholas 27 Hrs. Kirby 43 Hrs. Day 55 Hrs.

The Central Sussex Electricity Coy. have erected an overhead Cable across the Forest from Pippingford to Millbrook. About 20 Cubic Yards of clay, ashes and broken brick has been dumped on the Forest near the Colemans Hatch - Wych Cross Road. The barbed wire fence at Rough Ground has been removed by Miss Hett. A small fire occurred near the Isle of Thorns caused by Trench Mortar Bombs being fired by the Army. The Army have erected a small portable hut near King Standing Clump.

Yours faithfully,
H. Nicholas.

12. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing a balance due to the Board of £408.15.8. on the General Account and £12.14.0. due to the Board on the Wages Account.

RECEIPTS. The following amounts have been received since the last meeting.

Rates	£13.6.4
Acknowledgements	75.10.5.
Interest 2½% Consols.	0.19.11.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. The Accounts were presented and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £78.7.0.

13. NATIONAL CAMPS CORPORATION. WRENS WARREN. The Clerk reported that 3 years acknowledgements were now due and he had written Sir Edward Howarth for a cheque in discharge in time for this meeting but no reply had been received. RESOLVED that unless payment is made within 7 days after further demand, the Clerk be instructed to take proceedings for recovery of the amount due.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A MEETING of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 1st April, 1942 at 2.30 p.m.

J.R. Owen, Esq. J.P. Chairman
J. Godwin King Esq. C.B.E., J.P. Vice Chairman
Col. A.E. Barchard
A.F. Harland
F.H. Niss
Mrs. Lunn
Lt. Col. G.R. Miller
H.W. Looker
S.J. Marsh
F.E. Richards
Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish
Major Genr. Sir Hugh Bruce Williams
G.D. Haslam
H.R. Waters.

An Apology for absence was received from Mr. John Rowe.

IN COMMITTEE

1. CROWS NEST (FORMERLY KINGS STANDING). The Emergency Committee met Lt. Williamson of H.M. Government Communications Centre for a preliminary discussion in regard to the amendment to the draft

agreement which proposed a 21 years lease which the Conservators were unable to grant unless covered by Statutory Authority or Defence Regulations. The matter was further discussed by the full Board when it was agreed that a new agreement should be prepared whereby:

(a) H.M. Government Communications Centre should hold the land for a period so long as Defence Regulations are in force.

(b) On or before the expiry of that period the benefit of the agreement should be transferred to a Government Department or some Corporation approved or selected by the appropriate Government Department in the latter event the buildings would be required for a long period and it was agreed that steps should then be taken for the acquisition of an equivalent area of 65 acres in extent to replace the site so excluded from the Regulated Forest.

Mr. Williamson stated in this connection that he was instructed by his Commanding Officer to say that the Conservators and the Lord would be free to choose such land as they thought most suitable for the new area to be taken into the Forest and be not restricted in price.

(c) If the agreement were to determine without the necessity of dealing with equivalent land the question of reinstatement to the Forest would arise but upon different terms to those which appeared in the present agreement. Mr. Davey being in attendance it was arranged that he and Mr. Williamson should discuss the revised terms and report progress later in the meeting. At the conclusion of the ordinary business they reported the following terms for embodiment in the new agreement. RESOLVED that the following be approved.

1. All masts, guys and fittings to be removed, mast bases levelled 18" below the surface, covered with soil and seeded.

2. Underground drains may be left, the filter installation is to be removed and the site levelled and seeded. All manholes shall be filled levelled and seeded.

3. Fences, and supporting posts to be removed, and bases levelled as above.

4. Concrete road to be removed where road is level with the original surface, surface soil replaced levelled and seeded. The portions of the road which are in a cutting to be filled in, levelled and seeded.

5. The principal underground building may be left. The entrance doorway and all air vents are to be sealed with 18" concrete and the approach roadway filled levelled and seeded.

6. The building surmounted by a water reservoir may be left. The entrance doorway and all air vents are to be sealed with 18" concrete, earth is to be heaped against the exposed wall, levelled and seeded to conform with the general =tear of the building. The open water reservoir on the top of the building may be left.

7. The pump house and pump shall be removed with the fittings to a depth of 18" below the surface, the site then levelled and seeded.

8. The cooling tower (which is below ground) is to be filled in, levelled and seeded.

9. The water bore is to be sealed with a 1" metal plate.

10. The substation staff house and gate house are to be removed with their fittings to a depth of 18" below the surface the sites levelled and seeded.

11. Any huts of military pattern to be removed and the sites seeded.

12. Buildings subsequently erected to be dealt with by removal levelling and seeding of sites if above ground and by filling in and levelling and seeding if below ground.

2. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board were read, confirmed, and signed.

3. MEMBERSHIP. The Chairman extended a hearty welcome to Mrs Munn (representing East Grinstead Urban District Council) as the first lady to become a Conservator. She briefly returned thanks. The Clerk was instructed to thank Mr. Griffin for his past services.

4. MILITARY OCCUPATION. The Clerk reported that he had met the District Claims Officer and Mr. Davey and settled the heads of the agreement with the Claims Commission which had now been embodied in the draft which was now laid before the meeting. RESOLVED that the same be approved. Further that all accounts for fees from Messrs Wood & Walford be submitted through the Clerk for his preliminary approval.

5. NATIONAL CAMPS CORPORATION. The Clerk reported payment of all acknowledgements.

6. NOTICE BOARD – BOYS SCOUTS CAMP, BROADSTONE WARREN.

The Clerk reported his application to Mr. Hooker and was instructed to remove the Board on failure of a satisfactory reply.

7. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing a balance due to the Board of £499.16.2. on the General Account and £73.8.11. due to the Bank on the Wages Account

RECEIPTS. The Clerk reported that the following amounts had been received since the last meeting.

Rates	£0.3.6.
Acknowledgements	£28.2.6.
Local Authorities Contributions:	
East Sussex County Council	£107.10.0.
Uckfield Rural District Council	£64.10.0.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. The Accounts were presented and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £61.9.7.

8. HEAD RANGER'S REPORT.

1, Pixton Lodge Villas,
Forest Row.

Sirs,

During the last few weeks the Rangers have continued to open out the Goat Cross Roads. We have also out four hundred fire brooms, 100 for the Fire Brigade, 100 for the Army and the balance for the Forest. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining transport the Chairman carried the Fire Brooms on to the Forest. There have been a number of fires already this year burning over 240 acres, already almost reaching the recent yearly average.

The army have destroyed eight young trees in the King Standing Clump and twenty Holly Trees in the Beggars Bush. Hours cutting at Goat Cross Roads.

Nicholas 64 Hrs. Kirby 68 Hrs. Day 76 Hrs.

A large lorry load of tins, papers and rubbish has been dumped on the Forest in the King Standing area.

The addresses on some of the papers are:
40 Btn., R.T.R., Warren Camp, Crowborough.

Yours faithfully,

H.T. Nicholas.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. A letter was read from Miss Walton, The Hermitage House, Fairwarp asking for a remission of acknowledgement as their notice Board was not in use for a period. RESOLVED that no reduction be granted.

10. SHED – MR. T. TOWNSEND. A letter was read from Mr. T. Townsend of Yew Tree Cottage, Colemans Hatch, asking consent to place a small portable shed about 10 feet by 6 feet on the Forest as a temporary measure. RESOLVED that consent be not granted and the Clerk inform the applicant the Board must refuse on principle.

11. D. WELLER (page 37). Mr. H.R. Waters pointed out that there had been no encroachment on the Forest by Major Darwin. In these circumstances it was RESOLVED that the Forest Row Committee should meet on the site for further investigations and report.

12. KIDDS HILL. The Chairman called attention to the foundeorous state of the main roads in this area owing to the military traffic. RESOLVED that the Canadian Corps Commander be asked to give his instructions for more careful driving in this area.

13. PARKING GROUND, FAIRWARP CHURCH. Mr. Nias asked that this matter be re-opened and it was referred to the Chairmen of the Board and the Maresfield Committee for report.

14. POOKS COTTAGE, CHELWOOD GATE. A letter was read from Mr. Harold Macmillan asking permission to make a small place on which to park his car and tidy up the edge of the road. APPROVED.

J. Godwin-King
Chairman

A MEETING of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 1st July, 1942 at 3 p.m.

J.R. Owen Esq. J.P., Chairman.

J. Godwin King Esq., C.B.E. J.P., Vice Chairman.

Major Gen. Sir Hugh Bruce Williams, K.C.B., D.S.O.

Lt. Col. G.R. Miller,

Messrs A.F. Harland, J. Rowe, F.E. Richards, H.W. Looker and Mrs H.M. Munn.

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish and Mr. S.J. Marsh.

1. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board were read, confirmed and signed.

2. SHED, ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST LADIES GOLF CLUB. The Clerk reported that he had given permission for the removal of the shed on the cricket ground to another site a few yards distant. APPROVED.

3. POSTING BOX, WITHYHAM. Application having been received from the Head Postmaster, Tunbridge Wells to move the box at Friars Gate from one side of the road to the other had been submitted to the Chairman and approved by him. RESOLVED that his action be confirmed. Mr. Owen then took the Chair.

4. RANGERS. (a) BURNT CLOTHING. The Clerk reported that during the course of the recent fire season the following loss of clothing had been incurred by the Rangers.

Head Ranger Nicholas.

2 pairs Boots	£3.0.0.
1 pair Trousers	£1.15.0.

Ranger Kirby.

1 pair Boots	1.10.6.
1 pair Trousers	0.18.6.
1 Jacket	1.10.0.

Ranger Day.

1 Coat	1.10.0.
1 pair Breeches	2.0.0.
1 pair Boots	1.10.0.

Correspondence had taken place with the Board of Trade for the issue of coupons to over the amount of loss of clothing and the Chairman having settled the claims and approved payment being made by the Board. RESOLVED that his action be confirmed and a cheque drawn accordingly.

(b) HOLIDAYS. A letter was read from Ranger Kirby asking for 14 days holiday in September. RESOLVED that each Ranger be granted one weeks holiday at a time approved by the Chairman.

(c) HEAD RANGER. A letter was read stating that owing to the increased cost of living he was unable to live on his present wages and securing a better appointment, the Chairman having intimated that Ranger Nicholas had the prospect of an appointment in Rye with a total emolument of £400 a year. It was RESOLVED that the Board sanction his application for release if he is successful in obtaining his appointment. Further that it may be left to the Chairman and the Clerk to fill the vacancy.

5. HEAD RANGERS REPORT.

June 25th, 1942.

Sirs,

Since I last reported to you there has been 60 out-breaks of fire in the Forest burning 825 acres making a total area burnt this season of 1,069 acres.

The Rangers burnt an area of 200 acres near Break Neck Ghyll. Owing to the dry season and the services using the Forest for a few weeks the Rangers put the whole of their time on Fire Control and undoubtedly saved large areas from burning.

We have been cutting a fire break round the trees near Kidds Hill. Nicholas cutting 63 hours. Kirby 73 hours. Day 77 hours.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd) H. Nicholas.

6. ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST GOLF CLUB. RENT. A letter was read from the Secretary of the Club asking for another concession in the rent as with the shortage of petrol there was a big reduction in green fees compared with the two preceding years.

It was RESOLVED that the Board make a further reduction of £10 for the second half of the year but that the Club send a representative to the Meeting in December with the fullest financial information so that the Board can consider what action should be taken from the 1st January, 1943.

7. F. WELLER. CUTTING OF BRAKES. A letter was read from Mr. Weller asking if the Board would instruct the Hangers to out the fire breaks round his property. He had been informed the Rangers did not undertake this duty. APPROVED.

8. D. WELLER. ENCROACHMENTS. The Chairman reported that no meeting of the Forest Row Committee took place.

9. PARKING GROUND, FAIRWARP CHURCH. The Chairman of the Maresfield Committee reported that he had discussed this matter with the Church Wardens at Fairwarp who did not think it necessary to take any action during the period of the war. In the circumstances nothing further appeared necessary. NOTED.

10. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing balances in hand on the general Account £325.13.0. and Wages Account £17.16.8.

Receipts. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received.

Rates	£1.2.6
Acknowledgements	30.14.0
Local Authorities Contributions	
Cuckfield R.D.C.	43.0.0
East Grinstead U.D.C.	21.10.0
Interest 2 ½ Consols.	0.19.11
Payments since the last meeting.	
Beacon Trailer Co. Refund of deposit	20.0.0
Barclays Bank. Labour credit	120.0.0

Accounts for payment. The Accounts were presented and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £67.12.11.

Rate. The Clerk referred to the estimate of expenditure for the year approved at the February meeting and amounting to £860 of which £430 is to be borne by the Local Authorities. It was proposed by Mr. F. Richards, duly seconded 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 Act 1845-1878 and the Commons Regulations (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act 1885 and the Ashdown Forest Act 1937 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 owners and their respective acreages and the respective sums payable by them are set out in the Rate Book produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

11. KINGS STANDING. IN COMMITTEE

A letter was read from H.M. Government Communications Centre stating that no decision has been made regarding the approval of the agreement, pending receipt of advice from the Director of Lands and Accommodation of the Ministry of Works and Buildings. NOTED.

MILITARY OCCUPATION. CLAIMS COMMISSION. The Clerk reported correspondence which had taken place between Messrs Wood & Walford and himself in regard to their account to 31st December 1941 amounting to £158.17.1. which they summarised as follows:

Relating to Claims Commission	£80.6.6
Relating to W.D.L.A.	51.19.6
Relating to Communications Centre	14.14.0
Out of pocket expenses	<u>11.17.1</u>
	158.17.1

The Clerk stated that he had carefully examined the items which he summarised as follows:

Inspecting the Forest	46.4.0
Relating to Claims Commission	52.10.0
Inspecting at Camp Hill	14.14.0
Attendances at Nutley	6.6.0
Attending the W.D. Land Agent	12.12.0
Conference and meeting	<u>14.14.0.</u>
	147.0.0

and had called Messrs Wood and Walford's attention to the difficulty in recommending the fees for inspection of the Forest, for the various attendances at Nutley and as to the amount of fees which may be expected from the War Department Land Agent by way of reimbursement. He stated that he had been in communication with Major Adams and had agreed to recommend settlement of the account by payment of £125 plus £11.17.1. out of pocket

expenses. It was intimated that any figure in excess of this sum would require definite approval from Lord De La Warr after full discussion it was unanimously RESOLVED that the Clerk's recommendation be adopted but that if it were necessary he be given discretion to make a small increase if pressed to do so.

The question of fees had delayed progress with the Claims Commission and the Clerk stated that he had informed Major Brooker that the Board, whilst desirous of helping the military, should not be called upon to pay any fees in connection with this matter but that no doubt he would be authorised to settle the final figure. The latter expected the Claims Commission would be willing to pay in the neighbourhood of £52.10.0. It was unanimously RESOLVED that the Clerk proceed on the lines indicated above and the matter left in his discretion to settle.

J.R. Owen
Chairman
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A MEETING of the COMMITTEE duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 25th July 1940 at 3 p.m.

PRESENT

J.R. Owen Esq. J.P. in the Chair
Lt. Col. G.E. Miller
J. Rowe

1. GARDENS ON FOREST. An application was received from Mr. R.W. Train of Greenhall Forest Row to take in a small area of Forest Land adjacent to his house for the purpose of growing vegetables. The Chairman stated this raised a question of policy on which he wished to consult the Committee.

The Divisional Officer of the Agricultural Executive Committee attended the Committee by request and advised that the prospect of such gardens were not good owing to the deficiency in the soil but the Horticultural Officer was always ready to give any advice or assistance. In view of [the] importance of food production it was RESOLVED that consent be given for the war period to enclose any area approved by the Chairman and Mr. **** upon Mr. Train paying an annual acknowledgement of 1/- and his entering into a revocable licence in a form approved by the Clerk.

2. LONE OAK HALL, COLEMANS HATCH. Following a report by the Head Ranger that Mr. Keys was using a portable pump with pipe for drawing water from a spring on the Forest Mr. Keys stated the use could not continue beyond the autumn. RESOLVED that this be permitted until the 30th September 1942 on payment of an acknowledgement of 6d.

3. FUTURE USE OF THE FOREST. The extent of the military use in future was discussed and should further development arise the Chairman intimated that he could convene a special meeting of the Board.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A MEETING of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 7th October, 1942 at 2.30 p.m.

J.R. Owen Esq. J.P., Chairman.
J. Godwin King Esq., C.B.E. J.P., Vice Chairman.
Messrs. F.T. Ridley, W. Mitchell, A.F. Harland, F.E. Richard, S.J. Marsh, G.D. Haslam, Mrs. Munn, Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Major Gen. Sir Hugh Bruce Williams, Col. A.E. Barchard.

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Comdr. H.R. Hardy., H.W. Looker., John Rowe., H.R. Waters.

1. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board were read, confirmed and signed.

2. MUDBROOKE FARM – PIGS. Dr. Frederick Ridley attended in support of his application to turn out pigs on the Forest and keep them within a specified area by means of an electric fence. The following report from the East Sussex County War Agricultural Committee was read.

re: Pigs experiment at Mudbrooks Fare. Forest Row.

On 19.9.42. Mr. Sharp and I met Dr. Ridley at Mudbrooks and discussed this question of his pig feeding experiment on the Forest. Dr. Ridley envisaged the use of a considerable area of the Forest for bacon production on the assumption that the pigs, which were folded within electric wires could obtain all the protein that was required for growth up to 100 lb. stage but that the pigs would be unable to find sufficient carbohydrate to complete the ration, and it was suggested that should the experiment be large enough the forest undergrowth supplemented by processed swill, would complete the ration.

Dr. Ridley's experiment is not a controlled one, and it is therefore, difficult to assess its value. Dr. Ridley pointed out that sty-fed Pigs do not take to "rooting" immediately and require more supplementary feeding in the initial stages.

Once they begin feeding on the forest growth it is only necessary to supplement their ration with one feed per day given in the evening. It is obvious that the forest would only carry one folding of pigs, and some considerable time would elapse before the same ground would again supply sufficient food for pigs. For this reason and for the fact that a larger area of forest is being used by the military authorities, it is doubtful whether a large scale experiment would be practicable.

We made the suggestion that Mr. V.C. Fishwick of the Pig Husbandry Research Station, Wye College, should be informed of the experiment, and Dr. Ridley stated that he would be pleased to meet him at Mudbrooks at any time.

(signed) GEORGE PARKINSON
Assistant Executive Officer.

After full consideration it was RESOLVED that Dr. Ridley be informed that as a Commoner he is entitled to turn out as many pigs on the Forest as he can shelter on his holding in winter, but on the question of principle, the Board are not prepared to authorise any form of fencing.

3. CHAPEL WOOD MANOR ESTATE. Correspondence with Messrs. Turner, Rudge and Turner asking for peat for garden purposes was considered and referred to the Lord for attention.

4. PUBLIC FOOT PATHS. COLEMANS HATCH. A letter was read from the Clerk of the Uckfield Rural District Council, setting out the following claims to public rights of way as authorised.

(a) from a point on the Coleman's Hatch - Wych Cross Road, north of the property known as The Ridge, continuing across the Ashdown Forest in a south easterly direction between the properties known as South Hartfield House and The Ridge and then joining the Coleman's Hatch - Newbridge road at a point north of Newbridge.

(b) from a point on the Coleman's Hatch - Wych Cross road north west of the property known as The Ridge and south west of path (a) continuing across the Ashdown Forest in a south westerly direction past properties known as White Platt and Stone Cottage and then again joining the Coleman's Hatch - Wych Cross road at a point north of Brick Kiln Farm.

(c) commencing at the terminus of path (a) i.e. at a point west of Newbridge on the Coleman's Hatch - Newbridge Road, thence in a westerly direction south across the Ashdown Forest, south of the cricket ground and joining path

(b) at a point immediately north of White Platt.

It was RESOLVED that the footpath (a) being on private property is not within the jurisdiction of the Board and with regard to (b) and (c) it has not been the practice of the Board to define rights of way and they do not propose to do so on this occasion. Further that the Clerk of the Uckfield Rural District Council be asked to furnish evidence on which these claims were based.

5. YOUTHS HOSTEL ASSOCIATION. A letter was read from the Secretary stating that his Association here considering the possibility of co-operating further with local organisations and asked for any information which might be of interest to his Committee. RESOLVED that the letter lie on the table.

6. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE REPORT. The Committee presented their report of the meeting held on the 29th July, 1942 and it was RESOLVED that their acts and recommendations be approved and adopted.

7. RANGERS. The Chairman reported that since the last meeting, the Head Ranger had resigned his appointment and after consideration no fresh appointment had been made. He further reported that the motor cycle had been left by Ranger Nicholas in a very unsatisfactory condition and after consultation with members of the Emergency Committee, the machine had been returned to the Triumph Works for quotation of (1) the purchase of same by the Company or (2) repairing it. When a reply has been received the matter will be further considered by the Emergency Committee.

The following reports from the Rangers Kirby and Day were read.

Report of Ranger Kirby.

Gentlemen,

We have cut and cleared the undergrowth in the following clumps. Wych Cross, Greenhall, St. Johns, Kings Standing, Gills Lap, and Crows Nest.

We have out the thistles on the roadside from Wych Cross to Chelwood Gate. Also from Duddleswell to Poundgate School.

Saw the well on the Forest near Courtlands Gate was very unsafe, the wooden covering rotten and the 35 feet well exposed. We have now made it safe by cutting down young trees and covering same.

A load of old felt which had been deposited on Forest at Pippingford Hill, we have now cleared up and burnt.

The tanks are damaging the underground telephone cable from Marl pits to Kings Standing 2. Workmen are now concreting the roadways over this cable on Forest. Where no roads, barbed wire is being erected over this cable to keep off the tanks.

The Military are now having the road repaired to Mr. Harvey, Spring Garden.

The Kings Standing 2 are now having a fence erected round the ploughed and sown land at Kings Standing. The East Sussex County Council are now depositing 250 tons of granite at Kings Standing.

Yours faithfully,
(signed) H. Kirby.

The Clerk reported that he was in touch with the County Surveyor on the matter of the granite deposited at Kings Standing.

Report of Ranger Day

Under Head Ranger Nicholas's direction the following work was done. The following clumps were brushed out and a Fire Break cut around them.

Wych Cross Clump	12 hrs.	Greenhall Toll.	12 hrs.
St. John's Clump	4 hrs.	Kings Standing Clump	4 hrs.
Crows Nest Clump	16 hrs.	Young trees, Nutley Rd.	16 hrs.
Corner at Wych Cross	16 hrs.		

Ranger Nicholas ceased his duties on August 16th.

I took over an additional part of the Forest consisting of the Newbridge, Chuck Hatch, Kidd's Hill, Greenwood Gate areas. Since Nicholas has left I have done the following work in collaboration with Ranger Kirby:

Cut thistles on the Chelwood Gate Road.	20 hrs.
Cut thistles on the Duddleswell-Pound Gate Road.	20 hrs.
Cut Bushes from blind corner at Pound Gate Cross Roads.	8 hrs.
Covered in Disused Well at Courtland's Gate.	8 hrs.

On August 18th during a patrol in the Priory area I found a part of the Forest near the entrance to Mudbrooks Farm, enclosed by an electric wire fence. I saw Dr. Ridley the owner and asked him to apply for permission which he promised to do.

On August 29th I met at Greenhall, Mr. Train the occupier. I stumped out with him a portion of the Forest that he with the Board's consent proposes to till. This portion abuts on Greenhall property is 164 feet long and 40 feet in width at the widest and 26 feet at the narrowest parts. It is proposed to enclose this with a Chestnut pale fence lined with wire netting.

(signed) Gilbert Day.
Ranger.

8. RANGERS CYCLE. Ranger Kirby reported that he needed two new tyres and tubes for his cycle. RESOLVED that he be authorised to purchase same.

9. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing balances in hand on the General Account £62.3.3 and on the Wages Account £13.14.2.

10. RECEIPTS. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received:

Acknowledgments.	£7.10.2
Messrs Hunt & Co. Refund of 50% Agents Fees.	£37.10.0
Air Ministry Compensation.	£2.13.2
2½ Consols.	£0.19.11
2½ Consols.	£0.19.11

11. PAYMENT SINCE THE LAST MEETING.

Messrs Wood and Walford - Balance of Fees.	£75.0.0
--	---------

12. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. The Accounts were presented and it was RESOLVED that a cheque be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £34.6.10.

IN COMMITTEE.

13. KINGS STANDING. The Clerk reported that this matter had now been referred to the Ministry of Works and Planning and at their request he had attended and discussed future proposals from which it appeared that the Ministry had not definitely decided if the Centre would be continued after the War. When that question was settled the problem of an equivalent area might arise and the provisions relating to Inquiry under the Commons Act 1899 had been discussed. It was probable that if the site were to be retained after the war it would be easier to deal with the purchasing of an equivalent area during the present state of emergency so that the confidential matter would not have to be unnecessarily disclosed.

14. REQUISITIONS BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT LAND AGENT. The Clerk reported fully on these claims and on his interviews and correspondence with Messrs Wood and Walford and the War Department Land Agent and that all outstanding claims were rapidly being disposed of. Details of the completed claims are as under.

Description		Lord	Cons.	Sols.	Surveyor
HC/SX/1039 HC/SX/109	Workhouse	£3.15.0	3.8.9	2.2.0	3.3.0
E/SX/968	Vetchery & Pippingford	£1.18.9	7.14.11	2.2.0	3.3.0
E/SX/1297	Colemans Hatch	Nil.	0.7.4	Nil.	Nil.
E/SX/1883	Cricket Ground,	Nil.	1.1.7	2.2.0	3.3.0

	Nutley				
E/SX/1550	Shalesbrook	£0.9.5	1.14.8	2.2.0	3.3.0
E/SX/1745	Rifle Range – Old Lodge	Nil.	0.19.0	2.2.0	3.3.0

In view however of the delay which had taken place he recommended that no action should be taken at present in regard to further fees being paid to Messrs Wood, and Walford for any services which they had rendered since the 31st December, 1941. APPROVED.

Aerial Lighthouse. The Chairman reported that the authorities had applied for permission to alter the site of the aerial lighthouse to which he had given approval. RESOLVED that his action be confirmed.

15. CLAIMS COMMISSION. The Clerk reported that he had received a telephone message from Major Brooker (District Claims Officer) to the effect that his higher command were enquiring as to the necessity for an agreement and suggested that there was no reason why Ashdown Forest should not be requisitioned in the usual way. It was RESOLVED that Major Brooker and the Military Authorities be asked to meet the Emergency Committee at an early date and discuss the whole matter.

The following matters caused by the present emergency were discussed:

1. Road at Kidds Hill. The Chairman stated that the road and verges in this area were in a deplorable condition and suggested that the Military should be encouraged to drive parallel with the road instead of ruining the road highways which are at present extremely dangerous. RESOLVED that the attention of the O.C. of the 5th Canadian Armoured Division be called to this matter, with a view to appropriate action being taken.
2. The Clerk was directed to arrange that tank crossing notices be erected where necessary and that more notices should be exhibited prohibiting military vehicles from using private roads, and to "Ardens", Nutley, and Tile Lodge in particular.
3. Attention was called to the concrete pylons which were being erected along the Nutley to Duddleswell read and the Clerk was directed to make further enquiries.

J.R. Owen
Chairman.

A MEETING of the Emergency Committee duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, the 14th October, 1942 at 3 p.m.

J.R. Owen, Esq., Chairman in the Chair.
J. Godwin-King Esq., Vice Chairman.
Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish (by co-option)
Lt. Col. G.R. Miller
and John Rowe.

MILITARY USE OF THE FOREST. The meeting was specially held to confer with the Military Authorities in view of their proposal to requisition the Forest. Major Reeks, Major Brooker and Capt. Wood attended to represent the Military. They explained that the Military could requisition the land and assume complete control of the Forest area if they proceeded under Defence Regulation 51, but in the present ease they had no such intention but would proceed under Defence Regulation 52. This would entitle the armed forces to use the land as a training area but before this came into operation all the Government Departments had to be consulted and the matter finally settled by a Training Area Committee of the Army. Procedure under this Regulation would not interfere or restrict the present jurisdiction or working arrangements of the Board and the Rangers would continue to carry out their existing duties. The Military would assist in dealing with fires when possible and it was asked that fire brooms be made available.

Where damage, such as tank traps and trenches were left, the Military Authorities would arrange for the restoration of the surface by the responsible or some other unit. Roads where damaged, were the responsibility of the Minister of War Transport and he, dealing through the County Council as his Agents, would act on certificate of the

appropriate Military Officer. Certificates had been submitted as recently as within the last few days. Reference was made by the Chairman to the deplorable condition of the Roads in the Kidds Hill - Camp Hill area.

No rent is paid by the Military for ground used under Defence Regulation 52, but claims for compensation are considered from time to time if circumstances demand immediate attention. Claims for private roads have already been dealt with on this basis. Fees would normally be paid when the final claim for compensation was delivered and the map prepared by Messrs Wood and Walford showing the schedule of Condition at 1939 would come under this category.

The most urgent tasks for the Military were:

(1}. A survey of the area to decide the extent of the land to

be included in the requisition. It was agreed that Major Brooker should confer with the Chairman and Clerk before submitting his recommendations but that certain areas such as the Golf Course Recreations Grounds and the clumps would no doubt be excluded, the protection of the clumps being regarded of the utmost importance which no monetary compensation would adequately restore.

(2). The period of requisition. It was felt better to make this indefinite instead of for a limited period.

(3). The extent of requisition. This would be indicated on the notice to be sent to the Clerk as clearly as possible and in certain cases such as ranges a plan would be supplied.

It is not proposed to proceed further with the draft agreement and in any case the provision whereby the Military found labour to restore the Forest at the expiry of the present emergency could not in any event be accepted by the Government.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Commoners duly convened and held by notices posted on the Principal doors of the Churches of the Parishes and Ecclesiastical Districts to which the Forest extends by notice sent to each Commoner more than 14 days prior to this date and by advertisement in two newspapers circulating the neighbourhood to wit, The Sussex Express and County Herald and the East Grinstead Observer, and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, at 1.30 p.m.

J.R. Owen Esq., Chairman.

Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Major Gen. Sir Hugh Bruce-Williams, Col. A.E. Barchard, Messrs. R. Ridley, L.A. Wood, M.C. Main, John Rowe, S.J. Marsh, G.D. Haslam, F.T. Ridley, W. Mitchell, F.E. Richards, Mrs. M. Munn and Miss H.C. Hett.

The Clerk read a copy of the notice convening this meeting.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN. On the proposition of Col. Miller it was RESOLVED that Mr. J.R. Owen be elected Chairman for this meeting.

2. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

3. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS. The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill three vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. S.J. Marsh, H.R. Waters and W. Mitchell. It was RESOLVED that the three retiring Conservators be re-elected.

4. ELECTION OF RECREATION GROUND SUPERINTENDENTS. It was proposed by Mr. G.D. Haslam and RESOLVED that the Recreation Ground Superintendents be re-elected as follows:

Nutley	Lt. Col. G.R. Miller.
Fairwarp	Col. A.E. Barchard.
Colemans Hatch	Mr. J.R. Owen, J.P.
Forest Row	Mr. C.G. de Rougemont.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS. Miss Hett again called attention to the cutting of fire breaks in her area and it was RESOLVED that Ranger Kirby be asked to make convenient arrangements and see Miss Hett and settles with Col. Miller as to what work should be carried out.

6. MILITARY. The Chairman reported that very satisfactory working arrangements had been established with the Military and he referred in particular to the matter of the tank crossings.

7. VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN. On the proposition of Mr. Marsh a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman for his able conduct of the meeting.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A MEETING of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday, the 2nd December, 1942 at 2 p.m.

J.R. Owen Esq. Chairman
Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Major Gen. Sir Hugh Bruce-Williams,
Col. A.E. Barchard, Messrs. John Rowe, S.J. Marsh, G.D. Haslam, F.T. Ridley, W. Mitchell, F.E. Richards and Mrs. Munn.

Apologies for absence were received from Rear-Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Lt. Comdr. H.R. Hardy and H.R. Waters.

1. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board were read, confirmed and signed.

2. ANNUAL COMMONERS MEETING. It was reported that at the Commoners meeting prior to this meeting, that Messrs. Mitchell, Marsh and Waters had been re-elected as Conservators for the ensuing three years. The Chairman stated approval at this re-election and thanked them for their past help. It was further reported that the Recreation Ground Superintendents had been re-elected as before.

3. MUDBROOKS FARM PIGS. A letter was read from Dr. Ridley in regard to a report from Mr. Fishwick of the Agricultural College, and that he is proposing to turn out pigs on the Forest irrespective of the conditions which prevented him from erecting any fences.

4. ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST GOLF CLUB. Mr. Fellows attended in support of the Golf Club's application for reduced rental as the present reduction of £40 expires at the end of this month. Mr. Fellows stated that the club anticipated a deficit of £160 on this year's working. After discussion it was RESOLVED that the present rental of £40 be continued for a further 12 months.
Mr. John Rowe withdrew during the discussion of this matter.

5. RANGER'S MOTOR CLUB. The Chairman reported that the machine had been returned to the Triumph Company who did not see their way clear to take it. The machine had accordingly been returned to Martin's Garage, Forest Row, and after having been stripped, it was found that the engine needed re-constructing.

The Chairman reported that the damages were not so extensive as were anticipated and that repairs would not exceed the sum of £10 which the Chairman had authorised. RESOLVED that his action be approved.

6. CHAPEL WOOD ESTATE. A letter was read from the Lord's Solicitors who stated that they did not intend to approve the licence, particularly having regard to the fuel need at the moment.

7. PUBLIC FOOTPATHS, COLEMANS HATCH. The proofs of evidence received from the Uckfield Rural District Council were submitted. In view of the previous decision it was RESOLVED that they be not considered.

8. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing balances in hand on the General Account of £411.13.3 and on the Wages Account of £23.0.4.

Receipts. It was reported that since the last meeting the following amounts have been received:

Forest Rates £230.14.6.

Acknowledgments	£0.1.6.
<u>Local Authorities Contributions.</u>	
East Grinstead R.D.C.	£39.10.2.
East Sussex C.C.	£101.10.6.

War Department.

Refund of Surveyors' fees	£13.13.0.
Compensation	£60.14.9.
Post Office Telephones	£0.6.5.

Accounts for payment. The Accounts were presented and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £73.3.8.

9. RANGERS REPORTS.

Ranger Kirby

Gentlemen,

I beg to report that:

The searchlight and huts have been moved off the Forest at Pippingford, but the bricks foundations still remain there. A load of tins and other litter has been deposited on forest at Stone Hill by No. 1 Squadron Engineers Reinforcement Unit, Canadian Army. The Old Kingstanding rifle range is now being used as a miniature rifle range by the Army. We have cut 250 fire brooms for the Army. Measured up the water pipe line on Forest at St. Johns. Had four weeks collecting Forest Rates Posted up notices of Commoners meeting on Church doors, Moved four gipsies caravans off the Forest. Several places on the Forest by the roadside the Military have erected Notice boards of Tank Crossing. Also the Military are making several gun pits round K.S.2. The litter deposit reported on 4th Nov. has now been cleared off the Forest at Stone Hill by the military. Also the gun pits reported on 16th Nov. round K.S.2. Each of the four pits are now having a dugout built one in Camp Fill Clump and one in Crows Nest Clump.

Yours faithfully,
(signed) H. Kirby.

Ranger Day

October 9th 1942.

I received Demand Notes, Receipt Books etc. from the Office at Battle.

On October 12th I commenced with Ranger Kirby the collection of the Forest Rate. This I continued until November 7th with the exception of each Saturday and Sunday in each week, on these days I carried out the usual patrols. Since finishing the collection of Forest Rates, Ranger Kirby and I have cut some 300 Fire Brooms.

On October 11th Troops commenced the construction of a hut on the Forest, near the road, leading from the top of Kidd's Hill to King's Standing. Tank-crossings have been marked on the Forest by poles erected by the Troops, Crossing marked Red. On Thursday 19th November 1942 Troops commenced to make an excavation on the Forest near Wren's Warren. This consists of digging into a bank, the south side of the stream, opposite the School Camp. The excavation makes a level plain, approximately 30 yards long by 30 yards wide. This leaves a perpendicular wall at the back, 12 feet in height, with a rough batter in front, falling to the stream. The Troops employed are the 4th Field (Digging) Company. Royal Canadian Engineers. O/C C.R.E. 5th Canadian Division.
(signed) Gilbert Day.

He reported that on the 19th November Mr. Holmes Senr. and Junr. and Mr. Sinden had turned out cows and heifers on part of the Golf Course and that damage was being done. The Chairman reported that this matter had been brought to his notice and he had interviewed the persons concerned, explaining the powers of the Board and left on friendly terms.

The press having withdrawn, the remaining items were taken in Committee.

IN COMMITTEE

10. KINGS STANDING. The Clerk reported on his interviews with the Ministry of Works and Planning on the previous day and the suggestion that the Law of Property Act governed the rights to access. He explained that his own opinions had been amplified by the views expressed by Sir Lawrence Chubb and that he had subsequently informed the Ministry that Section 193 of the Law of Property Act was not applicable, as the Forest was not within

an Urban District and the rights of access were governed by the terms of the Act of 1865 and Award. When this point as settled to the satisfaction of the Treasury Solicitor, the question of appropriation would be settled at short notice by direct reference to the Minister of Works and Planning.

11. CLAIMS COMMISSION. The report of the Emergency Committee was read, approved and adopted. The Clerk reported that no further developments had taken place since the last meeting. The Chairman intimated that he was endeavouring to arrange with the Military using tank tracks at some distance away from but parallel with the highways so that the highways and verges could be better protected.

The Clerk reported that the requisitions were now in order and reported further on the subject of the fees due to Messrs. Wood and Walford for work done since the 31st December, 1941. The firm claimed that they were entitled to fees recovered from the Government in addition to those paid by the Lord and the Conservators but following denial of liability from the Clerk this claim had been withdrawn. It now appeared that the claim amounted to slightly under £25 and although some doubt was expressed by the Clerk in regard to items for work required by the Claims Commission he advised that it was more convenient for the account to be discharged now and thus leave the choice of Surveyors quite free for the future.

It was RESOLVED that this course be approved and the settlement of the final account be left in the hands of the Clerk to settle.

12. WATER MAINS ON FOREST. The Clerk reported that it had recently come to his notice that a series of small connections had been made to the Crowborough Water Company's main at St. Johns Common and it seemed simpler for a comprehensive licence to be made. RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to proceed on this basis.

13. STORAGE ON FOREST. In addition to the application from the County Council approved by the Board in April last, for the storage of materials at Kings Standing up to 12 or 15 yards, the following application was submitted

Dear Sir,

Storage of Material on Ashdown Forest

In reply to your letter of the 29th ult. I understand from my Divisional Surveyor (Mr. Steer) that he applied for and received permission from you on 7th April last to store 1200/1500 yards of beach at Kings Standing on Ashdown Forest.

The material being deposited at the moment consists of approximately 1700 yards of beach and 250 tons of roadstone.

In addition to the above it is desired to dump the following approximate quantities of material:-

At Goat Cross Roads	100 yards
At Wych Cross Roads	200 yards
Near top of Millbrook	500 yards
At Chuck Hatch	100 yards
Top of Cackle Street	100 yards
Near Broadstone Warren	150 yards

I regret I have been unable to supply this information more promptly but you will appreciate the difficulties with which we have to contend under present conditions, and the necessity of building up stocks whenever the material is available.

Yours faithfully,
(signed) H.E. Lunn.
County Surveyor

and approved by the Chairman as a war time measure.

RESOLVED that his action be approved.

14. TANK CROSSINGS. A letter was received from Mrs. Roberts of Jacks Plat. The Chairman stated that he had personally approved the position of the crossing notices but he would make a point of making further inspection to see if any alterations could be made. Mr. Marsh supported Mrs. Roberts letter.

15. MILITARY REQUISITION. COPHALL FARM MARESFIELD.

An application from the Military for an overhead line to the camp at Cophall Farm, Maresfield, was referred to the Chairman and APPROVED for the duration as a war time measure on the same terms as those for Pippingford. RESOLVED that his action be approved.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A MEETING of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, the 3rd February, 1942 at 2 p.m.

J.R. Owen, Esq. Chairman.

J. Godwin King Esq. Vice Chairman.

Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Col. A.E. Barchard, Messrs H.R. Waters, Wm. Mitchell, F.T. Ridley, A.F. Harland, F.H. Nias, J. Rowe, H.W. Looker, G.D. Haslam, F.E. Richards, S.J. Marsh, and Mrs. Munn.

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish and Lt. Comdr. H.R. Hardy.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN. It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. J.R. Owen be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year and Mr. J. Godwin King, Vice Chairman for the ensuing year. APPROVED.

2. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

The Committees were re-appointed with the substitution of Mr. J.R. Coulthard, appointed by the Uckfield Rural District Council in place of Sir Hugh Bruce Williams.

3. DEATH OF SIR HUGH BRUCE WILLIAMS.

The Chairman referred in very sympathetic terms to the loss which the Conservators had sustained by the death of Sir Hugh Bruce Williams and referred to his valuable services on the Forest. Members of the Board stood in tribute to his memory.

4. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board were read, confirmed and signed.

5. TIMBER SUPPLY. Mr. Le Sueur of the Ministry of Supply stated his Department required a considerable quantity of fir trees during the next few months and that as a result of an inspection of the area under the jurisdiction of the Conservators they would require to cut from the undermentioned areas.

1. High Beeches. North and South of the road.
2. North East of Wrens Warren with road from the Forest for clearing timber.
3. Between Hindleap Warren and Prestidge Warren.
4. South East of Wych Cross on the Nutley road.

It was understood that the timber belonged to the Lord of the Manor but the application was reported to the Conservators for their information and formal agreement would be submitted by the Ministry of Supply with an undertaking for reinstatement of the Forest where roads had been used. RESOLVED that the application be approved in principle so far as the Board are concerned and subject to the completion of the proposed agreement.

6. MUDBROOKS FARM. Mr. Dyer, Deputy Executive Officer of the East Sussex County War Agricultural Committee attended and explained the necessity for every effort necessary to improve the feed production and as to the reasons for increasing areas for the folding of pigs. After Mr. Dyer withdrew from the meeting Mt. Nias

moved that the Agricultural Committee be informed that whilst this Board are not desirous of discouraging the efforts which will increase the food production they are not prepared on principle to agree to fencing but that the difficulty should be overcome by the Agricultural Committee requisitioning the area under a Cultivation Order. An amendment was then moved and seconded that no further action be taken. This was put to the vote and carried.

7. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing balances in hand on the General Account of £340.8.5 and on the Wages Account £7.4.0. 0.

Receipts. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received.

Rates	£12.5.0
Acknowledgments	£66.12.3
Refund of Surveyors Fees	£12.7.2
2½ Consols.	£0.19.11.

Payments since the last meeting. It as reported that since the last meeting the following cheques had been drawn:

Wood & Walford.	Surveyors Fees.	£24.14.2.
Fovargue, R.W.	Petty payments etc.	£11.12.8.

RESOLVED that the same be confirmed.

Accounts for payment. The Accounts were presented and it was RESOLVED that a cheque be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £50.

Council for the Preservation of Rural England. An application for continuance of the annual subscription was received. RESOLVED that the same be not continued.

Estimates. The Board considered the following estimates for the service of the current year.

General Account.

Clerk's Salary.	£200.0.0
Petty payments (Including hire of room, postages etc.,)	£32.0.0
Rangers' salary	£340.0.0
Printing, stationery, advertising & sundries	£40.0.0
Rangers' Expenses	£50.0.0
Audit stamp	£8.0.0.
	£670.0.0.

Receipts.

General Account	£360.0.0
	£310.0.0

£310 payable as follows:

East Sussex County Council	£155.0.0
East Grinstead U.D.C.	£31.0.0
Uckfield R.D.C.	£93.0.0
Cuckfield R.D.C.	£31.0.0
	£310.0.0

RESOLVED that the same be approved and that the Local Authorities be required to pay one half of the precept at once and the balance after adjustment of expenses for the year ended the 31st December 1942.

RANGERS' REPORTS

Ranger Kirby

The military have erected four timber obstacle jumps for Commando training at Dodds Bottom. We have made 250 fire brooms for the Fire Brigades. Cut fire cordon at Rough Ground which Miss Hett asked for at the Commoners meeting. Cleared out ditch at Nutley Windmill road which Miss Savary complained of. Cut off undergrowth at a blind corner at Marl pits. The Searchlight near the Old Workhouse Fairwarp has been moved about 200 yards south and is still on the Forest. The Requisition land at Kings Standing has been sown with Corn and fenced in about 20 acres.

Yours faithfully,
(sgd) H. Kirby.

Ranger Day

28th January, 1943.

Since the last Board meeting I have in company with Ranger Kirby cut fire brooms for the use of local Fire Brigades and also for our own use.

We have also out a Fire Break round the new section of Forest in the Nutley area known as Rough Ground. This was requested by Miss Hett at the Commoners meeting. Two blind corners on the Nutley-Duddleswell round have been opened up by cutting back overhanging bushes.

Gypsies are becoming more prevalent on the Forest. This is probably due to increased prosecution on the Holtys Common and other sections of common land. The gypsy males appear to be of military age.

A series of Fire Trenches have been dug in the Nutley Road area by the Perth Rifles of the 5th Canadian Division. Each trench is about 5 feet in length, 1 foot 6 inches in width and 5 feet deep. Some 50 of these are at the South (Vetchery) end and about 20 are at the Northern end, near Wych Cross Clump.

A barbed wire entanglement has been erected North side of the Vetchery road by the 5th Canadian Artillery Regiment 5th Canadian Division.

4 Fire Trenches dimensions as above, have been dug by Troops of the 5th Canadian Division in the Hindleap area.

The Back entrance to Wych Cross Place, from West Hoathly Road is being repaired and also widened where it crosses the Forest.

This Road was originally about 9 feet in width. This is now being widened by excavation an extra 9 feet each side of the original Road, making it 27 feet overall. The Contractors are Scott, Hale and Co. Ltd., Romford, Essex working on instructions received from the Garrison Engineer, Mr. Wainwright, London Road, East Grinstead.

(sgd) Gilbert Day.

The Chairman stated he had dealt with the matter of the trenches direct with the Military Authorities.

9. CLAIMS COMMISSION. A letter was read from the Assistant Director of Claims, South East Command setting out the circumstances under which claims could be made on account of Surveyors Fees. The matter was by no means clear and the Clerk was instructed to get into touch with Major Brooker, the District Claims Officer and discuss the matter with him and report again.

10. OVERHEAD LINE AT PIPPINGFORD. The Clerk reported that he had received a telephone message from the C.R.E. at Maresfield asking if the present overhead line could be allowed to remain after the war and that he had replied that this would be contrary to the general policy of the Board and unlikely to be granted. RESOLVED that if further enquiry be made the Clerk reply on these lines.

11. RANGERS. A form of notification had been received from the Ministry of Labour at East Grinstead in regard to the proposed transfer of Ranger Day for work of more national importance. The Clerk, after consultation with the Chairman had replied that the two Rangers were essential particularly as the Military were always using the Forest. The fire season was approaching and it was impossible for one Ranger to adequately control the Forest. APPROVED.

12. ROAD LEADING TO ASHDOWN FOREST HOTEL. Mr. John Rowe called attention to the unsatisfactory condition of this road. A similar complaint had also been received from the Secretary of the Hotel. RESOLVED that the attention of the Canadian Claims Commission be drawn to the matter and that they be asked to send an Officer to meet Mr. Rowe on the site.

13. COPHALL, MARESFIELD. The Clerk reported the relinquishment of the original site and the requisition of a new site.

14. ROAD AT MARLPITS COTTAGE, NUTLEY. It was reported that the Rangers had carried out repairs to this road recently on the instructions of Col. Miller following a heavy rainfall and that immediately following the repairs, the work had been destroyed by tanks. The Clerk stated that he had written on this last matter to the District Claims Officer who replied that certain repairs were carried out to this road in May 1942 at a cost of £20 and following an inspection during the last week saw no trace of farther damage. RESOLVED that the Clerk resume his correspondence with the Compensation Officer with a view to the damage being remedied.

IN COMMITTEE

15. KINGS STANDING. The Clerk reported that he had received requisition notices in respect of 20 acres approximately adjacent to the main buildings and that this had been served through the W.D. Land Agent. He stated that no final conclusion on the agreement had yet been received. Further he awaited information from the Treasury Solicitor or the Ministry of Works and Planning as to their observations in respect of the legal problems connected with the acquisition of equivalent areas nor had he any definite information as to whether the site was required temporarily or permanently. He therefore asked that the negotiations should be brought to a suitable conclusion. RESOLVED that Admiral Beamish be asked to take up this matter with a view to further negotiations being brought to a speedy conclusion and that the Clerk supply him with any information he may require.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A MEETING of the Emergency Committee duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Friday the 19th February, 1943 at 2.30 p.m.

J.R. Owen, Chairman
Lt. Col. C.R. Miller and Mr. J. Rowe
with Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish and Messrs H.W. Looker and S.J. Marsh as co-opted members.

1. COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE. The meeting was convened to decide what steps should be taken to bring the present negotiations to a prompt conclusion. The following summary of the Minutes had been previously circulated to those attending this meeting.

Date of entry in minute book

1.10.41. Application approved in principle.

3.12.41. Details settled on the basis of user for such period as if Defence Regulation 51 had been invoked and to be embodied in formal agreement.

1. 4.42. The following extract of the Minutes sets out the position on the broad policy.

"The Emergency Committee met Lt. Williamson of H.M. Government Communications Centre for a preliminary discussion in regard to the amendment to the draft agreement which proposed a 21 years lease which the Conservators were unable to grant unless covered by Statutory Authority or Defence Regulations. The matter was further discussed by the full Board when it was agreed that a new agreement should be prepared whereby:

(a) H.M. Government Communications Centre should hold the land for a period so long as Defence Regulations are in force.

(b) On or before the expiry of that period the benefit of the agreement should be transferred to a Government Department or some Corporation approved or selected by the appropriate Government Department in the latter event the buildings would be required for a long period and it was agreed that steps should then be taken for the acquisition of an equivalent area of 65 acres in extent to replace the site so excluded from the Regulated Forest.

Mr. Williamson stated in this connection that he was instructed by his Commanding Officer to say that the Conservators and the Lord would be free to choose such land as they thought most suitable for the new area to be taken into the Forest and be not restricted in price.

(c) If the agreement were to determine without the necessity of dealing with equivalent land the question of reinstatement to the Forest would arise but upon different terms to those which appeared in the present agreement".

The detailed provisions for reinstatement were also settled but are not material to the main question. Revised draft agreement forwarded to the Centre on the 4th May 1942.

1.7.42. Letter from H.M. Government Communications Centre stating no decision had been made regarding approval of agreement pending advice from Director of Lands and Accommodation, Ministry of Works and Planning.

7.10.42. The Clerk reported that this matter had now been referred to the Ministry of Works and Planning and at their request he had attended and discussed future proposals from which it appeared that the Ministry had not definitely decided if the Centre would be continued after the War. When that question was settled the problem of an equivalent area might arise and the provision relating to Inquiry under the Commons Act 1889 had been discussed. It was probable that if the site were to be retained after the war it would be easier to deal with the purchasing of an equivalent area during the present state of emergency so that the confidential matter would not have to be unnecessarily disclosed.

2.12.42. The Clerk reported on his interviews with the Ministry of Works and Planning on the previous day and the suggestion that the Law of Property Act governed the rights to access. He explained that his own opinions had been amplified by the views expressed by Sir Lawrence Chubb and that he had subsequently informed the Ministry that Section 193 of the Law of Property Act was not applicable, as the Forest was not within an Urban District and the rights of access were governed by the terms of the Act of 1885 and the award. When this point was settled to the satisfaction of the Treasury Solicitor, the question of appropriation would be settled at short notice by direct reference to the Minister of Works and Planning.

After full discussion of the whole matter it was unanimously RESOLVED that (a) the Board prepare a concise statement of their position and the Chairman asked to send this to Admiral Beamish as a Conservator and the present Member of Parliament for the Lewes Division requesting him to arrange that the Ministry of Works and Planning, with any other Government Departments, receive a deputation from this Board to discuss and settle all outstanding matters ; (b) the preparation of the preliminary draft statement be referred to Mr. Looker and the Clerk; (c) the Deputation to the Minister be introduced by Admiral Beamish and consist of the Chairman (Mr. Looker) and the Clerk.

The following letter from Lt. Col. J.W. Russell to the Clerk dated the 13th February, 1943 was read.

54, Broadway,
Westminster, S.W.1.

13th February, 1943,

R.W. Fovargue, Esq.,
Conservators of Ashdown Forest,
Battle, Sussex.

Dear Fovargue,

Communications Centre.

You will please convey my apologies to the Emergency Committee of the Conservators and inform them that on Friday, 19th February, we shall be inspected by a most distinguished officer and that it will be quite impossible for me or an efficient deputy to attend their meeting at the Village Hall, Forest Row. If Captain Williamson, who has been in hospital lately, is able to attend, he has our confidence.

Meanwhile, may I re-capitulate the position as I understand it. We are awaiting the decision of the Treasury Solicitor, who is at present of the opinion that it will not be possible to obtain a decision governing the user of this land after emergency regulations have been cancelled, without an Act of Parliament. This decision has been reached without full knowledge of the circumstances, which for security reasons it is at present impossible to impart. Both you and we want to have the matter finally settled, but I do not see how we can do more at the present moment than press for a final opinion from the Treasury Solicitor, who so far has never given an interim opinion.

May I raise another point: you will remember that two sites are involved - both at Kings Standing. One is at present being used for agricultural purposes only. No.1 S.C.U. has applied to the War Department Land Agent that this land be requisitioned. Mr. Batch writes to Brigadier Shepard to say that he understands that this 20 acres forms part of a larger area placed at the disposal of Government Communications Centre by the Conservators as a result of an arrangement come to in October 1941. If this is so, I am instructed to say that No.1 S.C.U. are prepared to withdraw their request that the land be requisitioned. If you can confirm that this is the case I will see that the request for army requisition is withdrawn.

I shall be glad to have your opinion on the second point as soon as possible, as the War Office and Mr. Batch are both in some doubt as to the position and you will know whether this land has been covered by the arrangement reached with the Conservators of Ashdown Forest.

Yours sincerely,
(signed) John Russell.

The Clerk stated he proposed to reply that the Board preferred the whole area to be included in one arrangement but there was no reason why "the agricultural land" should not revert to the Forest when no longer required by the Centre. APPROVED.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A MEETING of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday the 7th April, 1943 at 2.30 p.m.

J.R. Owen, Esq., J.P. Chairman.

J. Godwin—King Esq., Vice Chairman.

Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Col. A.E. Barchard, Messrs F.T. Ridley, A.F. Harland, John Rowe, H.W. Looker, J.R. Coulthard, F.E. Richards, G.D. Haslam and S.J. Marsh.

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish and Mrs. H.M. Munn.

1. MINUTES. The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

2. MEMBERSHIP. The Chairman extended a hearty welcome to Mr. J.H. Coulthard as a new member who briefly returned thanks.

3. LICENCE FOR ROAD, TIMBER HAULING. The Secretary of the Forest Row Lumber Company attended in support of his application to use two tracks across the Forest for removal of timber which his Company were cutting in Mr. Hayley Morris' woods and for timber storage on the Forest not exceeding an acre in extent. He was informed that he would be responsible for the regular maintenance of the private road near Coleman's Hatch cricket ground and must have a stock of material always available for repairs. RESOLVED that the Company be granted a revocable licence under which they accept the foregoing responsibilities, paying £5.5.0, per annum for the roads and £1 for the storage and deposit a sum of £50 for making good any damage to the Forest.

4. CLAIMS COMMISSION. (a) Training Areas. Capt. Rundle R.A. (attached to the Canadian Army) attended to explain the intentions of the Military in their use of the Forest as a training area and produced a marked plan. This eliminated the use of the golf links, clumps and recreation grounds but the proposals had not yet received the approval of the War Office Committee. RESOLVED that the Board approve the plan in principle and the final detail when settled be incorporated on the plans already deposited with the Commission and the Clerk respectively. (b) Forest Roads. The Clerk reported on the various claims which had arisen for repair of roads on the Forest. He advised that where roads were repairable under licence from the Board, the Licensee should claim compensation but in all other cases the claims should be lodged by the Board and include a proportion of the surveyors and legal costs. This last principle had been discussed at a meeting with Mr. John Rowe, the Chairman of the Ashdown Forest Hotel, and the District Claims Officer, immediately prior to this meeting as regards the road between Chapel Lane and thence by the Ashdown Forest Hotel and Oak Tree Cottage to the Forest boundary. RESOLVED that

the Board accept these principles and the Clerk be instructed to deal with any existing or future claims on this basis. Further that the Clerk interview Mr. Keely of Lone Oak Hall in regard to his claim and payment for damaged springs.

5. LAND AT COPHALL. (page 76) The rent for the new site had been settled at 10/— per annum. APPROVED.

6. RANGERS' WAGES. Application from both Rangers was considered. RESOLVED that their weekly wage for the duration of the war be increased to £3.10.0 to commence on their next pay day.

7. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Sheets were produced shewing balances in hand on the General Account of £399.15.10. and on the Wages Account of £3.11.6.

Receipts. Since the last meeting the following amounts had been received

Rates	£1.3.0
Acknowledgements	£6.12.0
Compensation	£6.9.7
East Sussex County Council	£77.10.0.
Uckfield R.D.C.	£46.10.0.

Accounts for payment. The Accounts were presented and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £64.6.4.

8. RANGERS' REPORTS.

Ranger Kirby

The military have erected about 400 yards of barbed wire partly enclosing the R.A.F. revolving light at Stone Hill. The military have left several hundred empty petrol tins on the Forest between Kingstanding Camp Hill and Crow & Gate. At Greenwood Gate I saw Mrs. Marshall of Greenwood Gate Farm who has erected a milk churn stand on the Forest. I told her she must move it off or get permission for it to remain. He said she would ask the Board's permission for it to remain there. A broken down military tank has been left on the Forest near the Vetchery, it has been there about five weeks. We have burnt, under control, several cants of undergrowth for the Forest Row Golf Club. We have cleared up and burnt some of the brush wood left by troops near Hindleap Warren. Five Forest fires have occurred at Fairwarp and Spring Garden, burning about five and a half acres. The military tank as reported near the Vetchery has now been moved off the Forest. A fire occurred on Tuesday April 6th on Stone Hill burning 10 acres. It was extinguished by Crowborough Brigade and myself.

Yours faithfully,
(sgd) H. Kirby.

The Clerk reported he had informed the District Claims Officer where necessary on the above.

With reference to Mrs. Marshall's application it was RESOLVED that this be granted at an annual acknowledgement of 2/6d.

Ranger Day

From February 6th till March 10th I have, in company with Ranger Kirby, been employed in burning Scotch Fir top in the Hindleap area. This top had been left from dead trees cut by Canadian troops to be used as firing this last winter. From March 15th we have been engaged in cutting a fire break on Stone Hill. On March 24th and 26th, Ranger Kirby and I supervised burning under control a section of the Forest in the Shalesbrook and Quabrook areas. This was done at the request of the Ashdown Forest Golf Club. There have been 4 small fires on the section of Forest patrolled by me. March 6th. Kidbrook Wood, extent 3 acres March 24th. Greenhall Toll, extent ½ acre March 12th. Twyford Lane, extent ¼ acre March 28th. Butler's Gate, extent 1 acre (sgd) Gilbert Day.

9. PRISONER OF WAR CAMP AT FAIRWARP. Correspondence and requisition notices were produced from the Ministry of Works & Planning at Tunbridge Wells, which showed that a line of sewer pipes would be laid under a short section of the Forest at Fairwarp. RESOLVED that an annual acknowledgement of 2/6d be claimed and the legal costs.

IN COMMITTEE

10. KINGS STANDING. The report of the Emergency Committee at their meeting held on the 19th February 1943 was read, approved and signed. Mr. Looker read the letter which had been addressed by Admiral Beamish to the Minister of Works and Planning to which there had been no definite reply. The Chairman stated he had received a message from Admiral Beamish advising the Board not to press matters to a decision at present. The Clerk reported that the Ministry of Works and Planning at Tunbridge Wells had requested permission by telephone this morning to survey the area for purpose of serving a requisition. Re had asked that the matter be deferred pending further instructions from the Board. **RESOLVED** that the Board do not press for an immediate decision for the time being.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A MEETING of the EMERGENCY COMMITTEE duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Saturday the 29th May 1943 at 11 a.m.

PRESENT.

J.R. Owen Esq. Chairman.

J. Godwin-King Esq., Vice Chairman.

Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Messrs H.W. Looker and John Rowe and Lt. Col. C.H.N. Adams representing Earl de la Warr.

1. KINGS STANDING. The Chairman referred to the following reply which he had received from Lord Portal.

"In reply to your letter of the 15th May, the question of the COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE in Ashdown Forest has been thoroughly considered and it was recently decided that, from the point of view of public security, it would be very inadvisable to take any steps which would result in publicity.

It was appreciated that the position of the Conservators would have to be regularised and the best method of doing this was obviously to requisition the land, as this, in addition to transferring the responsibility for the temporary alienation of the land from the Conservators to the Government would automatically on the expiry of Emergency Powers, bring about the removal of the buildings and the restoration of the land to its original condition after the war.

In the circumstances it seems to us here that any further discussion on the subject is not necessary and I venture to suggest that the Conservators should postpone it till a time when the end of the war is in sight. I do not think that their position will be impaired, in anyway, in consequence".

He now stated he had received a further letter from the Ministry of Works notifying that arrangements had been made for Mr. Broad to attend this meeting.

Mr. Broad F.R.I.B.A., F.S.I. with Mr. Quarmby from Regional Office of the Ministry at Tunbridge Wells were then invited to meet the Committee. A frank discussion took place on the whole matter since its inception. It was made clear to Mr. Broad that the Board, as a Public Authority, felt very strongly that they had not been properly treated in the course of negotiations.

In the course of further discussion Mr. Broad stated he could not make any pronouncement on legal questions or future policy but his Ministry fully recognised the position in which the Conservators were placed. He also thought the requisition agreement could possibly embody the intended conditions of reinstatement if the scheme were abandoned and of procedure in the event of permanent occupation of the area. He was asked to convey the thanks of the meeting to Lord Portal as a mark of their appreciation of giving this opportunity of a review of the whole position.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

(1) This Committee are prepared to accept the Minister's assurances which go as far as can be expected at this sage and therefore instruct the Clerk to proceed with the compensation claims on the following basis.

	Lord	Conservators
--	------	--------------

(a).

<u>Land.</u> 63 acres @ 6/- per acre.	£18.18.0.	£18.18.0.
<u>Water Supply.</u> 1300 yards	£0.13.0.	£0.13.0.
<u>Drainage Supply</u> & easement for filters	£3.3.0.	£3.3.0.
<u>Access.</u> Rights of passage between		
Two sites	£2.5.0.	£2.5.0.
	£24.19.0.	£24.19.0.

With claim for initial legal and surveyors' costs.

(b). Further rent to be claimed for the small pylons and protective works.

(c). The original conditions of reinstatement and procedure of areas are permanently required to be incorporated as part of the claim. (d). Consult the Chairman as and when necessary.

(2) The Clerk be instructed at a later stage to confer with the Treasury Solicitor and Solicitor of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on the legal questions connected with the acquisition of an equivalent area.

2. MILITARY ROADS. The Chairman referred to the new roads which the military were making across the Forest.

The Clerk stated alternative estimates had been received for repairs of the roads at Lady White's and near Chapel Lane, Forest Row, and he had asked the military to remove the barbed wire at Miss Savary's. RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to settle these matters with the District Claims Officer.

3. ASHDOWN FOREST FIR. The Ministry of Supply having submitted conditions governing the cutting and removal of the trees which were acceptable to the Committee a draft agreement had now been forwarded to that Department for approval. NOTED.

4. BARNSDEN FARM, DUDDLESWELL. The Clerk reported an application for an approach road had been made through Messrs Blaker, Son & Young on behalf of a client intending to purchase the property. Full details had not been supplied. The Clerk was instructed to state the Board would not object in principle to a road of Forest Metal for one residence on the usual conditions.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A MEETING of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday the 7th July, 1943 at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT.

J.R. Owen Esq. J.P., Chairman.

J. Godwin-King Vice Chairman.

Col. Barchard. Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Messrs. J.T. Ridley, A.F. Harland, John Rowe, H.W. Looker, J.R. Coulthard, F.E. Richards, G.D. Haslam, S.J. Marsh, W. Mitchell and Mrs. Munn.

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish.

1. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

2. FOREST ROW LUMBER COMPANY. The Clerk reported the Licence had been settled with the Company's solicitors and he had applied for cheque in discharge of acknowledgment and costs. RESOLVED that if this be not received shortly the Clerk be instructed to press for payment.

3. TRAINING AREAS

(a). It was reported that no further communication or plan had been received from Capt. Rundle or the War Office Committee. RESOLVED that the Clerk press for a settlement of the matter on a proper footing.

(b). Roads. The Chairman stated that he and Col. Miller had met certain junior officers of the Canadian Army this morning at Pippingford in regard to the training roads which had been made in the neighbourhood of the Isle of Thorns and Chelwood Vetchery resulting in a large area of the Forest having been turned into wide roads or left in unsatisfactory conditions, with all signs of vegetation completely obliterated. It was explained by the officers that these areas were put at the disposal of the Canadian Forces by the War Office and that Capt. Currie as the Canadian Claims Officer would be permanently available for consultation. It was further reported that the War Office had not requisitioned this area. The Chairman added that he was making certain contacts with the Divisional H.Q. and if these were not satisfactory he suggested a meeting with Capt. Currie and the District Claims Officer on the site so that the whole position could be regularised. The military had stated their use of the area would not exceed a further period of 6 weeks. The Chairman thought the War Agricultural Executive Committee should be consulted as to the restoration of the area. APPROVED.

The Chairman further reported that similar road operations were in progress near Spring Gardens Fairwarp but on a lesser scale and recommended that the same course be adopted in this case also. APPROVED.

3. FOREST ROADS.

(a) The Clerk resorted that the District Claims Officer had authorised instructions to Messrs. Pannett of Brighton to proceed with the repairs to the road leading to Lady White's property at Nutley at a cost of £50 and £2.12.6 for surveyors' fees. RESOLVED that the fee be applied in part satisfaction of the sums paid in advance to Messrs. Wood & Walford by the Lord and the Board.

(b) Negotiations were proceeding with the frontagers and the District Claims Officer in regard to the repair of the road between Chapel Lane, Forest Row and the Forest boundary. The former had not at present settled the total amount of their contribution towards Messrs. Pannett's estimate of £297 but the matter was receiving their attention.

(c) The Clerk was instructed to arrange with the District Claims Officer for the removal of the fence at Miss Savery's where a small area of the Forest had been enclosed.

4. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing balances in hand on the General Account of £279.7.10. and on the Wages Account of £29.10.2.

Receipts. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received:

Rates	£21.3.0.
Acknowledgments	£22.5.6.
Cuckfield R.D.C.	£13.10.2.
Refund of Surveyors' fees	£1.1.0.
Compensation	£6.12.9.
W.D. Dilapidations	£5.0.0.
2½ Consols	£0.19.11.

Accounts for payment. The Accounts were presented and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £79.3.8.

5. RATE. The Clerk referred to the estimate of expenditure for the year as approved at the February meeting amounting to £670 of which £310 is to be borne by the Local Authorities. It was proposed by Mr. G.D. Haslam duly seconded 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 Act 1845-1878 and the Commons Regulations (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act 1885 and the Ashdown Forest Act 1937 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 owners and their respective acreages and the respective sums payable by them are set out in the Rate Book produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

6. ASHDOWN FOREST FIR. The Clerk reported that the necessary licence had been settled with the Ministry of Supply at Hawkhurst and referred to their Headquarters for approval.

7. RANGER'S REPORTS.

Ranger Kirby July 1943.

Two fires occurred on Camp Hill burning about 50 acres on 16th April. Both fires were caused by troops firing smoke bombs. The military have levelled and shaped out a road between Spring Garden and Lisburn. The Military have erected barbed wire fence both sides of road to Miss Savary, this fence still remains there. The military have erected a barbed trip wire on the Forest from Spring Garden to the main Fairwarp road. The sleeper bridge at Rough Ground has been damaged by troops. With the help of Ranger Day I have trey repaired it. The 12 loads of tins and other rubbish deposited between Vetchery and Pippingford by troops has now been buried by troops. The Central Sussex Electricity Co. Ltd. have now laid about 60 yards of underground cable to the searchlight at Fairwarp. We have burnt under control more cants of undergrowth at the Golf Green. We have cut and burnt a cant of blackwood at Duddleswell. We have cut thistles on the road sides from Chelwood Gate to Wych Cross and at Rushey Bottom. The load of old tins etc. which was deposited at Duddleswell we have now buried. We have collected up the empty petrol tins on Forest in readiness for the military to take away.

Yours faithfully,

H. KIRBY.

Ranger Day

9th June 1943.

Dear Sir,

In connection with the Radio Station at Duddleswell, there have been erected 34 large pylons, 64 short tank teeth and 17 concrete entrances have been made to allow tanks to cross the telephone cable without injuring it.

I have to report that Lord Kindersley has had nothing done to prevent the sewage from Coldharbour emptying on to the Forest.

At a **** in the Coldharbour hedge near this sewage outfall he has caused to be erected a small hand gate. There has not been a gateway here previously. The boundary bank has been thrown down and a path has been cut on the Forest from this gate to the main East Grinstead road.

Yours faithfully,

GILBERT DAY.

Rangers report. 1st July 1943.

Sirs,

Since the last Board meeting on April 7th 1943, I have carried out the following duties: Ranger Kirby and I burned under control sections of the Forest in the Water Farm, Shalesbrook and Quabrook areas. In this we were assisted by Golf Club employees. We cleared up a large amount of empty petrol cans, tins and other refuse left by troops near Greenwood Gate, Kings Standing and Kidd's Hill roads. We also cleared up burned and buried litter composed of food tins, rags and cardboard with tree branches that had been dumped by troops at Duddleswell. We cut an area of burnt gorse on the Forest at Duddleswell. We cut thistles on the Chelwood Gate and Nutley roads. We have cut bushes and bracken and lopped branches from blind road corners at Honeywell, Priory road and Goat crossroads. We have also repaired a Sleeper Bridge, damaged by troops at Rough Ground, Nutley. I have attended the following fires on the Forest.

April 14th.	extent 1 acre near Ashdown House.
April 16th.	extent 2 acres at Wych Cross.
May 19th.	extent 2 acres near Wrens Warren.
May 29th.	extent 1 acre at Chuck Hatch.
May 31st.	extent 1 acre at Shalesbrook.
June 18th.	extent 1 acre at Ridge.
June 20th.	extent 1/2 acre at Cripp's Corner.

I posted "Out of Bound" notices at Greenwood Gate, Gill's Lap, Wych Cross, Green Hall, Tall Clumps and Coleman Hatch Recreation ground, but owing to the excessive rain the notices have peeled off.

Canadian Engineers started extensive ground levelling and road making operations in the Vetchery - Isle of Thorns area on May 4th 1943 and these are still in progress.

A search light observation but erected on the Forest near the Kidd's Hill - Kings Standing road by the 324th Searchlight A.A. Co. has been removed.

Yours faithfully,

GILBERT DAY.

RESOLVED that the attention of Lord Kindersley be drawn to the matters mentioned in Ranger' Day's report of the 9th June 1943:

8. BARNSDEN FARM. No further application has been received. NOTED.

9. AUDITOR'S REPORT.

Five Oaks
Brook Street
Tonbridge
Kent

24th April 1943

The Conservators of Ashdown Forest
Gentlemen,

I have to report the completion of the audit of your accounts and of those of your officers for the year ended the 31st December, 1941.

The conduct of the audit was facilitated by the ready and courteous assistance rendered by your Clerk and his Staff, and no matter arose to which it is considered necessary to refer in this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

yours obedient Servant,

E.H.V. WEIGALL.
District Auditor

10. CLERK'S ASSISTANT. The Clerk reported that his assistant Mr. E.E.C. Payne had received notice from the Man Power Board to regard himself as available for call up at any time hereafter and that as a result of appeal some indefinite temporary extension had been granted. He explained that if a satisfactory substitute could not be procured which was unlikely, it was impossible to perform all the duties expected of him. NOTED.

11. IN COMMITTEE. KINGS STANDING. The report of the Emergency Committee at their meeting held on the 29th May was read, approved and signed.

The Clerk reported that in accordance with his instructions the compensation claims had been lodged with the Ministry of Works, Directorate of Lands whom he had since interviewed for a general discussion. The following reply had now been received.

Ministry of Works,
Directorate of Lands & Accommodation,
44, Lowndes Square,
Knightsbridge
London S.W. 1

5th July 1943.

Dear Sir,

Compensation (Defence) Act 1939
Land at Kings Standing, Ashdown Forest
Claim No. TW 551

I thank you for your letter of the 30th June, the contents of which have been noted. I should, however, point out that although I have not copies of the plans in my possession to which reference is made in the draft document which was prepared between the Lord and Conservators of Ashdown Forest and British Communications Centre, reference is made in Clause 2(b)(1) of that document to an area of approximately 65 acres which is about the same as the sum of the two areas given in the claim forms. In this draft document it was stipulated that annual sums of £6.17.0. should be paid to the owner and £4.18.0. to the Conservators whereas annual ***** the rate of £18.18.0. to each are now claimed.

I note from your letter of the 30th June, however, that the question of value has recently been considered and that 6s. per acre per annum for each of the parties is now claimed as a fair value. In view of the comparatively small annual sums involved, if the parties do not feel able to reduce the claims to amounts in the direction of the original figures, I will seek authority to pay the amounts of £18. 18.0. per annum to each party.

With regard to the three items under the heading of "easements" and "access between sites", in view of the fact that the latter is a footpath over which the Ministry has no exclusive rights, I consider that any payment in respect of this should be purely nominal and that the position would be met by a payment at the rate of £4 per annum in respect of all three items. I might mention in this connection that the Department is advised that compensation under Sections 2 (1)(a) and 3(2) are neither of them payable to more than one of any persons holding different interests in any property, but the Commissioners are in this case prepared to recognize the claim of both the Freeholder and the Conservators to be paid compensation for the exercise of the emergency powers. In the circumstances, it is proposed to record agreement of the compensation under and by virtue of Section 15 of the Compensation (Defence) Act, 1939.

I am prepared to seek authority for the payment of the costs as set out in the claims.

With regard to the condition as to reinstatement or the alternative of the provision of a substitute site, this matter will fall to be dealt with on the basis of Section 2(1) (b) of the Compensation Act on the termination of possession. I regret, therefore, that the conditions cannot be accepted as set out but the wishes of the owner and the Conservators will, of course, be on record.

I understand that the owner and the Conservators will indemnify the Ministry against claims for compensation by any other person or persons who might endeavour to establish rights in the land on which emergency powers have been exercised.

I am sending this letter in time, I hope, to be considered at the meeting of the Board on Wednesday next,

Yours faithfully,
GEO. PROCTER
Regional Compensation Surveyor

RESOLVED that the same be approved subject to the sum of £4 being paid to both Lord and Conservators.

Godwin-King
Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 6th October, 1943 at 2.30 p.m.

Mr J. Godwin King. Vice Chairman.

Mrs. Munn, Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Col. A. Barchard, Messrs. F.T. Ridley, W. Mitchell, G.D. Haslam, A.R. Harland, J.E. Coulthard, John Rowe and F.R. Richards.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. J.R. Owen, S.J. Marsh, H.W. Looker and Lt. Col. G.R. Miller.

In absence of the Chairman Mr. Godwin King took the Chair.

1. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

2. FOREST ROW LUMBER CO. The Clerk reported that the deposit, acknowledgements and costs had now been paid.

3. TRAINING AREAS. The official notices were read.

EMERGENCY POWERS (DEFENCE) ACTS.

In pursuance of the provisions of Regulation 52 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, I, Lieut-Gen. H.D.G. Crerar, being one of the class of persons to whom one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State has delegated his powers under the aforesaid Regulation, hereby authorise the use of all the land situate in the area described in the First Schedule hereto (hereinafter called 'the land') for military training during the period from 1st January 1943 for an indefinite period.

I further authorise persons using the land in pursuance of this Order to do such acts in relation to the land as are specified in the Second Schedule hereto.

I further order that the exercise of rights of way specified in 4 the Third Schedule hereto, being rights of way over land duly authorised in accordance with the said Regulation to be used for military training, shall be prohibited at such times as the firing of live ammunition is taking place.

Date 26th July, 1943. (Signed) H.D.G. Crerar. Lieut. Gen.

First Schedule.

The areas of land shown coloured Green, Red and Yellow on the plan deposited with the Chief Constable, Sussex Police Force, Haywards Heath, Sussex, comprising:

- (a) The greater part of ASHDOWN FOREST, except the land leased by the Ashdown Golf Club, the recreation grounds at Coleman's Hatch and Duddleswell, the various ornamental clumps such as Gill's Lap, King's Standing etc., and certain other areas, all of which are bordered in PURPLE on the plan referred to.
- (b) Hindleap Warren
- (c) Prest Ridge Warren
- (d) Five Hundred Acre Wood and Five Hundred Rough
- (e) Pippingford Park, except the Home Farm.
- (f) Other small areas which cannot be separately enumerated, but are shown on the plan.

Habitations, including fenced gardens, in civil occupation are excluded, whether coloured purple on the plan or not.

Second Schedule.

All such acts as may be required for military training, including the use of vehicles, digging of non-permanent earthworks etc. and specially:

- (i) The use of tanks and armoured fighting vehicles within the area coloured RED on the plan.
- (ii) The use of live ammunition on certain ranges shown in YELLOW on the plan and consisting of (a) Old Lodge Rifle Range, (b) Old Lodge Mortar Range, (c) Pippingford Park 30 yd Rifle and Pistol Range, (d) Wrens Warren Range and (e) Two 30 yd Rifle Ranges at Brown Knoll.

Third Schedule

Rights of Way over the areas specified in paragraph (ii) of the Second Schedule.

NOTE: The areas edged in Blue on the plan are already requisitioned under Defence Regulation 51.

The Clerk reported a plan of the areas would be furnished shortly. The following matters had arisen since the last meeting.

(a) Gas Training. An area had been set apart subject to proper safeguards for the Public and approved by the Chairman.

(b) Ranger Day having reported that firing had taken place with live ammunition, but that no sentries had been posted or warning flags flown, the Clerk stated that he had at once communicated with the District Claims Officer with the view to appropriate action being taken on further occasions.

(c). The Military had enquired if the Conservators raised any objection to the present mortar range which was in use within the exempted area licenced for the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club. The Board decided that no further action was necessary.

4. FOREST ROADS. CHAPEL LANE. The Clerk reported that following very long negotiations, the Frontagers have contributed £71. 5. 0 and that he had asked Mr. Morice's Solicitors and the Lessee to contribute £30 in order to make up a total contribution of at least £100 from the Frontagers if Messrs Pannett's estimate of £295 was to be carried through. If this amount is not received in full the Chairman had instructed the Clerk to conclude the negotiations on the basis that the amount of work carried out by the Military be proportionately reduced. The Clerk asked for further instructions in regard to Mr. Morice and it was RESOLVED that the Board consider that he and his Lessee should contribute the above sum of £30 as soon as possible.

5. MISS SAVARY'S FENCE. The Clerk reported that he had communicated with the District Claims Officer on this matter.

6. CLERK'S ASSISTANT. The Clerk reported that Mr. Payne's deferment expired on 20th September, and he had been successful in obtaining a lady assistant. He also expressed his thanks to Admiral Beamish for his assistance in writing to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour whom he had interviewed on the matter subsequently.

7. KINGS STANDING. The Clerk reported that the original negotiations had now been completed by the Ministry of Works paying the acknowledgments, costs and fees to 29th September, 1943. The Clerk reported that he had interviewed representatives of the Post Office Telephone Department and the War Department Land Agent today in regard to the cable and tank crossings for which acknowledgments would be at the rate of 1/- per 100 yards for cable and a nominal amount of approximately 10/- for the 17 concrete tank crossing places. RESOLVED that further negotiations be left in the hands of the Clerk.

8. MR. KEEYS. The Clerk reported that he had interviewed Mr. Keys in regard to this matter this morning. In the course of the discussion Mr. Keys stated that he thought that the stream adjoining his property had been polluted from overflow from the National Camps premises in Wrens Warren. RESOLVED that Mr. Burdett be asked to analyse the water. It was further reported that Mr. Keys was using a spring and had laid a pipe therefrom to his property for which no licence had been granted. RESOLVED that he be informed that the pipe and spring be allowed to continue on the usual terms and payment of the annual acknowledgment of 2/6d.

9. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing balances in hand on the General Account of £441.11.1 and on the Wages Account of £1.16.10 against which there are cheques for £7 and £13.12.8 outstanding in favour of the Rangers.

Receipts. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been collected:

Rates	£107.5.6.
Acknowledgments	£4.17.4.
Refund of Surveyor's fees	£14.8.9.
Compensation	£43.1.10.
Contributions re. Roads	£121.5.0.
Forest Row Lumber Co. Deposit	£50.0.0.
East Grinstead Urban District Council	£15.10.0.

Accounts for payment. The Accounts were presented and it was RESOLVED that a cheque in payment thereof be drawn amounting to £11.5.0.

10. COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF RURAL ENGLAND. A request from this Committee for renewal of the contribution was considered. It was RESOLVED that the Board make a donation of £1.1.0.

11. RANGERS REPORTS.

Ranger Day

28th September, 1943.

Work. Since the last Board meeting I have in company with Ranger Kirby cut thistles beside the Goat-Wych Cross, Duddleswell-Pound Gate and Duddleswell-Gill's Lap roads. We have brushed out Crow's Nest Clump, also under young trees at Wych Cross. Rates. I have collected outstanding Forest Rates and made enquiries respecting same at Forest Row, Hartfield, Chuck Hatch and Danehill. Military. Troops of the R.C.A.S.C., stationed at Broadstone Farm, uprooted a footbridge crossing the stream near the Golf Club House on 17th July, 1943. After communication with the C.O. this bridge was replaced and securely fastened down. On 6th August this bridge was again displaced by the same troops. I interviewed the C.O. and he sent a party to replace the bridge. Troops of the 7th Armoured Division practice musketry in the Wrens Warren area across the open Forest. No flags or sentries were posted. This I reported to the Office. Sentries are now posted and I have warned the Head Master at Wrens Warren Camp. Other troops of the same division have made a range in a gravel pit on the Forest, near Legsheath. Here both a sentry and flag are posted when firing is in progress. Forest Row Lumber Co. This Company badly cut up a footpath near the Golf Club House, but this matter was adjusted between the manager and Mr. Fellowes, the Club Secretary. Sewage. The discharge of sewage from Coldharbour Manor on to the Forest has now ceased. Duddleswell. I had a telephone message from Capt. Williamson to say that it has been traced that the telephone was working from here on 25th July, 1942. Mr. Hardy. On 10th September, 1943 I had a telephone message from Mr. Hardy. He was on leave and wished me to meet him at Wych Cross on that day to show him sites requisitioned by the Military on the Forest. This I did, showing him work on the Nutley road, site at Duddleswell, Rifle Range at Old Lodge, and Camp at St. John's Common.

GILBERT DAY

Forest Ranger

October, 1943.

Ranger Kirby

Messrs. H. Pannett Ltd., of Brighton have now repaired the Nutley-Windmill Road. Mrs. M. Marshall of Greenwood gate Farm has now had the milk churn stand moved off the Forest. Assisted Ranger Day to replant and repair the footbridge at the 15th Golf Green which troops had damaged. Made some enquiries regarding the change of Commoners and collected some Forest Rate arrears. Lady Castlestewart has now had the water laid on from the main to her property at Marl pits, Nutley. The General Post Office are now laying underground pipe and cable from Duddleswell to the junction of the Crowborough and Uckfield road, also by Crows Nest to K.S.2. Posted up Out of Rounds notices in Clumps at Kings Standing etc. We have cut thistles on Crowborough Road, Kings Standing Road and the Goat Road. We have also cut and cleared under young trees at Wych Cross.

H. KIRBY.

Ranger

In regard to the water main on Lady Castlestewart's property, the Clerk reported that he was in touch with her Surveyors with a view to the completion of the necessary Licence. Approved.

12. LETTER BOX. ASHDOWN PARK. Application had been received from the Post Master, Tunbridge Wells asking permission to alter the site of this box, to which permission had already been given. Approved.

13. FOREST BOUNDARIES. COLDHARBOUR. A letter was read from Lord Kindersley asking for information of the respective obligations in regard to hedging and ditching as between owner and tenant on Coldharbour lands and the Conservators. A detailed letter was read from Mr. Marsh in which he stated that it would appear the only

responsibility of the Board was to see that no damage was done to the existing boundaries and it was RESOLVED that Lord Kindersley be informed accordingly.

14. MINISTRY OF SUPPLY. Further application in respect of extraction routes necessary to remove timber from Cripps Warren, Plaw Hatch and Cherry Orchard, Broadstone Warren was submitted with plans upon the Department being responsible for any damage to turf used for grazing and to make good any damage done to gates, hedges and fences. The original route to Hospital Farm had been changed by arrangement with the owners of the property. Consent had been given to the Department accordingly. Approved.

15. RECREATION GROUND, NUTLEY. A letter was received from Col. Miller in which he stated that application had been made through Messrs. Gillham to improve the approach to the Mission Church adjoining the Recreation Ground by means of a cinder track across the existing track on the west side of the green to an opening in the Boundary railing on the main road. RESOLVED that the application be approved subject to revocation on three months notice at any time and upon the applicants paying an annual acknowledgment of 6d.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Commoners duly convened and held by notices posted on the Principal doors of the Churches of the Parishes and Ecclesiastical Districts to which the Forest extends by notice sent to each Commoner more than 14 days prior to this date and by advertisement in two newspapers circulating the neighbourhood to wit, The Sussex Daily News and the East Grinstead Observer, and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, at 1.30.p.m.

J.R. Owen Esq., Chairman.

Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Col. A.E. Barchard, Messrs. F.T. Ridley, W. Mitchell, L.A. Wood, H.L. Stevenson, N. Stephens, H.C. Hett, H. Swire, John Rowe, S.J. Marsh, J. Godwin-King, J.R. Coulthard.

The Clerk read a copy of the notice convening this meeting.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN. On the proposition of Col. Miller it was RESOLVED that Mr. J.R. Owen be elected Chairman for this meeting.

2. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were, read, confirmed and signed.

3. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS. The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill three vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Lt. Col. G.R. Miller and Mr. F.T. Ridley. It was RESOLVED that the three retiring Conservators be re-elected.

4. ELECTION OF RECREATION GROUND SUPERINTENDENTS. It was proposed by Mr. G.D. Haslam and RESOLVED that the Recreation Ground Superintendents be re-elected as follows:

Nutley	Lt. Col. G.R. Miller.
Fairwarp	Col. A.B. Barchard.
Colemans Hatch	Mr. J.R. Owen, J.P.
Forest Row	Mr. C.G. de Rougemont.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS. Mr. Stevenson enquired as to the reinstatement of the Forest at the end of the war and the position in regard to fires. The Chairman stated satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Military who had co-operated in dealing with outbreaks of fire.

Miss Hett raised the question of cutting fire breaks near Little Birches.

6. VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN. On the proposition of Mr. Marsh a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman for his able conduct of the meeting.

J.R. Owen

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 1st December, 1943 at 2 p.m.

J.R. Owen Esq., Chairman in the Chair.

J. Godwin King Esq., Vice Chairman.

Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, S.J. Marsh, John Rowe, W. Mitchell, F.T. Ridley and Col. A.B. Barchard, and F.B. Richards.

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Messrs. A.F. Harland, H.W. Looker, G.D. Haslam, H. Waters and Lt. Commdr. H.R. Hardy.

1. DEATH OF MRS. MUNN. The Chairman made very sympathetic reference to the loss which the Board has sustained by the sudden death of Mrs. Munn and her valuable services as the first lady Conservator. Those present stood in tribute to her memory.

2. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed. The Clerk was instructed to resume the original practice of circulating a copy of the Minutes to every member.

3. MEMBERSHIP. A letter was read from the Clerk of the East Sussex County Council stating that the following representatives had been re-elected for three years from 1st January, 1944.

Col. A.E. Barchard, Col. R.S. Clarke, Messrs. J. Godwin King, H.W. Looker and F.B. Richards.

The Clerk was instructed to ask the other Local Authorities for their nominations.

4. TRAINING AREAS. The map of the training areas had been received from the Military authorities and copies privately supplied to the Chairman and the two Rangers

The secret large scale map of the Gas Training area was produced.

5. FOREST ROADS. CHAPEL LANE. A letter was read from the Ashdown Forest Hotel Secretary complaining of the poor work on this road. Considerable discussion then took place as to whether the Contractors have carried out the repairs in accordance with the estimate and specification. The Chairman stated he had inspected the road and was satisfied with the work, but suggested that 95% of the claim be now paid and the balance in six months time. The Clerk reported that the District Claims Officer was also satisfied and was now prepared to discharge the whole liability. There appeared to be some difference of opinion amongst the Frontagers as regards the finish of the work. It was RESOLVED that the District Claims Officer and the Contractors be asked to meet the Forest Row Committee on the site.

6. KINGS STANDING. The Clerk reported that the W.D. Land Agent and the Post Office Telephone Department had now served the necessary requisition notices which were having his attention.

7. MR. KEEYS. The following reply from Mr. Burdett was read.

T. Burdett, F.I.S.E., M.R.S.I.
Council Offices, Beacon Road,
Crowborough, Sussex.

R.W Fovargue Esq.,
Clerk to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest, Battle.

Dear Mr. Fovargue,

National Camp, Wrens Warren

I have duly received your letter of the 9th instant and have personally investigate; the point you make therein.

The sewage purification plant at the Camp is responsible for an occasional visit by myself or the Deputy Surveyor for the purpose of giving assistance to the Management. Generally speaking we have found the effluent to reach a high degree of purification but conditions were not quite so good when I visited yesterday.

I interviewed Mr. Keep and advised him that, in my opinion, quite apart from the effluent of the small purification works discharging to the stream, the use of the latter for domestic purposes must always be a risky procedure unless the water is boiled. The presence of the Camp now adds to the risks.

In my opinion there will be no risk to cattle in their using the water.

In view of the above you may not now deem it necessary for the water to be analysed. I am of the opinion that this would serve no useful purpose but will arrange for a sample to be taken if you still desire this.

Incidentally, Mr. Keays told me a little past history and was complaining that the Conservators were asking for 2/6d a year in return for the easement for the pipe line from the spring on the Forest to his cottage. Did I think he ought to pay this? I replied, "Most certainly, and at the same time obtain permission to deepen your spring so that you have no occasion to fetch water from the spring".

Yours truly,
T. BURDETT
Surveyor

On the instructions of the Chairman an analysis had been since taken. The analyst had certified "As submitted I cannot pass this water as safe for drinking purposes". A letter was also read from Mr. Keays stating he had disconnected the pipe leading to the spring. RESOLVED that no further action be taken.

8. FINANCES ETC. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing a balance in hand on the General Account of £598.2.11 and a Balance due to the Bank of £1.17.10 on the Wages Account. There is also a further cheque for £13.12.8 drawn in favour of Ranger Kirby.

Receipts. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been collected.

<u>Rates</u>	£169.8.0
Acknowledgments	£0.2.6
Compensation	£1.5.0

Local Authorities Contributions

East Sussex County Council		
1943, 2 nd Instalment Precept	77.10.0	
less refund due 31 st Dec. 1942	<u>33.10.1.</u>	43.19.11
Cuckfield Rural District Council		
1943, 2 nd Instalment Precept	15.10.0	
less refund due 31 st Dec. 1942	<u>6.14.0.</u>	8.16.0

The Clerk has also applied for the following amounts

East Grinstead Urban District Council	
1943, 2 nd Instalment Precept	15.10.0
less refund due 31 st Dec. 1942	<u>6.14.0.</u>

Uckfield Rural District Council	
2 nd Instalment Precept, 1942	46.10.0
Plus amount due 31/12/	42 44.8.0.
Fewer amounts repayable	
31/12/41 5.19.6.	<u>38.8.6.</u>

Accounts for payments. The accounts were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques in payment thereof be drawn amounting to £87.1.1.

9. RANGERS REPORTS.

Ranger Kirby

December, 1943.

Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Supply are now having the fir trees out near Wych Cross.

The Military have deposited a load of litter on the Forest at a point Map reference 87.5. 48.7., also another load at 91.5. 47.5. The Military have cut down two oak trees at 87.5. 48.7. I had four weeks collecting Forest Rates. Posted up notices of Commoners meeting on Church Doors. Repaired footbridge at Dodds Bottom. Cut fire cordon at Rough Ground.

Yours faithfully,

H. KIRBY.

Ranger Day

23rd November, 1943.

Gentlemen,

Forest Rates. From 4th October, 1943 till 27th October, 1943 in company with Ranger Kirby I collected Forest Rates, total £27.18.0. This amount I posted to Battle on 2nd November, 1943. Timber. The Ministry of Supply, Home Timber Department commenced cutting trees on the Forest on October 21st. These trees are situate on the West Hoathly road between Hindleap and Press Ridge Warrens. Mrs. Scott-Elliot, Prelude, Coleman's Hatch, requested to be permitted to be allowed to throw timber on to the Forest. These trees were on her property, and she wished to have them thrown on to the Forest to save her garden. I reported the application to Col. Miller and he advised that permission be granted subject to clearing top etc. Highgate Road, Forest Row. On 4th November, 1943 Messrs. Pannett commenced the repair of a section of this road. These repairs were completed on 13th November, 1943. The road was inspected by W. Owen on 16th November, 1943. Cripps Corner. The executors of the late Major L. Darwin have thrown out the alleged encroachment and a new boundary fence is being erected. This was inspected by Mr. Owen on 16th November, 1943. Footbridge, Dodd's Bottom. I assisted Ranger Kirby to repair this bridge.

GILBERT DAY.

Forest Ranger

10. MEETINGS 1944. RESOLVED that the meetings of the Board be held on and February, 5th April, 5th July and 4th October at 2.30 p.m. and the Commoners Annual Meeting at 1.30 p.m. on 6th December followed by the meeting of the Board.

11. ANNUAL MEETING. The Chairman reported that Rear Admiral Beamish, Lt. Col. G.R. Miller and Mr. F.T. Ridley had been re-elected as Conservators for the ensuing three years from 1st January, 1944 and the existing Recreation Ground Superintendents had been re-appointed until the next Annual Meeting.

J.R. Owen

Chairman

Meeting of the Forest Row Committee was duly convened and held at The Ashdown Forest Hotel, Forest Row on Tuesday, 21st December, 1943.

J. R. Owen Esq., Chairman.

Messrs. J. Godwin King, John Rowe, H. Waters, J.R. Coulthard and Wm. Mitchell with Major W. Brooker, District Claims Officer and Mr. Pannett.

The Committee inspected the road and found it in generally satisfactory condition notwithstanding the heavy rains of the last week-end. The Military were at the time of inspection making extensive use of the road and using a Car Park on the Forest opposite Mr. Rowe's house and covering the ground with ashes which it was felt would cause more water to flow across the road. The Committee then proceeded to consider the general position. It was pointed out that Mr. Pannett contracted to scarify and reshape the road, fill in bad holes and low places with flints, re-

surface with gravel, slurry and roll with a 2½ ton lorry for the price of £295. The Military contended that they were only responsible for damage caused by their use of the road and that the Frontagers must contribute up to £100. These contributions having reached £88.5.0 the amount of the contract and fees had been reduced to the figure of £257.5.0. The District Claims Officer stated that he had inspected the work on the 18th November, 1943 and was satisfied that the contract had been carried out. He had therefore recommended the payment of the War Office contribution of £168.10.0 which had now been received by the Conservators. He also explained that this settlement had been arrived at with the Clerk on the basis that the Military would not continue to use the road; on the other hand, if further damage was caused by renewed use, a new claim for compensation would arise without contribution from the Frontagers. He also suggested that the Car Park should be formally requisitioned by the War Office so that that position could also be regularised. Mr. John Rowe stated that the only objection to the work came from the Hotel Company and this was apparently due to the water coming from the Forest without any drain, but in his opinion the Frontagers generally had a very much better road. It was RESOLVED

(a) that this Committee are satisfied that Messrs. Pannett have carried out the contract and should be paid £220 on account and the balance after inspection by the Forest Row Committee before the February meeting of the Board.

(b) The Clerk be instructed to suggest that the new Car Park be the subject of formal requisition. The thanks of the meeting were tendered to Major Brooker for attending to clear up these points.

Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 2nd February, 1944 at 2.30 p.m.

J. R. Owen Esq. Chairman

J. Godwin King Esq. Vice Chairman.

Col. A.E. Barchard, Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Messrs. S.J. Marsh, G.D. Haslam, J.R. Coulthard, G.F. Webb, A.F. Harland, F.E. Richards, John Rowe, H. Waters, W. Mitchell, F.T. Ridley.

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Messrs. H.W. Looker and F.H. Nias.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN. It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. J.R. Owen be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year and Mr. J. Godwin King Vice Chairman for the ensuing year and hearty thanks be accorded to them for their past services.

2. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES. It was unanimously RESOLVED that the Standing Committees (as under) be re-elected.

General Purposes Committee

The Chairman and Vice Chairman ex Office, Admiral Beamish, J.R. Coulthard, Col. R.S. Clarke, Messrs. A.F. Harland, H.R. Hardy, F.E. Richards, John Rowe, H.W. Looker, G.D. Haslam and F.H. Nias.

Forest Row Committee

The Chairman and Vice Chairman ex Office, Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, H. R. Hardy, Wm. Mitchell, John Rowe and Harry Waters.

Emergency Committee

The Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Chairman of the Forest Row and Maresfield Committees and John Rowe.

Maresfield Committee

The Chairman and Vice Chairman ex Office, Admiral Beamish, Messrs. A.F. Harland, G.D. Haslam, S.J. Marsh, F.T. Ridley and Lt. Col. G.R. Miller.

3. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board (having been previously circulated) were confirmed and signed.

4. MEMBERSHIP. The Clerk reported that the Local Authorities had re-appointed their existing representatives except in the case of the East Grinstead Urban District Council where Mr. G. F. Webb had been appointed in the place of the late Mrs. Munn. The Chairman extended a welcome to Mr. Webb.

5. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing a balance in hand on the General Account of £705.10.8 and a balance due to the Bank of £41.10.6 on the Wages Account.

Receipts. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been collected.

Rates.	£74.19.6.
Costs.	£1.1.6.
Acknowledgments.	£54.13.0.
Compensation.	£190.19.7.

Local Authorities Contributions

Uckfield Rural District Council

2 nd Instalment Precept, 1943	46.10.0
Plus amount due 1942	48.8.6.
Fewer amounts repayable	
	84.18.6

East Grinstead Urban District Council

1943, 2 nd Instalment Precept	15.10.0
less refund due 1942 <u>6.14.0.</u>	8.16.0

The accounts were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques in payment thereof be drawn amounting to £64.11.4.

Estimates. The Clerk presented the following estimates.

General Account

Clerk's salary	200.0.0
Clerk petty payments (including hire of Room, postages, etc.)	32.0.0
Rangers' salary	340.0.0
Printing, stationery, advertising and Sundries	40.0.0
Rangers' expenses	50.0.0
Audit stamp	<u>8.0.0</u>
	670.0.0

Receipts

General Account.	<u>360.0.0</u>
	310.0.0

£310 payable as follows

East Sussex County Council.	155.0.0
East Grinstead U.D.C. '	31.0.0
Uckfield R.D.C.	93.0.0
Cuckfield R.D.C.	<u>31.0.0</u>
	310.0.0

RESOLVED that the same be approved and the Local Authorities notified accordingly.

Balances. RESOLVED that such sum as may be settled by the Clerk be placed in a reserve account in the Post Office Savings Bank in the names of the Chairman and Clerk.

6. RANGERS' REPORTS.

Ranger Day 25th January, 1944.

Golf Links. I investigated the cause of a complaint made by Mr. Wolfson, Royal Ashdown Golf Club. This was the cutting of the 5th Fairway on the Golf Links, I interviewed the Adjutant of the Troops concerned, and he promised to prevent a repetition of the occurrence if possible.

Gas Site. (Read in Committee).

A Gas Site had apparently been prepared and used on the Forest in the Vetchery area. This I reported to the Office.

Cripps Corner Boundary. On 22nd December, 1943, I was present at Cripps Corner with Cdr. Darwin's agent and set marking stakes of the new boundary as set out by Mr. Harry Waters. On January 6th, 1944, last Mr. Mitchell, a Land Agent and assisted to survey and map this boundary. A copy of this map was sent to the Office for consideration by the Board of Conservators. Approved.

Searchlights. Two new Searchlight sites have been occupied on the Forest, one on the Ladies Golf Links and another near Wych Cross. There is also an O.P. Hut on the Nutley Road.

Culvert at Chelwood Gate. Owing to a complaint received via the Office I inspected a culvert in the Chelwood Gate area. This I found to be damaged and that the damage was undoubtedly caused by troops. On receipt of a further communication, I asked Mr. Waters to view the culvert and to estimate for the repair thereof. This I believe him to have done.

Live Ammunition Exercise. On instructions received from the Office I patrolled the Gills Lap, Wren Warren, Greenwood Gate area from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. on 20th January, 1944. The occasion was a Scheme for Troops involving the firing of live ammunition. In my opinion all reasonable precautions were taken to prevent harm to men or beast.

Rate Arrears. I have made enquiries in respect of these in Forest Row, Chuck Hatch and Hartfield.

GILBERT DAY.
Forest Ranger

Culvert, Chelwood Gate. The Clerk reported that he had made the necessary claim upon the District Compensation Officer for the damaged culvert and the estimate of Messrs. H. & E. Waters had been accepted for the execution of the repairs. RESOLVED that his actions be approved and the Contractors asked to arrange that the level of the bay be lowered to prevent the accumulation of water.

Searchlight sites. The Clerk reported these would be requisitioned and compensation rent be paid at the rate of £1. per site.

Ranger Kirby 2nd February, 1944.

The G.P.O. are now taking the telephone poles and wires down between Duddleswell and Kingstanding. I understand all overhead wires are to come down for a radius of one mile from ES 2. The Military have cut down 30 oak trees at the Vetchery entrance. Trees about 25ft high. The Military tanks and guns have done damage to the Nutley-Windmill road since it was repaired last July. The Military have taken up the gas fence enclosure and re-erected it about one hundred yards south. (In Committee). Inspected the de-requisitioned area at Marlpits. Several old tins lay about and eight holes have been dug, the largest being 5ft long, 2ft wide and 3ft deep. The other holes are smaller. On 20th January I patrolled the Forest to see the 43rd Divisional School, Home Forces had adequate safety precautions to man and beast in their training. Made some enquiries in regard to Rate arrears.

Yours faithfully,
H. KIRBY

Windmill lane, Nutley. RESOLVED that the Maresfield Committee be asked to meet the District Compensation Officer at Windmill Lane and settle the question of repairs to the road; further that Miss Savary be required to remove the encroaching fence within seven days after demand and on failure to do so, the Rangers carry out the removal at her expense.

Gas Fence. Mr. Marsh thanked the Chairman for his assistance in arranging this matter so satisfactorily. The following letter was read from the Assistant Director of Claims and its contents noted.

55, Southampton Street,
Farnborough,
Hants.

SET./1/15/86
Your ref RWF/BG/A.

Dear Sir,

Ashdown Forest Training Area

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 10th inst.

Captain Tewson (Training Areas Liaison Officer for Sussex), has already advised this Office that due to an error certain fencing work in connection with the gas training area has been erected in the wrong place. This matter is being taken up with the Military Headquarters concerned, with a request that the error be remedied without delay.

Regarding the question of water supplies for the Maresfield area, the whole aspect of possible contamination was thoroughly explored with the Regional Engineer to the Ministry of Health. The fullest technical information was supplied to him, and his written clearance was secured. This office accordingly does not visualise any difficulties arising in this connection.

I shall be only too pleased, of course, to deal with any points which may be raised by the Board of Conservators when they next meet, and await hearing further from you.

Yours faithfully,

F. D ANDREWS. Major. for Lt. Col.
Assistant Director of Claims,
South Eastern Command.

R. W. Fovargue Esq.,
Conservators of Ashdown Forest,
Battle, Sussex.

Marlpits. A letter was read from the W. D. Land Agent stating that the Military Authorities are not able to carry out the repairs and asking the Board to make a claim. RESOLVED that the Land Agent be informed that the Board are not prepared in principle to adopt this course and he must make the appropriate arrangements for the restoration of the Forest.

7. GAS TRAINING. (In Committee). The Ranger having reported that the Canadian Army had started to use another area for gas training in the neighbourhood of the Vetchery, the Clerk stated he had immediately telephoned the Military Liaison Officer as no requisition had been served for this purpose. As a result the project had been at once abandoned.

8. KINGS STANDING. The Clerk reported that in exercise of the authority given to him he had settled the compensation for the tank crossings and protective works for the underground telephone line between Nutley and Duddleswell at 10/- to the Lord and Conservators respectively.

9. FOOTPATHS, COLEMANS HATCH. A letter was read from the Clerk of the Uckfield Rural District Council stating his Council have decided to record the three paths mentioned by him in September, 1942 as unadmitted.

10. FOREST ROADS. The report of the Forest Row Committee having been previously circulated was approved. The requisition of the parking space had now been received. The Board consider it very desirable that the area should be concreted, with pipes to carry the water into the ditch on the North side of the road which has been recently repaired and thus avoid damage to the new surfacing. Mr. H. Waters agreed to fill up the present potholes as the Committee report that they are otherwise now satisfied with the condition of the road. The desirability of improving the road drainage was discussed. It was RESOLVED that Messrs. H. & E. Waters be instructed to lower the grating at the expense of the Board.

11. RECREATION GROUND, NUTLEY. Col. Miller presented a revised application from the Trustees of the Mission Hall, Nutley asking for consent to make a cinder path over the track on the North side of this ground in substitution for the short section leading to an opening in the boundary railing. RESOLVED that the substitution be approved on the same terms as the original application was permitted by the Board at their meeting in October, 1943.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 5th April, 1944 at 2.20 p.m.

J.R. Owen Esq., Chairman.

J. Godwin King Esq., Vice Chairman

Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Col. R.E. Barchard, Messrs. F.T. Ridley, F.E. Richards, A.F. Harland, G.F. Webb, J.R. Coulthard and S.J. Marsh.

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish and Mr. E.W. Looker.

1. MINUTES. The Minutes having been previously circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. RANGERS' REPORTS.

Ranger Day 28 March, 1944.

Controlled burning. During the last two months Ranger Kirby and I have burnt under control certain overgrown sections of the Forest. This was mostly done at the request of occupiers of property in the Tompsetts Bank and Colemans Hatch areas. Fears of the effect of incendiary bombs have led to these requests. Enemy action. Four 250 kilo H.E. bombs have fallen on the open Forest in the Wrens Warren area. Fires. I have assisted to extinguish numerous fires on the Forest, several of which have been serious owing to the dry season. Culvert at Water Farm. E. & E. Waters have completed repairs to this culvert. Bridge at Water Farm. I have had to report damage caused by troops to this bridge, causing it to be dangerous to cattle. Wrens Warren exercise. 43rd Divisional School have periodically held exercises in this area, using live ammunition. They appear to use every precaution to prevent injury to man or beast. Forest clumps. Considerable damage has been done to these Clumps by troops. Timber. The Ministry of Supply have had trees thrown in the High Beeches, Kidds Hill, Wrens Warren, Nutley Road and Kidbrook Wood areas.

GILBERT DAY,
Forest Ranger

Ranger Kirby 28 March 1944

Gentlemen,

On 15th February I met Col. Miller & Major Brooker at Nutley, Windmill Road, to inspect the damage done by military to this road. On 16th February I inspected the fence round Fords Green and saw 13 posts have been broken off and the iron pipe railing broken by troops. The 43rd Divisional School, Home Forces were training at Gills Lap on the following dates, 20th February, 11th March and 28th March. The military have cut down 8 young trees in Kings Standing clump, map reference 91.2., 48.9. Also at Camp Hill clump 90.7., 47.8 the military have broken down the fence, cut and taken away 3 old trees, dug 2 holes, and the tanks have run over the young trees which some will not recover. I had three days burning under control at Forest Row for security reasons also five days burning for the Forest Row Golf Club. The E.S.C.C. have now erected a fence round the gravel and stone at Kings Standing. 18 forest fires have occurred burning a total of 230 acres.

H. KIRBY
Forest Ranger

Forest Clumps. The Chairman reported that he had been in touch with Southern Command in regard to the damage done to the clumps some of which had been quite needless. Orders had now been given which would involve disciplinary action on any breach and it was hoped this would have the desired effect. Motor Bus Signs. RESOLVED that these be regularised by grant of revocable licences on payment of a nominal acknowledgment. Highway Works. The Clerk was instructed to ascertain how long the East Sussex County Council would require the office and tool shed on the Forest.

3. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing a balance in hand on the General Account of £257.9.2 and a balance in hand on the Wages Account of £21 - 2 against which there is a cheque outstanding in favour of Mr. H. Kirby for £13.12.8.

Receipts. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received.

Rates.	£5.0.6.
Acknowledgements.	£19.18.9.
Compensation.	£6.19.7.
Miscellaneous.	£0.5.0.

Local Authorities Contributions.

East Sussex County Council
1st Inst. Precept, 1944. £77.10.0

The Accounts were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment amounting to £61.7.1.

4. RATES. The Clerk asked that the undermentioned rates be treated as irrecoverable. Every effort had been made to trace the ratepayers but without success.

Danial, Mrs.	0.3.6
Hope, F.H.D.	0.2.6.
Minto, A.W.	1.4.0
Pike, Mrs. W.M.	1.8.0
Smallwood, J.E.	0.1.0
Voil, Miss B.	1.2.0
Williamson, G.F.	0.6.0
Willett, Mrs.	0.9.0

Approved.

5. RUBBISH DUMPS. The following report was read from Ranger Day on which the Clerk stated he had taken prompt action where necessary.

Dear Sir,

29th February, 1944.

Two deposits of rubbish have been dumped on the Forest in the Ridge area west of Colemans Hatch. "A" is near the clump on the Ridge road known as "The Hollies", close to the road leading to Windy Ridge, M.R.88.4, 51.6. This consists of a large number of milk and food tins evidently emptied and dumped by troops, also a number of oil drums and petrol cans. There is no evidence to show that unit deposited this rubbish. "B". This dump consists of old used beaver board paper and other house refuse. From letters etc., I found that this litter had been cleared out from Brackenhill, South Hartfield at the time that it had been taken over by the Canadian Dental Corps. I called at Brackenhill and was promised that this litter should be cleared away, but this has not been done, M.R. 88.7, 51.8. The Ranger was instructed to burn any refuse which still remains.

6. MARESFIELD COMMITTEE. The following report from the Committee was read.

Specification

Windmill Lane, Nutley.

The following work should be carried out:

- (1). Clear out and reinstate all ditches and repair any broken drains, pipes etc.
- (2). Scrape off mud, fill in ruts and holes with hard core and roll in - generally to reinstate the road to the same condition as it was before being damaged by the military - supplying all labour and material.

RESOLVED to submit specifications to Messrs. Pannett & Messrs. H. & E. Waters and to forward the tenders to Major Brooker for approval when received.

Re. Enclosure outside Miss Savary's property

Major Brooker was informed that the Board proposed to remove the barbed wire fence. He stated he could not give permission to do so as it had been erected by the military. Miss Savary was informed that for the time being the fence could remain.

Since the meeting an estimate of £125 had been received from Messrs. Pannett and forwarded to the Compensation Officer who replied that H.Q. Sussex District had decided to put the road out-of-bounds and it was not necessary to spend £125 on the repairs. Messrs. Pannett on further enquiry state they cannot see how to lower the cost. The Board also considered the encroachment caused by the barbed wire.

RESOLVED that the Rangers be instructed to remove the barbed wire; further the Clerk negotiate a settlement of the road claim with Major Brooker, and Lady White be informed that repairs to the road will be limited to the amount recovered from the War Department.

7. LAND AT MARLPITS, NUTLEY. A letter was read from the War Department Agent stating the War Department were under no liability to make good damage to requisitioned land and the remedy was to claim for a cash payment of compensation. The matter was now reconsidered and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed in this and similar cases to prepare a compensation claim and it be left to his discretion to decide when he required the assistance of a Surveyor in the case of larger areas.

8. MILITARY REQUISITION. The Clerk reported that two further small requisitions had been received which were receiving his attention.

J. Godwin King
Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday, 5th July, 1944 at 2.30 p.m.

J. Godwin King Esq. in the Chair.

Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Col. A.E. Barchard, Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Messrs. F.B. Richards, A.F. Harland, H.M. Looker, S.J. Marsh, G.F. Webb, F.T. Ridley, W. Mitchell and John Rowe.

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman and Col. R.S. Clarke.

1. MINUTES. The Minutes, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. FINANCES. (a) The Bank Pass Books were produced showing a balance in hand of £261.9.3 on the General Account and a balance in hand of £10.4.2 on the Wages Account.

Receipts. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received.

Rates	£53.18.6.
Acknowledgments	£24.3.7.
Compensation	£8.8.2.
Miscellaneous	£125.0.0.
Refund of Surveyor's fees	£2.2.0.
2½ Consols.	£0.19.11.

Local Authorities Contributions.

Cuckfield R.D.C.
1st Inst. Precept, 1944. £15.10.0.

Since the last meeting the following cheques had been drawn and it was RESOLVED that they be confirmed.

Forest Row Lumber Co. Refund of deposit made at commencement of work	£50.0.0.
---	----------

Messrs. N. Pannett Ltd. Reinstating,
Windmill Lane, Nutley

£125.0.0.

The Accounts were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £70.5.4.

(b) Rate. The Clerk referred to the estimate of expenditure for the year as approved at the February meeting of the Board amounting to £670 of which £310 is to be borne by the Local Authorities. It was duly proposed and seconded 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 Act, 1845-1878 and the Commons Regulations (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act, 1885 and the Ashdown Forest Act 1937 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 owners and their respective acreages and the respective sums payable by them are set out in the Rate Book produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

3. MILITARY REQUISITIONS.

Kings Standing. The Clerk produced requisition and plan for the additional 24 acres on the South side of the existing site. Mr. Looker suggested that the requisition should be acknowledged subject to expressed conditions only. After consideration RESOLVED that the requisition be accepted on the same terms as the previous requisition. Marlpits, Nutley. The Clerk reported that the compensation in this case had been agreed at £4.4.0. with the fees in addition for the reinstatement of this area. Gas Area. The Clerk also reported that with the approval of the Chairman the requisition compensation had been settled at £25 per annum equally divided between the Lord and Conservators. Damage to Clumps. The Ranger having reported that about 20 trees in the Gills Lap clump had been cut by the Military (4th Canadian Armoured Division) the Clerk had taken up the matter with the Officer Commanding this Division, but without any satisfactory result. The Liaison Officer from Lindfield had however met the Chairman on the site when it had been agreed that all clumps will be fenced in and that "Out of Bounds" notices should be posted. The Rangers reported that the clumps had originally been fenced with barbed wire but the Military had cut this and that damage to other clumps had arisen previously. Having regard to the exclusion of the clumps for this Division, in order that further damage to the clumps may be prevented. Wych Cross. Requisition had been received for a small loop road connecting the two main roads and a nominal acknowledgment of 2/6d. had been agreed. Approved. Gun Sites. In view of the present activity from flying bombs various sites had been temporarily requisitioned with or without tents for gun emplacements and crews. It was also reported that the Military were parking vehicles extensively in and around the Chelwood -Wych Cross area and had erected hut and tents at Duddleswell Post Office. It was RESOLVED that these matters be referred to the Clerk and that he take such action as may be necessary with full power to settle terms of compensation.

4. RANGERS REPORTS.

Ranger Day 27th June, 1944.

Controlled Burning.

I have in company with Ranger Kirby supervised the burning under control of sections of the Forest in the Forest Row, Fairwarp and Chuck Hatch areas. We have also cut burnt gorse on Tompsetts Bank, and undergrowth from dangerous corners on the Priory Road and at Wych Cross. Footbridge, Ladies Golf Links. This footbridge was uprooted and thrown in the stream, probably by troops from Broadstone Farm. I interviewed the O.C. and he had the bridge very roughly replaced. (RESOLVED that the Clerk take up the matter of compensation with the District Claims Officer.)

Fires.

I have attended the following fires on the Forest.

25/4/44	Wrens Warren 1	0 acres.	Caused by workmen burning top.
9/5/44	Kidbrook Wood	30 acres.	Troops.
29/5/44	Newbridge	34 acres.	Unknown.
4/6/44	Newbridge	20 acres.	Unknown.

In extinguishing these fires I was assisted by troops and the N.F.S. Air Strip. An emergency landing strip has been prepared on the Forest in the Chelwood Gate area. This runs parallel with the Wych Cross - Chelwood Gate Road.

Road. A road has been cut with bulldozers across the Forest from the Kings Standing - Friars Gate road to Lone Oak Hall with a fork to Hundred Acre Rough.

GILBERT DAY
Forest Ranger.

Supplementary Ranger's Report. 5th July, 1944,
Anti Aircraft Artillery Units.
A.A. Artillery have taken up positions on the Forest as under.

Light A.A. Units.

Green Hall Toll.	M.R. 85.8.	52.2.
Wych Cross.	M.R. 85.7.	50.3.
Nutley Road.	M.R. 86.3.	49.9.

Heavy A.A. Units.

Windy Ridge.	M.R. 87.8.	51.1.
--------------	------------	-------

A P-plane was brought down in Hollies Down quarry on 2nd July, 1944.

GILBERT DAY.
Forest Ranger

Ranger Kirby July, 1944.

Gentlemen,

I have taken down the fence at Marl pits erected by the Military. Had four days burning under control at the Ladies Golf Course. Several fires have occurred. The cause was the Military. The Military have erected hut and tents near Duddleswell Post Office. The Nutley - Windmill road has now been repaired and "Out of Bounds" notices erected each end of the road. Also Messrs. E. Pannett Ltd. have repaired the road to Londonderry Farm, Nutley, the road to Crows Nest Duddleswell and the road to The Hermitage, Fairwarp. (The Chairman of the Maresfield Committee stated the first named road had been satisfactorily repaired.) The K.S.2 is about to erect a fence on the south side of the present fence where excavations are being done. Had ten days cutting black wood at Wych Cross and Forest Row.

Yours faithfully,

H. KIRBY.

5. MEMBERSHIP. The Cuckfield R.D.C. have re-appointed Mr. A.F. Harland as their representative.

6. WRENS WARREN. A letter was read from the Clerk of the Uckfield R.D.C. stating that his Council's Surveyor had advised against the taking of a sample of the water for the Board's requirements and the Rural Council had decided that they could not agree to pay for the cost of the analysis. Noted.

7. STOP SIGNS ON FOREST. Correspondence with the Southdown Motor Services Ltd was reported. The Executive Director contended that quite apart from economic rental and nominal acknowledgment the erecting of the signs had been carried out by the direction of the Ministry of War Transport. Be suggested on principle that the Company should be relieved from payment. Be agreed however to pay the acknowledgment of 6d. subject to a revision of the precedent of haying after the war. The Board regard the payment as a matter of principle and it was RESOLVED that the offer be accepted.

8. P.O. TELEPHONES. The Clerk reported in accordance with his general authority he had completed the necessary consent for the wayleave and additional vole.

9. P.T. MUGGERIDGE. The Clerk reported that the sum of £1.10.0 was owing to the Lord and Conservators in respect of this Licence, for outstanding acknowledgments. It was RESOLVED that if this amount is not paid by the end of July 1944, the Clerk be instructed to take legal proceedings for recovery of all sums due under the Licence, in which event the Clerk be instructed to serve notice revoking Licence.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 4th October, 1944 at 2 p.m.

J.R. Owen Esq., Chairman,

J. Godwin King Esq., Vice-Chairman

Lt. Col G.R. Miller., Col. A.E. Barchard, Messrs. F.T. Ridley, W. Mitchell, F.E. Richards, A.F. Harland, John Rowe,

J.R. Coulthard, G.D. Haslam, H.W. Looker & S.J. Marsh.

Apo1ogies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Col. R.S. Clarke and Mr G.F. Webb.

1. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting having previously been circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. RANGER'S REPORTS. 22nd September 1944.

Ranger Kirby

Gentleman,

The Military and the A.A. Batteries which were dealing with Flying bombs left the Forest on 20th July 1944. With the help of Ranger Day we have cut a fire Cordon on Stone Hill. Six flying bombs have been shot down on the Forest making holes 6ft. deep and 20ft across. No other damage was done. We have cut the thistles on Wych Cross & Goat road. The G.P.O. have now taken down the telephone poles between Duddleswell and Poundgate. The Military have deposited about 3 loads of tins on the Forest at Kingstanding. I have had several days collecting Forest rate. On Tuesday 19th September Kingstanding and Camphill Clumps were fenced in with stakes & barbed wire by Italian Prisoners.

H. Kirby.

Ranger Day

Camp Sites. All these sites on the Forest have been listed and map references given. These sites have now been evacuated and left in fair condition. Evacuations have been roughly filled in and a certain amount of tins disused ovens etc., are left littered about the sites. Gun Sites. During the month of July a number of Anti Aircraft Guns occupied positions on the Forest. These positions have now been relinquished and left in a condition similar to the above. Cricket Pavilion, Chelwood Gate. During Military occupation of the Chelwood Gate area of the Forest, Chelwood Gate cricket pavilion was extensively damaged by troops. This I reported to Admiral Beamish in his capacity as Superintendent of this recreation ground. The Pavilion was subsequently viewed by Admiral Beamish and Mr. Owen. Fire Break, Nutley. In company with Ranger Kirby, I have assisted to cut a fire break in the Stone Hill district of Nutley. Thistles. I have brushed the corners at Goat cross-roads, and cut thistles on the West Hoathly road. Hedge Brushings, New Lodge. I found a quantity of rhododendron brushings on the Forest, Opposite New Lodge. I request that these brushings should be cleared up, and burnt. This has been done. Sleeper Track, Shepherds Gate, Colemans Hatch. A sleeper track leading across the Forest near Shepherds Gate has become dilapidated, with a possible danger to users. I have sent a report on this matter to Mr. Fovargue.

Gilbert Day.

3. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing a balance in hand of £226.12.9. on the General account and £15.9.6. on the wages account.

Receipts. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received:

Rates	£112.18.0.
Acknowledgements	£1.14.0.
Compensation	£21.3.3.
Refund of Surveyor's fees	£2.2.0.
2½% Consols.	£0.19.11.
Miscellaneous	£2.10.0.

Since the last meeting the following cheques had been drawn and it was RESOLVED that they be confirmed:

Messrs. H. & E. Waters – repairs to bridge at A.F. Ladies Golf Club	£2.10.0.
Martins Garage – repairs to Ranger's motor Cycle, etc.	£16.7.2.

The Accounts for payment were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £13.14.3.

Cheques. RESOLVED that in, future cheques be signed by one Conservator instead of three as at present and counter-signed by the Clerk.

4. MILITARY REQUISITIONS. (a) Gun Sites. The Clerk reported that he had settled compensation with W.D. Land Agent for these and various temporary Parking places at £6.0.0. Approved. (b) Clumps. The Vice-Chairman reported the receipt of a reply from the War Office through Col. Clarke which had not satisfactorily dealt with the complaint. It was now stated that the military had fenced the clumps. The Chairman suggested that after the war these clumps would require to be replanted for the better preservation of the trees: alternatively new sites for planting should be selected. Approved. (c) Brown Knoll. A letter was read from the Training Liaison Officer stating that this range was no longer required. Ranger Kirby reported that it was in use yesterday. RESOLVED that the Clerk ascertain the precise requirements and intentions of the War Office. (d) Footbridge Ashdown Forest Ladies Golf Club. The cost of the repairs had been recovered from the Claims Department on completion of the work. (e) Relinquishment of the Forest. The Board discussed the steps to be taken when the Government Departments relinquish the Forest. It was RESOLVED that the following general procedure be adopted. (a) Reconsider rentals or basis of equivalent area where permanent erections remain on the Forest (b) Rangers be instructed to prepare details of all excavations, trenches, gun pits and other works for submission to and consideration by the District Committees (c) Government be asked through Admiral Beamish and Col. Clarke to provide labour and plant for reinstatement in preference to a monetary claim (d) a Surveyor be employed to prepare a formal claim so far as it maybe found necessary.

5. P.T. MUGGERIDGE. The Clerk reported that the outstanding acknowledgments had been paid and that the Licensee had asked for the cancellation of the Licence. As he was likely to continue the use of the road in its present condition it was RESOLVED that he be asked to state his future intentions in regard to his use of the road.

6. SLEEPERS TRACK, SHEPHERDS GATE. The following report was read from Ranger Day.

22nd September 1944.

Dear Sir,

A Sleeper Track near Shepherds Gate Colemans Hatch has become dilapidated with a possible danger to Commoners using it. It is formed of sleepers laid in pairs lengthwise about 70 in number and covers a length of about 100 yards. This track was laid about 20 years ago by H. & E. Waters of Forest Row, paid for by local subscription. I believe the originator of the idea for the track was the late Sir George Collier who then lived at Water Farm. The Track crosses a very wet stretch of Forest much trodden by cattle and was to serve a convenience to Sir George Collier and others proceeding to Coleman Hatch Church. Commoners now using it are Townsends from Yew Tree Cottage, Cards from Birch Farm and Mephams from Forest View Cottage. It is their way to Colemans Hatch Post Office, Inn etc. The last cause of dilapidation was cartage of timber from Misses Saville & Sturdy's' property by John Stennings & Sons Timber Merchants of East Grinstead, Their carters displaced about 12 of the sleepers

Yours sincerely,
Gilbert Day.

RESOLVED that Messrs. Stenning be called upon to make good the damage but that the Board do not intervene further in the matter which is outside their responsibilities or duties.

7. RECREATION GROUNDS. In reply to questions it was explained that the various grounds were provided for the recreation of the inhabitants of the various parishes under the jurisdiction of the respective Superintendents. The Board having no responsibility for their condition or upkeep.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Commoners duly convened and held by notices posted on the Principal Doors of the Churches of the Parishes and the Ecclesiastical Districts to which the Forest extends by notice to each Commoner more than 14 days prior to this date and by advertisement in two newspapers circulating the neighbourhood to wit, the Sussex Daily News and the East Grinstead Observer, and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, at 1.30 p.m.

Mesdames H.C. Hett & H.L. Stevenson, Messrs. W. Mitchell, H.J. Ridley, V. Stephens, J. Rowe, J.R. Coulthard, L.R. Wood (for P.S. Clarke Esq.), J.R. Owen Esq. and H. Strohmenger.

The Clerk read a copy of the notice convening this meeting.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN. On the proposition of Mr. J. Rowe it was RESOLVED that Mr. J. R. Owen be elected Chairman for this meeting.

2. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last annual General Meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

3. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS. The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill three vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. H. R. Hardy, G. D. Haslam and J. Rowe. It was RESOLVED that the three retiring Conservators be re-elected.

4. ELECTION OF RECREATION GROUND SUPERINTENDENTS. It was proposed and seconded that the Recreation Ground Superintendents be re-elected as follows:

Nutley	Lt. Col. G.R. Miller.
Fairwarp	Col. A.E. Barchard.
Colemans Hatch	Mr. J.R. Owen J.P.
Forest Row	Mr. C.G. de Rougemont.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS. Mr. H.J. Ridley raised a series of questions including vehicular traffic across the Fairwarp Recreation Ground, the circulation of an annual balance Sheet, representation of Commoners and election of Conservators. In regard to the rights of way he was asked to provide any necessary information, and the Clerk undertook to pursue the matter. Mr. Stephenson asked about the reinstatement of the Forest after the war and was informed that this matter was receiving the active attention of the Board. The question of Recreation Grounds was also raised and the Chairman replied that the matter had already been receiving consideration by the Board and it was intended to review the whole position after the war.

J.R. Owen
Chairman.

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 6th December, 1944 at 2.30 p.m.

J.R. Owen Esq. J.P. Chairman
J. Godwin King Esq. J.P. Vice-Chairman
Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Col. A. Barchard, Col. R.S. Clarke, Messrs. S.J. Marsh, G.F. Webb, A.F. Harland, F.E. Richards and H. Waters.

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish and Messrs. H.R. Hardy & H.M. Looker.

1. ASHDOWN FOREST HOTEL. A letter was read from Mr. Strohmenger, Chairman of the Ashdown Forest Hotel Company, stating dissatisfaction with the present condition of the road. Being in attendance he made a

further statement. At the request of the Chairman the Members of the Forest Row Committee had been asked to inspect the road and report their conclusions and they generally stated to the meeting that they thought the road was in far better condition than it was before work was executed in 1943. Mr. Waters explained that the ditches and gullies needed attention and Mr. Rove suggested that military traffic had again caused damage. After Mr. Strohmenger had withdrawn the matter was further discussed. It was RESOLVED that Major Brooker be invited to inspect the road as soon as the Clerk supplies him with information to show further Military user since December 1943.

2. COL. R. CLARKE. The Chairman extended a hearty welcome to Col. Clarke on his return from active service and expressed the pleasure of the Members of the Board at his presence amongst them again. Col. Clarke briefly returned thanks.

3. MINUTES. The minutes of the last meeting of the Board were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

4. FINANCES. The Pass Books were produced showing a balance in hand of £345.12.6 on the General Account and £4.17.6 on the Wages Account.

Receipts. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received:

Rates	£32.16.0.
Acknowledgements	£0.11.0.
Compensation	£3.10.0.
East Grinstead U.D.C.	£11.15.0.
Uckfield R.D.C.	£35.5.8.
2½% Consols	£0.19.11
Miscellaneous	£1.10.0

Since the last meeting the following cheques have been drawn and it was RESOLVED that they be confirmed:

East Sussex County Council	Refund of precept	£18.14.0.
Cuckfield Rural District Council	ditto	£3.14.10.

The Accounts for payment were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £79.19.6.

5. RANGERS REPORTS.

Ranger Day. 22nd November, 1944.

Military Excavations. I have made a survey of the northern part of the Forest listing gun pits, slit trenches, bomb and wire craters made by troops during training operations on Ashdown Forest. These I have marked on the map provided. Muggeridge's road. This road still remains metalled. Mr. Muggeridge is not a Commoner. Notice Boards. Mrs. Anderson of Hillside, Colemans hatch has applied for permission to re-erect a notice board at Sandy Road. She wishes to add "No Thoroughfare" to the direction sign. This road is maintained by private subscription and in peace time gets a lot of wear from picnickers. Mr. Lehmann of "The Ridge" Colemans hatch has re-erected his notice board and also Mr. Hambro, Hindleap Farm, Forest Row. Ashdown Hotel road. This road has been badly potholed for part of its length and is the subject of a separate report. Training Liaison Officer. I met Capt. Cobb on 3rd November, 1944. He was seeking information in respect of the situation of the military excavations on the Forest. These he copied from my map. He then went on to Ranger Kirby.

Forest Rates. I have collected some outstanding rates.

GILBERT DAY
Forest Ranger

Ranger Kirby December 1944.

Since the last Board meeting I have collected several Forest rates and paid some into the office at Battle. Have patrolled the Forest and checked up all gut pits, trenches and craters, and marked same on my map. Capt. Cobb (Liaison Officer) has now called and copied off my map on to his the marking of trenches etc., for his information.

On the Forest by the Vetchery Road eight notice boards and posts are erected. Four by military and four by the Vetchery Estate.

Military Boards.

1. No access to Ashdown Forest Training Area.
2. Out of bounds to W.D. traffic by order, C.R.E. Central Sussex.
3. Out of bounds to W.D. traffic by order, C.R.E. Central Sussex.
4. Track Vehicle Park.

Vetchery Boards.

5. Please drive slowly Danger Children.
6. No Through road. To private estate only.
7. No Through road. To private estate.
8. Private road. No parking allowed.

Posted up notices of Commoners meeting on Church doors.

The Military have now a miniature rifle range on the Forest between Millbrook & Vetchery, reference No. 87.1., 48.3.

HERBERT KIRBY

Forest Ranger

Notice Boards. RESOLVED that additional wording be permitted on the direction signs, as may be settled by the Chairman and Clerk.

(In Committee)

6. REINSTATEMENT OF FOREST. Col. Clarke reported the following reply from the War Office

119/S.East/1125

10th November, 1944.

Griggs has asked me say in reply to your letter of 10th October about Ashdown Forest, that he is sorry but in view of the very limited number of suitable training areas on South-East Commend the release of Ashdown Forest cannot be considered at present. But the necessity for retaining the area will be reviewed on 1st January, 1945.

With regard to the compensation, you might like to consult the Assistant Director of Claims, South-Eastern Command, 55, Southampton Street, Farnborough, Hampshire, as this officer would be able to advise you on the appropriate steps to be taken. On the other hand, you may think it better to leave this matter until future training requirements in the area are more clearly defined, as they should be by next January.

(Sgd.) R. ?????HT

Col. R.S. Clarke, M.P.

The Chairman stated that he had inspected the maps so far as they had been prepared by the Rangers and thought it desirable that the Emergency Committee should deal with this matter with the assistance of Col. Clarke and Admiral Beamish. The matter could be conveniently discussed with the Assistant Director of Claims and the general principles settled. It was RESOLVED that the Chairman's suggestion be adopted.

7. EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL. The County Surveyor having applied for the further use of an office and tool shed on Forest land for a further period of six months and the Chairman having given his consent RESOLVED that the latter's action be confirmed.

8. SLEEPER TRACK, SHEPHERDS GATE. A letter was read from Messrs. J. Stenning & Son stating that they had now repaired this track.

9. MILITARY REQUISITIONS, BROWN KNOLL, ASHDOWN FOREST. It was reported that the military use of this range had ceased on 16th October, 1944.

10. MR. P.T. MUGGERIDGE. The Clerk reported that the acknowledgements had now been paid but he had not had an opportunity of inspecting the site since writing Mr. Muggeridge enquiring his future intentions, but he hoped to report at the next meeting. RESOLVED that the matter be adjourned accordingly.

11. RATE ARREARS. The Clerk reported that most of the rates had been collected but in oases where these were still outstanding he was taking the necessary measures for recovery.

12. TIME OF MEETING. RESOLVED that until further notice the Meeting of the Board be held at 2.30 p.m., on all occasions.

13. FOOTPATH, OLD LODGE ESTATE. A letter was read from Messrs. Wood & Walford calling attention to the state of the footpath crossing the Forest between the Windmill, Marlpits and Old Lodge, and asking for advice on the liability of repair. RESOLVED that they be informed that this matter is not the liability of the Board.

14. LONDONDERRY FARM, NUTLEY. A letter was read from Mr. C. Turner asking the Board to erect rails across two narrow lanes at this farm to prevent cattle straying into Nutley Village. RESOLVED that the Board are not willing on principle to execute the suggested works.

15. CHELWOOD GATE RECREATION GROUND. A letter was read from Admiral Beamish stating that as a result of action which he had taken he had now received a total of £94 - two thirds of it from the British Government and one-third from the Canadian, which, added to an already accepted claim of £29 from the Canadian authorities, makes a total of £123.15.4.

16. RECREATION GROUND, FOREST ROW. Mr. Coulthard made further reference to the unsatisfactory condition of this ground and felt that some action should be taken by the Board. After considerable discussion it was ultimately RESOLVED that the Forest Row Committee view the site and invite the Superintendent of the ground with representatives of the Cricket and Football Clubs to attend.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A Meeting of the Committee duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Friday 12th January 1945 at 2.30 p.m.

J. R. Owen Esq., In the Chair
Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Lt.-Col. Ralph S. Clarke & Lt.-Col. G. R. Miller

REINSTATEMENT OF FOREST: The Committee having considered in detail the steps which should be taken when the Military no longer require the Forest for training purposes and relinquish those areas which have been formally requisitioned, are unanimously of opinion that the following general principles should be followed:

1. To stipulate that the Military authorities provide the necessary labour and plant to reinstate the Forest to its original condition in preference to the Board submitting a monetary claim for compensation and having to carry out the necessary works by direct labour or contract.

2. That any matters requiring discussion should proceed through the Assistant Director of Claims at Aldershot leaving him to conduct any negotiations with the Canadian Military Authorities.

3. That Rear Admiral Beamish and Col. Clarke be asked to seek the support of the Ministry of Town & Country Planning (or his Parliamentary Secretary) setting out the principles on which the Board have in view for the proper reinstatement of the Forest, hearing in mind the damage which has been caused to the area by reason of the Excavations and incidentally pointing out the probability that certain areas about 150 acres in extent will be permanently taken from the Forest by the camp site at Bunkers Hill and the wireless station at Kings Standing; further that the Clerk be instructed to prepare a concise memorandum for submission to the Minister with a plan and he attend such meeting.

4. That steps be taken after conference with the War Agricultural Committee to re-sow with suitable grass seed any or all areas of the Forest where the vegetation has been destroyed for emergency landing grounds or road making training areas, etc.
5. Action be taken to remove any concrete tank crossings and pylons.
6. The Lord of the Manor be informed of the action which the Board intend to take.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Now, on Wednesday, 7th February, 1945 at 2.30 p.m.

J.R. Owen Esq., J.P., Chairman
J. Godwin King Esq., J.P., Vice-Chairman
Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Col. A.E. Barchard, Messrs. F.E. Richards, A.F. Harland, S.J. Marsh, J.E. Coulthard, W. Mitchell, F.T. Ridley, G.F. Webb, G.D. Haslam.

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish., Col. Ralph S. Clarke, Messrs H.R. Hardy and H.V. Looker.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN. It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. J.R. Owen to appointed Chairman for the ensuing year and Mr J. Godwin King Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year and hearty thanks be accorded to them for their past services.

2. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES. It was unanimously RESOLVED that the Standing Committees (as under) be re-elected.

General Purposes Committee

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex Office, Admiral Beamish, J.R. Coulthard, Col. R.S. Clarke, Messrs. A.F. Harland, H.R. Hardy, F.E. Richards, John Rowe, H.V. Looker, G.D. Haslam and F.H. Nias.

Forest Row Committee.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex Office, Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, H.R. Hardy, Wm. Mitchell, John Rowe, and Harry Waters.

Emergency Committee.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the chairmen of the Forest Row and Maresfield Committees and John Rowe.

Maresfield Committee

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex Office, Admiral Beamish, Messrs. A.F. Harland, G.D. Haslam, S.J. Marsh, F.T. Ridley and Lt. Col. G.R. Miller.

3. MINUTES. The minutes of the last meeting of the Board (having been previously circulated) were, confirmed and signed.

4. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing a balance in hand of £307.16.0 on the General Account and £5.7.10 on the Wages Account against which there are cheques outstanding of £13.2.8 in favour of the Rangers and 19/- the Commissioners of Inland Revenue,

Receipts. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received:

Rates	£19.12.0.
Acknowledgements	£70.10.11.
Compensation	£10.17.1.
2 ½ % Consols	£0.19.11.

The Accounts for payment were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereon amounting to £63.9.0.

Estimates. The Clerk submitted the following estimates.

Expenditure	
Clerk's Salary	£200.0.0
do Petty payments	£30.0.0
Printing, stationary etc.	£36.0.0
Ranger's wages	£416.0.0
do expenses	£40.0.0
Audit stamp	£8.0.0.

Receipts

Rates	£350.0.0
Acknowledgments	£120.0.0
Compensation	£75.0.0.

Allocation of Balance between local authorities

East Sussex County Council	£92.10.0
East Grinstead U.D.C.	£18.10.0
Uckfield R.D.C.	£55.10.0
Cuckfield R.D.C.	£18.10.0

RESOLVED that the same be approved.

5. RANGERS REPORTS.

Ranger Day. 29th January 1945

Roadside cutting I have been engaged in cutting gorse that overhung the roadside on the West Hoathly road west of Wych Cross.

Timber Hauling Mr. Roy Waters, Spanden, Forest Row has had timber hauled from Hindleap Warren to the Priors road cutting up the surface of the Forest north or the Warren. Ministry of Supply, Home Timber Department have made a dump of timber hauled from Press Ridge Warren, near the Twyford Lane. Mr W. Turner, Wood Dealer, Chelwood Gate, has made a dump of cord wood on the Forest, near Twyford Lane. He has also set up and worked a saw bench at this site, and badly cut the track leading to the site by carting cord wood from Horncastle Wood. Lone Oak Hall dump. Mr. R. Keyes, Lone Oak Hall, Chuck Hatch has dumped two derelict lorries, one carpenters bench and a quantity of birch poles on the Forest, near the south entrance to Lone Oak Hall. Road at Chelwood Common. I received a letter of complaint from Mr. Wilde, Brookside, Chelwood Gate. The road entering the Forest near the Mission Church, Chelwood common had been damaged by military tracked vehicles. On investigation this road is apparently outside the Forest boundary.

GILBERT DAY
Forest Ranger

Timber Hauling. The Ranger reported that he had investigated a complaint from Mr. Fitzroy Chapman in regard to timber hauling by the Forest Row Lumber Co. and interviewed the secretary of the Company. It appeared that the work was ceasing on 6th instant and little damage had been done to the road. In regard to the main report it was RESOLVED (a) Mr. Turner. That he be informed that if he applies for a Licence the Clerk be authorised to grant it otherwise the Forest must be cleared forthwith. (b) Mr. Keyes. That he be given final notice to clear his property from the Forest otherwise the Ranger be instructed to take proceedings under the Bye laws.

(c) Road at Chelwood Common. That Mr. Wilde be informed the matter does not concern the Board as the road is outside the regulated Forest.

Ranger Kirby February 1945

Since the last Board Meeting All troops with search lights have now moved off the Forest but their huts etc. still remain empty near Workhouse Farm, Fairwarp. Also at Duddleswell. The military with a bulldozer have opened a trench 140 yards long by the roadside on Stone Rill. This I understand is done for the East Sussex County Council to lay in a drain.

Messrs Albert Turner & Son Ltd.,
Timber Merchants, Lewes.

Are now hauling timber out of Barnsden Farm. Depositing this on Forest at Barnsgate for re-loading which is damaging the track to Barnsden.

L. KIRBY.

The Clerk stated that he had recovered an Acknowledgment for the temporary deposit.

Brown Knoll. The Royal Gloucester Hussars have been using this range with live ammunition notwithstanding the letter from the District Claims Officer stating it was no longer required. The Clerk stated on receipt of this information he had telephoned the Claims Officer drawing attention to the irregularity for appropriate disciplinary action.

6. F.T. MUGGERIDGE. The Clerk reported on his inspection of this road and recommended that the terms of the Licence be enforced. RESOLVED that this Course be adopted.

7. NOTICE BOARDS. The Chairman stated he considered it was desirable to exhibit a notice "Private Road - No Parking" in order to secure uniformity in any case where Licencees desire to protect the private roads. RESOLVED that this be adopted whenever possible.

8. RANGERS WAGES. An application having been submitted by both Rangers for an increase in their weekly wages it was unanimously RESOLVED in view of their good service to the Board their weekly wages be increased from £3.10.0. to £4.0.0. as from 1st January, 1945.

9. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS. In response to the suggestion made at the Commoners meeting the Clerk reported that it would be possible to print a short summary of the accounts on the spare sheet of the demand notes and sent to all Commoners. RESOLVED that this course be approved.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

IN COMMITTEE

REINSTATEMENT OF FOREST The Emergency Committee presented the following report of their meeting held on the 12th January 1945.

The Clerk reported generally on the recommendations of the Committee and read the accompanying memorandum which he had prepared for the use of Admiral Beamish and Col. Clarke.

The following reply was read from Admiral Beamish

House of Commons
6/2/45.

Dear Fovargue,

Will you please let the Chairman know that Colonel Clarke and I have had today an interview with the Minister for Town & Country Planning. Both of us put the case for the Conservators and for the Forest.

I specially stressed the necessity for practical and not only financial assistance in restoring the Forest, and also mentioned the requisitioned areas at Bunkers Hill and Kings Standing and the urgency of laying plans for equivalent areas if the terms of the Requisitioned Land Bill are enforced. I think they are certain to be as far as the Communications Centre is concerned. Mr. Harrison was not only sympathetic but promised to use his influence with the other Ministers, Agriculture, War, and Exchequer to promote what we want. The Minister asked that he might retain the draft memorandum you sent to Colonel Clarke and myself and we reminded him that it is not complete and that a complete memorandum and a map will be put in his hands by one or both of us shortly.

I suggest that our conference with the Minister be placed on record by a letter from the Board to him reminding him and of his retention of the draft memorandum and his expectation of having a fuller memorandum and map when ready. In view of an animated debate on the Requisitioned Land Bill we do not think that any useful immediate action is needed.

I personally hope and I think Col. Clarke would agree that the Board would do well to enter in the clearest of terms to the Chancellor of the Exchequer their protest or anxieties, now; in regard to the effects on Ashdown Forest of the Requisitioned Land Bill as they foresee them. A protest from a statutory body will carry much weight. I am very sorry but I find it impossible to get to the meeting tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,

T.P.H. BEAMISH

It is significant that the Minister for Town & Country Planning is not named on this Bill.

It was further reported that the provisions of the Requisitioned Land and War Works Bill would adversely affect the interests of the Commoners and the Clerk stated he had not been able to see what amendments were necessary in order to supply details to the above members of Parliament. The following points however emerged so far. (a) the necessity of Government provided equivalent areas where part of the Common was compulsorily acquired (b) the desirability of one member of the proposed Commission being nominated by the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society or at least qualified to represent their interests and (c) any conservancy or authority in control of a Common being treated as a local authority whenever their interests were affected (d) the desirability of the Minister of Town and Country Planning being consulted where Town Planning interests area affected.

It was RESOLVED that (a) the report of the Emergency Committee be approved and their recommendations adopted.

(b) the hearty appreciation of the Board be recorded on the Minutes to Admiral Beamish and Col. Clarke for their efforts in this matter (c) the Board require the provision of an equivalent area with monetary compensation where possible in addition where land is compulsorily acquired. (d) copies of the Clerk's memorandum be forwarded to the precepting authorities and their support sought for the proper protection of the Forest. (e) the appreciation of the Board be tendered to the Clerk for his memorandum and he be instructed to take such action to the matter as he may think proper to safeguard the interests of the Commoners.

The Clerk further stated that he was in correspondence with Sir Lawrence Chubb Secretary of the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society who had asked for information as to the extent to which the Forest has been damaged.

REQUISITIONS OF ASHDOWN FOREST AND RELINQUISHMENT

A. Ashdown Forest consists of an area of about 6,400 acres. Lord de la Warr as Lord of the Manor of Duddleswell owns the Freehold which is waste of that Manor. The surface is under the regulation of the Board of Conservators by virtue of the Ashdown Forest Act 1885 as amended by the further Act passed in 1937 and subject to Bye-laws.

B. On the 28th November 1940 the Conservators and Lord de la Warr and his Settled Land Act Trustees entered into an Agreement with the East Sussex County Council and the Uckfield Rural District Council for the zoning of the area under their Town Planning Scheme for its preservation in its existing state as a private open space which is

designated as Ashdown Forest on the town plan of the Rural Council. A copy of such agreement will be produced. The agreement inter alia reserved to the Lord of the Manor his rights of sporting and the mines and minerals and quarrying the same and declared that:

1. For the purpose of this Agreement land reserved for use as a private open space means land (a) reserved for use as meadow or pasture land or for the growth of saleable underwood or, (b) preserved in its natural condition; as heath or forest land but subject as aforesaid does not include a sports or recreation ground ordinarily open or intended to be ordinarily open to the public on payment of a charge or market gardens allotments or land used wholly or principally for the purpose of cultivation under glass.

2. As from the date of this Agreement no person shall (a) use the said land otherwise than as a private open space as defined in paragraph 1 of this Schedule (b) erect a building or execute works upon the said land other than a building or works which are to be used mainly or exclusively for one or more of the purposes set out in the definition in paragraph 1 of this Schedule. (c) use any building for the time being existing on the said land for any purpose which is not incidental to or required in connection with the use of the said land as a private open space as defined in paragraph 1 of this Schedule.

3. Nothing in this Schedule shall be construed as prohibiting the reasonable fencing of the said land for any of the uses mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Schedule.

C. In 1940 the Conservators were approached by the Military authorities as regards the use of the Forest for military purposes. The Board thereupon instructed Surveyors to prepare a map to record the present condition of the Forest and at the same time indicated that the Conservators were more concerned with the proper reinstatement of the Forest than the receipt of monetary compensation. Such maps were the subject of discussion with officers representing the Claims Commission and ultimately settled so that each party should have in their possession as agreed plan. A copy of this can be also produced. A legend was attached to the map specifying the character or uses of the various parts of the Forest including primeval Forest, those covered with grass, the fir clumps and other trees and the Royal Ashdown Golf Course.

D. Simultaneously with this and later on numerous occasions the Military required use of specific portions of the Forest for definite purposes which they proceeded to requisition under Defence Regulation 51.

These requisitions were very diverse including:

1. A camp site of 70 acres.
2. A gas compound for training purposes 150 acres.
3. Parking places concrete tank crossings with pylons.
4. Numerous gun sites particularly in July 1944.
5. Search-light sites with underground cables,

The Military also used the Forest for all kinds of training including (a) many Excavations by hand as well as mechanically (b) trenches (c) road making courses which devastated large areas (d) ordinary drills as well as special exercises. Following various discussions between the representative of the Military and the Board this training use was regularised by the issue of the attached notice. It will be noted that certain areas were expressly excluded (a) All fir clumps: These are the only portions of the regulated Forest to which the Public have access under the Act of 1885. Notwithstanding this particular exception the clumps have been damaged and trees cut down on more than one occasion. (b) Such parts of the Forest as were enjoyed under Licence from the Lord and Conservators by the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club including the Ladies course.

E. Apart from Military use other Government Departments including the Ministries of Works and Supply have made use of the Forest. The most important of these requisitions has been the wireless installation at Kings Standing which covers about 80 acres. The Conservators are charged under their Acts and Byelaws with the primary duty of preserving the Forest in its natural condition and preventing all encroachments and trespasses. Their obvious duty as well as desire is to see that the Forest is returned after the War to its former state and condition as soon as possible with the minimum of expense. They are definitely of opinion that this end can best be reached by the appropriate government departments carrying out the work with their available plant and labour. Many of the excavations trenches and gun pits could be speedily and effectively levelled by bulldozers and restrained with grass seed. In the same way damaged verges adjoining many of the highways and the general surface of the Forest where

damaged by armoured vehicles and carriers could soon be rectified. The Board ask for the support of your Ministry in achieving this and in restoring to the Board this well known open space for the benefit of the Commoners,

E. The question of the more permanent requisitions of the camp site and Kings Standing area raises the provision of equivalent areas.

EMERGENCY POWERS (DEFENCE) ACTS

In pursuance of the provisions of Regulation 52 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, I, Lieut. Gen. H.D.G. Crerar, being one of the class of persons to whom one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State has delegated his powers under the aforesaid Regulation, hereby authorise the use of all the Land situated in the area described in the First Schedule hereto (hereinafter called 'the Land') for military training during the period from 1 Jun 43 for an indefinite period.

I further authorise persons using the land in pursuance of this Order to do such acts in relation to the land as are specified in the Second Schedule hereto.

I further order that the exercise of the rights of way specified in the Third Schedule hereto, being rights of way over land duly authorised in accordance with the said Regulation to be used for Military training, shall be prohibited at such times' as the firing of live ammunition is taking place.

Date 26 Jul. 43.

H.D.G. Crerar. Lieut. Gen.

FIRST SCHEDULE

The areas of land shown coloured Green, Red and Yellow, on the plan deposited with the Chief Constable, Sussex Police Force, Haywards Heath, Sussex, comprising:

- (a) The Greater part of ASHDOWN FOREST, except the land leased by the Ashdown Golf Club, the recreation grounds at Coleman's Hatch and Duddleswell, the various ornamental clumps such as Gill's Lap, King's Standing etc., and certain other areas, all of which are bordered in PURPLE on the plan referred to.
- (b) Hindleap Warren.
- (c) Prest Ridge Warren.
- (d) Five Hundred Acre Wood and Five Hundred Rough.
- (e) Pippingford Park, except the Home Farm.
- (f) Other small areas which cannot be separately enumerated, but are shown on the plan.

Habitations, including fenced gardens, in civil occupation are excluded, whether coloured purple on the plan or not.

SECOND SCHEDULE

All such acts as may be required for military training, including the use of vehicles, digging of non-permanent earthworks etc. and specially:

- (i) The use of tanks and armoured fighting vehicles within the area coloured RED on the plan.
- (ii) The use of live ammunition on certain ranges shown in YELLOW on the plan and consisting of (a) Old Lodge Rifle Range, (b) Old Lodge Mortar Range, (c) Pippingford Park 30 yd RIFLE and Pistol Range, (d) Wren's Warren Range and (e) Two 30 yd Rifle Ranges at Brown Knoll.

THIRD SCHEDULE

Rights of Way over the areas specified in paragraph (ii) of the Second Schedule.

NOTE. The areas edged in BLUE on the plan are already requisitioned under Defence Regulation 51.

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row' on Wednesday, 4th April, 1945 at 2.30 p.m.

J.R. Owen Esq., Chairman

J. Godwin King Esq., Vice-Chairman

Col. A. E. Barchard, Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, C.B., R.N., Col. N.S. Clarke, T.D., D.L., M.P.: Mr. J.R. Coulthard, M.P., Mr. A.F. Harland, Mr. G.D. Haslam, J.P., Mr. H.W. Looker, Mr. S.J. Marsh, Lt.-Col. G.R. Miller, D.S.O., Mr. W. Mitchell, Mr. F.E. Richards, Mr. F.T. Ridley, Mr. John Rowe, and Mr. G.F. Webb

An apology for absence was received from Lt. Comdr. H.R. Hardy, R.N.

1. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board (having been previously circulated) were confirmed and signed.

2. GLOUCESTER HUSSARS. The Clerk was instructed to obtain a satisfactory explanation of this matter as no reply had been received.

3. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing a balance of £245.3.4 due to the Board on the General Account and £24.9.10 on the Wages Account against which there were outstanding cheques for £14.16.8, in favour of the Rangers and £1.11.0 in favour of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

Receipts. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received:-

Acknowledgments	£5.16.6
Compensation	£9.10.7
Cuckfield R.D.C.	£18.10.0
East Sussex County Council	£46.5.0
East Grinstead U.D.C.	£9.5.0
Uckfield R.D.C.	£27.15.0

The Accounts for payment were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £54.19.5.

4. RANGERS REPORTS. (A) Ranger Day

Forest Farm
Cripps Corner
Forest Row

14th March 1945

I have made inquiries in respect of Mr. H.W. Kelly's request for a revision of his road Licence.

Mr. Kelly's late wife owned the property known as Yew Cottage and at her decease it came into the possession of Mrs. E. R. Doran, the sister of the late Mrs. Kelly. I have made a plan of the road which shows that Miss Bloxham, Windwhistle, is first served by this road. Mrs. Doran has a narrow cinder foot-track leading to the road, roughly opposite Windwhistle. These two property owners would use about 30 yards of the road. The road then crosses about another 100 yards of the Forest to Oldway's Cottage.

I have approached Mrs. Doran and I think that she would pay £1 per annum as her contribution.

GILBERT DAY
25th March 1945

Gorse Cutting

During February and Marsh Ranger Kirby and I have cut overhanging gorse from blind corners on main roads on the Forest. We have cleared corners on the New Road and others near Marlpits and on Stone Hill.

Fires

The following fires have occurred on the northern section of the Forest:

23rd February	Chuck Hatch	2 acres
20th March	North Corner, Hindleap	½ acre
22nd March	Quabrook, Forest Row	½ acre
23rd March	The Ridge, Colemans Hatch	1 acre

These were caused by troops during military exercises.

Lone Oak Hall

Mr. Keyes, Lone Oak Hall, has removed the dumped articles from the Forest, and the site is now cleared satisfactorily.

Saw Bench at Twyford Lane I presented the draft of an agreement to Mr. A.W. Turner. He said that he should appeal to the Office as he thought that the amount (£6.6.0) to be left on deposit was too high.

Chelwood Gate Recreation Ground I found troops using this ground for football. As this ground had previously been used for cricket only, I visited the O.C. of the troops concerned and asked him to obtain permission of the Superintendent of the ground who is Admiral Beamish. I also, at Mr. Owen's suggestion, asked the O.C. Major Bland to have the ground rolled regularly. These things he agreed to do.

GILBERT DAY

RESOLVED that (a) the amount of acknowledgments from Mr. Kelly and Mrs. Doran be left to the Clerk with power to act. (b) Mr. Turner be informed that unless he promptly complies with the terms stated by the Clerk he be required to remove the saw bench and his temporary use of the Forest be terminated.

(B) RANGER KIRBY. April, 1945
Since the last meeting 17 Fires have occurred burning about 70 acres.

With the help of Ranger Day we have cut off the furzes on the blind corners of the main roads at Marlpits, Stone Hill and Crowborough Road.

Called on Mr. W. Osborne of Spring Garden and told him to take down his milk stand as his permit was only granted until the end of August 1944. He said he would apply to Battle for a permanent licence for it to remain. (The Clerk stated no application had been so far received.)

Ranger Nicholas reported to the Chairman in 1941 that one of our bombers crashed on the Forest north of Spring Garden and that the mothers of the airmen had erected a wooden cross on this spot.

Now a ring fence about 12 feet across has been erected with flowers planted inside. Written on the cross as follows:-

Sacred to the Memory of
SG/P Victor Ronald Sutton, R.A.F. Age 24.
Also his five Comrades who crashed on this
spot on July 31st, 1941 after bombing Cologne.
No greater Sacrifice. Mothers, Brothers,
Sisters

Notice written on the fence as follows:

To the boys who would destroy around this spot is spilt
the blood of Six Heroes, therefore this spot is sacred. They died that you may live.

H. KIRBY.

Memorial. RESOLVED that further consideration be deferred until the Clerk has had an opportunity of discussing the matter with the relatives and reporting again to the Board.

(C) Mortar Bombs

Ranger Day reports that more than 30 mortar bombs have been left on the Forest in the vicinity of Old Lodge and Camp Hill. The Chairman stated that in view of this information he had communicated with the Police and advised that the urgent attention of the South Eastern Command be drawn to these serious matters. Approved.

There had also been an accident with phosphorus bombs at Nutley.

(D) Royal Ashdown Forest Ladies Golf Club. Oak Tree

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Club stating they propose to cut down the oak tree in front of the Club House. The tree was stated to have been dying back and Messrs. Stenning & Son have offered to cut it and subject to the consent of the Board throw it into the road. RESOLVED that the Board desire the Club to furnish expert advice as to whether it is necessary to cut any more than the dead branches and subject thereto the matter be then referred to the Forest Row Committee with power to act.

(E) Military. Crowborough Ponds.

Notice was reported that the Military intend to lower the level of two ponds at Crowborough Warren. Ranger Kirby stated this would not interfere with the drinking facilities for cattle. RESOLVED that he be instructed to keep the matter under observation and report if occasion demands.

5. SHEEP ON FOREST.

Mr. Ridley states that sheep grazing on the Forest are doing damage. RESOLVED that the Rangers be instructed to ascertain the approximate number now in the Forest and the persons responsible for them and the detail reported to the Chairman.

IN COMMITTEE

6. REQUISITIONED LAND AND WAR WORKS BILL.

Rear Admiral Beamish and Col. Clarke stated the present position in regard to the Bill amendments tabled in the Committee stage.

The following letter was read from the Ministry of Town and Country Planning.

12th March, 1945

Sir,

Requisitioned Land and War Works Bill Ashdown Forest

I am directed by the Minister of Town and Country Planning to refer to your letter and enclosure of the 10th February and to say that following the interview of Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish and Colonel Ralph S. Clarke with the Minister, the question of the future of Ashdown Forest was brought to the notice of the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the Minister.

The whole question of the removal of temporary defence works, when such are no longer required, and of reinstatement of the land in the public interest, is under active consideration, and future developments in so far as they affect Ashdown Forest will be closely watched.

I am to state that the Minister is fully alive to the importance of preserving the amenities of, and rights over, Ashdown Forest, and in this connection attention is drawn to the statement made by the Chancellor on the second reading of the above Bill that there would be the fullest possible consultation with the Minister of Town and Country Planning where planning considerations were concerned.

I am to express regret at the delay in replying to your letter.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

J.F. Figgis

The Clerk stated that he had been in communication with the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society and the Lord's Solicitor who had written on behalf of Earl de la Warr to the Government Department strongly supporting the action taken by the Board.

RESOLVED that (A) the Clerk be instructed:

- (i) To furnish the above members of Parliament with a schedule of equivalent lands in place of the sites at King's Standing and of the Camp at Crowborough.
- (ii) To procure copies of Hansard for all members of the Board of the proceedings in Committee in the House of Commons on the Requisitioned Land and War Works Bill.

(B) The acts and proceedings of the Emergency Committee be approved and adopted.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 4th July, 1945 at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT.

J. R. Owen Esq., Chairman

J. Godwin King Esq., Vice-Chairman

Colonel A. E. Barchard, Lt-Colonel G.R. Miller, Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, A.F. Harland, G.D. Haslam, S.J. Marsh, F.T. Ridley, John Rowe and G.F. Webb.

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish C.B., R.N., Lt. Comdr. H.R. Hardy, R.N.V.R., Lt-Col. R.S. Clarke, T.D., D.L. and Mr. H. Waters.

1. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board (having been previously circulated) were confirmed and signed.

2. BROWN KNOLL RIFLE RANGE. A letter was read from the District Claims Officer stating that it will again be necessary to use this area as arranged, from 5th May, 1945.

3. MAKE RATE. The Clerk referred to the estimate of expenditure for the year as approved at the February meeting of the Board amounting to £930 of which £185 is to be borne by the Local Authorities. It was duly proposed and seconded 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 Enclosure Act, 1845-1878 and the Commons Regulations (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act, 1885 and the Ashdown Forest Act 1937 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 which such rights attach, which owners and their respective acreages and the respective sums payable by them are set out in the Rate Book produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

4. FINANCES. The Bank Pass Books were produced showing a balance of £185.17.3. due to the Board on the General Account and 19/10d. on the Wages Account.

Receipts Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received:

Rates	£0.1.6
Acknowledgements	£23.12 8
2 ½% Consols	£0.19.11

The Accounts for payment were produced and it was RESOLVED that

cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £74.3.10.

5. RANGERS REPORTS

Ranger Day 27th June, 1945.

Thistles: In company with Ranger Kirby I have been engaged in cutting thistles on the Forest in the Duddleswell area. Sheep: At the request of Mr. Fovargue I took a census of sheep pastured on the Forest. Notice Boards: Bye-Law notice boards that were taken down in 1940 for security reasons have been re-erected. Road at Quabrook: I have surveyed a section of the Forest in the Quabrook area, over which Powell & Partner have applied for a licence to make and maintain a road. Mr. Humphrey's complaint: I interviewed Mrs. Humphrey as to the nature of her husband's complaint of damage done by troops on the Forest near the holding rented by him.

<u>Fires</u> : 9th April, 1945.	Kidd's Hill.	10 Acres
19th June, 1945	Twyford Lane	10 Acres.
20th June, 1945	Twyford Lane	5 Acres

Water Pipe, New Lodge, Coleman's Hatch: Mr. Frumkin, New Lodge, Coleman's Hatch, is having water laid on from the mains. This involves opening a trench across the Forest from Newbridge in a southerly direction to New Lodge. Accident: I met with a motor cycle accident on 30th April and was incapacitated from work until 3rd June.

GILBERT DAY.

Thistles. It was RESOLVED that a letter be written to the County Surveyor asking for his co-operation with regard to growth which had been particularly noticeable where the County Council had disturbed the surface of the verges. Quabrook Road. RESOLVED that the necessary Licence be approved. Mr. Humphrey be asked to present his estimate and the Clerk send it to the Claims Commission. Ranger Kirby July 1945. Since the last meeting I have buried old tins deposited near Campfield Rough by the Military. Took the number of sheep and the owners, names and addresses which turn out on Forest. Three fires have occurred burning about 25 acres. Erected Bye-Law Posts and boards and painted same, also posted up Bye-Law Bills. Searched and found about 50 bombs on Forest. The Military cleared them away on 1st May. Made fire brooms for the Fire Brigade. The Ministry of War Transport have now finished rewiring the road at Kingstanding and on the Crowborough road at Barnsgate, but have left it very untidy. Old cement bags and brick mixing platform, bomb and sand, etc. left on the Forest.

H. KIRBY

Kingstanding Road. The Clerk was instructed to draw the attention of the County Surveyor to this complaint and request that it be remedied.

Rangers Holidays. RESOLVED that the proposed fourteen days holiday be approved subject to this being approved by the Chairman.

6. REQUISITIONED LAND AND WAR WORKS ACT. The Clerk reported this Act contained satisfactory clauses for the provision of an equivalent area where Common Land had been taken for war works and that a satisfactory definition of Common land was also now part of the Act. RESOLVED that the hearty thanks of the Board be conveyed to Rear Admiral Beamish and Colonel Clarke for their most valuable assistance in this matter during the progress of this Bill, in the House of Commons.

In Committee

7. EQUIVALENT AREAS Campfield Rough. The Maresfield Committee Col. Miller (Chairman), Mr. Owen and Mr. Marsh report that they have inspected this area and think it would be a suitable addition to the Forest in place of land which may be taken by the Government Department. RESOLVED that the Clerk communicate with Miss Swan and obtain an option to purchase and further ascertain the views of the appropriate Ministry as to the acquisition of the area and report.

In Committee

8. MRS. SUTTON. The Maresfield Committee also report that they have inspected this locality and do not approve of the present type of memorial but suggest a Memorial Cairn be erected of local stone on the site in question. The Clerk was instructed to communicate with the Royal Air Force in regard to the erection of a suitable Memorial and to report.

9. LADIES GOLF CLUB. RESOLVED that no further action be taken in regard to the Oak Tree at present. It was further reported that the claim for War damage would be dealt with by the War Damage Commission as regards the mowing machine and the W.D. Land Agent concerning the damage to the turf.

10. DEPOSIT OF BARBED WIRE. An application has been received from Garrison Engineer obtaining permission to deposit barbed wire in a disused quarry near Colemans Hatch. The Clerk reported he had stipulated, certain provisions for the safety of those using the Forest as well as Commoners' stock. The Department had now decided not to proceed with the proposition at the moment.

11. AUDIT. Notice of Audit for 25th July, 1945 has been received.

12. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY. LITTLE BIRCHES, NUTLEY. The Clerk reported that an application for an underground supply to this property had been received and the necessary Licence would be granted upon the usual conditions. Approved.

J.R. Owen
Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 3rd October, 1945 at 2.30 p.m.

J. R. Owen Esq., Chairman

J. Godwin King Esq., Vice-Chairman

Colonel A. E. Barchard, Lt-Col. R.S. Clarke, T.D., D.L. M.P., Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish C.B., R.N., Lt-Colonel G.R. Miller, Messrs. A.F. Harland, W. Mitchell, S.J. Marsh, F.T. Ridley, John Rowe and G.F. Webb.

Apologies for absence were received from Lt. Comdr. H.R. Hardy, R.N.V.R., J.R. Coulthard, G.D. Haslam, H.W. Looker, F.E. Richards and H. Waters.

1. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board (having been previously circulated) were confirmed and signed.

2. EQUIVALENT AREAS. Correspondence with Messrs. Peerless de Rougemont acting was read in which they indicated that their client Miss Swan would be willing to give an option until 31st December, 1945, to purchase the proposed area except five acres at the north west corner. RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to procure the option for the reduced area and enquire the price.

The following letter addressed by the Minister of Planning to Col. R.S. Clarke, M.P., was read.

"You wrote to me on the 15th August forwarding a letter from the Clerk of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest, about their wish to acquire land at Campfield Rough as an equivalent area instead of part of the Kingstanding site. I understand that the Conservators really mean that the Government should acquire it on their behalf; otherwise the Conservators would presumably purchase the Campfield Rough site if they have a favourable opportunity to do so.

The continuance of the camp and wireless station at Kingstanding is at present under active consideration by the Ministry of Works, which is the requisitioning Department, and the question of the purchase of Campfield Rough is also before them. I am afraid that there is little I can do at the moment, but I am keeping the case well in my mind.

I am sending a copy of the correspondence to George Tomlinson."

RESOLVED that the Department be informed of the terms of the foregoing option with a view to appropriate action being taken.

3. MR. SUTTON. The Clerk reported that the Air Ministry were not prepared to approve individual war memorials throughout the country. A sketch drawn by Mr. Webb for a proposed cairn was submitted. RESOLVED that he be cordially thanked for his sketch. It was further RESOLVED that the proposed memorial be proceeded with by private subscription and it record the names of all airmen who had lost their lives on the Forest and that the further consideration of the matter be referred to a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman, Colonel Miller and Mr. Webb.

4. SHEEP ON FOREST. The Chairman reported that the Rangers had ascertained there were 450 sheep turned out on the Forest mostly in the Coleman's Hatch area.

5. STACKING PIT-PROPS. An application was read from Messrs. Anderson to deposit pit-props temporarily near Windyridge. RESOLVED that consent be given until 31st December 1945, on a deposit of £5 being made to cover reinstatement of damage.

6. FINANCES.

Bank Account The Bank Pass Books were produced skewing a balance of £97.12.8 due to the Board on the General Account, and £9.1.10 on the Wages Account against which there was an outstanding cheque for £13.2.8 for Rangers' wages.

Receipts Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received:

Rates	£0.8.6
Acknowledgements	£3.9.6
Compensation	£39.11.9
2½% Consols	£0.19.11
Payments re Roads	£47.10.0

Cheques drawn since last meeting It was reported that since the last meeting a cheque for £16 for District Audit stamp had been drawn. RESOLVED that the same be confirmed.

Accounts for payment The Accounts for payment were produced and it was resolved that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £16.3.5.

7. RANGERS' REPORTS

Ranger Kirby Since the last meeting we have cut off undergrowth at blind corners at Chelwood gate and Marl pits; inspected the clumps of trees and sent the report to the Chairman; cut thistles at Kingstanding.

The Ministry of War Transport has now cleared up the litter left by them at Kingstanding and Barnsgate.

By the Chairman's permission I took holiday from 20th August to 3rd September.

The Ministry of War Transport are now repairing the main road between Nutley and Pippingford, and have six sheds and office on the Forest by the road side."

Ranger Day

"Work at Edgemount Newbridge Dilapidations to a Forest road leading to Edgemount were the subject of a complaint by Mr. J. Humphries to the Board. Repairs have been made by local labour at the cost of £3.0.0. Forest Clumps With Ranger Kirby I inspected all Forest Clumps and reported to the Chairman on their condition. Wood Dump on Nutley Road Mr. A. Anderson, Buckles Wood, Chailey, has made a dump of pit-props on the Forest near the Nutley road. Wood Dump on Kidds Hill Messrs. Powell & Philcox, Salisbury House, Hartfield have made a dump of birch poles on the Forest, west side of Kidd's Hill. Wood Dumps on Twyford Lane Messrs. A. Card & Sons, Broomyard Forest, Forest Row have brought dumps of cord wood, stacked on the Forest on both sides of Twyford Lane by the Ministry of Supply, Home Timber Dept. Milk Stand, Priory Road Dr. Ridley, Mudbrooks Farm, Forest Row has erected a Milk Stand on the Forest on the north side of the Priory Road."

The Clerk was instructed to approve the licence for the milk stand on the same terms as other similar applications.

8. HUTS NEAR FAIRWARP SCHOOL. A letter was read from Miss Barchard enquiring if the School Managers could retain these for use as a School Canteen. The Clerk stated he had asked the Military to delay removal until he had received instructions from the Board. It was now reported the huts had been removed. RESOLVED no further action be taken.

IN COMMITTEE

9. MILITARY REQUISITION. The Clerk reported on his interview with the W.D. Land Agent & Valuer and the District Claims Officer. The results of which were set out in the following correspondence.

5

Dear Major Lavender 12th September, 1945

I think it as well to put on record the general bases of settlement of problems yesterday. It is of course understood that they are without prejudice to both the Military Authorities as well as the Board. The conclusions reached may be summarised as follows:

1. The Military to serve notice of relinquishment in respect of areas outside the training area and claims for compensation preferably settled on the site.
2. Requisitions within the training area as well as the area itself to be the subject of compensation when the training area is no longer required for that purpose.
3. The Military Authorities to state when the training area will no longer be required for that purpose. The Board preferring a reinstatement of the Forest in preference to a monetary claim for compensation.

I now formally write to enquire whether the camp site at St. Johns will be permanently retained so that a decision on the question of equivalent areas can be settled as soon as possible.

Since my return yesterday I have received an enquiry about the four huts between Duddleswell stores and Fairwarp Church which the School Managers wish to use as a School Canteen.

Please arrange that no removal takes place until I can procure some instructions.

(sgd.) R.W. Fovargue Clerk.

Dear Mr. Fovargue, 13th September, 1945

Ashdown Forest

I acknowledge with thanks your letter of 12th instant and confirm my agreement with your summary of our recent discussion with one qualification as to your paragraph numbered 2.

It was my intention, and I had thought that it was understood by all of us that those requisitions which affect land lying within the Training Area will, in like manner to those outside the Training Area, be contemporaneously de-requisitioned at a date in the immediate future yet to be determined, but that in these cases - unlike those outside the Training Area - the compensation claims will not be settled upon derequisition but will be deferred until release of the Training area.

I am making formal representations in respect of your enquiry as to the Department's intentions as they concern the site of the Camp at St John's and will communicate with you again on this subject so soon as I am in a position to do so.

(Sgd.) J.S. LAVENDER.
W.D. Land Agent, Valuer East Sussex Area.

Dear Mr. Fovargue, 20th September, 1945

Ashdown Forest

Replying to your letter of 17th instant, the question of acquisition of the Crowborough or any other camp site is, as you will understand, largely a matter of policy, which will presumably be formulated at War Office level at least. The representations that I have made following upon your formal enquiry have to be made through Command channel, and I am afraid there is no particular Officer to whom you could be referred. I understand however, that I may expect a reply during next week, although it is not of course possible to say whether this will be a categorical affirmative or negative to your question. In any event, I could suggest that there is no point in any meeting at this stage, although undoubtedly at a later stage a discussion with your Chairman and yourself would be of advantage once any definite line of action is contemplated.

(Sgd.) J. S. LAVENDER
W. D. Land Agent & Valuer, East Sussex Area

It was explained that the most urgent questions were:

- (a) The likely date on which the Training Area would be relinquished.
- (b) A decision as to the permanent retention of the camp sites and the wireless station at King Standing.
- (c) The employment of military labour and equipment for the reinstatement of the Forest in preference to monetary claims for compensation.

It was RESOLVED that Col. Clarke be asked to put down written questions to the Ministers concerned for reply in the House of Commons.

10. OMNIBUS SHELTER, FAIRVIEW, NUTLEY. A letter was read from Mr.

J.H. Hughes of Nutley enquiring if the Board would permit the erection of a shelter in this locality. RESOLVED that he be informed the Board would approve such an application subject to approval of the plan and grant of a revocable licence reserving a nominal acknowledgment.

11. COMMONABLE RIGHTS. A letter was read from Mr. Joseph Hall enquiring inter alia

“The old gates that used to be on the roads are now gone, and there are a number of estates around the Forest whose gates are often left open – the cattle might get in and do a lot of damage. I take it the owners are responsible for keeping their gates shut. Who is responsible if there is an accident through cattle being on the roads?”

RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to ascertain the precise point on which Mr. Hall wishes further information.

12. FOREST ROADS. It was reported that the district Claims Officer had settled Mr. Wilde's claim by a payment of £40.

13. DISTRICT AUDIT. The following report was read:

“I have to report the completion of the audit of your accounts and of those of your officers for the years ended the 31st December, 1942 and 31st December, 1943.

It appears desirable that a list similar to a Valuation List be prepared showing a complete list of the properties liable to rating and giving the acreage on which the rate is levied.

Certain suggestions with a view to improving the system of collecting the rates and other matters were discussed with your Clerk who has promised to give them his attention.

(Sgd) District Auditor”

14. ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST GOLF CLUB. Application was read from the Secretary of the Golf Club for the fixing of an oak seat (presented by the Irish Guards) on the first tee. RESOLVED that consent be granted subject to a nominal acknowledgment being reserved by the licence.

15. FIR CLUMPS. The Chairman stated he had found various clumps were in need of replanting. RESOLVED the members be circulated with particulars of the clumps and the Chairman be requested to continua his investigations.

A Meeting of the General Purposes Committee duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Tuesday, 27th November 1945 at 2 p.m.

J.R. Owen Esq., J.P., Chairmen,
J. Godwin King Esq., C.B.E., J.P.

Lt. Col. R. S. Clarke T.D., D.L., M.P., and Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, A.F. Harland, G.D. Haslam, H.W. Looker, F.E. Richards and J. Rowe.

An apology for absence was received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, C.B., R.N.

Also present were Major Hunt of the Communications Centre, Kingstanding, Mr. Wilson of the Ministry of Works and Mr. T. Burdett, Surveyor of the Uckfield Rural District Council.

1. WIRELESS STATION, KINGSTANDING.

The Clerk reported on correspondence from Lt. Col. R.S. Clarke, M.P. on questions he had asked in the House of Commons of the Secretary of State for War and the Home Secretary regarding the relinquishment of the Forest as a training area and the acquisition of equivalent areas, and in particular, regarding the Wireless Station at Kingstanding and the Camp Site at St. John's. The Secretary for War had replied that it was hoped that it would be possible to release the bulk of the area during the early part of 1946. No part would be retained as a training area longer than was necessary. He was unable to say at present which sites, if any, would be required permanently. The Home Secretary had intimated privately that his advice was that the Board should acquire land at once and hold it. Col. Clarke read the following letter from Mr. Lewis Silkin, the Minister of Planning:

"You wrote to me on the 5th November about Ashdown Forest. I think you first ought to know that since writing you on the 10th September last I have learned that the considered views of the Departments as to the future of Kingstanding, Ashdown Forest, are likely to be available shortly.

As regards the specific questions in the second paragraph of your letter, Section 12 of the Requisitioned Land and War Works Act, 1945, enables the provision of land in lieu of common land or open space proposed to be acquired, but this could not be used in advance of decision to retain the land now in use. There are powers which could be invoked by Local Authorities for the purchase of open spaces, both under the Public Health Acts and the Town and Country Planning Acts, but even if they decided to seek authority to exercise their powers for this purpose I am not aware of any powers under which they would be able to transfer the land to the Conservators. Whether or not the Conservators could purchase additional land will depend upon the powers available to them, and is a matter for the Conservators and their legal advisers.

As you know, there are still restrictions on borrowings by Local Authorities, and in the event of it being necessary to ask for a loan sanction their application would have to face the scrutiny of the Capital Issues Committee. For this it would be necessary to convince the Committee that the purchase was a matter of urgency as well as being desirable. I doubt whether this could be urged in this case, in view of the extent of the area subject to the Conservators and the provision made in the Requisitioned Land and War Works Act for the form of alternative land in lieu of any land permanently diverted.

I have set out the difficulties as fully as possible, but you may rest assured that my own views are that the land requisitioned should be returned intact to the Conservators and that my efforts will be directed to that end. In the meantime, I think that it would be better to leave the matter as it stands until the views of the responsible Departments are available."

Major Hudson reported that he had viewed the land at Campfield Rough comprising 23-25 acres, on which the Board had an option to purchase expiring 31st December, for £400. He was recommending to his Authority that the area be purchased as part of an equivalent area for that requisitioned. He reported that his higher Authority had stated that a decision as to whether the Wireless Station would be retuned, and if so, what area would be involved, was imminent.

He in the meantime agreed to ascertain the precise area now occupied. The Clerk pointed out that the Board had no power to hold land and the Committee was of opinion that the responsibility for acquiring equivalent areas should rest with the requisitioning authority. Major Hunt premised to urge on his authority the necessity for acquiring the area now offered before the option expired, as it was eminently suitable as an equivalent area. He also stated that his authority were aware that the present fencing of the Station was unsightly and were considering an improved form.

Mr. Wilson stated that the areas requisitioned by the Ministry of Works were 36 acres and 27 acres respectively and that as the requisitioning authority, the acquisition of alternative areas would ultimately devolve upon them. He also promised to urge on his authority the necessity for an early purchase.

The Chairman thanked Major Hunt and Mr Wilson for their attendance.

2. CAMP SITE, ST. JOHN'S. Mr. Burdett reported that his Council were greatly concerned as to the continuance of use of this land, which includes the Withyham Recreation Ground, as a Camp Site, and stated that there was no other land which could be considered as a real equivalent. Mr. Wilson stated that the formal procedure on the relinquishment of permanent type of Camp by the Military Authority was for it to be offered to other departments for their use.

3. SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEE. The Chairman suggested that a special ad hoc Standing Committee be appointed to deal with all future questions which may arise in connection with the two foregoing items. RESOLVED to recommend to the Board that an ad hoc Committee consisting of the Chairman, Rear Admiral Beamish, Lt. Col. R.S. Clerk, and Mr. Looker be appointed.

4. IMPROVED ROADSIDE DRAINAGE The Chairman reported that he had consulted with the County Surveyor regarding the unsatisfactory state of drainage runways from the Forest onto the highway in various places resulting in flooding and deterioration of the road surface. The County Surveyor had made excavations and improved the drainage system without detriment to the Forest. RESOLVED that the Chairman's action be approved.

5. MRS. SUTTON. MEMORIAL ON FOREST The Clerk reported a further letter from Mrs. Sutton regarding her memorial on the Forest. She did not agree to the cairn suggested, and wished to provide some form of fence against cattle for the plot which she planted.

The Clerk undertook to see her again before the next meeting of the Board and inform her that no objection would be raised to a low protecting wall of local stone.

6. RANGER KIRBY'S CYCLE. Ranger Kirby reported that his cycle tyres and tubes were in bad condition. RESOLVED that he be authorised to purchase new ones.

J.R. Owen

These Minutes are subject to confirmation by the Chairman.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Commoners duly convened and held by notices posted on the Principal doors of the Churches of the Parishes and Ecclesiastical Districts to which the Forest extends by notice sent to each Commoner more than 14 days prior to this date and by advertisement in two newspapers circulating the neighbourhood to wit, The Sussex Express and County Herald and the East Grinstead Observer, and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, at 1.30 p.m.

Mesdames H. C. Hett and M. Parsons, Col. A.E. Barchard, Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, S.J. Marsh, C. Maudslay, W. Mitchell, J.R. Owen, F.T. Ridley, J. Rowe, Nelson Stephens, H. Waters and L.A. Wood (for J.P.S. Clarke, Esq.)

The Clerk read a copy of the notice convening this meeting.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN. On the proposition of Mr. J. Rowe it was RESOLVED that Mr. J.R. Owen be elected Chairman for this meeting.

2. MINUTES. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

3. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS. The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill three vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. S.J. Marsh, W. Mitchell and H.R. Waters. It was RESOLVED that the three retiring Conservators be re-elected.

4. ELECTION OF RECREATION GROUND SUPERINTENDENTS. It was RESOLVED that the Recreation Ground Superintendents be re-elected as follows:

Nutley	Lt. Col. G.R. Miller.
Fairwarp	Col. A.E. Barchard.
Colemans Hatch	Mr. J.R. Owen, J.P.
Forest Row	Mr. C.G. de Rougemont

5. GENERAL BUSINESS On the proposition of Mr. S.J. Marsh, a vote of thanks was accorded the Recreation Ground Superintendents for their services. The Chairman, replying, said that it was hoped to improve the condition of the Grounds when circumstances permitted.

Mr. F.T. Ridley raised the question of the fencing of the Recreation Ground at Chelwood Gate, Nutley, damaged by the Military. Col. Miller reported that a claim had been forwarded to the Claims Commission and the Clerk undertook to pursue the matter if no satisfaction was forthcoming. On the question of the reinstatement of the Forest, the Chairman reported that the Board had kept the matter before them and had hopes of early de-requisitioning. He also reported that the various Forest clumps had been surveyed and it was proposed to plant new ones adjacent to them when opportune.

Miss Hett raised the matter of slit trenches, and the Chairman informed the meeting that a schedule of condition of the Forest had been made at the time of requisitioning, and a similar schedule would be prepared on its relinquishment when the whole matter of reinstatement would be dealt with. The Chairman referred to an application from Mrs. Sutton to erect a fence round a memorial on the Forest, which had been considered at the last Board meeting and the Clerk reported that Mrs. Sutton had now agreed to erect a suitable wall of local stone.

The Chairman said that it was hoped to deal with the bare patches on the Forest after de-requisitioning and Mr. Stephens suggested that to save expense, bull dozers now in use in the locality might be used. (NOTED)

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, on the proposition of Mr. S. J. Marsh.

Chairman

**A Meeting of the General Purposes Committee duly convened
and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 5th December 1945 at 2 p.m.**

PRESENT.

J. R. Owen Esq., J.P. Chairman

J. Godwin King Esq., C.B.E., J.P. Vice-Chairman

Col. A. E. Barchard, Lt-Col. G.R. Miller, Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, H.R. Hardy, A.F. Harland, G.D. Haslam, H.W. Looker, S.J. Marsh, W. Mitchell, F.E. Richards, F.T. Ridley, J. Rowe & G.F. Webb.

1. MINUTES The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Board (having been previously circulated) were confirmed and signed.

2. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS The Chairman reported that at the Annual Meeting of Commoners, Messrs. S.J. Marsh, W. Mitchell and H.R. Waters were elected Conservators to serve for the ensuing three years, and

expressed satisfaction at their re-election. He also expressed a welcome to Mr. H.R. Hardy on his return from H.M. Forces.

3. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT (Page 172) The Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee on the 27th November, 1945, (copies of which had been previously circulated) were confirmed and signed.

4. EQUIVALENT AREAS (Page 166) The Chairman reported that they had been given to understand by the authorities concerned that discussions concerning relinquishment were imminent. In view of the nearness to the date of expiry of the option on the land at Campfield Rough, Mr. S.J. Marsh offered to buy the land and hold it for the Conservators. The Chairman thanked Mr. Marsh for his very kind offer and the Clerk undertook to get in touch with Mr. Marsh if no decision was received from the authorities by the 20th December.

5. SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEE (Page 174) It was RESOLVED that the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee be approved and adopted. The Chairman explained that the Committee would meet from time to time as required and report to the Board.

6. MRS. SUTTON. MEMORIAL ON FOREST (Page 164) The Clerk reported that since the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee he had seen Mrs. Sutton who was prepared to proceed with an alternative scheme with a wall of stone as suggested by the Committee, subject to a plan license and acknowledgment. Approved.

7. WOOD DUMPS (Page 168) Ranger Day reported as follows:

"1. Messrs. Anderson, Nutley Road. This dump is still in use. A number of Birch Poles are dumped beside the road.

2. Messrs. A. Card & Sons, Twyford Lane. This dump is still in use. About one third of the cord wood has been cleared.

3. Messrs. Powell & Philcox, Kidd's Hill. No wood is now dumped on this site. The tracks leading to it across the Forest have been badly cut by a tractor. Mr. Owen suggests that the ruts should be roughly drained, harrowed and rolled."

8. DR. RIDLEY. MILK—STAND (Page 168) The Clerk reported that a license was being prepared.

9. OMNIBUS SHELTER, FAIRWAYS (Page 170) The Clerk reported that he had written to Mr. Hughes but has heard nothing further.

10. VALUATION LIST (Page 170) The Clerk reported that preliminary investigations had revealed enormous difficulties in identifying the areas to which rights of common attach, and Mr. S.J. Marsh offered the loan of an old map of the Forest for purposes of reference.

11. ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST GOLF CLUB. SEAT (Page [blank]) The Clerk reported that a license had been granted.

12. RANGERS' REPORTS (Page 167) Ranger Kirby reported as follows:-

"Gentlemen,

Since the last Meeting, I have had eighteen days collecting Forest rates.

The Central Sussex Electricity Ltd. have laid an underground cable from the old Brickyard Farm, Nutley, to Little Birches.

Posted up notices of Commoners' meeting on Church doors at Nutley, Fairways and Maresfield.

On the 17th November I met Major Hunt at K.S.2 then accompanied him to Campfield Rough to show him the land for equivalent areas. On the 14th November I went to Battle and paid in Forest rates collected, also handed in list of new Commoners.

Yours faithfully,
H. KIRBY.

Ranger Day reported as follows:

Forest Rates With Ranger Kirby I have collected Forest Rates, noting changes of ownership, and visited the office at Battle to hand in monies and details.

Kidd's Hill Dump On or about 13th September, 1945, two lorry loads of builders refuse were dumped on the Forest on the eastern side of Kidd's Hill. Judging by the nature of the material, it had come from a military camp. I interviewed the Battery C.O. at Marsh Green Camp. He admitted the possibility of the refuse coming from that camp, although it should have been taken to the C.R.E.'s dump. I visited the D.C.R.E. at Maresfield, and contacted the civilian head, giving him the details of this dumping. He telephoned the Garrison Engineer who promised to see into the matter.

This was on the 15th October, but the dump has not been removed.

Mines, Hindleap On 19th October, during bracken cutting operations, Mr. H.P. Waters, Sharpthorne, found two Anti-Tank mines on the Forest, South of Hindleap Farm. At Mr. Owen's suggestion, I informed the Uckfield Police. They passed the information on to the military.

A party came out on 23rd October, saw the two mines, and promised to sweep the area, but I do not think that this has been done.

GILBERT DAY."

13. FINANCES

Bank Accounts: The Bank Pass Books were produced, showing a balance of £237 9s 5d due to the Board on the General Account, against which there were cheques outstanding totalling £13 3s 2d, and of £17 19s 10d on the Wages Account, against which there was an outstanding cheque for £13 2s 8d for Rangers' wages.

Receipts Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received:

Rates	£256.13.0
Compensation	£15.5.3

Cheques Drawn Since Last Meeting It was reported that since the last meeting the following cheques had been drawn:-

East Grinstead U.D.C.	£0.7.10
Cuckfield R.D.C.	£9.12.10
Uckfield R.D.C.	£1.3.5
East Sussex C.C.	£1.19.1

RESOLVED that the same be confirmed.

Accounts for payment The accounts for payment were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof amounting to £96.5.7.

14. ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST GOLF CLUB. RENT In reply to a question the Chairman reported that this matter would be kept under review.

15. CLERK'S SALARY The Chairman reported that the Clerk had prepared a scheme of reorganization of his office staff and applied for an increase from his present salary of £200 to £275, of which £150 represented salaries to office staff. His present salary had remained unaltered since 1929. RESOLVED that the application be approved, the increase to be operative for the financial year ending 31st December, 1946. (The Clerk was absent during the discussion of this item.)

Chairman

S.J. Mars Chairman

A Meeting of the Board was duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 6th February, 1946, at 2.30 p.m.

Col. A.E. Barchard, Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, C.B. R.N., Col. R.S. Clarke, M.P., Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, H.R. Hardy, A.F. Harland, G.D. Haslam, J. Godwin King and S.J. Marsh, Lt.-Col. G.R. Miller, Messrs. W. Mitchell, J.R. Owen, F.T. Ridley and J. Rowe.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. H.W. Looker and Mr. G. Webb.

1. CHAIRMAN The Clerk was elected temporary Chairman. On the proposition of Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. S.J. Marsh be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. APPRECIATION OF MR. OWEN'S SERVICES On the motion of Mr. Haslam it was RESOLVED that the Board record their hearty appreciation of Mr. Owen's valuable services as Chairman during the past ten years. Mr. Owen suitably responded.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. H.R. Hardy be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

4. APPRECIATION OF MR. J. GODWIN KING'S SERVICES On the proposition of the Chairman it was RESOLVED that the Board record their deep appreciation of Mr. J. Godwin King's services as Vice-Chairman.

5. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE It was RESOLVED that the General Purposes Committee be re-elected en bloc with the substitution of Mr. Owen for Mr. Hardy.

6. FOREST ROW COMMITTEE It was RESOLVED that the Forest Row Committee be re-elected en bloc with the substitution of Mr. Owen for Mr. Hardy.

7. MARESFIELD COMMITTEE It was RESOLVED that the Maresfield Committee be re-elected en bloc.

8. EMERGENCY AND AD HOC COMMITTEES It was RESOLVED that the Emergency and ad hoc Committees be re-elected en bloc.

9. MINUTES The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Board as printed and circulated were approved and signed.

10. FINANCES

Receipts: The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting the following amounts had been received.

Rates	£13.19.6
Acknowledgments	£72.14.4
Compensation	£8.4.0
Dividend on 2½% Consols	£0.19.11

Bank Accounts: The Bank Pass Sheets were produced, showing a balance due to the Board of £130 15s 11d on General Account, and of £26 19s 8d on the Wages Account, against which there were cheques outstanding totalling £17 11s 2d.

Accounts for payment: The undermentioned accounts were submitted and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof totalling £86. 5s. 4d.

The Clerk:	Petty Payments	£17.1.2
	Telephones	£0.3.2
¼ year's salary to 31st March 1946		£68.15.0

Estimates: The Clerk produced the estimates for the year ending 31st December, 1946, and it was RESOLVED that the same be approved.

11. RANGERS' REPORTS

Gentlemen,

Since the last meeting I have moved three lots of gypsies off the Forest; accompanied Col. Miller to inspect the damaged fence at Fords Green.

The East Sussex County Council have now made a new ditch to take the surface water on the Kingstanding and Nutley Roads, but the soil which came out of this ditch has been left very untidy.

Mr. Haslam received a complaint from Lord Cecil that his little dog fell in a hole left open by troops on the Forest. Was only found after twenty-four hours' searching. With the help of Ranger Day we have now filled in this hole.

(Sgd.) H. KIRBY.

Gentlemen,

Cutting I have cut burnt gorse from corner at Goat cross roads. I have cleared up and burnt a quantity of wood top left by Canadian troops in Twyford Lane. Rateable Property I have investigated and reported on changes of ownership and other details in connection with land subject to Forest Rate. Tile Lodge Road Owing to a claim from Mr. Hart, Tile Lodge, I, with Mr. Waters, examined this road. I sent a report to the office, and asked Mr. Waters to estimate for the work to be done. Roadside Trenches The East Sussex County Council have had dug with a mechanical excavator a series of trenches in the Old Lodge - Kingstanding area of the Forest. These are dug parallel to the road to drain and collect the flood water. Gypsies There has been a large increase in the number of gypsies using the Forest for camping purposes. They make the Forest very untidy, leaving a large amount of litter. They also annoy local farmers and other land owners by turning their horses into fields at night. When moved they just go on for a mile or two, and perhaps dodge from place to place on the Forest for a week.

(Sgd.) GILBERT DAY

12. CAMPFIELD ROUGH (IN COMMITTEE) The Chairman reported that Col. R.S. Clarke, M.P., and himself had offered to buy the area of land at Campfield Rough. On enquiry it was found that eight acres of level ground was reserved from the sale and that the remainder of nineteen acres offered for £400 consisted of scrub land subject to a covenant for fencing and other restrictions. It was thought that it was unlikely that the Government would purchase the land from them at this figure. It was RESOLVED that the Chairman and Col. R.S. Clarke be thanked for their efforts on behalf of the Board and that no further action on the purchase be taken. The Board then went out of Committee.

13. COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE, KINGSTANDING The Clerk reported that no further communication had been received from the Departments. It was RESOLVED that they be asked for a reply and that the promised information regarding the area requisitioned be furnished. Col. Clarke promised to pursue the matter in the House of Commons.

14. LAND AT COPHALL, FAIRWARP The Clerk reported a letter from the W.D. Land Agent stating that this land was to be relinquished subject to the disposal of the hutting on the site.

15. NUTLEY RECREATION GROUND The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Col. Miller regarding the repair of fencing at the Nutley Recreation Ground. An estimate was received from Mr. E.J. Gilham for £36.19.0. It was RESOLVED that it be forwarded to the Claims Commission.

16. CHELWOOD GATE RECREATION GROUND Admiral Beamish reported the settling of a claim in regard to this Recreation Ground and asked as to the Superintendence of the Ground. It was RESOLVED unanimously that Rear Admiral Beamish be appointed Superintendent.

17(a). MILITARY EXCAVATIONS

Viscount Cecil's Complaint Two letters received by Mr. Haslam from Viscount Cecil were read regarding the deep slit trenches dug by the military near his house. The Rangers had filled in one of the trenches but Lord Cecil asked that others be attended to. It was reported that as the area in question was still requisitioned, the matter was one for the military to deal with.

17(b). USE OF FOREST BY MILITARY (IN COMMITTEE) Mr. J R. Owen reported that he had met Major General Harrison, the present Area Military Commander, and discussed with him the condition of the Forest. The

latter had informed him that no military labour was available for restoring the Forest and he was doubtful whether Prisoner of War labour would be available. Rear Admiral Beamish reported that he had seen General Sir Oliver Leese, who had informed him that it was unlikely that the Training Areas on the Forest would be relinquished for some time.

It was RESOLVED that:

- (a) Application be made to the Surrey and Sussex Command for Prisoner of War labour to be made available before Easter for the filling in of dangerous trenches in areas to be indicated.
- (b) That the Chairman and Clerk interview Lord Cecil and explain the Board's position and ask for his support in ascertaining the Government's policy as to the present and future use of the Forest.
- (c) That the Board's position be fully set out in a letter to Lord Cecil and that copies of such letter be forwarded to Earl de la Warr, the Earl of Donoughmore and Lords Rankeillour and Winster with a request for their assistance. The Board then went out of Committee.

18. REQUISITIONED LAND AND WAR WORKS ACT 1945 Col. Miller drew attention to the above Act under which it was now proposed to increase the compensation rent to the full annual value where it was not at present being paid. The Clerk reported that he was aware of the provision and would watch the Board's interests.

19. RANGER DAY'S MOTOR-CYCLE Ranger Day reported that new primary and driving chains were necessary for his motor-cycle. RESOLVED that he be authorised to obtain same.

20. RANGER KIRBY'S CYCLE Ranger Kirby reported that a new free wheel and chain were required for his cycle. RESOLVED that he be authorised to obtain same.

Chairman

ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1946.

Expenditure

Clerk's Salary	275.0.0.
Petty Payments	30.0.0.
Printing Stationery etc.	35.0.0.
Ranger's wages	415.0.0.
do expenses	45.0.0.
Audit Stamp	8.0.0. 810.0.0.

Receipts

Rates	350.0.0.
Acknowledgments	120.0.0.
Compensation	75.0.0. <u>545.0.0.</u>
	265.0.0.

Allocation of Balance between Local Authorities

East Sussex County Council	132.10.0.
East Grinstead U.D.C.	26.10.0.
Uckfield R.D.C.	79.10.0.
Cuckfield U.D.C.	<u>26.10.0.</u>
	265.0.0.

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 3rd April, 1946 at 2.30 p.m.

S.J. Marsh, Esq., (Chairman)

Col. R.S. Clarke, M.P., Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, A.F. Harland, G.D. Haslam, J. Godwin King, H.W. Looker, Lt.-Col. G.R. Miller, Messrs. W. Mitchell, J.R. Owen, F.E. Richards, F.T. Ridley, G.A. Warburton, H. Waters and G.F. Webb.

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Messrs. H.R. Hardy and J. Rowe.

1. MINUTES The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board as printed and circulated were confirmed and signed.

2. TILE LODGE ROAD (Page 184) The Clerk reported that an estimate had been received from Messrs. H. & E. Waters for repairs to this road, which had been forwarded to the W.D. Land Agent. The Clerk was awaiting an appointment with the latter to discuss the claim.

3. NUTLEY RECREATION GROUND (Page 184) A letter from the W.D. Land Agent & Valuer was read agreeing without prejudice to recommend payment of the claim for fencing, but deleting the cost of painting
APPROVED.

4. FINANCES

Receipts

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	56.17.6
Acknowledgements	7.14.3
Army Compensation	8.2.9

Bank Accounts

The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing a balance due to the Board of £58 11s. 1d. on General Account and of £22 4s. 8d. on the Wages Account.

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were submitted and it was Resolved that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

R.W. Fovargue Petty payments	7.12.6
Telephones	<u>0.7.6</u>
	7.19.10
Ditto	quarter year's
	salary as Clerk
	to 30th June.
	68.15.0

5. RANGERS' REPORTS

Survey of Ashdown Forest 22nd March, 1946

In company with Mr. Akehurst, D.C.R.E., representative, I have surveyed the northern area of the forest, compiling a list giving number and dimensions of craters, gun pits, trenches and other excavations made during the Military occupation.

Kidd's Hill Dump

This dump of building refuse made by the military was cleared by the Garrison Engineer on 20th February.

Greenwood Gate Road

This road has been repaired during the last year both by the Ministry of War Transport and the East Sussex County Council. A quantity of Brick Rubble, at least 100 yards, has been left on the forest, with a number of concrete road blocks. The road verges for about one mile of its length have been left littered with brick rubble.

Culverts near Old Lodge

The East Sussex County Council in connection with their work of draining flood water from the forest have installed two new culverts, one near Old Lodge entrance and the second some distance North East. These both have dangerous outfalls on the forest, open trenches with a sheer fall of at least three feet. The one near Old Lodge is protected by about thirty concrete road blocks stood on the forest.

Dump on Nutley Road

The East Sussex County Council have made a dump of concrete road blocks on the forest near the Nutley Road, North West of Pippingford Camp entrance.

GILBERT DAY

Forest Ranger

Since the last Board Meeting I had twelve days with the Garrison Engineer, measuring up trenches etc. Eleven fires have occurred round Fairwarp and Spring Garden burning about twenty-four acres. The East Sussex County Council have done nothing to tidy up the trench they opened on the Nutley and Duddleswell road, also they have a trench digging machine deposited there. At Kingstanding the Council have several deposits of road material with fence partly round them. Since the Central Sussex Electricity Co. Ltd., laid the under-ground cable to Miss Cooper-Willis of Little Birches, they have erected tree concrete posts about eighteen inches high to mark where the gable is laid.

H. KIRBY.

6. DUMPS ON FOREST It was RESOLVED that the attention of the Assistant District Surveyor of the East Sussex County Council be drawn to the matters referred to in the Rangers' reports.

7. CENTRAL SUSSEX ELECTRICITY LTD., CONCRETE POSTS It was RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to write to the Company informing them that the posts can only be permitted under licence from the Board.

8. MR. WITHEY. SAW BENCH ON FOREST The Clerk reported that on receipt of a report from Ranger Day that if Mr. Withy was using a saw bench on the forest for which no consent had been given, he had written to Mr. Withy who had since removed the saw bench and restored the surface of the forest satisfactorily.

9. FOREST ROW RECREATION GROUND FENCE The Clerk reported that since the last meeting he had had correspondence with Mr. J. R. Coulthard, Chairman of the Forest Row Parish Council, regarding this matter. He had searched through the Minutes of the Board and found that after the War of 1914-18 a claim had been submitted to the Military for restoration of damage in which the repair of the Recreation Ground fence was included. Although compensation money had been received, so far as could be ascertained no sum had been expended on the repair. It was RESOLVED that the Superintendent of the Recreation Ground be asked to obtain an estimate for the fencing and that the matter be referred to the General Purposes Committee with power to act. Mr. Owen suggested the desirability of using tubular steel fencing which was now being made available by the Military Authorities at 2d. per foot. NOTED.

10. FOREST ROW RECREATION GROUND HUT The Clerk reported that since the last meeting he had received a letter from the Clerk of the Forest Row Parish Council, asking whether the Board would consent to the erection of a hut presented to the Council on the site of the cricket pavilion, the hut to be used for social activities. He had replied that under the Ashdown Forest Confirmation Act of 1885 five acres of land at Tompsetts Bank was reserved for the playing of cricket and other games and in view of this limited power, the Board had no jurisdiction to consent to the erection of a hut as a Community Centre or for social purposes. APPROVED.

11. LICENCES. The Clerk reported the issue of licences to Mr. A. Stock for a water pipe to Putland Cottages and to Mr. A.M. Tucker for a water pipe and road to "The Burn Cottage", Coleman's Hatch. NOTED.

In Committee

12. CAMPFIELD ROUGH (page 184) The Clerk reported that after Correspondence with Miss Swan's Solicitors they had finally put forward a figure of £75. The matter was referred to the Chairman and it was decided that negotiations be not pursued. NOTED.

13. COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE, KINGSTANDING (Page 184) The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Ministry of Works who were now solely concerned, that the question of the future of the centre was still under consideration. Col. Clarke reported that he had not raised the matter in the House, but would do so when the occasion arose, on bearing from the Clerk.

14. MILITARY EXCAVATIONS (Page 185) The Rangers having reported that in conjunction with the D.C.R.E. they had made a survey of the Forest, the supply of Prisoner of War Labour was awaited.

15. MILITARY USE OF THE FOREST (Page 185) The Chairman reported that he had seen Lord Cecil and has arranged a meeting with him on his return from abroad with a view to this matter being raised in the House of Lords. It was hoped to enlist the support of other members of the Upper House whose interests lay in the neighbourhood of the forest. APPROVED.

16. FIRES Ranger Kirby reported that eleven fires had occurred round Fairwarp and Spring Garden burning about 24 acres.

17. MR. TRAIN. CULTIVATION OF FOREST (Page 51) The Clerk reported that the Forest Row Committee met on the 21st February, 1946 and recommended that Mr. Train be given three months notice to terminate the Licence granted to him in 1942 for cultivation of part of the Forest adjoining his property at "Green Hall". He had accordingly served a notice on Mr. Train who had asked that the matter be reconsidered in view of (a) the present food situation and (b) the fact that the ground had been prepared and the seed potatoes delivered. He asked that he be allowed to use the ground this year.

The Chairman reminded the Board of the duties imposed on them by the Act of 1885 for the protection and regulation of the rights of the Commoners and the prevention of encroachments.

It was RESOLVED that Mr. Train be informed that he would be permitted to use the land until the end of September, when the fence was to be removed and the surface of the Forest restored.

Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 3rd July, 1946 at 2.30 p.m.

S.J. Marsh Esq., (Chairman) H.R. Hardy Esq., (Vice Chairman), Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, G.D. Haslam, J. Godwin King, Lt. Col. G.R. Miller, Messrs. W. Mitchell, J.R. Owen, F.E. Richards, F.T. Ridley, Mrs. U. Ridley, J. Rowe and H. Waters and
Mr. Colvin (representing Earl De La Warr.)

Apologies for absence were received from Col. R.S. Clarke and Messrs. G. Webb and G.A. Warburton.

The Chairman expressed a welcome to Mrs. Ursula Ridley nominated by the Cuckfield R.D.C. in the place of Mr. A.F. Harland, resigned.

1. MINUTES The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board as printed and circulated were confirmed and signed.

2. NUTLEY RECREATION GROUND (P. 188) The Clerk reported that he had now received the compensation money from the Military. Noted.

3. COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD DUMPS ON FOREST (P. 190) The Clerk reported that he had received reports from the Rangers listing various dumps of material on the Forest, in Ranger Kirby's area 20 and in Ranger Day's 28. He had written to the County Surveyor requesting that the pre-war practice should be resumed, whereby the County Surveyor furnished a list of sites required and the quantity to be deposited on each. He also asked for a list for the current year, but no details had yet been received. Dr. Richards offered on being supplied with copies of the Rangers' reports to take up the matter with the County Surveyor. Approved.

4. CENTRAL SUSSEX ELECTRICITY. CONCRETE POSTS ON FOREST A letter from the Company was read stating that they had arranged for the removal of the posts. Noted.

5. FOREST ROW RECREATION GROUND. FENCING (P. 190) A letter from Mr. C.G. de Rougemont was read stating that the Garrison Engineer, Uckfield had offered 650 yards of tubular steel scaffolding and 70 couplings and further quantities if needed. Noted.

6. RANGERS' REPORTS

Fires

Four serious fires have occurred on the northern section of the Forest since the last Board Meeting.

1. 21st April. Kidd's Hill, extent 30 acres.
2. 21st April. Five Hundred Rough, extent 10 acres.
3. 25th April. Wren's Warren, extent 6 acres.
4. 3rd May. Kidbrook Wood, extent 10 acres.

In extinguishing these fires I was assisted by N.F.S., Police and other helpers.

Filling in of trenches and other excavations on the Forest On 8th April. Troops commenced filling in these excavations. On 11th April. Two Bulldozers arrived to fill in the larger holes. On the same date the officer in charge informed me that the District Command had given instructions that only the most dangerous excavations be filled at present, the remainder to be left to some future date. The work proceeded in a very dilatory manner, the Greenwood Gate area was roughly cleared and part of the Gill's Lap area. Troops were withdrawn on 14th May and no-thing has been done since. Prosecutions I have given evidence in two prosecutions at East Grinstead Petty Sessional Court;

1. Against two gypsies for having their caravans on the Forest contrary to the Bye Laws. Result - a conviction. Fine - £2 each.
2. Against Mr. A.W. Turner, Forge Cottage, Chelwood Gate, for dumping a quantity of sawdust on the Forest. Result a conviction. Fine - £3.

(Sgd.) GILBERT DAY

Since the last meeting.

Seven fires have occurred burning about 30 acres which was extinguished by myself. The War Office had a party of troops filling in trenches and etc., at Gill's Lap and Chuck Hatch from 8th April to the 14th May. Nothing has been done to the remainder of the Forest. On the 10th May I moved off the Forest at Marlpits a party of gypsies with caravan. The K.S.2. at Duddleswell are now depositing old tins and other rubbish on the Forest near the K.S.2. Messrs. Albert Turner & Sons, are now having the old road repaired from the Old Mill, Crowborough Warren, to Pound Gate, by filling in the ruts and re-levelling the road.

7. MESSRS. ALBERT TURNER & SONS. ROAD It was .Resolved that Messrs. A. Turner & Sons be informed that a licence was necessary for the repair of the road.

8. FINANCES

The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting the following amounts had been received:-

Rates	£27.3.10
Local authorities	
Contributions	£132.10.0
Acknowledgments	£10.2.0
Army compensation rents	£8.1.8
Compensation Nutley	
Recreation Ground	£30.0.0
Deposits for temporary	
Licenses	£15.0.0

Bank Accounts

The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing balances due to the Board on General Account of £134 11 4 and on Wages Account of £5.4.2.

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were submitted and it was Resolved that cheques be drawn in payment thereof:-

The Clerk ¼ year salary	
to 30th September	£66.15.0
Ditto Petty payments	£20 14 6
Telephones	£0.6 8
Mary Wray Duplicating	£1 15 0

9. MAKE RATE

The Clerk referred to the estimate of expenditure for the year as approved at the February meeting of the Board amounting to £810 of which £265 is to be borne by the local Authorities. It was duly proposed and seconded 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 Enclosure Act, 1845-1878 and the Commons Regulations (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act, 1885 and the Ashdown Forest Act 193? 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 owners and their respective acreages and the respective sums payable by them are set out in the Rate Book produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

10. CLERK'S PETTY CASH ACCOUNT The Clerk requested a change in the present procedure whereby petty cash payments were made from his firm's Clients' account and reimbursed, and that a separate Petty Cash Account be opened with the bank, operative on his signature. It was Resolved that his request be approved and that a separate Bank Account be opened, with a float of £40.

11. ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST LADIES' GOLF CLUB. APPLICATION TO MAKE NEW GREEN

An application from the Secretary of the Club to make a new 2nd hole green to the right of the present one was approved.

12. DAMAGE BY SHEEP. MRS. KINGSFORD' S COMPLAINT A complaint from Mrs. Kingsford of Ryst Wood Lodge was received regarding damage to her garden caused by sheep straying from the Forest, and asking for the Board's help in preventing a recurrence. The following report from Ranger Day was received.

Dear Sir,

I have surveyed Mrs. Kingsford's property at Ryst Wood Lodge, Forest Row, and there is no doubt that it is well fenced with strong wire netting but the drive gate always seems to stand open. The nearest exit from the Forest is Quabrook Gateway is at least 400 yards away. From this the sheep seem to stray along the road-side waste in the direction of Forest Row. They can then turn up Ryst Wood Road which I have seen them do. Up this road the entrance gates are kept shut so no straying animals can enter. If the sheep do not take this turning but continue to stray in the direction of Forest Row, they arrive at this open gate of Ryst Wood Lodge and naturally enter. The only solution seems to be to keep this gate closed.

(Sgd.) GILBERT DAY

The Chairman pointed out that sheep were not commonable animals, but were allowed by arrangement with Earl De La Warr.

It was Resolved that Mrs. Kingsford be informed that the matter was not the responsibility of the Board, but that the owners of the sheep are being informed that they must exercise every care to prevent them straying and causing damage.

13. RANGER DAY'S MOTOR CYCLE. Application from Ranger Day for a new tyre for his motor cycle was approved, and for an increase in his petrol ration from 7 to 10 gallons per month. Approved.

14. RANGERS' HOLIDAYS Applications from Ranger Day for the period 4th August to 18th August and from Ranger Kirby for a data to be arranged were approved.

15. MILITARY DE-REQUISITIONS The Clerk reported that he had received notices of de-requisitioning in respect of Searchlight sites on part of the Ladies Golf Course and west of Chelwood Gate.

16. Mr. J. Humphrey. MILITARY DAMAGE A letter from Mr. J. Humphrey of Colemans Hatch was received complaining of damage around the Bog and Newbridge Green, and requesting the Conservators to supply 100 4" land drain pipes. The Clerk reported that she Board had previously obtained compensation from the Military in respect of a former complaint by Mr. Humphrey and it was Resolved that the Clerk take up the matter with the W. D. Land Agent.

IN COMMITTEE

17. MILITARY OCCUPANCY OF FOREST

The Chairman reported that as suggested at the last Meeting of the Board he had ***** Viscount Cecil, who in turn interviewed Lord De La Warr. The ***** Lord Nathan, the Under Secretary of State for War. As ***** the letter (a copy of which was circulated with the Clerk's ' confidential memorandum) had been received by Lord De La Warr. The army had employed Military personnel in filling in trenches for a short period, but had dealt with approximately 300 acres only out of a total of 6,400 the regulated Forest. A report had been received from Dr. Walker instancing the danger to human beings and animals through slit trenches and wire. The Chairman had again seen Lord Cecil and Col. Clarke on the matter and the latter had agreed to address this meeting, but had been prevented by parliamentary duties from attending. He had also seen Sir Lawrence Chubb who had promised the fullest support of the Commons and Footpaths Society and the C.P.R.E. Col. Clarke suggested that a deputation be sent to the War Office comprised of the following:

The Chairman, Lord Cecil, Lord De La Warr,
the Chairman of the County Council and Col. Clarke.

It was RESOLVED that a deputation see the War Office and make the strongest representations. The deputation to consist of the following: Lord De La Warr, Lord Cecil, Mr. J.R. Owen, Col. Ralph S. Clarke, the Chairman and Clerk and Sir Lawrence Chubb, the Chairman having freedom to invite any others whom he thought might help the Conservators case.

The Clerk reported that he had sent a copy of the memorandum to the Local Authorities asking for their strongest support. He had received a message from the Clerk to the County Council that Meetings of the Town Planning and Joint Committees would be held next week,; but, that he had no doubt that the Council would lend every support to the Conservators opposition.

The Clerk of the Uckfield Rural District Council had replied that his Committee were meeting on the 9th July and asked to be informed of the result of this Meeting. The Clerk of the East Grinstead Urban District Council reported that the matter had been considered at a Meeting on the 1st instant, when it was decided to give every possible support. He also asked for a report of this Meeting.

It was RESOLVED that the reports be furnished and in future copies of the Board's Minutes be circulated to the Local Authorities.

18. COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE, KINGSTANDING (P. 191) The following letter was received from the Ministry of Works:

Land at Kingstanding, Ashdown Forest

"I refer to a meeting of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest at Forest Row on the 27th November, 1945 at which the Estate Surveyor (Tunbridge Wells) of this Department was present, when it was stated that an area of land containing 23/24 acres had been offered to the Conservators upon which they held an option to purchase expiring on the 31st December, 1945.

Perhaps you would be good enough to let me know whether these 23/24 acres are still available and if your option has been renewed.

I shall also be glad to know whether in the event of the Government acquiring part of the requisitioned common land at Kingstanding - approximately 47 acres - the Conservators would be willing to accept in full substitution thereof the 23/24 acres above referred to.

The 47 acres referred to includes approximately 36 acres of land requisitioned on the 19th April, 1943 and about 11 acres of the area to the south which was requisitioned on the 7th June, 1944. It excludes the remainder of the land requisitioned on the 7th June, 1944 and the "dummy site" of 27.35 acres requisitioned on the 19th April, 1943. Some slight variation of the boundary on the north side of the site may be necessary, but it is not anticipated this would increase the area by many square yards.'

It was RESOLVED that the Ministry be informed that the Board could only accept in substitution an equivalent acreage to that requisitioned.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 9th October, 1946, at 2.30 p.m.

S.J. Marsh, Esq., Chairman,
H.R. Hardy, Esq., Vice-Chairman,
Col. R.S. Clark, Messrs. F.R. Coulthard,
J. Godwin King and H.W. Looker, Lt.-Col. G.R. Miller,
Messrs. W. Mitchell, J.R. Owen, F.E. Richards, F.T. Ridley, J. Rowe and G. A. Warburton, Adm. T.P.H. Beamish.
Mrs. Ursula Ridley and Mr. C. A. Colvin
(representing Earl de la Warr).

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. G. Webb and G.D. Haslam.

1. MINUTES The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Board as printed and circulated were confirmed and signed.

2. FOREST ROW RECREATION GROUND FENCING (p. 193) The Clerk reported that on the instructions of the Chairman he had informed Mr. de Rougemont that the Board would pay the cost of the erection of the fencing.

It was RESOLVED that if necessary at the Chairman's discretion a sufficient sum of the investment in Consols be sold to meet the cost.

3. A. TURNER & SONS ROAD (p. 195) A letter from Messrs. C.J. Parris was read stating that the road in question had been repaired in the past and that it was proposed to repair other entrances across the Forest.

RESOLVED that they would be informed that a Licence would be necessary on the usual scale.

4. FINANCES The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	0.1.6
Acknowledgements	24.5.6
Compensation: Tile Lodge Road	81.10.0
Compensation: The Bog	1.10.0
Compensation: Land Wych Cross	15.0.0
Compensation: A/F Ladies' Golf Club	13.10.0
Deposit for temporary licence	5.0.0
Army Compensation Rents	39.13.8
Raper & Fovargue – repayment of	
Clients petty cash	20.0.0
Dividend on 2 ½% Consols	1.19.10

Bank Accounts: The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing balances due to the Board on General Account of £65.18s.9d; on Wages Account of £9.15s.10d and on the Clerk's Imprest Account of £17.17s.8d, against which there were outstanding cheques totalling £9.10s.10d.

It was RESOLVED that a cheque be drawn for £31.13s.2d to replenish the Clerk's Imprest Account.

5. RANGERS' REPORTS

Electricity Mains at Chuck Hatch The Weald Electricity Co. have laid a service main on the Forest, A way leave permit was granted for this work, and the branch has been filled in a satisfactory manner. Saw Bench, Priory Road Mr. W. R. Taylor, Forest Row was granted a licence to erect and work Saw Bench on the Forest, in the Priory area. Having now completed the work, Mr. Taylor has removed the Saw Bench, removed saw-dust and restored the surface of the Forest to its former condition. Saw Bench, Chuck Hatch The Saw Bench erected on the Forest by Mr. Uridge, Colmans Hatch, and worked under licence, is still in position. Use of Mechanical Shovels by E.S.C.C. The East Sussex County Council have been using mechanical shovels to load gravel and beach on the Forest. As the use of this tool caused the churning up of turf and top soil of the Forest, I reported this matter to the Chairman, giving him a list of all E.S.C.C. dumps on the Forest. Holiday With the Chairman's permission I have taken my Annual Holiday.

(Sgd.) GILBERT DAY

On the 6th July I moved off the Forest at Pound Gate a party of gypsies with Caravan. I have inspected the de-requisitioned land at Nutley and Vetchery and reported the condition of land and cost to Mr. Fovargue. With reference to my reporting the refuse deposit near the K S.2., I will now say it has had the desired effect, as no more rubbish has been deposited, and that which was has now been buried. By the Chairman's permission I took my holiday from 26th August to 9th September.

(Sgd.) H. KIRBY

6. DE-REQUISITIONS (p. 197) The Clerk reported that he had settled claims for reinstatement of the Forest in respect of the following:

Land near Ashdown Forest Ladies' Golf Club
Land west side of Wych Cross - Danehill Road

He had also made claims in respect of land near Shalesbrook and Chelwood Vetchery.

7. MILITARY DAMAGE (p. 197)

Tile Lodge Road After protracted correspondence the Clerk had interviewed the W.D. Land Agent who had agreed to settle the claim on the basis of Messrs. H. & E. Waters' estimate of £81 10s 0d.

J. Humphrey - The Bog The Military had agreed to pay the cost of supplying the 100 4" land drain pipes.

8. RECREATION GROUNDS ON THE FOREST A letter from Mr. Roy Ridley was read suggesting that the two existing recreation grounds at Fairwarp were disused and putting forward an alternative site at Cackle Street.

The Chairman reminded the Board that under the Award certain areas were set aside for playing grounds, but that the Board had no power to provide additional grounds, nor funds or responsibility for the upkeep of the existing grounds.

RESOLVED that the Clerk prepare a report on the state of the Recreation Grounds for consideration at the next Meeting.

9. P.O. TELEPHONES - KIOSK AND OVERHEAD LINES The Clerk reported applications from the Post Office Telephone Department for the erection of a kiosk at St. John's Hill, and for overhead lines to Ray Cottage and Greenhall Nurseries. On the instructions of the Chairman consent was not granted, and in the case of the kiosk it was suggested that it be erected outside the Forest on the opposite side of the road to the suggested site. Approved.

10. MILITARY OCCUPATION OF THE FOREST (p. 198) The Chairman reported that since the last Meeting Col. R.S. Clarke had visited the War Office and interviewed Sir E. Speed, the Permanent Under-Secretary. Col. Clarke's letter reporting the interview was read from which the relieving points arose:

(i) The matter need no longer be treated as confidential.

- (ii) In view of the increase in the size of the arras and the difficulty with regard to building, a definite extension of the training area would be necessary.
- (iii) Failing agreement to the continued use of the training area, it might be necessary to invoke powers under the Defence Act of 1942, under which the area could be purchased.
- (iv) No live ammunition would be used and no firing at week-ends except when necessary for the Territorial Army.
- (v) An endeavour would be made to avoid the use of tanks, though some tracked vehicles would be necessary.
- (vi) There would be no harm in sending up a deputation if thought necessary.

The Chairman reported that he had informed the East Sussex County Council and the Local Authorities as well as Sir Lawrence Chubb of the position. A letter had been addressed to The Times signed by Lord de la Warr, Viscount Cecil, Col. R S. Clarke, Sir Lawrence Chubb and himself, and he expressed appreciation of the valuable support given by that paper in publishing photographs of the Forest and also to the News Chronicle for their photograph and leader. He hoped that the local papers would likewise lend their support. He had received letters from all over the country in support of the letter of protest. The Town and Country Planning Committee of the East Sussex County Council had the matter very much in hand.

The Chairman referred to the assurances given at the beginning of the war that after the cessation of hostilities the area would be released and the surface of the Forest restored.

After lengthy discussion, it was RESOLVED that the Board place on record their very strong dissatisfaction with the War Office announcement in the following terms:

The Conservators of Ashdown Forest, amongst whom are representatives of the East Sussex County Council, the Urban District of East Grinstead and the Rural Districts of Uckfield and Cuckfield, at their meeting on 9th October, 1946, expressed their deep anxiety at the threat to the Commoners and the Public by the compulsory retention of the Forest for the purpose of a permanent Military Training Area. The Board on general grounds and in view of the repeated assurances that the Forest would, at the conclusion of hostilities, be restored to the Commoners with all damage reinstated, take the earliest opportunity of registering their emphatic protest at the prospect of the loss of the rights of the Commoners and the Public being deprived of this open space.

It was further RESOLVED that copies of the Resolution be forwarded to the Local Authorities and other interested bodies and to the Press and that the deputation proposed at the last meeting attend the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, and later at the War Office at such times as may be settled hereafter.

IN COMMITTEE.

11. COUNTY COUNCIL DUMPS ON THE FOREST The Chairman reported that since the last Meeting Mr. Owen and himself had met representatives of the County Surveyor, and that the latter had been informed that there were forty-eight dumps of material on the Forest, and it was strongly suggested that the number be reduced to two.

Subsequently the County Surveyor had written referring to forty dumps but claiming that the Council were not occupying more than twelve. If the number were reduced to two it would, he suggested, make road maintenance more difficult and expensive.

It was RESOLVED that a Sub-Committee of three be appointed to meet a similar number from the Roads and Bridges Committee with power to act. The Committee to consist of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Mr. J.R. Owen.

The Board then went out of Committee.

90

12. A.E. WICKHAM COURTLANDS, NUTLEY A letter from Messrs. Hunt & Co. was read stating that Mr. Wickham held two licences for roads to eight properties at Courtlands, one of which he had now sold and enquiring whether a new licence was now necessary. The Clerk advised that it was necessary and was instructed to inform Messrs. Hunt & Co. accordingly.

13. FAIRWARP CARNIVAL COMMITTEE - BONFIRE An application from the above Committee was received for permission to have a bonfire on the Village Green, Fairwarp, on 23rd November, precautions being taken to prevent damage. RESOLVED that consent be granted.

14. FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL - FOOTPATH A letter from the Clerk to the Council was read drawing attention to the condition of the footpath from Highgate Green to Spring Meadow, to which the Clerk had replied that the Board had no responsibility.

The Annual Meeting of Commoners duly convened by notices posted on the principal doors of the Churches and Ecclesiastical Districts to which the Forest extends, by advertisements in three newspapers circulating in the district and by notice to each Commoner more than fourteen days prior to this date and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row at 1.30 p.m.

Mesdames H.C. Hett, M. Parsons, B. Sivere and R.H. Stevenson, Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Col. R.S. Clarke, M.P., Lt.-Col. G.R. Miller and Messrs. S.J. Marsh, G.D. Haslam, J. Hall, J.R. Coulthard, F.T. Ridley, W. Mitchell, N. Stephens, J. Rowe and H.J. Chapman (representing Sir P.M. Maryon-Wilson)

The Clerk read a copy of the notice convening this meeting.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN Mr. S.J. Marsh is unanimously elected Chairman.

2. MINUTES The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting of Commoners were read, confirmed and signed.

3. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill three vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, C.B., R.N. Lt.-Col G.R. Miller, D.S.O., and Mr. F.T. Ridley'. On the proposition of Mr. J.R. Coulthard seconded by Mr. G.D. Haslam, the three retiring Conservators were re-elected.

4. ELECTION OF RECREATION GROUND SUPERINTENDENTS It was RESOLVED that the Recreation Ground Superintendents be re-elected as follows:

Nutley:	Lt.-Col. G.R. Miller
Fairwarp:	Col. A.E. Barchard
Coleman's Hatch:	Mr. J.R. Owen, J.P.
Forest Row:	Mr. C.G. de Rougemont

The Chairman expressed thanks to the Superintendents for their work during the past year,

5. GENERAL BUSINESS The Chairman referred to the threat to the Forest by the Military, discussions on which were still taking place. He expressed thanks to the Press, both London and Local, for their help, and referred to the assistance given by the Local Authorities the Town and Country Planning Committees and the C.P.R.E. He assured the Meeting that the Conservators have tried their best to retain the Forest and had endeavoured to get the Military to fulfil their promise to restore the surface of the Forest. The matter was under the consideration of the Government Departments and by the Cabinet and the Conservators' claims had been pressed most strongly. In reply to a question he stated that the military requirements were for an area in which they could carry out digging and tank exercises, another section for firing ranges and a large area over which they could carry out manoeuvres.

The Chairman and Clerk dealt with questions on rights of common.

Col. Clarke suggested that a full terrier of the lands entitled to rights of common should be prepared. He also referred to the diminishing area over which the commoners could exercise rights owing to the extension of woodland. Thanks to the Chairman were expressed on the proposition of Mr. G.D. Haslam.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 4th December, 1946, at 2.30 p.m.

S.J. Marsh, Esq., Chairman,
Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish. C B., R N.,
Col R.S. Clarke, M.P., Lt -Col. G R. Miller, D.S.O.,
and Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, J.H. Griffin, J. Godwin King, C.B.E.,
H.W. Looker and W. Mitchell. Mrs. Ursula Ridley,
Messrs. F.T. Ridley, J. Rowe, G.A. Warburton, H. Waters
and Mr. C.A. Colvin, (representing Earl de la Warr).

Apologies for Absence were received from Messrs. H.R. Hardy and J.R. Owen.

1. MEMBERSHIP The Clerk reported that the following appointments had been made:
East Sussex County Council Col R.S. Clarke, M.P., Messrs. J. Godwin King, H.W. Looker, F.E. Richards and G.A. Warburton. East Grinstead U.D.C. Mr. J.H.H. Griffin.

The Chairman expressed a welcome to Mr. Griffin on his return to the Board.

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

3. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS (P. 178) The Chairman reported that at the Commoners Meeting the three retiring Conservators, Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, C.B., R N., Lt.-Col. G.R. Miller and Mr. F.T. Ridley, were re-elected and expressed pleasure at their re-election.

4. RECREATION GROUNDS (P. 202) Mr. Looker referred to the Minutes of the last meeting and to the statement of the Conservators objections to the military proposals, The Chairman repeated that the Board had no power to provide additional grounds and that a further Act would be necessary to do so. There was at present no general demand for an additional ground at Fairwarp.

5. FOREST ROW RECREATION GROUND (P 200) The Clerk reported that he had received an account from Messrs. H. & E. Waters for haulage of tubular steel piping amounting to £3 5s 0d which was in addition to their tender of £115 for erection of the fencing.

6. A. TURNER & SONS - ROADS (P. 200) The Clerk reported further correspondence with Messrs. E, J. Parris, Agents for the Crowborough Warren Estate. He had informed them that he was prepared to recommend an acknowledgment of £2 2s 0d in respect of each road and that he could trace no evidence that Road No. 2 had been a public highway. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk's action be approved.

7. COUNTY COUNCIL DUMPS (P. 193) The Clerk reported that a meeting of the Sub Committee appointed at the last meeting with the County Council representatives would take place on the 7th December.

8. RANGERS' REPORTS (P. 201) The following reports were received:

"Since the last meeting: I have had fifteen days collecting Forest rates and have paid same into the office at Battle. Posted up notices of Commoners' meeting on Church doors at Nutley Fairwarp and Maresfield. Miss Cooper Willis of Little Birches, Nutley, has had built, with bricks, an incinerator on the Forest 2'60 x 2'6' x 2'0` high. (This has now been moved off the Forest.) Messrs, Albert Turner and Sons are now repairing the old road from New Mill, Crowborough Warren to Friars Gate. The East Sussex County Council road material deposits: about half of the deposits at Pippingford Hill have been taken away. The deposit at Beech View has been cleared except for one yard of material. About a quarter of the material at the Kingstanding deposits has been taken away.

(Sgd.) H. KIRBY

Mr. Train's Plot: Mr. Train has removed the fence from his tillage plot on the Forest.

Gypsy Prosecution: On 4th November, by instructions from the Chairman, I attended the Petty Sessional Court at East Grinstead, to prosecute Joe Smith, a gypsy. He was summoned for having his caravan on the Forest. Convicted and fined 5/-. Mr. Uridge's Saw Bench: Mr. Uridge is still using his saw bench and wood dump on the

Forest, near Chuck Hatch. Forest Rates: I have collected Forest Rates in the Northern area and with Ranger Kirby went to Battle to pay in monies and give particulars of changes in ownership of rateable property.

(Sgd.) GILBERT DAY

Caravan at Priory: Powell and Philcox. Salisbury House, Upper Hartfield, have bought some timber in Kidbrooke Wood from Mr. Lumsden. They have employed two men to cut this timber. These men have hired a caravan owing to the impossibility of getting lodgings in this locality.

I found this caravan drawn on to the Forest near the Priory on 17th November. On the 20th November I contacted the two men and informed them that the caravan being on the Forest was an infringement of the Bye-Laws and must be removed.

The caravan has remained there ever since, and to-day, 27th November, I again interviewed the two men and told them the caravan must be moved to-day. They said they had nowhere else to put the caravan. I then told them I must report this matter and they replied: 'That is what you had better do.'

(Sgd.) GILBERT DAY

9. CARAVAN ON FOREST – KIDBROOKE. It was RESOLVED that Messrs. Powell and Philcox employees be informed that the caravan must be removed or the matter regularised by the grant of a temporary licence.

10. RECREATION GROUNDS The following reports from the Rangers were received:

Recreation Ground at Fords Green: Colonel Miller – Superintendent. This ground is in fair condition. Games are played on it weekly. The fence is in rather bad condition. Was damaged by troops.

Recreation ground at Fairwarp: Colonel Barchard - Superintendent. This ground is in very bad condition. No fence around, and it has not been played on for a good many years. Grown up almost to a jungle.

(Sgd.) H. KIRBY"

Chelwood Gate: Superintendent - Admiral Beamish. The ground itself is in fair condition. A fair playing pitch and the outfield roughly mown. The fence is being repaired. The pavilion was much dilapidated during the war by Canadian troops. Area: about 3 acres.

Coleman's Hatch: Superintendent - Mr. J.R. Owen, This ground has a good playing pitch, with a well-mown outfield. The fence is in a good state of repair. The pavilion, although slightly knocked about by the troops, has been put in good repair and painted. Area: about 2 acres.

Forest Row: Superintendent - Mr. C. G. de Rougemont. This ground is in a fair condition, considering that football is played here as well as cricket, and the village school children use it for sport. No fence has yet been erected, but the iron piping is piled in readiness by the pavilion. The pavilion, a brick built one, is in good condition. The roof, which was a thatched one, has been patched with corrugated iron. Area: about 5 acres.

(Sgd.) GILBERT DAY

Mr. Coulthard said that the Forest Row Parish Council expressed their great concern at the state of the Recreation Ground, and suggested that the supervision of the Recreation Grounds should be entrusted to the Chairman of the Parish Council. The Chairman said that the Clerk would report on the implications of the suggestion.

11. FINANCES

Bank Accounts: The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing credit balances as follows:

General Account	251.11.7
Wages Account	2.17.6
Clerk's Imprest Account	9.16.0

On the last named account there were cheques outstanding, totalling £5 12s 1d.

Receipts: The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	320.15.6
Acknowledgments	3.12.0
Compensation - Chelwood Vachery	25.0.0
Local Authorities' Contribution	13.5.0

Accounts for Payment

H. & E. Waters –	
Cartage of tubular fencing to Forest Row Recreation Ground	3.5.0
R. W. Fovargue – ½ year's salary to 30th December	68.15.0
Clerk's Imprest Account	35.16.1

12. LICENCES The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following licences had been granted:

Mr. H. Richardson: Road and footpath to Courtlands, Nutley,

Mr. R.J. Lumsden: Road into Kidbrooke Wood.

13. FUTURE MEETINGS, 1947 RESOLVED that meetings of the Board be held as follows: 5th February, 2nd April, 2nd July, 1st October and 3rd December, at 2.30 p.m.

14. P.O.W. CAMP - FAIRWARP The Clerk reported an enquiry from the Ministry of Works whether a permanent easement would be granted for drainage from the camp. He had informed them that there could be no permanent easement, but that the termination of a revocable licence would only arise on some special circumstance such as the blowing of a pipe. Approved.

15. PRESS FACILITIES Mr. Griffin raised the question of facilities for the Press and the Chairman promised the matter would receive consideration.

The Board then went into Committee

16. COMMUNICATION CENTRE - KINGSTANDING (P. 199) The Clerk reported that it had been intimated that there was every possibility that the area would be taken over by the Ministry of Works and an equivalent area purchased.

17. MILITARY OCCUPATION OF THE FOREST (P. 203) The Chairman reported that negotiations were still going on with the Government Departments concerned, and that the Conservators' objections were being pressed most strongly. The matter was confidential at present and as soon as possible a statement would be made.

Chairman

A Conference held at the Ministry of Town and Country Planning Office on Thursday, 5th December 1946 at 2 30 p.m.

Mr. E.S. Hill (in the Chair),
Major General Challoner and Col. Cameron

Representatives from:

the Ministry of Supply, War Office, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Ministry of Health

County Council:

Lord Gage, Mr. H.C. Harbord and Clerk

Conservators:

Mr. S.J. Marsh, Chairman,

Lt.-Col. R.S. Clarke and Clerk, Lord de la Warr

Commons etc. Society - Sir Lawrence Chubb
Uckfield R.D.C. Clerk and Town Planning Consultant.

Mr. Hill stated the Departmental Committee have the responsibility of advising the Ministers and Cabinet. He was glad to note there is now more hope of accommodation in settlement of the matter.

Col. Cameron then presented the claims of the Military. The Pippingford area seemed generally suitable except for a rifle range. In the event of that area being used they would like the Forest as a training area where no vehicles would be used and nothing done which the general public could not do. A classification range was an essential for the Army and equally required by the Territorials. He asked the Local Authorities to suggest suitable sites within a radius of ten miles from Crowborough and Maresfield having space for 36 targets on 1 range, or 12 targets on 3 ranges. For a 600 yard range 2,500 yards safety margin is required, but the land could be used for agriculture when range not in use.

The Uckfield U.D.C. stated the Pippingford Area had been scheduled as a suitable gathering ground in connection with the water scheme of that authority. He was supported in this view by the Ministry of Health representative, but the claim having been registered it was not regarded as an insuperable stumbling block. The methods of implementing any agreement were discussed. The Chairman and Lord de la Warr made it clear they would require special legislation and would not rest content with an Army Council letter, as there might be retention of the present state of affairs. It was agreed by all parties that a Public Local Enquiry was essential whatever agreement might be arrived between the bodies directly concerned.

Mr. Hill undertook to consult the Town Planning Authorities and any scheme should be forwarded to them and the Conservators.

The Clerk was instructed to discuss the legal position arising out of the foregoing matters with the legal representative of the Government Departments and Treasury Solicitor.

Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday, 5th February, 1947 at 2.30 p.m.

S.J. Marsh Esq., Chairman

H.R. Hardy Esq., Vice-Chairman

Lt.-Col. G.R. Miller, D.S.O., Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, J.H. Griffin, W. Mitchell, F.T. Ridley and G.A. Warburton and Mr. S.A. Colvin (representing Earl de la Warr)

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral Beamish, Col. R.S. Clarke and Messrs. H.W. Looker, F.E. Richards and J. Rowe.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. S.J. Marsh be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. H.R. Hardy be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

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

4. A. TURNER & SONS. ROADS (P [blank]) The Clerk read further correspondence from Messrs. C.J. Parris enquiring under what Act the Board insisted on a licence and contending that the roads had been repaired from time to time in the past. RESOLVED that the Clerk investigate the matter further and report.

5. COUNTY COUNCIL DUMPS (P [blank]) The Clerk reported that a meeting of the Sub-Committee with representatives of the County Council was held on 8th December when it was agreed that the dumps should be confined to three:

1. At the Goat Cross Roads
2. At Wych Cross
3. Opposite Greenwood Gate

Further that when the strip of land opposite Pippingford Park has been merged into the highway a further dump should be allotted. All other dumps to be removed.

As a result of complaints received, it was subsequently agreed that the dump at the Goat Cross Roads should be altered and a fresh site elected.

6. CARAVAN ON FOREST. KIDBROOKE (P [blank]) The Clerk reported that this caravan had now been removed.

7. RECREATION GROUNDS (P [blank]) The Clerk reported that he had discussed this matter with Mr. Lawrence Chubb who could see no reason why the superintendence of the grounds should not be carried out by the Parish Councils.

It was RESOLVED that the various Parish Councils be asked for their observations on the suggestion that they be entrusted with the supervision of the ground.

8. ELECTION OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEES It was RESOLVED that with the exception of Mr. Harland the General Purposes Committee be re-elected en bloc.

9. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE It was RESOLVED that the Emergency Committee to re-elected en bloc.

10. DISTRICT COMMITTEES It was RESOLVED that the Forest Row and Maresfield Committees be re-elected en bloc with the omission of Mr Harland from the Maresfield Committee.

11. SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEE RESOLVED that this Committee be not reappointed.

12. RANGERS REPORTS The following reports were received:

Ranger Kirby: Since the last meeting I have moved two caravans off the Forest. Made some inquiries in reference to new owners of commonable land at Lampool. Had eight days cutting fire brake on Forest at Stone Hill. Mr. Innes of Marl pits, Nutley has been in the habit of leaving his car on the Forest, at nights at Marl pits. So I called on him and asked him not to leave his car on the Forest. He said he would get it inside the gate. I have not seen it outside since.

Ranger Day: Fire Cordon: In company with Ranger Kirby I have been engaged in cutting a Fire Cordon at Stone Hill, Nutley. Gipsies: On 16th December, 1946 on instructions from the Chairman, I prosecuted two gipsies for offences against the Bye-Laws. They were convicted and fined five shillings each. Dump at Legsheath: The Mid-Sussex Timber Co. are still using their dump at Legsheath Dump at Chuck Hatch: Mr. Uridge, Brookside, Hartfield is still using his dump and saw bench site at Chuck Hatch. Dump at Twyford Lane: Mrs. Hart, Wych Cross Place, Forest Row, is having cord wood removed from Press Ridge Warren and stacks on the Forest near Twyford Lane. Saw Bench, Priory Road: Mr. Brimfield, 76 London Road, Burgess Hill has erected and has been using a saw bench on the Forest, near the Priory Road.

13. MR. BRIMFIELD - SAW BENCH The Clerk reported that he had informed the above named that if he wished to retain the saw bench on the Forest

14. MRS. HART - WOOD DUMP ON FOREST The Clerk reported that he had informed Mrs. Hart that the wood dump could only be permitted under a temporary licence.

15. FINANCES

Receipts: The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts has been received:

Rates 47.9.6

Acknowledgments	76.15.3
Local Authorities'	
Contributions	72.18.3
Army Compensation Rents	8.4.0
Dividend on 2½% Consols	0.19.11

Rate Collection: The Clerk reported that the amount taken on charge at 1st January 1946 was £402.13.6. of which £387.6.0. had been collected to date.

Bank Accounts: The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:

General Account	276.9.7
Wages Account	11.4.10
Petty Cash Account	16.8.7

Accounts for Payment: It was Resolved that cheques be drawn as follows:

The Clerk, ¼ year salary to	
31st March	68.15.0
Petty Cash Account Credit	24.6.5

16. ESTIMATES The Clerk produced estimates for the year ending 31st December 1947 and it was RESOLVED that the same be approved.

17. MR. P.T. MUGGERIDGE - LICENCE (P [blank]) The Clerk reported that there was a sum of £4.10.0d. due representing three years' acknowledgments. Mr. Muggeridge had returned the Licence but the surface of the Forest had not been restored. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to take proceedings for recovery of the acknowledgments.

18. NEW LICENCES The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting the following licences had been granted. Mr. F. Bleaney - Road to Gorseland, Nutley. Uckfield Gas & Electricity Co. Lines to Dodds Hill, Nutley and Campfield, Duddleswell. Weald Electricity Co. Lines to Whitehouse and Hurstland Farms. NOTED.

19. FOOTPATH NEAR FOREST HOUSE, COLEMANS HATCH A letter from Miss Sturdy of Shepherds Gate was read, complaining of the condition of the footpath from The Ridge to Colemans Hatch Post Office. Ranger Day reported that the path was gravelled some twenty years ago at the expense of Sir George Collier and others. RESOLVED that Miss Sturdy be informed that the Conservators are not responsible for the repair of the footpath.

20. NEW LODGE ESTATE, COLEMANS HATCH The Solicitors acting for the proposed purchaser of the above estate having enquired as to four access roads across the Forest to the property RESOLVED that they be informed that a revocable licence will be necessary.

21. FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL RECREATION GROUND The Clerk reported that he had received prior to this meeting a letter from the Forest Row Parish Council enclosing a report of their General Purposes Committee with particular reference to the Recreation Ground. RESOLVED that the Council be informed that the Conservators approve the principle of a co-ordinating Committee for the supervision of the Ground.

The Board then went into Committee.

IN COMMITTEE

22. MILITARY OCCUPATION OF FOREST The Chairman reported that he had made enquiries of the Agricultural College as to the best type of grass to be used when the Forest was re-seeded and had received the received information. He held strong hopes that the Forest would not be used for anything more than general exercise in which no ***** vehicles of any kind and no live ammunition would be used and no digging or wiring carried out.

The Clerk reported on the meeting of legal representatives in ***** at which the legal Representative of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning promised that heads of agreement would be forwarded shortly.

On the 3rd instant he had an interview with Claims Commission Officers when under pressure they agreed that an account of Messrs. Wood and Walford's fees for preparing the Schedule of Conditions should be submitted to them. Also that if Surveyors were appointed they should meet Capt. Whicher on the site. He had informed them that the Board were not interested in a lease and were awaiting the promised heads of agreement. He recommended that in view of their knowledge of the Forest Messrs. Wood and Walford be appointed Surveyors on behalf of the Board.

RESOLVED that the Clerk's recommendation be adopted.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

Estimates of Normal Expenditure for the year ending 31st December, 1947

1946 Estimate £	Actual Expenditure £		1947 Estimate £
275	275	Clerk's salary	275
30	35	Postages, telephones, travelling and hire of room	40
36	30	Printing and stationery	30
5	5	Income tax	5
416	418	Rangers' wages etc.	420
45	39	Rangers' expenses	42
8	8	Audit stamp	8

Estimates income

Rates	250
Acknowledgments	120
Military compensation rents	50

Balance divisible among Local Authorities as under: 200

East Sussex County Council	150.0.0
East Grinstead U.D.C.	37.10.0
Uckfield R.D.C.	75.0.0
Cuckfield R.D.C.	<u>37.10.0</u>
	£ 300.0.0

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 2nd April, 1947 at 2.30 p.m.

S.J. Marsh, Esq., Chairman

Lt.-Col. R. Miller, D.S.O., Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, J.H. Griffin, G.D. Haslam, J. Godwin King, H.W. Looker, W. Mitchell, J.F. Owen,
Mrs. Ursula Ridley, Messrs. F.T. Ridley, J. Rowe, G.A. Warburton, H. Waters and Mr. S.A. Colvin (representing Earl de la Warr)

Apologies for absence were received from Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Col. R.S. Clarke, M.P., and Mr. H.R. Hardy.

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

2. MESSRS. A. TURNER & SONS - ROAD (P.215) The Clerk reported

that he had informed Messrs. C.J. Parris that the Board accepted the evidence as to previous repair of the road from New Mill to Friars Gate, but that if any metalling is done to the two other roads revocable licences will be necessary.

3. FOREST ROW RECREATION GROUND FENCING (P.209) Mr. Waters reported that the tubular steel piping supplied by the Military would be insufficient for the fencing, and he would arrange an interview with the Chairman to discuss the matter.

4. RECREATION GROUND ON FOREST (P.216) The Clerk reported that he had written to the Parish Councils concerned, two of whom, Horsted Keynes and Dane Hill preferred the Conservators to retain the supervision of the grounds and Maresfield and Forest Row Parish Councils were agreeable to taking over the supervision themselves.

It was RESOLVED that the Board continue the superintendence of the grounds and co-operate with the Parish Councils to ensure better maintenance.

5. MR. P.G. BRIMFIELD SAW BENCH (P.216) The Ranger having reported that Mr. Brimfield had now removed his saw bench, but had left a large heap of sawdust on the Forest, the Clerk had informed Mr. Brimfield that unless the sawdust was removed, proceedings would be taken under the Bye Laws. RESOLVED that the Clerk give Mr. Brimfield a definite time limit.

6. RANGERS' REPORTS (P.216) The following reports were received. Since the last meeting I collected the Forest Rate from Mr. G. Morphew, and sent the same to the office at Battle. Accompanied the Chairman to view the roads to Crowborough Warren. Had one day cutting fire cordon on Stone Hill. Moved off the Forest, at Poundgate, Jack Jones and his caravan. On Wednesday 26th March a fire occurred on Paines Hill turning about 8 acres, was extinguished by myself and others. On Tuesday 1st April a fire occurred near Duddleswell burning one acre, was extinguished by myself.

(Signed) H. KIRBY

Saw Benches on Forest
Chuck Hatch

Mr. H. Uridge, "Brookside", Hartfield has removed his saw bench from the Forest near Chuck Hatch, but a considerable amount of sawdust is left. Wood is still heaped on the site and a tractor is parked there. The tracks leading to the site across the Forest are badly rutted, and in my opinion these should be harrowed, or otherwise filled in. Priory Road Mr. R. Jack, The Square, Forest Row, is still using his saw bench on the Forest near Priory Road. Twyford Lane Mr. G. Vinton has erected and is using a saw bench on the Forest near Twyford Lane.

(Signed) G. DAY

7. H. URIDGE - SAW BENCH The Clerk reported that he had informed Mr. Uridge that the deposit of £5 would be retained until the forest was restored. It was RESOLVED that he be informed that the ruts should be filled in now before the dry weather sets in.

8. FINANCES
Bank Accounts

The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following Credit balances:

General Account	149.5.3
Wages Account	3.3.6
Petty Cash Account	36.7.6

Receipts

The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting the following amounts had been received:

Acknowledgments	10.1.3
Compensation Rents	7.19.0
Rates	3.15.6

Accounts for Payment

It was Resolved that cheques be drawn as follows:

Petty Cash Account	3.12.6
Fovargue R.W. Postage	8.5.0
Telephones	1.17.3 10.2.3
Sun Insurance Office	
motor—cycle insurance	2.17.6

9. MRS. HARVEY LICENCE A letter from Mrs. Harvey of Spring Garden, Fairwarp was received complaining that the track for which she paid an acknowledgment was used by trade vehicles and asking for the revocation of the licence. The Chairman reported that the track in question was a farm track prior to 1916 and then reverted to a footpath. A licence was granted to Mrs. Harvey's tenant without the former's knowledge. Commoners were entitled to use the track with their waggons.

It was RESOLVED that the Licence be waived.

10. MRS. CRANFIELD. LICENCE A letter from Mrs. Cranfield of Little Tompsetts, Forest Row was read objecting to the payment of acknowledgment for road, and suggesting alternative means of raising revenue. It was RESOLVED that no action be taken.

11. MISS PRICE. LICENCE FOR ACCESS An application was received from Miss Price of Millside Farm, Colemans Hatch for permission to make an access road of about 15 yards in length to her garage. RESOLVED that a licence be granted on the usual terms.

12. MISS SAVARY. WINDMILL LANE A letter from Miss Savary was received complaining of the condition of Windmill Lane. The Chairman reported that he had seen the length complained of and that the responsibility for maintenance rested on the users of the lane. He would see Miss Savary and explain the position.

13. ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST GOLF CLUB The Clerk reported that he had received from the Secretary of the Golf Club a copy of the Club's balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1946 from which it appeared that the Club had sustained a working loss of over £300. It was also reported that owing to the weather conditions there had been no revenue for the past three months. RESOLVED that the present rebate in the rent be continued.

14. P.O. TELEPHONE KIOSK ST. JOHNS COMMON A letter from the Withyham Parish Council was received asking the Conservators to re-consider their previous decision refusing permission for the erection of the kiosk on the Forest. The Clerk reported that when the original application was received it was suggested to the Telephone Department that the kiosk be placed on the opposite side of the road which was off the Forest. The Chairman stated that he and Mr. Owen would view the location and instruct the Clerk accordingly.

15. DR. ROSE JORDAN. COMPLAINT OF FLOODING A complaint was received from Dr. Rose Jordan of the Old Fox, Fairwarp of flooding from the road near her property. As it appeared that the matter was one for the highway authority it was RESOLVED that Ranger Kirby investigate and report.

The Board then went into Committee

16. MILITARY OCCUPATION OF THE FOREST (P 218) The Chairman reported that the Military were prepared to use the Forest solely for the purpose of moving troops. There would be no digging or wiring, no lethal weapons and tracked vehicles would not be used off the roads. In addition the military were prepared to pay the cost of filling in trenches removing wire and obstructions and sowing the surface of the Forest with grass, the Board employing contractors for the purpose.

He also reported that the Range at Old Lodge had been discontinued.

17. MESSRS. WOOD & WALFORD'S FEES A letter from Messrs. Wood & Walford was read giving details of their fees as follows:

Dear Sir,

Ashdown Forest, Claim on De-requisition

Thank you for your letter of the 13th March regarding our fees. We agree that it is desirable to have an understanding on the matter.

The Surveyors Institution's agreed scale which is normally paid for:

"Assessment of damage caused by occupation of the hiring authority including negotiations for a settlement where required."

Is 5% on the amount of the claim settled and this is the sum which the Conservators can expect to be reimbursed as part of their claim.

In the present case in view of the large and scattered nature of the property concerned it is very possible that the work involved will be disproportionate to the amount of the final settlement.

The agreed scale for "inspecting a property and preparing and agreeing a Schedule of Condition" (on the entry of a hiring authority) is based on time at the following rates:

- (a) For a principal or responsible professional assistant capable of working without supervision, 15/- per hour.
- (b) For typing 2/- per hour.

These charges are exclusive of travelling and other out of pocket expenses.

We think that this scale would be appropriate to the work in hand and propose to charge the Conservators on this basis as a minimum, with 5% on the claim as a maximum should this sum be the greater.

We should be glad to hear whether these proposals are satisfactory to you. It is impossible to form any definite idea of how long the work might take until we have been round with the rangers and viewed the extent of the damage. We would of course keep you informed as the work proceeds and take your instructions before embarking on accurate survey or similar work not usually necessary.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) WOOD & WALFORD

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk enquire of the Claims Commission whether they were prepared to pay Messrs. Wood & Walford's fees on the basis proposed by them or on what other basis.

18. WIRELESS STATION KINGSTANDING (P.212) The Chairmans reported that the Ministry of Works were giving up the camouflage area and were negotiating with Earl de la Warr for the purchase of land at Five hundred Acre wood as part of an equivalent area for the land retained by them.

19. FOREST ROW RECREATION GROUND Mr. Coulthard referred to the press report of a Parish Meeting at Forest Row, when it was stated that the Conservators received a sum of £300 at the end of the 1914-18 war in respect of the Forest Row Recreation Ground and suggested that the Clerk write very fully to the Clerk of the Parish Council giving him the true facts. Agreed.

H.R. Hardy
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 2nd July, 1947 at 2.30 p.m.

H. R. Handy, Esq., Vice-Chairman in the Chair

Mrs. Ursula Ridley, Rear Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, G.B., R.N.,

Col. R.S. Clarke, M.P., Lt.-Col. G.R. Miller, D.S.O., and Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, J.H. Griffin, J. Godwin King, W. Mitchell, F.E. Richards, J. Rowe and G.A. Warburton, and Mr. S. A. Colvin representing Earl de la Warr.

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman and Messrs. H.W. Looker, J.R. Owen and F.T. Ridley.

1. DEATH OF MR. G.D. HASLAM The Chairman referred to the loss the Board had sustained in the death of Mr. G. D. Haslam and members stood in silent tribute.

2. FOREST ROW RECREATION GROUND (P.225) The Emergency Committee reported as follows.

A Meeting of Emergency Committee was held on the Forest Row Recreation Ground on Wednesday 7th May, 1947 at 6 p.m.

Present. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Lieut.-Col. G.R. Miller, Mr. J.R. Owen and Mr. de Rougemont.

Mr. de Rougemont explained that he was not aware for some time that the railings had been dumped outside the pavilion and that nothing further had been done. He was under the impression that the matter was in the hands of Mr. Fovargue and Messrs. Waters. Mr. Owen arranged to get the football club to assemble he scattered railings and for Messrs. Waters to lodge them inside the pavilion pending decision as to their use.

Mr. de Rougemont said he wished to resign his post as Superintendent as he felt he had had a long enough run and suggested that Lt.-Commr. R.H. Bristowe of Shepherds Corner Forest Row should be asked to take on the job. He had already spoken to him and had learnt that he was agreeable to do so.

S.J. MARSH
Chairman

The Chairman had later called and seen Mr. Bristowe who agreed to act.

It was RESOLVED that the report be approved.

3. FOREST ROW RECREATION GROUND SUPERINTENDENT The Chairman expressed appreciation of the services of Mr. de Rougemont over any years.

It was RESOLVED that the recommendation of the appointment of Lt. -Commander R.H. Bristowe be approved.

4. P.O. TELEPHONE KIOSK - ST. JOHNS (P.224) The Clerk reported that the Chairman had inspected the site at St. John's Crowborough and on his instructions consent had been granted.

5. DR. ROSE JORDAN. COMPLAINT OF FLOODING (P.224) Ranger Kirby reported that the drain complained of was the responsibility of the highway authority.

6. RANGERS' REPORTS The following reports were received

Gentlemen,

Since the last meeting:

Sixteen fires have occurred, burning about 190 acres. These fires were extinguished by the local fire brigades and myself.

On 15th April I accompanied Messrs. Wood and Walford to view some of the holes and trenches on the Forest.

The Central Sussex Electricity Ltd., have now laid underground cable from The Stores, Duddleswell to Streeter's Farm, Duddleswell.

Posted up By-law Bills on the Forest Boards.

Made some enquiries for the office at Battle in reference to property sold by Mr. and Mrs. May of Piltdown.

(Signed) H. KIRBY.

Dear Sir,

I beg to report that Dr. Rose Jordan of The Old Fox House, Fairwarp has now had a direction post and board erected on the Forest near her house, (to the Old Fox House). Has any permission been given for this?

(Signed) H. KIRBY.

Fires: Since the last Board Meeting ten fires have occurred on a Forest in the area patrolled by me.

The most serious one broke out near Broadstone Warren, burnt across Hollies Down to Water Farm, an area of about 100 acres. The other fires were small ones in the Coleman's Hatch, Kidd's Hill, Chuck Hatch and Nutley road areas, about another 100 acres in all.

Controlled Burning: Acting on instructions from the Chairman and Mr. Owen I have carried out a small scheme of controlled burning in the Coleman's Hatch, Chuck Hatch and Kidd's Hill areas.

Mr. Uridge's Dump: Mr. Uridge, "Brookside", Hartfield, has now cleared his saw bench site on the Forest, at Chuck Hatch. He has roughly cleared the sawdust, and harrowed the Forest tracks leading to the site.

(Signed) GILBERT DAY

7. DR. ROSE JORDAN - LICENCE FOR DIRECTION POST The Clerk reported that Dr. Jordan had new made application for consent for the direction post. RESOLVED that a licence be granted on the usual terms.

8. FINANCES

Receipts: The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Local Authorities contributions	£150.0.0
Rates	£2.10.0
Acknowledgements	£6.7.11

Bank Accounts: The Bank, Pass Sheets were produced and showing the following credit balances

General Account	£188.16.7
Wages Account	£24.16.2
Clerk's Petty Cash Account	£22.14.9

Against the latter there are outstanding cheques totalling £6.13.9

Payments: It was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn as follows:

Petty Cash Account	£23 19 0
The Clerk quarter-year's salary to 30th June	£68 15 0
Ditto 30th Sep.	£68 15 0
Waters H & E repairs to road Tile Lodge	£75 0 0

9. RATE The Clerk referred to the estimate of expenditure for the year as approved at the February meeting of the Board amounting to £820 of which £300 is to be borne by the Local Authorities. It was duly proposed and seconded 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 Enclosure Act, 1845-1878 and the Commons Regulations (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act, 1885 and the Ashdown Forest Act 1937 to be levied upon the respective owners of the rights of common upon Ashdown Forest at the rate of SIXPENCE per acre in respect of the acreage of their respective lands to which such rights attach, which owners and their respective acreages and the respective sums payable by them are set out in the Rate Book produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

10. MILITARY OCCUPATION OF FOREST (P.224) Colonel Clarke gave a resume of the position. The War Office now found it necessary to acquire an area of some 45 acres of the Forest to accommodate the firing ranges. This would necessitate the construction of butts for five firing points on land on the south side of the Wych Cross — Colemans Hatch Road. Mostly the 100 and 200 yards ranges would be used but occasionally the 600 yards. When no firing was taking place the public could use the area.

The Conservators had no power to alienate and could only agree to an equivalent area as compensation under a private Act. The alternative area suggested was land at Pippingford around a derelict farm where there was some 18 acres of grazing. It was proposed to retain the camp at St. Johns, Crowborough permanently although less land than that originally requisitioned would be required.

Unless Pippingford Park is purchased the War Department would not be able to compensate for the Crowborough land.

During discussion the following points arose, which it was suggested should be raised at the Inquiry and where necessary provisions made in the agreement.

Rifle Range: Fencing against cattle and responsibility for loss. Adequate warnings before firing took place.

Crowborough Camp: Insist on a provision in the agreement for the planting of trees around the camp and the suitable camouflaging of the buildings.

Equivalent Area: This must join on to the Forest on the North and East. Whilst the Board approve in principle the suggested equivalent area the Department be asked to find an area nearer Crowborough if possible.

The Clerk read the following memorandum prepared by the Chairman of the Board, together with his own observations.

Military Occupation of Ashdown Forest

In October 1946 the Board of Conservators were informed by the Military Authorities that they required

- (a) 500 acres of the Forest for any kind of Military training.
- (b) 750 acres for a firing range.
- (c) General training rights over the whole of the Forest.

During the negotiations which followed the Board made it clear that they were not prepared to agree to clauses (a) and (b) but that they would be willing to assist in regard to (c) on the understanding that there should be no live firing, wiring or digging and that military vehicles were not to be allowed on any part of the Forest.

The Military Authorities eventually decided to make use of Pippingford Park for the purposes of Clauses (a) and (b) and agree to the Board's conditions under Clause (c).

The Conservators have now been requested to grant a site between the road running from Wych Cross to Colemans Hatch and the Northern boundary of Pippingford Park for firing positions in connection with a small arms range in Pippingford Park. In return for this concession the War Office is prepared to offer a wooded area of equivalent size at the North-East end of Pippingford Park.

The Board have given very careful consideration to this request but have been advised that it is not within their power to alienate any part of the grazing area of the Forest without an equivalent area of grazing land being given in exchange. Unless this is done they are of opinion that the facilities which they are prepared to grant under Clause (c) is the utmost that they can do.

The Board have to consider:

1. If they agree to the area Z being used for the Rifle Range. Legally they have no power to alienate any part of the Forest. Moreover some of the adjacent owners are understood to object. It therefore seems desirable to raise a pro forma protest, but without pressing it to a final conclusion.
2. If they agree to the area B being retained permanently as a camp site. It is of smaller acreage than the area originally requisitioned for this purpose.
3. If they agree to the area Y being accepted as an equivalent area to Z and B. The area is approximately 145 acres and consists of rough underwood in the main, with about 18 acres in the middle, of open grazing land.

Col. Clark reported that he and Mr. Owen would represent the County Council Town and County Planning Committee at the Inquiry.

It was RESOLVED that the Board be represented by the Chairman and Vice—Chairman and that a notice of the Inquiry be sent to every Commoner.

11. COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD DUMPS (P.215) The Clerk reported that the County Council had now entered into an agreement restricting the road dumps to three. Noted.

12. FOREST ROW WAR MEMORIAL Major General K.J. Martin attended and gave details of the proposed layout of the Recreation Ground at Tompsett's Bank and the improvement of the pavilion.

It was RESOLVED that the Board generally approve the layout of the ground, provided it is within the five acres set apart for the purpose under the Award and defer consideration of the building project until the Clerk has examined the position.

13. BRIDGE OVER QUABROOK A letter from the Secretary of the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club was read stating that the bridge over Quabrook near Water Farm needed repair and alleging that the Conservators had erected it. The Clerk reported that the Minutes revealed that in 1929 the Board had made a contribution to the reconstruction. The matter had been referred to Mr. Marsh who advised that the payment made in 1929 was ex gratia and that any further cost be borne by the Club.

It was RESOLVED that the Club be so informed.

14. MESSRS. WOOD AND WALFORD'S FEES (P.224) The Clerk reported that he had now heard from the D.A.D. Claims Office, Eastern Command that his Branch would recommend to the Claims Commission, War Office that fees amounting to 5% shall be paid on the agreed figure of settlement.

It was RESOLVED that Messrs. Wood & Walford be informed accordingly and that this was the extent of their remuneration.

15. FIR CLUMPS A letter from Mr. A. Russell Smith was read expressing concern at the state of the fir clumps in the Forest. It was RESOLVED that the letter be forwarded to Mr. Owen and the matter deferred until the next meeting.

16. P.O. TELEPHONES. EMERGENCY CONNECTION TO WARRENSIDE. FOREST ROW

The Clerk reported that he had received an application from the P.O. Telephones Department at Tunbridge Wells for consent to an overhead line to the above property. No pole would be erected on the Forest. It was RESOLVED that consent be granted

17. SUNDAY GAMES ON RECREATION GROUNDS Col. Miller asked whether some ruling could be given as regards playing games on Sundays on the Recreation grounds on the Forest. The Chairman informed him that the matter was one for the Superintendent. In principle the Board had no objection but preferred that they should not take place until after 12 noon.

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 8th October, 1947, at 2.30 p.m.

S.J. Marsh, Chairman,
H.R. Hardy, Vice-Chairman,
Mrs. Ursula Ridley, Rear Admiral, T.P.H. Beamish C.B., R.N.,
Lt.-Col. G.R. Miller, D.S.O., Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, H.W. Looker, W. Mitchell, J. Owen, H.E. Richards, F.T. Ridley
and Mr. S.A. Colvin representing Earl de la Warr.

Apologies for absence were received from Col. R.S. Clarke and Messrs. J.H. Griffin, J. Rowe and A.C. Wolfson.

1. DEATH OF COL. BARCHARD The Chairman referred to the death of Col. Barchard who had been a member of the Board for several years, and members stood in silent tribute.

2. MINUTES The minutes of the last meeting of the Board as printed and circulated were taken as read, approved and signed.

3. MEMBERSHIP The Clerk reported that the Uckfield Rural District Council had appointed Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, J. R. Owen and A.C. Wolfson as their representatives for the period ending 3rd December, 1949.

4. FOREST ROW RECREATION GROUND PAVILION (P.227) The Clerk reported that he had referred to the Minutes of the Board regarding the original erection and read the following extract:-

"Messrs. Freshfield, Hall and Noble reported 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."

On the Chairman's authority he had written Major General Martin that approval was given to the erection of the new pavilion on the Recreation Ground in accordance with the plans submitted at the last meeting, and that it must be clearly understood that the building must be erected completely in the area set apart for the recreational purposes and must not encroach outside. If the builders require facilities for access or temporary storage of materials they must make a formal application. Approved.

5. SUNDAY GAMES ON RECREATION GROUNDS (P. 232) The Clerk reported that he had received correspondence from Colonel Miller on this subject, which the Board had agreed was a matter for the Superintendent.

6. MILITARY USE OF ASHDOWN FOREST - INQUIRY (P. 230) The Chairman reported that at the Inquiry, matters were fully discussed and everybody present had an opportunity of making their representations. The Board had made clear their attitude some twelve months previously on the subject of digging, airing, firing and the use of vehicles on the Forest. The military considered that the Pippingford Park area was sufficient for these purposes and were fully satisfied with the use of the Forest for normal exercises. The Conservators were not prepared to allow vehicles on the Forest and had been supported by the East Sussex County Council, the Uckfield Rural District Council and the Commons Preservation Society on the question of the use of tracks. It was agreed by the military at the Conference in December 1946 that no vehicles would be used on the Forest and all tracks to be placed out of bounds. At the Inquiry the military stated it was necessary to use some tracks, and Col. Clarke had asked that these should be defined. A map had since been prepared and submitted to the military showing the metalled roads to which all vehicles were to be confined.

The Chairman further stated he had inquired at the Ministry of Town and Country Planning as to the report of the Inquiry and was informed that it was not yet ready.

Mr. Owen raised the matter of the use of Pippingford Park interfering with the amenities of the Commoners on adjacent land and protection of rights of way, and Mrs. Ridley asked for a resolution to support the Uckfield Rural District Council. The Chairman replied that the Board was limited by their act to the protection of rights of common. Pippingford Park was private property and the Conservators as such had no jurisdiction.

The Clerk reported that he had received draft heads of agreement with the War Office which in amended form had been approved by him, and the Solicitor to Earl de la Warr and the Settled Land Act Trustees.

The following points arising out of the Inquiry were considered.

- (a) "Out of Bounds" areas; The Clerk to submit a report to the Chairman.
- (b) Equivalent areas: an area at Crowborough Warren had been suggested as an alternative to the land at St. Johns Camp.
- (c) Camouflaging of St. Johns Camp: The heads of agreement contained a clause providing for the planting of a protective belt of trees and the suitable camouflaging of the buildings.
- (d) Flares, bombs, blank firing and fires: These were all covered by the agreement. It was suggested that it be extended to prohibit the use of paratroops and gliders.
- (e) Tracks: The agreement restricts the military to existing metalled roads.

The Clerk reported that since the Inquiry he had received a copy letter from the County Council addressed to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning relative to the danger caused by mud being brought on to roads by tracked vehicles. Also a letter from Dr. Deman asking that the Ryst Wood Estate should be regarded as an 'out of bounds' area.

Trench Digging etc. The Chairman reported that he had recently found that the military had dug trenches, used a tracked vehicle on the Forest and deposited rubbish. The Clerk had at once communicated with H.Q. Eastern Command and General Sir Reginald Denning had replied expressing regret at the occurrences and stating that the necessary disciplinary action had been taken against the units concerned. The local Officers Commanding had also apologised to the Chairman.

7. HEADS OF AGREEMENT The Clerk reported that the Treasury Solicitor had objected to the inclusion of members of the public and their animals in the compensation clause and referring to the Crown Proceedings Act 1947. The Clerk was of opinion that the clause should stand as drafted. RESOLVED that copies of the agreement when settled be circulated to each member.

Constitution with Parliamentary Agents: The Clerk stated that the agreement was constitutional on an amending act, and that it was desirable that Parliamentary Agents should be informed of the terms of the agreement as they would be later asked to draft the Bill. It was RESOLVED that he be authorised to instruct them accordingly.

8. RANGER'S REPORT The following report from Ranger Kirby was received.

"Gentlemen,

Since the last meeting:

2nd September: On information received from the Chairman, I patrolled the Forest between Spring Garden and Lisburn, and found eight small trenches had recently been dug by the military; also a deposit of rubbish near Spring Garden. 20th September: The military have now filled in the trenches near Spring Garden, also cleared away the rubbish deposit. The Uckfield R.D.C. are now laying water main from Grey Stone, Duddleswell, to Mrs. Bland's house and Lynhurst, Brown Brook. On 7th September I saw Mr. W.R. Scarr with small tent and aerial on the Forest near the Goat. Mr. R. Mason, of Londonderry, has now erected a direction board on Forest at Marl pits. With the Chairman's permission I took my holiday from 18th August to the 1st September.

(Sgd.) H. KIRBY

9. RANGER DAY'S ACCIDENT: The Clerk reported that Ranger Day had met with an accident when off duty and was at present in Tunbridge Wells Hospital and asked for instructions as to payment of wages. RESOLVED that Ranger Day be paid his full wages during his incapacity.

10. FINANCES

Receipts: The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	£132.5.6
Acknowledgments	£23.4.6
Local Authorities	
Contributions	£169.18.3
Compensation Rents	38.7.1

Bank Accounts: The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:

General Account	£168.9.10
Wages account	£27.7.2
Clerks Petty Cash	
account	£15.16.4

Against the latter there were outstanding cheques totalling £3 14s 10d.

Payments: Resolved that a cheque be drawn for the credit of the Petty Cash Account, £27 18s 6d.

Auditor's Reports The following reports of the District Auditor were read:

"Gentlemen,

I have to report the completion of the audit of your accounts and of those of your officers for the year ended at the 31st December, 1944.

Such matters as arose at the audit, and to which it is considered necessary to direct your attention, will be dealt with in the report on the audit of the accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1945, the two audits having been taken concurrently.

It is desired to thank the Clerk and his staff for their ready and courteous attention to audit requirements.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
(sgd.) A.R.H. HOBBS
District Auditor.

Gentlemen,

I have to report the completion of the audit of your accounts and of those of your officers for the year ended at the 31st December, 1945.

The following matters should receive the consideration of the Conservators:

- (i) The compilation of an up to date list of properties (and their acreages) liable to rates; such a record is an essential precedent to the establishment of an accurate account of sums due to the Conservators.
- (ii) Cheques for health and unemployment stamps should, as a matter of principle, be made payable to the Post-master General.
- (iii) No register is apparently kept to show the amounts due from the Service Departments in respect of compensation rents etc. Such a record could be set up in a separate section of the Acknowledgments Register and it is recommended accordingly.

It is desired to thank the Clerk and his staff for their ready and courteous attention to audit requirements.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant
(Sgd.) A.R.H. HOBBS,
District Auditor."

The Clerk reported that all the points raised had been acted upon.

11. RANGER KIRBY'S RESIGNATION A letter from Ranger Kirby was read intimating his desire to resign as Ranger on 3rd January, 1948. The Chairman referred to the long and faithful service of Ranger Kirby for thirty-six years and Mr. Ridley enquired whether the Board could pay him a pension. The Clerk informed him that the post was not subject to superannuation and any payment made would have to be conditional on some duty being performed.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to advertise the post and that a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman and Mr. Owen interview applicants and to make any recommendations as to Ranger Kirby.

12. LICENCES

Mr. P.T. Muggeridge The Clerk reported that on going further into this matter, he found that Mr. Muggeridge had returned his part of the Licence in 1944, and as this action could be construed as a termination of the Licence, the acknowledgments claimed for 1945,

1946 and 1947 could not be recovered. RESOLVED that the **** be written off.

NEW LICENCES The Clerk reported that since the last meeting a licence had been granted to Messrs. Crowhurst Bros. for a milk stand.

An application had been received from Mr. J. E. Eaton to metal a short length of roadway at Fords Green, Nutley.

Mr. R. MASON The Clerk reported that he had informed Mr. Mason that if he wished the sign post to remain it would have to be regularised by a licence.

Boy Scouts Association The application from the Warden of Brown**** Scout Camp was received requesting permission for a No Parking board. RESOLVED that the Clerk suggest to the Association that the notice board be erected on their own boundary.

MR. P.G. BRIMFIELD, SAW BENCH The Clerk reported that Ranger Day had issued a summons against the above-named, returnable on 20th October.

13. KINGSTANDING WIRELESS STATION (P.225) Mr. Owen asked whether there was any indication when the unsightly posts outside the above would be removed. The Chairman relied that this would be dealt with when land was de-requisitioned. Negotiations were proceeding for the purchase of an equivalent area.

14. FIR CLUMPS (P.232) Mr. Owen retorted that he had not received the letter referred to at the last meeting and the Chairman suggested that he and Mr. Owen should inspect the various clumps and report.

Mr. Colvin reported that barbed wire round the clump at Gills Lap had been removed and was deposited on the Forest. The Chairman

stated that there was a great deal of wire on the Forest.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Sub-Committee duly convened and held at Ardens, Nutley on Thursday 13th November, 1947 at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. S.J. Marsh Chairman in the Chair
Mr. H.R. Hardy and Mr. J.R. Owen

1. APPOINTMENT OF RANGER The Committee interviewed the three selected candidates, Mr. J.A.C. Knight of Fair Oak Cottage, Mayfield, Sussex, Mr. J. Walters of Old Forge Farm, Horney Common, Sussex and Mr. J.C. Wickham of Keynes Place Cottage, Horsted Keynes, Sussex. After the duties of office had been outlined to each candidate in course of his interview it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. Walters be appointed at a salary of £4 per week and subject to necessary arrangements to commence his duties on 1st December, 1947. The Clerk was instructed to deal with the following matters:

- (a) Arrange for Mr. Walters release through Ministry of Labour if such were necessary.
- (b) For the transfer of the existing telephone with the same number from Ranger Kirby's house to Old Forge Farm.
- (c) Order a new Triumph motor-cycle through Messrs. F.T. Ridley at Nutley.

2. RANGER KIRBY The Committee considered the position of Ranger Kirby having regard to his long and faithful service to the Board. It was RESOLVED to recommend that his services after 3rd January, 1948 be continued on a part time basis so that he is available for consultation and that he be paid 10/- per week so long as the Board desire to retain his services for purposes of reference on Forest matters.

The Committee also considered the following matters:-

3. FOREST RATE The rateability of 10 perches of land at Maresfield which was acquired by the County Council and has since been added to the highway was considered. The Clerk was instructed to collect as the Committee considered the land still liable to rate.

3rd December, 1947.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of COMMONERS duly convened by notices posted on the principal doors of the Churches and Ecclesiastical Districts to which the Forest extends, by advertisement in the "Sussex Express" and by notice to each Commoner more than fourteen days prior to this date and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, at 1.30 p.m.

PRESENT

The Clerk read a copy of the notice convening the meeting.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN Mr. S.J. Marsh was unanimously elected Chairman of this Meeting.

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

3. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill three vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. H.R. Hardy and J. Rowe and by the death of Mr. G.D. Haslam. It was proposed by Miss Hett, seconded by Miss Swire and carried unanimously that Mr. H.R. Hardy be re-elected a Conservator. It was proposed by Col. Miller, seconded by Mr. Coulthard that Mr. A.K.L. Harvey be elected a Conservator. Carried unanimously. It was proposed by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Mitchell that Mr. J.R. Owen be elected. Carried unanimously.

4. ELECTION OF RECREATION GROUND SUPERINTENDENTS. It was proposed by Mr. Ridley, seconded by Mr. Rowe that the following be re-elected:

Nutley	Lt.-Col. G.R. Miller
Colemans Hatch	Mr. J.R. Owen
Forest Row	Lt.-Comdr. R.H. Bristowe

It was proposed by Col. Miller, duly seconded and carried that Mr. A.K.L. Harvey be elected Superintendent of the Fairwarp Recreation Ground in the place of Col. Barchard deceased.

5. RANGER KIRBY'S RETIREMENT The Chairman referred to the forthcoming retirement of Ranger Kirby and paid tribute to his long and faithful service. Mr. J. Walters had been appointed in his stead.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS The Chairman referred to the Public Inquiry regarding the military occupation of the Forest and stated that an agreement had been prepared which would be embodied in an amending Bill, under which the Military would use the Forest for exercises only and no vehicles would be allowed on the Forest, no digging, firing or wiring. Miss Swire expressed thanks to the Chairman and the Conservators for all the work done in safeguarding the Commoners' interests. The Chairman suitably responded and expressed appreciation of this valuable help given by Col. R.S. Clarke.

The Chairman dealt with a number of points on the rights of Commoners and produced for inspection a copy of the plan attached to the decree of 1693.

The Meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, on the proposition of Col. Miller.

H.R. Hardy

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 3rd December, 1947, at 2.30 p.m.

S.J. Marsh, Esq., Chairman

Col. R.S. Clarke, M.P., Mr. J. R. Coulthard, Mr. H.R. Hardy,

Mr. J. Godwin King, Mr. H.W. Looker, Mr. G.R. Miller,

Mr. W. Mitchell, Mr. F.T. Ridley, Mr. John Rowe, Mr. G.A. Warburton, Mr. R.C. Wolfson, and Mr. S.A. Colvin representing Earl De La Warr.

Apologies for absence were received from Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, Mrs. Ursula Ridley and Mr. H. Waters.

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

2. MEMBERSHIP The Chairman welcomed Mr. A. C. Wolfson as a member of the Board.

3. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS The Clerk reported that at the Commoners' Meeting held prior to this meeting the following were elected Conservators for the three years ending 31st December, 1950:

Mr. H.R. Hardy, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey and Mr. J.R. Owen.

4. ANNUAL MEETING OF COMMONERS The Clerk and Chairman reported on the Commoners' Meeting held prior to this meeting.

5. APPOINTMENT OF RANGER The Sub—Committee appointed at the last meeting presented the report of their meeting on 13th November and it was RESOLVED that their action in appointing Mr. J. Walters be approved.

6. RANGER KIRBY It was RESOLVED that the Committee's recommendation that Ranger Kirby's employment be continued on a part time basis at 10/- per week be approved. The Chairman referred to the loyal and faithful service rendered by Ranger Kirby and his valuable knowledge of the Forest and expressed pleasure that he would still be available for advice and help.

7. KINGSTANDING WIRELESS STATION (P.238) The Clerk reported that he had now received plans from the Ministry of Works of the areas they were prepared to acquire in substitution for the land retained for the Wireless Station. The equivalent areas were:-

Part of Campfield Rough.

Part of Five Hundred Acre Wood.

It was RESOLVED (a) that the Board approve in principle the equivalent areas suggested (b) that the Clerk be instructed to take all necessary steps by advertisement and otherwise to comply with the legal requirements to regularise the position and to obtain the consent of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Commoners (c) that the Ministry of Works be required to suitably fence the areas.

8. FIR CLUMPS (P.239) The Chairman reported that he and Mr. Owen had inspected the fir clumps, and recommended that where necessary the old trees be felled and new trees planted. The clump at St. Johns had been burnt out some years ago and the site was now occupied by the Military Camp. RESOLVED that the Chairman and Mr. Owen's recommendation be approved.

9. RANGER'S REPORT The following report from Ranger Kirby was received:

"Gentlemen, Since the last meeting: I have collected Forest Rates from one hundred and seventy-five Commoners and paid same into the office at Battle. I have moved two lots of gipsies off the Forest at Wych Cross and Colemans Hatch. Posted up notices of Commoners' Meeting on nine Church doors. On 13th November I attended a committee meeting at Ardens.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) H. KIRBY'

10. FINANCES

Bank Accounts: The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:

General Account	211.11.10
Wages account	21.7.10
Clerk's Imprest Account	4.2.9

Against the latter account there were two outstanding cheques totalling £2.15s.1d.

Rate: The Clerk reported that the amount taken on charge for the year was £355 13s. 6d. of which £268 6s. Od. has been collected to date.

Receipts: The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	102.1.0
Acknowledgments	6.0.0

Payment since last Meeting: The Clerk reported that since the last meeting a cheque for £7 18s. 5d. had been drawn in payment of the Ranger's telephone accounts.

Accounts for Payment: Accounts for payment were produced totalling £121 16s. 5d. and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn.

11. BRIDGE OVER QUABROOK (P.232) A letter from the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club was received stating that this bridge had recently been repaired at a cost of £19 10s. Od. and stating that when the bridge was rebuilt in 1929 the Conservators paid the cost and the Golf Club made a contribution of one half. The Chairman stated that the bridge was not the responsibility of the Board and any payment could only be ex-gratia. It was RESOLVED that as Commoners amenities are affected a contribution of 50% be made upon the same conditions for the present repair as were made in 1929.

12. LICENCES The Clerk reported that on informing the Boy Scouts Association of the decision at the last meeting they had replied that to erect the notice board on their own land would not obviate their difficulties. On the Chairman's instruction a licence had been granted for erection on the Forest.

Other licences had been granted as follows:

Mrs. M. Eaton	Road to Bakers Cottage, Nutley.
S.J. Cutler	Water pipe to part of New Lodge Estate.
Mrs. Hart	Water pipe to Suttons Farm.
Mr. C. Walter	Saw bench and road to Holly Cottage, Nutley.

Consent had also been given to the Ordnance Survey Department to erect a concrete pillar near Hindleap.

13. MILITARY USE OF FOREST - HEADS OF AGREEMENT The Clerk reported that as instructed at the last meeting he had interviewed Parliamentary Agents, when the following points arose:

- (1) Whether the draft agreement should be treated as heads of agreement only.
- (2) Enforcement of conditions.

He had subsequently attended a conference with the Treasury Solicitor and a representative of the War Office when it was agreed that the terms of agreement should be regarded as heads of agreement and scheduled to the amending Bill. The effect of the Crown Proceedings Act was discussed and it appeared that the Conservators and members of the public were adequately protected whether a claim arose under contract or tort and that an application could be made to the Court for a declaration, which would be the equivalent of an injunction. It was decided that Messrs. Dyson Bell and Co., should proceed with the draft Bill at once even though the report on the Inquiry had not yet

been issued. The Clerk reported that copies of the draft Bill would be sent to all Conservators and submitted to the Commoners. Approved.

The Chairman reported that he had marked the map supplied by the War Office to show the metalled roads to which Army vehicles were to be restricted. The strongest representation had been made by the County Council and the Uckfield U.D.C. on this subject and the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, were fully aware of the Conservators and local feeling. When the military de-requisition, a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will advise on the re-sowing of grass. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Board to Col. Clarke for his valuable support of the Commoners' interests.

14. OUT OF BOUNDS AREAS (P.235) The Clerk reported that the out of bounds areas which were excluded from military training of any kind were:

- (1) Land leased by the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club.
- (2) The recreation grounds at Nutley, Forest Row, Danehill, Colemans Hatch and Fairwarp.
- (3) The fir-clumps.
- (4) Habitations including fenced gardens in civil occupation.

15. BRIDGE AT SHALESBROOK Mr. Wolfson inquired who was responsible for the bridge at Shalesbrook which was in need of repair. The Clerk was instructed to examine the minutes and report to the Forest Row Committee who were to consider and report.

16. RANGER DAY The Chairman reported that the Sub-Committee appointed to interview applicants for the position of Ranger had considered the position of Ranger Day who would now be Senior Ranger and recommended that his salary be increased by 5/- a week to commence on 5th January next.

RESOLVED that the Committee's recommendation be approved and adopted.

17. MOTOR-CYCLE FOR RANGER WALTERS The Chairman reported that it was necessary to secure a motor-cycle for Ranger Walters and it was RESOLVED that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to arrange for the purchase of a motor-cycle.

18. FAIRWARP CHURCH PARKING PLACE Correspondence from the County Surveyor was read regarding the provision of a parking place near Fairwarp Church. The Clerk reported that this matter was considered by the Board in 1936 when the Conservators suggested an alternative site. It was RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Maresfield Committee to meet the County Surveyor on the spot with power to act.

S.J. Marsh Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday, the 11th February, 1948 at 2.30 p.m.

Rear-Admiral T.P.H. Beamish C.B., R.N., Mr. J.R. Coulthard, Mr. J.H.H. Griffin, Mr. H.R. Hardy, Mr. A.K.L. Harvey, Mr. H.W. Looker, Mr. S.J. Marsh, Lt.-Col. G.R. Miller, D.S.O.,
Mr. J.R. Owen, Mr. F.T. Ridley, Mrs. Ursula Ridley,
Mr. G.A. Warburton, Mr. H. Waters, Mr. A.C. Wolfson,
and Mr. S.A. Colvin (representing Earl De La Warr).

An apology for absence was received from Col. R.S. Clarke

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. S.J. Marsh be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. A. R. Hardy be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

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

4. MEMBERSHIP. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. J. Rowe be elected to fill the vacancy occurring as a result of Mr. Owen having been elected by the Commoners whilst remaining an appointed member representing Uckfield R.D.C.

5. KINGSTANDING WIRELESS STATION (P. 243) The Clerk reported that on 24th December the Ministry of Works wrote that negotiations for the purchase of equivalent areas were well advanced, but no contract had been signed. The Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries had informed him that the Ministry of Works had consulted them on the matter and it was anticipated that the procedure to be adopted would be under Section 12 of the Requisitioned Land and War Works Act. The necessary statutory notices would be given to the local authorities in due course. Noted.

6. QUABROOK BRIDGE REPAIR (P. 245) The Clerk reported that reference to the Minutes when previous repairs were carried out revealed that the Conservators had defrayed the cost and had been reimbursed 500 by the Golf Clubs. A cheque had therefore been drawn for 504 of the present repairs £9 15s. 0d. Approved.

7. BRIDGE AT SHALESBROOK (P. 246) The Chairman of the Forest Row Committee having reported that this bridge was off the Forest, no further action was necessary. Noted.

8. MOTOR CYCLE FOR RANGER WALTERS The Clerk reported that a motor cycle had been purchased for £147 6s. 6d. It was unanimously RESOLVED that the sum of £150 be withdrawn from the deposit held in the Post Office Savings Bank.

Mr. Owen suggested that the new motor cycle should be used by Ranger Day and that Walters should use the old one. It was agreed that the Chairman should arrange this as he thought fit.

9. FAIRWARP CHURCH PARKING PLACE (P. 247) The Clerk reported that plans of this had been received and it was agreed that the matter should be left to the Maresfield Committee.

10. MILITARY USE OF THE FOREST The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had that morning met two officers of Home Counties District Head Quarters with regard to the dumping of some 50 sections of Nissen Huts, digging of trenches and cutting of gorse which had been done by the Military on or about 13th December, 1947. This had been reported to General Denning of Eastern Command who had instructed his representatives to attend this Meeting. They had inspected the damage caused and promised to find out who had been responsible and have the tin removed, and the trenches covered in. They had been as annoyed about the state of affairs as the Chairman, and informed him that it was contrary to all orders. Admiral Beamish pointed out that a written reply ought to be had from General Denning before the matter was closed.

The Clerk reported that, nothing further had been heard regarding the Public Enquiry held in July, but that the draft Bill was expected to arrive from Parliamentary Agents shortly. He further reported that he had received notice under Regulation D.R.52 of the continuance of the requisition of the Forest for a period of twelve months ending 31st December, 1948.

11. ELECTION OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE It was RESOLVED that this Committee was now redundant and that it should not be re-elected.

12. ELECTION OF EMERGENCY AND DISTRICT COMMITTEES It was RESOLVED that these Committees should be re-elected en bloc, with the addition of Mr. Warburton and Mr. Harvey to the Maresfield Committee, and Mr. A.C. Wo1fson to the Forest Row Committee.

13. RANGERS' REPORTS

Army Dump at Hollies Down: A considerable amount of corrugated iron sheeting, apparently refuse from an Army Camp, has been dumped on the Forest, near the Ridge Road.

Timber at Shalesbrook: Six oak trees have been thrown on to the Forest near Shalesbrook, by the Mid-Sussex Timber Co.

Riding Horses on the Forest: Owing to complaints from Mr. Townsend and Mrs. Card, I examined tracks near their residences and found them badly cut up by horses' hooves. I saw Miss Edwards, Ryst Farm Riding School and asked her to abstain from using these tracks close to houses. Since then the tracks have been better.

Prosecutions: On 26th January, I attended East Grinstead Petty Sessional Court and procured the following convictions:-

Mr. P. Brimfield	Leaving Sawdust		
	On Forest	Fined	2.0.0
Walter Smith	Caravan on Forest	Fined	1.0.0
Mary Fuller	Caravan on Forest	Fined	1.0.0
(Sgd.) G. Day"			

"Since the last Meeting: 4th December, 1947. On the instructions received from the Chairman, in company with Ranger Kirby, we opened two trenches across an unauthorized road at Duddleswell, made by the Military and has since been used by the public, by this action, it has had the desired effect, and no vehicles have used or attempted to use the road since.

The Uckfield Rural District Council have completed water mains at Spring Gardens, Fairwarp, and Nutley Bank, Nutley.

On 3rd January, 1948, I found that Mr. Albert T. Stevenson, Builder, of 'Lavender Cottage', Fords Green, Nutley, had erected a shed and built a fair sized bracken rick on the Forest outside of his premises. There was also a quantity of board, a saw bench and engine on the Forest near the bracken rick. The board has been cleared away, but up to the present no attempt has been made to move any of the other items.

On 6th January, 1948, the telephone was installed at my house, which is now in operation.

On 10th January, 1948, I was patrolling near Kingstanding Clump, when I found a number of old Wireless Batteries deposited on the Forest. On instructions received from the Chairman, these have now been buried.

On 23rd January, 1948, I received new 'B.S.A.' Motor Cycle, No. D.P.N.322. This is also in operation.

Gipsies have been moved from Duddleswell and Barnsgate.

(Sgd.) J. WALTERS`

Saw Bench and Engine on Forest: I beg to report that on Saturday, the 7th February, 1948, I was patrolling 'St. John's Common,' Crowborough, when I found a saw bench and engine, and a large quantity of wood placed on the Forest, outside of 'Providence House', St. John's Common, Crowborough.

I saw Mr. William Henry J. Slater of that address. I asked him if he was the owner of the saw bench, engine and wood. He replied 'Yes'. I then asked him if he held a licence to permit him to place these things on the forest. He said 'I did not know I had to have one, but will make an application for one to-day'. I told him I should have to report the matter.

(Sgd.) J. WALTERS

Barbed Wire Fencing: I beg to report that the barbed wire fencing which surrounded the dummy wireless station, near Kingstanding Clump, has now been cleared away by the Military, but there is still a large quantity of wood there.

(Sgd.) J. WALTERS

Ranger Walters further reported that Mr. Stevenson was still using his saw bench in the same place and had not removed the hut or brake stack.

The Clerk reported that he had since received an application from Mr. Slater for a revocable licence for his saw bench.

14. FINANCES: RECEIPTS The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	20.15.6
Acknowledgments	82.16.9
Requisition compensation rents	8.5.5
Deposit	10.0.0

BANK ACCOUNTS The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:-

General Account	121.11.0
Wages Account	9.5.8
Petty Cash Account	10.3.10

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT Accounts totalling £257 15s. 6d. were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

WITHDRAWAL FROM POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK The Clerk reported that the foregoing payments would result in an overdraft in the Board's Account. It was RESOLVED that the sum of £150 be withdrawn from the Post Office Savings Bank Account.

15. ESTIMATES The Clerk produced estimates for the year ending 31st December, 1948 and it was RESOLVED that the same be approved.

16. HORSE RIDING ON FOREST The Chairman reported that complaints had been received that horse riding was making access to certain properties very difficult. One of the rides most regularly used was claimed to be an old horse way across the Forest. Admiral Beamish expressed the hope that people should not be discouraged from riding on the Forest more than necessary. After further discussion it was RESOLVED that the Forest Row Committee should look into the matter and report at the next meeting.

17. BUS SHELTER ON FOREST A letter was received from Dr. A.W. Ormond asking that permission be given to the erection of bus shelters on the Forest. The Clerk stated that this could only be done under a revocable licence. It was RESOLVED that Plans and Elevations should be submitted to the next Meeting. Mr. Harvey pointed out that there should be no advertising in the shelters as is the practice in shelters erected by the County Council.

18. MR. A.T. STEVENSON. SEED AND DEPOSITS ON FOREST It was RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to take proceedings for the removal of these off the Forest.

19. LICENCES The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting, the following licenses had been granted:

C.E. Walters	Road to Holly Cottage
C.E. Walters	Saw Bench
Mid-Sussex Timber Co.	Temporary Licence for extraction of Timber from Shalesbrook.
A.T. Stevenson	Road to Lavender Cottage.

An application had been received from the Beacon Trailer Co. to deposit sawdust on the Forest in a disused pit. On the Chairman's instructions he had informed them that consent could not be granted. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk's action be confirmed.

20. FOOTPATHS AND ACCESS TO COUNTRYSIDE A letter was received from the Commons Preservation Society.

21. FIR CLUMPS The Vice-Chairman suggested that the replanting should be carried out by contract. It was agreed that the whole question be left to Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Owen.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

Estimates of Normal Expenditure for the year ending 31st December, 1948

1947 Estimate £	Actual Expenditure £		1948 Estimate £
275	275	Clerk's salary	275
40	48	Postages, telephones, travelling and hire of room	48
30	33	Printing and stationery	32
5	5	Income tax	5
420	446	Rangers' wages etc.	482
42	38	Rangers' expenses	50
8	8	Audit stamp	8

Estimates income

Rates	350
Acknowledgments	120
Military compensation rents	50

Balance divisible among Local Authorities as under: 380

East Sussex County Council	190.0.0
East Grinstead U.D.C.	38.10.0
Uckfield R.D.C.	38.0.0
Cuckfield R.D.C.	<u>114.10.0</u>
	£ 380.0.0

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 7th April, 1948, at 2.30 p.m.

S.J. Marsh, Esq. Chairman
H.R. Hardy, Esq. Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Ursula Ridley and Messrs. J.R. Coulthard,
J.H. Griffin and A.K.L. Harvey, Col. G.R. Miller, D.S.O.,
Messrs W. Mitchell, J.R. Owen, J. Rowe, G.A. Warburton
and A.C. Wolfson and Mr. S.A. Colvin representing Earl de la Warr.

Apologies for absence were received from Admiral Beamish, Col. R.S. Clarke, Mr. H.W. Looker, Mr. F.T. Ridley and Mr. H. Waters.

1. DEATH OF MR. J. GODWIN KING AND MR. F. E. RICHARDS The Chairman referred to the loss sustained by the deaths of Mr. J. Godwin King, former Vice-Chairman of the Board, and of Mr. F. E. Richards. It was RESOLVED that the Board place on record their appreciation of the services of these two gentlemen and members stood in silent tribute.

2. DEATH OF SIR LAWRENCE CHUBB The Chairman referred to the death of Sir Lawrence Chubb who as Secretary of the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society had rendered very valuable services to the Board,

especially in connection with their protest over the Military use of the Forest. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk convey to the Society their appreciation of Sir Lawrence's services.

3. KINGSTANDING WIRELESS STATION (P. 248) The Clerk reported that he had now received notice of de-requisition of the dummy site but had no further information regarding the exchange areas. He had received instructions from the Chairman that as soon as the equivalent areas were settled the necessary notices and advertisements be issued. RESOLVED that the Chairman's action be approved.

4. FAIRWARP CHURCH PARKING PLACE (P. 249) The Maresfield Committee reported that they met on 27th February and after inspection of the site recommended that the proposed parking place be situated south of the Church adjoining the southern well of the Churchyard, as suggested on a previous occasion. They also recommended that the area should be approximately twenty yards square. RESOLVED that the Committee's report be approved.

5. MILITARY DUMPING AT HOLLIES DOWN (P. 250) The Clerk reported that he had written to General Sir Reginald Denning as instructed at the last meeting. He had received a reply from General Denning stating that he has called for a report which showed that the site had been cleared and the matter had been referred to the G.O.C. Home Counties District. General Denning added that it was the intention of the military authorities to avoid giving cause for complaint and immediate action would be taken to rectify matters should complaint arise. The military authorities regret giving offence in any way whatsoever to Civil Authorities or the general public. Noted.

6. HORSE RIDING ON FOREST (P. 252) Mr. Owen, the Chairman of the Forest Row Committee reported that the Committee met prior to the Board Meeting to-day. A careful investigation of the use of the Forest by riders had been made from which it appeared that two local riding schools were the cause of complaints. They recommended that where the surface of the Forest was unreasonably affected Bye-law 19 be enforced. RESOLVED that the Committee's recommendation be approved.

7. BUS SHELTERS ON FOREST (P. 252) A letter from Dr. Ormond was read stating that it was proposed to call a public meeting and appeal for funds for the erection of three or four shelters as a War Memorial, and asking that the Conservators consent to a revocable licence would not be unduly withheld. Plans had been obtained which would be submitted to the Conservators. Mr. Harvey produced specimen plans and it was RESOLVED that the Board approve in principle the erection of two shelters on sites to be approved by them and that the sites and plans be referred to the Maresfield Committee for approval.

8. RANGERS' REPORTS Ranger Day reported as follows:

Fires

17 th February	Near Wrenn's Warren	30 acres
9 th March	Near Hindleap	100 acres
15 th March	Near The Burn	10 acres
27 th March	Hundred Acre Rough	30 acres
28 th March	Near Golden Castle	10 acres

In addition there have been twenty-three smaller fires burning about a further one hundred acres.

Clumps I have made a survey of the six clumps on the Forest, reporting on the condition of the trees to Mr. Owen.

Riding Horses I have kept observation for four weekends on horses being ridden on the Forest, both on Mrs. Card's track and in the Tompsetts Bank area.

Trees at Shalesbrook These trees, thrown on to the Forest by the Mid-Sussex Timber Co., have been carted away, and the track and road left in good condition.

Dump at Hollies Down The Army Dump of corrugated iron has been cleared away, trenches filled in and the sandbags removed.

(Sgd.) GILBERT DAY

Ranger Walters reports as follows: Since the last meeting: On 3rd March, 1948, Mr. W. R. Guppy of White House Farm, Duddleswell, was reported for placing two stumps on Forest outside of his entrance gate. These were moved immediately.

With reference to my previous reports on Mr. Albert T. Stevenson, of "Lavender Cottage," Fords Green, Nutley, for erecting shed, building bracken rick on Forest, also depositing saw bench, engine and board on Forest, this matter was put before the Board at the last meeting, when proceedings were agreed upon to be taken against Mr. Stevenson. He was warned that this action was being taken, and in consequence the shed was taken down, bracken rick, saw bench, engine and board were cleared away satisfactorily by 4th March. No proceedings were taken.

Owing to the exceptionally dry weather during the month of March, 1948, there have been a number of Forest fires. On 7th March there was a fire at the Rough Ground and Stone Hill, burning about thirty acres. On 14th March there was a large fire at Poundgate, Crows Nest, Crowborough Warren, and Kingstanding, covering an area of about one hundred acres. No damage to property. On 27th March there was a large fire covering an area from Campfield Clump, Old Lodge Bottom, Millbrook and Pippingford. About four hundred acres burnt. No damage to property.

There have also been about thirty-one smaller fires covering an area in all of about one hundred and twenty acres.

(Sgd.) JOHN WALTERS

9. FIR CLUMPS The Chairman reported that he, the Vice-Chairman and Mr. Owen proposed to acquire trees and carry out replanting later in the year, and asked for the Board's approval. It was RESOLVED that their recommendation be approved.

10. FIRES Mr. Owen referred to Press reports that some people fired the Forest in the belief that fires improve the grazing, whereas the contrary was the case. Fires resulted in an increase in bracken and coarse grass unsuitable for grazing.

11. FINANCES

Receipts The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	£16.19.0
Acknowledgments	£8.3.0
Requisition Compensation Rents	£7.16.6
Deposit	£25.0.0
Local Authorities' Contributions	£353.16.1

Bank Accounts The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:

General Account	£374.15.0
Wages Account	£5.9.0
Petty Cash Account	£2.9.6

Accounts for Payment Accounts totalling £106 5s. 4d. were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

R.A.F. Golf Club Licence The Clerk reported that the Secretary of the Golf Club had informed him that the membership of the Club had dropped, and the Balance Sheet for 1947 showed a deficit. It was RESOLVED that the abatement in the rent for the Golf Course be continued.

Requisition Rents The Clerk reported receipt of Claim Forms under the Requisitioned Land and War Works Act 1948 in respect of the various areas still under requisition by the Service Departments. It was RESOLVED that no increased rent be claimed.

12. EXTRACTION FROM BROADSTONE WARREN Mr. Wolfson reported that the hauling of timber from Broadstone Warren was causing damage to private roads and the clerk reported that he would look into the matter.

13. ROUND TIMBER CO. - EXTRACTION NEAR NEW LODGE The Clerk reported that he had written to this Company and was awaiting their reply.

14. BRIDLE ROADS AND FOOTPATHS ON FOREST The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Mrs. Ursula Ridley enclosing a list of alleged bridle roads over the Forest and Mrs. Ridley presented a further list. It was RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Chairman and Clerk to consider and report.

15. MILITARY TRAINING AREAS (P. 249) The Clerk reported that he had circulated to members copies of the draft amending Bill but in view of the recent developments over the question of use of tracks, he recommended that further action be postponed. Approved.

16. USE OF TRACKS BY W.D. VEHICLES The Chairman referred to the letter which appeared in "The Times" of 31st March with regard to the proposals by the military to use tracks over the Forest for W. D. vehicles in spite of their agreement not to do anything which the general public could not do. Practically all the tracks were footpaths only; the majority were not used for vehicles even during the late war.

"The proposed tracks were footpaths before 1939. The majority were not used for vehicles even during the late war. Many will have to be made up if vehicles are to use them. Some of the tracks pass over roads maintained by local residents debarred to military during the war. The Forest is traversed by many other tracks created by army vehicles during the war and these will inevitably be used also. It will be impossible to debar vehicles from taking short cuts and the Forest would soon be over-run. It has been proved that Army assurances are valueless."

A Conference was to be held at Crowborough on 14th instant when representatives of the local authorities and the Conservators would meet the Minister of War and the Minister of Town and Country Planning.

It was RESOLVED that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and such other members as they may choose represent the Board at the Conference.

17. FOOTPATHS AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE CONFERENCE A letter from the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society was read inviting the Board to send a representative to a Conference to be held on 17th April. It was RESOLVED that Mrs. Ursula Ridley be asked to attend.

18. MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL FOOTPATH NEAR WILLIAM IV A letter from the Maresfield Parish Council was received complaining of the dangerous state of this footpath. It was RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Maresfield Committee with power to act.

19. IN COMMITTEE The Board went into Committee to consider a letter from Messrs. Wood and Walford relating to the claim for dilapidations. The matter was left to the Clerk to consider, but be generally deferred pending settlement of other questions with the Military Authorities arising out of their future use of the Forest.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 7th July, 1948, at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh Esq., Chairman,
H. R. Hardy Esq., Vice-Chairman,
Lt.-Col. R. S. Clarke, M.P., Messrs. J. R. Coulthard,
J. H. Griffin, A. K. L. Harvey and S. W. Looker, Lt.-Col. G. R. Miller, D.S.O., Messrs. W. Mitchell, T. R. Owen, F. T. Ridley, J. Rowe, G. A. Warburton and A. C. Wolfson and Mr. S. A. Colvin representing Earl De La Warr.

An apology for absence was received from Mrs. Ursula Ridley.

1. MINUTES The minutes of the last meeting of the Board having been previously circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. KINGSTANDING WIRELESS STATION (P. 255) The Clerk reported that he had received official notice from the Ministry of Works of the proposal to acquire land in substitution for that retained for the Wireless Station and a copy of the notice which was being published in the local newspapers and served on the Councils affected. NOTED.

3. BUS SHELTERS ON THE FOREST (P. 256) The Maresfield Committee met on the 16th April and reported as follows:

"The site selected for the Fairwarp Shelters is where an existing seat has been placed and is just south of the Fairwarp-Cackle Street Cross roads, an east side of the main road. The shelter should be placed so as to allow at least fifteen feet margin from the edge of the road. The other site selected at Putlands is just south of a Forest road leading to the Beacon on West side of the main road, and should be placed not less than twelve feet from edge of main road.

A plan of the proposed shelter was inspected and approved by the Committee which would be built either of wood or Forest stone, the latter for preference, but this I understand will be decided at a meeting to be called of the inhabitants of Fairwarp to discuss the proposal."

4. TIMBER EXTRACTIONS (P. 258)

(a) Kidds Hill The Clerk reported that he had met Messrs. Powell and Philcox, representative of the Forest Row Lumber Company and the Round Timber Company at Kidds Hill, that morning. The two first mentioned firms undertook to put work in hand immediately on restoration of the tracks with which they were concerned.

The representative of the Round Timber Co. stated that their extraction would not be complete until possibly the end of September. He undertook that when work was complete the levelling would be put in hand.

(b) Broadstone: The Clerk reported that he had called upon Messrs. Smart Bros. to make good the damage done to the Forest by their operations. The firm had reported that they had carried out the work. The Ranger having reported that a certain amount of rough levelling only had been done, he had written again asking the firm to complete the work, to which he had as yet received no reply.

5. MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL - COMPLAINT RE FOOTPATH NEAR WILLIAM IV (P. 260) The Maresfield Committee reported that they had inspected the footpath complained of on the south-east corner of the William IV Hotel. The damage is caused by water discharging from a County Council ditch and the Committee consider it is the responsibility of that Council.

RESOLVED that the Committee's report be approved and that a copy thereof be forwarded to the East Sussex County Council.

6. RANGERS' REPORTS Ranger Day reported that since the last meeting fires had occurred at Colemans Hatch and Cripps Corner burning ten acres and thirty acres respectively. Ranger Walters reported that various fires had occurred burning a total area of 140 acres. The wire and posts at Kingstanding Wireless Station (Dummy Site) had been removed and the ground levelled. Gipsies had been moved from Crows Nest and Poundgate.

7. FINANCES Receipts: The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	15.15.0
Acknowledgments	24.13.3
Requisition Compensation Rents	7.12.11
Requisition Compensation Rents	2.0.0
Miscellaneous	13.0.0

Bank Accounts: The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:

General Account	287.3.3
Wages Account	6.9.0
Petty Cash Account	5.9.4

8. RATE The Clerk referred to the estimates of expenditure for the year as approved at the February meeting of the Board amounting to £900 of which £380 is to be borne by the Local Authorities. It was duly proposed and seconded 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 Enclosure Acts, 1845-1878 and the Commons Regulation (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Act, 1885 and the Ashdown Forest Act, 1937, 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 owners and their respective acreages and the respective sums payable by them are set out in the Rate Book produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

9. FOREST ROW MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD (P. 233) The Clerk reported that he had received plans of the proposed new Pavilion and the lay-out of the Recreation Ground. These had been forwarded to the Chairman and Mr. Owen who had both approved. Licences were sought for the supply of gas, water and electricity and for drainage. He was waiting for further details before preparing the licence. NOTED.

10. MR. T. WELLER, DUDDLESWELL The Clerk reported that on receipt of a report from the Ranger that Mr. T. Weller of Paines Hill had erected hurdles on the Forest, he had written him calling on him to remove them. This has since been done. NOTED.

11. LICENCES The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following licences had been granted:

Direction Board at New Lodge	Mr. R. J. Cutler
Direction Board at Fairwarp	Mr. F. W. Leake
Two Direction Boards, Chelwood Vetchery	Mr. F. J. Nettlefold.
Access road Old Forge, Horney Common	Mr. J. R. Pomfrey.
Access road Gorse Cottage, Hartfield	Air Vice Marshal Curtis
Ditch at Coldharbour	Lord Kindersley
Temporary Licences for deposit of earth by Mr. Pomfrey and for Direction Board for Messrs. J. Longley & Co.	

The Board then went into Committee.

IN COMMITTEE

12. FOOTPATHS ON FOREST The Chairman reported that he had seen Mrs. Ridley, who had raised this matter at the last meeting and had explained to her that under the Award of 1885 the public had no legal right over the Forest save for access to the fir clumps specifically mentioned. NOTED.

13. MILITARY TRAINING AREAS - USE OF TRACKS BY VEHICLES The Chairman reported that since the last meeting he had interviewed General Sir Reginald Denning and Brigadier Sydenham regarding this matter. He had taken them round the Forest showing them the tracks which they proposed to use and their impracticability and pointed out that in most cases they had been nothing more than footpaths for the last 50 years.

General Denning had promised to issue a directive limiting the use of the Forest to (a) tactical training only (b) exercises on foot
(c) use of blank ammunition only (d) light vehicles which would be restricted to tracks agreed upon.

He had subsequently seen Major General Gregson Ellis G.O.C., Home Counties District, who wanted the use of tracks for short cuts to the camps.

The Army had agreed that they would not use the south side of the Forest at all but asked for certain tracks near Pippingford, and would only require some two or three in the northern part. They had been informed that the Board would not approve the Pippingford tracks in any circumstances and negotiations in regard to the remaining tracks were proceeding. It had been agreed that no vehicles would be allowed on the Forest other than on the tracks.

The Chairman was authorised to continue negotiations on these lines.

14. GEESE AND GOATS ON FOREST It was reported that geese and goats were being kept on the Forest, but in view of the present emergency it was decided that no action be taken.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Forest Row Committee duly convened and held at Forest Row on Wednesday, 25th August, 1948, at 3 p.m.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board and Messrs. J. R. Coulthard, W. Mitchell, J. Rowe, H. Waters and A. C. Wolfson

An apology for absence was received from Mr. J. R. Owen. 1.

BOUNDARIES OF "GREENHALL" The Committee inspected the boundaries of "Greenhall" and instructed the Clerk to inform Mr. Train that there was evidence of encroachments on the Forest

(a) On the eastern boundary of the property where a ditch had been filled in and a fence and brick pillars erected outside the boundary;

(b) On the North-western corner, where the buildings formed the boundary, wire netting had been erected on Forest land, and that Mr. Train be called upon to remove the erections.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, the 13th October, 1948, at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh Esq., Chairman
H. R. Hardy, Vice-Chairman

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Lewes, Lt.-Col. R. S. Clarke, M.P., Mrs. Ursula Ridley, Messrs. J. R. Coulthard, H. W. Looker,
F. H. Nias, J. R. Owen, F. T. Ridley, J. Rowe and A. C. Wolfson and Mr. S. A. Colvin representing Earl De La Warr.

Apologies for absence were received from Admiral Beamish and Messrs. J. H. Griffin, G. A. Warburton and H. Waters

1. DEATH OF COL. MILLER The Chairman referred to the loss sustained by the Board by the death of Colonel Miller and desired to place on record the appreciation of his services. Members stood in silent tribute.

2. MEMBERSHIP The Clerk reported that the East Sussex County Council had appointed the Right Honourable the Earl of Lewes and Mr. F. H. Nias both of whom being present were welcomed by the Chairman.

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

4. KINGSTANDING WIRELESS STATION (P.261) The Clerk reported receipt of formal notice from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries that a certificate under Section 12 of the Requisitioned Land and War Works Act, 1945 approving the alternative areas. NOTED.

5. FOOTPATH NEAR WILLIAM IV (P.262) A letter from the County Surveyor was read that the trouble was due to the blocking of pipes on land not part of the highway and the matter was being taken up with the persons concerned. NOTED.

6. FOREST ROW MANORIAL PLAYING FIELD (P.263) The Clerk reported that a licence had been prepared, since when a slight alteration in the plan had been necessary. NOTED.

7. RANGERS' REPORTS Ranger Day reported that the Forest Row Lumber Company and Messrs. Powell & Philcox had satisfactorily filled in the ruts on their extraction routes at Kidd's Hill. The Round Timber Company were still extracting.

A gypsy had been summoned and fined £1. Mr. Uridge of Colemans Hatch had deposited cord wood on the Forest near his property, Brookside.

Ranger Walters reported that Messrs. A. Turner & Sons had not yet restored the surface of the forest at Barnsgate damaged by their timber extraction. The wire netting enclosure at "The Beacon" had been removed. Gypsies had been moved from Poundgate, Barnsgate, Camphill and Lower Spring Gardens and a summons issued against one in respect of a caravan on the Forest.

8. FINANCES

RECEIPTS The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	£90.12.0
Acknowledgments	£5.15.0
Requisition compensation rents	£30.15.4
Miscellaneous	£13.7.4

BANK ACCOUNTS The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:

General Account	£10.14.8
Wages Account	£5.10.6
Petty Cash Account	£11.14.2

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT Accounts totalling £47. 13. 2d. were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment.

PREPARATION OF TERRIER The Clerk reported that the preparation of a terrier of the lards on which Forest Rates were charged was well in hand. It was desirable that some form of permanent record map should also be prepared. He would make the necessary enquiries as to the best form and report to the Chairman for authority to make any necessary expenditure. APPROVED.

The Clerk referred to the small balance on the General Account and recommended the holding of £159. 15. 4d. 2 1/2 % Consols be sold. RESOLVED that this investment be realized and the proceeds be credited to the General Account.

9. FOREST RATE COMMUTATION It was proposed by Mr. H. R. Hardy seconded by Colonel R. S. Clarke and RESOLVED that the possibility of commuting the small liabilities for Forest Rate be examined when the amending Bill is prepared.

10. LICENCES The Clerk reported that since the last meeting licences had been granted as follows:

Mr. Marsh for manure heap

P.O. Telephone Department cable marker near Forest House, Forest Row.

Temporary licences had also been granted for boards at Hindleap Lodge and Mudbrooks Farm and a licence to assign to Mrs. Curtler in respect of water main and direction board at New Lodge East.

11. LICENCE FOR BOARD AT THE GOAT CROSS ROADS (P.263) RESOLVED that the consent granted to Messrs. Longley & Co. for a notice board in connection with repairs at Coldharbour be revoked.

12. MR. C. W. MAUDSLAY - WIRE NETTING ON FOREST The Clerk reported that in consequence of a report from Ranger Walters of an encroachment he had asked Mr. Maudslay to remove it. Mr. Maudslay complained that there was no intention of encroachment as only a temporary enclosure of wire netting was erected, and asking if the Board would consider its occasional use as an infringement of the Bye-laws. The netting had now been removed. RESOLVED that no further action be taken.

13. MRS. TEMPLER - CUTTING OF TREES OPPOSITE OAK TREE COTTAGE The Clerk reported an application from Mrs. Templer of Oak Tree Cottage, Forest Row for permission to cut some trees opposite her house. Ranger Day reported that the Lord's Reeve had no objection provided the hard wood trees remained. RESOLVED that permission be granted on this condition.

14. REPLANTING OF FIR CLUMPS (P.171) Mr. Owen raised the question of the re-planting of the fir clumps. The Clerk referred to the Judgment in Hale v De La Warr under which the Lord had liberty to plant the clump at Kingstanding and maintain a fence for its protection. Mr. Colvin offered to obtain instructions from the Lord as to this and the other clumps, if Mr. Owen supplied information as to the number of trees involved. RESOLVED that this matter be left to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Owen to settle.

15. FAIRWARP BONFIRE SOCIETY - BONFIRE ON FOREST An application by the above Society for permission for a bonfire on the Forest opposite the Foresters Arms on November 13th was approved.

16. HORSE RIDING ON FOREST (P.256) A letter from Mr. Wolfson regarding horse riding on the Golf Course was read, suggesting that the riding schools be informed what tracks can be used and asking them to refrain from riding over the course. The Clerk stated that he wished to look into the matter and asked for general instructions. RESOLVED that he be so instructed.

17. MODEL AEROPLANE FLYING ON GOLF COURSE Members referred to the weekly use of the Forest by an East Grinstead Club which inconvenienced the members of the Ladies Golf Club. RESOLVED that the matter be left to the Clerk to take up with the Flying Club.

The Board then went into Committee.

IN COMMITTEE

18. MILITARY TRAINING AREAS - USE OF TRACKS FOR VEHICLES (P.264) The Chairman reported that since his report to the last meeting he had had further correspondence with Major General Gregson Ellis, G.O.C. Home Counties District. The number of tracks required had been reduced to three. A letter from the G.O.C. received at the end of July stated that there was no further news. The Clerk had written General Sir Reginald Denning pressing for a decision and no further information had been received.

Colonel Clarke reported that he had drafted a letter to Mr. Shinwell pointing out that there was only one track really in issue and asking for a decision in view of the necessity for the Board to proceed with their Bill. RESOLVED that Colonel Clarke be requested to forward his letter.

19. AMENDING BILL (P.259) The Clerk reported that if the Bill was to be promoted in the next session it would be necessary for Parliamentary Agents to be instructed at an early date. He proposed to omit any reference to tracks in the Bill in the first instance. RESOLVED that he be instructed to proceed with the Bill and the agreement with the War Office.

20. GREENHALL ENCROACHMENT (P.265) The report of the Forest Row committee was presented. Ranger Day reported he had inspected the property again to-day and reported that the brick pillars had been roofed over to provide a cover for a saw-bench and that the site of the ditch had been filled in with brick rubble. Mr. Train had been informed of the decision of the Forest Row Committee and no reply had been received nor had the encroachments been removed.

It was RESOLVED that (a) the report of the Forest Row Committee be approved and (b) the Clerk be instructed to give Mr. Train final notice to remove the encroachments and failing compliance he be authorised to institute legal proceedings,

Chairman

A Special Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Thursday, 11th November, 1948, at 2.30 p.m.

S.J. Marsh, Esq., Chairman,
H.R. Hardy, Esq., Vice-Chairman,
Rear-Admiral T.P.H. Beamish, C.B., R.N.,
Col. R.S. Clarke M.P., and Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, A.K.L. Harvey, H.W. Looker, W. Mitchell J.R. Owen, F.T. Ridley, J. Rowe, G.A. Warburton and A.C. Wolfson.

Apologies for absence were received from the Earl of Lewes, Mrs. U. Ridley, Mr. J. B. Griffin and Mr. H. Waters.

ASHDOWN FOREST BILL Copies of the draft Bill as further revised having been previously circulated, the Clerk explained the position regarding (a) alternative area for the land occupied by the Camp at St. Johns; (b) Tracks and (c) Compulsory redemption of Rates. As regards the latter, an addition would be made to Clause II providing that notwithstanding the extinguishment of liability to rates the rights of common attaching to a property redeemed would remain and a register kept of all redemptions.

RESOLVED that the Board approve Clause II in principle.

Various minor drafting amendments to the Bill were suggested and it was RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to approve the final amendments.

PETITION RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign the Petition for the Bill on behalf of the Conservators.

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

Miss Hett, Mrs. Card, Miss Swire, Miss Parsons, Rear Admiral T. P. H. Beamish, Col. R. S. Clarke, M.P., and Messrs. E. D. L. Brown, J. Card, J. R. Coulthard, H. R. Hardy, A. K. L. Harvey, F. Kennard, H. Kirby, W. Knott, S. J. Marsh, W. Mitchell, J. R. Owen, F. T. Ridley, H. J. Ridley, J. Rowe, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Smith, N. Stephens, T. Townsend, H. J. Waters, C. G. White (representing Michael Hall School} and A. C. Wolfson.

1. CHAIRMAN It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. H. R. Hardy be elected Chairman of this meeting.

2. NOTICE OF MEETING The Clerk read the notice convening this meeting.

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

4. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill three vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. S. J. Marsh, W. Mitchell and H. J. Waters, and one through the death of Col. Miller.

The following nominations were received:

Mr. William Mitchell
Mr. S. J. Marsh.
Mr. H. J. Waters.
Mr. Trevor Mountain.
Mr. J. R. Owen
Mrs. Lucy Rose Penfold.

The Clerk explained the Award provided that voting should be by acreage and a ballot being taken the result declared as follows:

a. r. p.

Mr. Marsh	830	2	30
Mr. Waters	772	3	36
Mr. Mitchell	714	2	30
Mr. Owen	549	2	19
Mr. Mountain	456	3	12
Mrs. Penfold	40	1	29

and declared the first four named duly elected.

5. ELECTION OF RECREATION GROUND SUPERINTENDENTS It was RESOLVED that the following be elected;

Nutley	Mr. S. J. Marsh
Colemans Hatch	Mr. J. R. Owen
Forest Row	Lt. Comdr. R. H. Bristowe
Fairwarp	Mr. A. K. L. Harvey

6. ASHDOWN FOREST BILL Col. Clarke outlined the provisions of the Bill, a draft of which had been deposited in Parliament, and explained that it was subject to amendment.

RESOLVED that the promotion in the present Session of Parliament by the Conservators of Ashdown Forest of a Bill intituled "A Bill to provide for the vesting in the Secretary of State for War of certain lands in the county of Sussex forming part of Ashdown Forest and for the acquisition and addition to the Forest of other lands in exchange therefore; to make provision for the use of the Forest for the purposes of military training; and for other purposes be and the same is hereby approved subject to such additions, alterations and variations as may be made in the Bill by Parliament and approved by the Conservators. There were two dissents.

7. HORSE RIDING ON FOREST Complaint was made of the nuisance caused by horse riding on the Forest, particularly in the Colemans Hatch area. The Chairman stated that the matter was receiving the attention of the Conservators. Mr. F. Kennard, proprietor of the Wallhatch Riding School promised his co-operation.

General matters were discussed.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 1st December, 1948, at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh, Esq., Chairman
H. R. Hardy, Esq., Vice-Chairman
The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Lewes, Rear Admiral T. P. H. Beamish,
C.B., R.N., Col. R. S. Clarke, M.P., Mrs. Ursula Ridley and
Messrs. J. R. Coulthard, J. H. Griffin, A. B. L. Harvey,
W. Mitchell, J. R. Owen, F. T. Ridley, J. Rowe,
H. J. Waters and A. C. Wolfson.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. F. H. Nias, G. A. Warburton and S. A. Colvin.

1. MINUTES The minutes of the last meeting of the Board and of the special meeting held on the 11th November as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS The Clerk reported that at the Commoners' meeting held prior to this meeting the following were elected Conservators:

Messrs. S. J. Marsh, H. J. Waters, W. Mitchell and J. R. Owen

3. HORSE RIDING ON FOREST (P.269) The Clerk reported that he had written to the proprietors of the two riding schools, drawing their attention to the Bye-laws and explaining who were "authorised persons". He had also suggested to them that he would supply a map on which the area of the Golf Club would be clearly defined. The complaints of damage to the Forest made at the Annual Commoners' Meeting were considered.

It was RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Forest Row in Committee for discussion with the proprietors of the various riding establishments.

4. RANGERS' REPORTS Ranger Day reported that the Round Timber Co. had not filled in the ruts at Kidd's Hill as promised. Mr. W. E. Walden of Horsted Keynes had completed his extraction at Broadstone and had left the track in a satisfactory condition. Ranger Walters reported that John Jones, a gipsy, was summoned for having a wheeled vehicle on the Forest and depositing litter and was fined £1 Os. Od. and 5/- respectively.

Messrs. Albert Turner & Sons Ltd. had made good the damage at Barnsgate caused by timber extraction. Gipsies have been moved from Poundgate. Both Rangers had been engaged in collecting Forest Rates.

5. FINANCES

Receipts

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the sum of £90 16s. 6d. had been collected on account of Forest Rates. **Sale of Investment** As directed at the last meeting the holding of £159 15s.4d.2½% Consols had been sold realising the sum of £126 Os.4d. less Commission and stamp £1 2s.Od. **Bank Accounts** The Bank Pass Books were produced showing the following credit balances.

General Account	103.2.4 (plus £114 received since.)
Wages Account	26.10.4
Petty Cash Account	12.16.11

Against the latter there were outstanding cheques totalling £3 11s.

The Clerk reported that Mr. W. E. Walden had completed his timber extraction and had restored the surface of the Forest to the satisfaction of the Ranger and the sum of £25 held as a deposit was due to be refunded.

Accounts for Payment

Accounts totalling £132.14s.1d. were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

6. LICENCES (P.267) The Clerk reported that an application had been received from:-

Mrs Schreiber, prospective purchaser of Ray Cottage, Nutley, for:

- (a) Making up existing track to the property.
- (b) Water main.
- (c) Electric light and telephone.
- (d) Drainage.

Mr. L. Read of Herons Ghyll to make up an access road to a plot of land near Oldlands Lodge.

On the Chairman's instructions consent had been granted subject to the usual licence and no overhead lines.

Consent had also been granted to the East Grinstead Gas and Water Co. to relay gas main to Ashdown Place, Forest Row and to the South Eastern Electricity Board to lay underground main to The Chapel, Dodds Bank.

Messrs. Longley & Co. had removed their board at the Goat Cross Roads and asked for a refund of part of their deposit of £1 as the board had been removed before the completion of their works.

7. ASHDOWN FOREST BILL (P.271) The Clerk reported that the draft Bill had been deposited. He also reported that at a conference between Parliamentary Agents, the Treasury Solicitor and representatives of the War Office the latter had raised objection to certain clauses in the Bill and in particular objected to the limitation to two tracks stating that there were some five others which they required. They also required the right to erect bivouacs and dig latrines and bury rubbish.

It was RESOLVED that the Chairman, Col. Clarke, and the Clerk attend at the Treasury Solicitor's office and discuss the matter further.

8. GREENHALL ENCROACHMENT (P.269) The Clerk reported that he had attended at "Greenhall" today and in Mr. Train's absence had interviewed his head gardener (as authorised by Mr. Train) and Mrs. Train and had clearly indicated the point to which the boundary on the east side should be set back. Approved.

9. PHOTOGRAPH COPIES OF MAP The Clerk reported that he had enquired of the Uckfield R.D.C as to the possibility of having photograph copies of the Award Map and had been informed by the Clerk that their machine had been dismantled. He produced a quotation from Messrs. Cook, Hammond & Kell for making ten copies to fold at £25 19s. 2d. (£2 11s. 11d. each)

10. MRS. WILMOT - LICENCE FOR ROAD An application on behalf of Mrs. Wilmot to metal a length of road from Lark Rise to Little Gassons was approved subject to the usual licence.

11. RANGER DAY'S ACCIDENT The Chairman reported that Ranger Day has met with an accident when his motor cycle skidded on the icy road. He was visiting him after the meeting.

12. RANGER'S MOTOR CYCLE The Chairman reported that Ranger Day's old motor cycle had been overhauled and could be disposed of. RESOLVED that the machine be advertised for sale at the price quoted by the Ashdown Motor Co.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Forest Row Committee duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 8th December, 1948, at 2.45.

A. C. Wolfson Esq., J. R. Coulthard Esq., Wm. Mitchell, Esq. and J. Rowe Esq.

Apologies for absence were received from Lt.-Commdr. H. R. Hardy and Messrs. S. J. Marsh and H. J. Waters.

CHAIRMAN Mr. A. C. Wolfson was appointed Chairman of this meeting.

HORSE EXERCISING ON FOREST The Committee discussed with the proprietors of the Wallhatch and Ryst Wood Riding Schools the complaints received regarding the damage to tracks occasioned by the exercising of horses on the Forest and in particular referred to those received at the Commoners' Meeting.

The Chairman read Bye-law 19 and pointed out that the Conservators had no power to authorise the horse exercising on the Forest; that only authorised persons, the Commoners, were allowed to ride on the Forest, the public as such having no rights other than of access to the viewpoints mentioned in the Award.

If the two schools were to vary their route and not continually ride over the same tracks he felt sure a good deal of the complaints would be obviated. He therefore gave a friendly warning that they must find a way of mitigating complaints otherwise the exercising would be stopped altogether.

Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 2nd February, 1949, at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh, Esq. Lt.-Commdr. H. R. Hardy, Rear Admiral T. P. H. Beamish, Mrs. Ursula Ridley and Messrs. A. K. L. Harvey, H. W. Looker, W. Mitchell, F. Nias, J. R. Owen and J. Rowe

Apologies for absence received from Messrs. J. H. Griffin and A. C. Wolfson.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. S.J. Marsh was unanimously elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Lt.-Commdr. H.R. Hardy was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

3. MINUTES

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

4. ELECTION OF COMMITTEES

(a) Forest Row Committee RESOLVED that this Committee be re-elected en bloc. (The members are: The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board and Messrs. J. R. Coulthard, W. Mitchell, J. R. Owen, J. Rowe, H. R. Waters and A. C. Wolfson.)

(b) Maresfield Committee RESOLVED that this Committee be re-elected with the addition of Mr. F. H. Nias in the place of Col. Miller. (The other members of the Committee are The Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Rear Admiral Beamish, Messrs. A. K. L. Harvey, F. T. Ridley and G. A. Warburton.)

The Maresfield Committee met after the Board meeting and elected Rear Admiral Beamish as their Chairman.

(c) Emergency Committee The Emergency Committee consisting of The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, the Chairman of each of the District Committees and Mr. J. Rowe was re-elected en bloc.

5. TIMBER EXTRACTION - KIDDS HILL (P. 261) The Clerk reported that the Round Timber Co. were still extracting and he had asked them to state when they were likely to finish and to give an assurance that the tracks would be restored satisfactorily. RESOLVED that the matter be kept under observation.

6. TIMBER EXTRACTION - CAMPFIELD ROUGH The Clerk reported that on receipt of the Ranger's report that Mr. R. L. Booker was hauling timber at Campfield Rough and depositing it on the Forest he had informed Mr. Booker that a licence from the Board was required and a deposit of £50 as a guarantee that the surface of the Forest would be restored satisfactorily. Mr. Booker has replied that his operations had ceased.

7. RANGERS' REPORTS The following reports from the Rangers were received.

Removal of barbed wire Barbed wire had been removed by the Military from the following areas: Searchlight Site Fairwarp, Holly Bank, Stonehill, Marlpits, Three Wards, Camp Hill and The Vetchery. Repair of bridge The footbridge at Dodds Bottom had been repaired by the Rangers. Deposit of refuse – Kidss Hill Two loads of refuse had been deposited on the Forest by Mr. Scott of Possingford Farm. By-law Boards Ranger Day had repainted bye-law boards in his area. Gypsies Ranger Walters had removed gypsies from Barnsgate and Poundgate.

8. MR. SCOTT - DEPOSIT OF REFUSE AT KIDDS HILL The Clerk reported that Mr. Scott had been called upon to remove the refuse. He only admitted depositing one load.

9. TIMBER EXTRACTION - COLEMANS HATCH The Ranger reported that two firms were engaged in extractions at Colemans Hatch: The Forest Row Lumber Co. in respect of purchases from Holmes and Stevenson, and the Beacon Trailer Co. in respect of purchases from Forest House. The matter was referred to Mr. Owen to investigate and report to the Clerk for the necessary action.

10. FINANCES

Receipts The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received.

Rates	87.6.6
Acknowledgments	30.3.0
Sale of Motor Cycle	70.0.0
Army Compensation Rents	8.3.6
Miscellaneous	1.1.0

Bank Accounts The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following balances:

General Account	£219.15.6
Wages Account	£21.1.11
Petty Cash Account	£7.6.1
<u>Less</u> outstanding cheques	£7.5.3
<u>Purchase of Maps</u>	

(a) Terrier The Clerk reported that as instructed at the October meeting he had obtained a quotation for supplying maps for the permanent record of properties to which rights of common attached and on the Chairman's authority had instructed Messrs. Edward Stanford Ltd. accordingly. The account now produced totalled £52 6s. 8d.

(b) Photograph copies of Award Map As copies of the Award map were required by the Parliamentary Authorities in connection with the Bill, on the Chairman's authority twelve copies had been obtained from Messrs. Cook, Hammond and Kell at the price of £29.0.1. Costs Re Bill The Clerk reported that he had received accounts from Messrs. Wood & Walford in connection with their survey of the St. John's Camp area totalling £144 5s. 9d. In addition there was the bill from Messrs Cook, Hammond and Kell of £29.2s.6d. making a total of £173.8s.3d. After today's drawings the bank balance of £219.15s. 6d. would be converted into a deficit of £156.1s.03. There was a balance in the Post Office Savings Bank of £119.4s.8d.

Accounts for Payment Accounts totalling £375.16s.6d. were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

11. ESTIMATES Estimates of the normal expenditure of the Board for the year ending 31st December, 1949, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and approved.
The Board then went into Committee

IN COMMITTEE

12. HORSE RIDING ON FOREST (P. 278) The Chairman reported that since the meeting of the Forest Row Committee there had been further riding over the tracks complained of and use was also being made of a public right of way near General Hildyard's house. Mr. Looker reported that other riders had been riding over the fairways of the Golf Course.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the proprietors of Wallhatch, Ryst Wood and Fairwarp Riding Schools explaining the position under the Bye-laws and that unless damage to the Forest and complaints ceased they would not be allowed to use the Forest.

It was further RESOLVED that if this action did not have the desired effect then the Board issue a notice in the Press that they would consider the issue of permits to non-commoners to ride on the Forest, on receipt of request in writing, such permits to be withdrawn if complaints are received.

13. ASHDOWN FOREST BILL The Clerk reported that since the last meeting he had received a letter from the War Office setting out their observations on the Bill from which the following points arose: (i) The camp site at St. John's would be restricted to 563 acres instead of 70 acres. Noted. (ii) The suggested alternative area at Thornhill would not be available. Noted. (iii) Failing agreement on another suitable area the Board would have to exercise their powers of compulsory purchase. Noted. (iv) The number of tracks required had been reduced to four, the Military having dropped their claim for the track south-east of Pippingford Park. Approved. (v) The Military asked for access to the viewpoints for observation purposes. These areas had been excluded from the training areas during the war and were also excluded under the Bill. RESOLVED that the perimeter of the various clumps be excluded from the training areas. (vi) They asked for a new clause providing that in the event of any disparity between the Bill and any existing or future Public Acts then the latter should prevail. Approved in principle. (vii) They preferred that the Conservators should arrange for the planting and maintenance of protective trees at St. John's Camp and submit an estimate. RESOLVED that the Chairman confer with Col. R. S. Clarke as to the best method and the Clerk be instructed to submit the necessary estimate. (viii) They asked that the definition "armed forces" should include the various auxiliary and nursing services. Approved.

The Clerk reported that the settlement of these amendments would necessitate re—drafting various clauses and further advertisement and action would be necessary to comply with the Standing Orders of the House which Messrs. Dyson Bell would deal with in conjunction with himself. Approved.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

ESTIMATES OF NORMAL EXPENDITURE for the year ending 31st December, 1949

1948 Estimate £	1948 Actual Expenditure £		1949 Estimate £
275	275	Clerk's salary	275
48	46	Postages, telephones, travelling and hire of room	48
32	58	Printing and stationery	50
-	4	Ordnance sheets for terrier	50
5	4	Income tax	3
482	490	Rangers' wages and insurances	495
50	84	Rangers' expenses: petrol, repairs & insurances, telephones, postages, etc.	60
8	-	Audit stamp duty	8

Estimates income

Rates	350
Acknowledgments	120
Military compensation rents	40

Balance divisible among Local Authorities as under: 485

East Sussex County Council	5/10ths	242.10.0
East Grinstead U.D.C.	1/10th	48.10.0
Cuckfield R.D.C.	1/10th	48.10.0
Uckfield R.D.C.	3/10ths	145.10.0
		485.0.0

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 6th April, 1949, at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh, Esq. - Chairman
Mrs. Ursula Ridley, Rear Admiral T. P.H. Beamish
and Messrs. J. H. Griffin, J. R. Coulthard, W. Mitchell
F. T. Ridley, G. A. Warburton and A. C. Wolfson

Apologies for absence were received from Col. R. S. Clarke, M.P., Lt. Comdr. H. R. Hardy, Mr. A. K. L. Harvey and Mr. John Rowe.

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

2. TIMBER EXTRACTION, KIDD'S HILL, BY ROUND TIMBER SUPPLY COMPANY. (P. 279) The Clerk reported that he had informed this Company that unless they complied with the Board's requirements he would take the Board's instructions for proceedings under the Bye-laws.

RESOLVED that failing a satisfactory reply from the Company the Clerk be authorised to take proceedings.

3. MR. MONTAGUE SCOTT - DEPOSIT OF REFUSE (P.280) The Clerk reported that he had again written Mr. Scott but had received no reply. RESOLVED that failing compliance by Mr. Scott the Clerk be authorised to take proceedings under the Bye-laws.

4. TIMBER EXTRACTION - COLEMANS HATCH (P.280) The Forest Ranger reported that the Forest Row Lubber Company had completed their extraction from Little Shepherds. The Company had signed an undertaking regarding the proposed extraction from Furnace Farm and had paid a deposit of £25.

The Beacon Trailer Company on representations from the Board had ceased using the route complained of and had restored the surface of the Forest.

5. RANGERS' REPORTS Ranger Day reported as follows:

Timber Extraction Little Shepherds. Colemans Hatch The Forest Row Lumber Co. had levelled the tracks made by them.

Round Timber Co. - Kidd's Hill Nothing had been done by this Company to restore the surface of the Forest.

Mr. Scott's deposit of rubbish Mr. Scott had not cleared away the rubbish deposited by him at Kidd's Hill.

Fires A fire had occurred at Hindleap (30 acres) and three smaller fires burning about 10 acres.

Ranger Walters reported as follows:

Gipsies had been moved from Fairwarp Cross Roads and Pound Gate. Fires had occurred at Rough Ground (12 acres), Spring Gardens (8 acres), Browns Brook and Pains Hill (10 acres), Millbrook (15 acres), the Vetchery (20 acres), Crowborough Warren (20 acres), Duddleswell (6 acres), Fairwarp (10 acres).

6. FINANCES

Receipts The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received

Rates	£28.18.6
Acknowledgments	£57.18.6
Local Authorities' contributions	£242.5.0
Compensation rents	£7.6.6
Deposits	£25.0.0
Miscellaneous	£0.1.6

Bank Accounts The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following balances:

General Account	£263.1.3
Wages Account	£25.2.3
Petty Cash Account	£27.3.6

Accounts for Payment Accounts totalling £81 11s. 6d. were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

The Clerk reported that cheques totalling £173 5s. 10d. drawn at the last meeting had not be paid in view of the small balance at the Bank. The War Department would ultimately pay the expenses in connection with one Bill, but they had to be borne by the Conservators in the first instance.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to arrange for a temporary overdraft from the Bank of a sum not exceeding FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS.

7. WEIR WOOD WATER BILL The Clerk reported that under this Bill the promoters proposed impounding water from the River Medway and constructing a storage reservoir on the Forest near the fir clump at Wych Cross. On the Chairman's instructions objections had been lodged in which Earl de la Warr was joined. It was

RESOLVED that the Corporation be informed that the Conservators cannot accept the proposals and ask what alternative sites are available.

8. DEPOSIT OF MANURE ON FOREST Ranger Day reported that the bailiff to Mrs. Hart at Wych Cross Place had deposited manure on the Forest in the Twyford Lane area.

RESOLVED that the Clerk take any necessary action.

9. MILITARY VEHICLES ON FOREST The Chairman reported that a 15 cwt. military truck had been on the Forest near Gills Lap. The Corporal in charge stated that he had no knowledge of any orders prohibiting the offence. On complaint to General Gregson-Ellis both he and the Commanding Officer of the Unit concerned had expressed their apologies. Admiral Beamish suggested that a short leaflet be prepared for the Military Authorities to issue to units occupying the camps. The Chairman stated that he would take up the matter with General Gregson-Ellis.

10. HORSE RIDING ON FOREST (P.282) The Clerk reported that he had written the proprietors of the riding schools all of whom had premised to avoid complaint in the future. It was reported that conditions had much improved.

11. ASHDOWN FOREST BILL (P.282) The Clerk reported that there had been considerable correspondence and discussion over the final drafting amendments to the Bill, particularly over the clauses dealing with compensation, tracks and erections on the Forest. The Chairman reported that he and the Vice-Chairman had visited St. John's Camp in connection with the planting of a belt of trees to screen the camp. In view of the contours of the ground it was not possible to screen the camp with trees and the buildings would be suitably camouflaged instead. On the question of the acquisition of alternative area for the camp site he was having a discussion with Earl De Le Warr.

12. LICENCES The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following licences had been granted:

South Eastern Electricity Board — Extension of main at Jumpers Town
Two licences to assign, licences for water mains at New Lodge, Colemans Hatch.

An application from the Association for Mental Health for the erection of two direction boards to Lark's Hill, Fairwarp, was received. The Chairman undertook to deal with the matter.

13. CONCRETE COVER TO WELL, COURTLANDS, NUTLEY Ranger Walters reported that a concrete cover had been placed on the disused well at Courtlands, Nutley, by Ranger Day and himself. Approved.

14. DAMAGE TO BRIDGE AT WATER FARM Mr. Wolfson reported that he had been informed that the bridge at Water Farm was damaged by the military and asked whether a claim could be made in respect of it. The Clerk stated that he would inform Messrs. Wood and Walford so that it could be included in the general claim.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Maresfield Committee duly convened and held at Nutley on Tuesday, 17th May, 1949, at 10.30 a.m.

Rear Admiral T. P. H. Beamish, C.B., R.N. Mr. F. T. Ridley and Mr. G. A. Warburton

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. S. J. Marsh and Lt.-Commander H. R. Hardy.

Mr. Stevenson was on the premises but made no approach to the Committee notwithstanding his assurance that he is in possession of witnesses and a plan to support his case.

1. ENCROACHMENTS AT LAVENDER COTTAGE The Committee met in view of the report received from Ranger. Walters and on inspection found as follows:

(a) Licence to Metal Track Mr. Stevenson had metalled a considerable length of track as an extension doubling the length of that authorised by licence, and in addition, to obviate a sharp declivity, has made and metalled the diversionary loop which involved cutting into Forest soil very considerably and cutting away a bank over a length of about ten yards. The Committee believe that to regularise the position the owner could be required to apply for and sign a fresh licence. They wish to make the following observations as an important question of principle is at stake: The breaches in the terms of the licence granted in January 1948 must have occurred between that date and the 28th April, 1949, when Ranger Walters reported. They must have entailed many lorry loads of rubble, etc., and the employment of some labour. The Committee think that the Ranger's attention should have been drawn during his rounds to this considerable encroachment. On the 1899 map no tracks to Lavender Cottage are shown. On the 1910 map a single track is shown which was the subject of the licence granted in January 1948. The Board of Conservators is thus faced with an accomplished fact and this example will certainly be followed by many other similar encroachments unless better supervision is provided. (b) Encroachment on Forest The garage recently erected quite clearly encroached on the Forest. The Committee regard this as a flagrant infringement of the By-laws and recommends that Mr. Stevenson be called upon to remove so much of the building as encroached on the Forest forthwith and failing compliance the Clerk to take immediate action. The Committee observe, however, that as in (a) above, better supervision would have prevented encroachment. (c) Site of Concrete Washdown The Committee noted that the concrete area had been broken up but the material was left on the site and they recommend that Mr. Stevenson be called upon to remove this rubble and make good the surface of the Forest forthwith. (d) Discharge Pipe from Cesspit The Committee noted that this had been removed but observation should be kept to see what alternative scheme for discharge is adopted. (e) Manure Heap The Committee recommends that Mr. Stevenson be called upon to remove this or apply for a licence for its retention. (f) Hedge Trimmings Since the Ranger's inspection a tree had been lopped and the hedge cut and the trimmings thrown on the Forest. The Committee recommends that Mr. Stevenson be called upon to remove these forthwith.

2. ENCROACHMENTS AT MILLBROOK PARK

(a) Cesspit and Overflow Pipes The Committee inspected this encroachment where a cesspit had been constructed on the Forest. They recommend that the owners be called upon to remove this and construct one on their own holding. If it is found necessary to construct this on the field opposite, then they be required to enter into a revocable licence for the overflow pipes to be carried under the Forest, otherwise these pipes be removed and the surface of the Forest made good. (b) Manure Heap and Straw Stack Miss Martin (one of the joint owners of Millbrook Farm) was informed that if she wished these to remain it would be necessary to have a revocable licence. She stated that the former owner Mr. Spencer Ridley, had informed her that he and his predecessors had always had a manure heap and stack on the Forest. (c) Faggot Stacks The Committee also observed that there were two faggot stacks on the Forest which appeared to be of long standing. The Clerk was asked to investigate this. (d) Deposit of Rubbish A quantity of rubbish was found on the Forest, which it was understood had been deposited there by Mr. Best, the builder and the Committee recommends that Mr. Best be informed that this must be removed at once.

The Committee understands from the Clerk that since 1896 certain faggot and other stacks have been permitted in circumstances of "long enjoyment of faggots" and that in general cottagers should be allowed to stack faggots adjoining their holdings.

Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 6th July, 1949, at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh Esq. - Chairman
Lt. Commdr. H. R. Hardy - Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Ursula Ridley, The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Lewes
Rear Admiral Beamish C.B. R.N., J. R. Coulthard
J. H. Griffin, A. K. L. Harvey, W. Mitchell
F. H. Nias, J. R. Owen, F. T. Ridley, and. G. A. Warburton

Apologies for absence were received from Col. R. S. Clarke, M.P., and Mr. J. Rowe.

The Chairman expressed a welcome to the Earl of Lewes on his return from convalescence.

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

2. ROUND TIMBER COMPANY, TIMBER HAULING AT KIDD' S HILL The Clerk reported that the Rangers had kept observations on the above Company and as a result information had been laid with the Magistrates for prosecution under the Bye-laws. He had since received from the Company a letter enclosing a cheque for £50 as a deposit for the satisfactory restoration of the Forest on the termination of their operations and an undertaking by them to make good the surface of the Forest. Under these circumstances the Summons had been withdrawn.

3. MR. MONTAGUE SCOTT, DEPOSIT OF REFUSE AT KIDD' S HILL The Clerk reported that Mr. Scott had now cleared the refuse to the satisfaction of the Ranger.

4. DEPOSIT OF MANURE AT WYCH CROSS The Clerk reported that Mrs. Hart's bailiff had now cleared this deposit from the Forest.

5. DAMAGED BRIDGE AT WATER FARM The Clerk reported that he had received an estimate from Messrs. H. E. Waters for the repair of this bridge amounting to £40 which had been accepted by the Chairman. Messrs. Wood and Walford had since been instructed to insert this item in the claim for compensation which they were preparing. Approved.

6. RANGER DAY'S ILLNESS The Chairman reported that Ranger Day had gone into East Grinstead Hospital for an operation. The Clerk asked for instructions as to payment of his wages, and it was resolved that the Board make up his wages after allowing for the amount received under National Insurance.

7. RANGERS' REPORTS Ranger Day reported as follows:

Fixes had occurred near Lavender Platt, near Wych Cross, or Kidd's Hill, near the Nutley Road and near Shalesbrook.

Mr. Scott of Posingford had satisfactorily cleared the rubbish dumped by him on Kidd's Hill.

Together with Ranger Waters he had kept observations on the hauling operations by the Round Timber Company.

Ranger Walters reported:

On the encroachments at Lavender Cottage and Millbrook, both of which are referred to in the Maresfield Committee's report. Bye-law boards in his area had been reconditioned.

Fires had occurred at Burnt Oak, Spring Gardens, Nutley Road, Millbrook Hill, Pippingford, Pains Hill, Rushy Bottom, and Greenwood Gate.

8. FINANCES

Receipts The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received

Rates	£80.12.0
Acknowledgments	£7.5.9
Local Authorities' Contributions	£48.10.0
Compensation rents	£21.5.11
Deposits	£55.10.0
Miscellaneous	£2.14.4

Bank Accounts The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following balances:

General Account	£23.9.2
Wages Account	£28.18.7
Petty Cash Account	£5.14.7

Accounts for Payment Accounts totalling £129 6s. 2d. were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

OVERDRAFT The Clerk reported that he had applied to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries for sanction to an overdraft but in spite of a reminder had received no reply.

PAYMENTS SINCE LAST MEETING The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting on the Authority of the Chairman, a cheque for £250 had been drawn in favour of Parliamentary Agents on Account of disbursements in connection with the new Bill. Approved.

9. FOREST RATE The Clerk referred to the estimates of expenditure for the year as approved at the February meeting of the Board amounting to £995 of which £485 is to be borne by the Local Authorities. It was duly proposed and seconded 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 Enclosure Acts, 1845—1878 and the Commons Regulation (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Acts, 1885 and the Ashdown Forest Act, 1937, 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 owners and their respective acreages and the respective sums payable by them are set out in the Rate Book produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

10. DISTRICT AUDITOR'S REPORTS The Clerk read the reports from the District Auditor on his audit of the accounts for the two years ended 31st December, 1947

Gentlemen,

I have to report the completion of the audit of your accounts and of those of your officers for the year ended at the 31st December, 1946.

Such matters as arose at the audit, and to which it is deemed necessary to direct your attention, are dealt with in the report on the audit of the counts for the year ended 31st December, 1947, the two audits having been taken together.

It is desired to express appreciation of the ready and courteous attention paid by the Clerk and his staff to audit requirements.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
(SGD) A.H.H. HOBBS
District Auditor

Gentlemen,

I have to report the completion of the audit of your accounts and those of your officers for the year ended at 31st December, 1947.

It is satisfactory to record that the various matters referred to in the report on the audit of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 1945, are being dealt with on the lines then recommended.

The attention of the Conservators is drawn to the arrears of rates at 31st December, 1947; the amount was £88 7s. 0d., being over 25% of the total rates due for the year. It seems that action to improve the collection of rates should be intensified and the Conservators are reminded of their statutory powers of recovery in this connection. It is agreed that, with one or two exceptions, the individual arrears were of only small dimension but this fact should not necessarily be taken as a reason for refraining from instituting proceedings to recover.

It is desired to express appreciation of the ready and courteous attention paid by the Clerk and his staff to audit requirements.

I am, Gentlemen
Your obedient Servant,
(SGD) A.H.H. HOBBS
District Auditor

11. RECOVERY OF RATE The Clerk reported that he had explained to the District Auditor that the demands for Rate were normally issued in September, which only left three months of the financial year in which to collect. The

difficulty here was that the form of demand included a notice of the Annual Meeting of the Commoners in December. He would, however, issue the demand notes earlier this year, Approved.

12. WEIR WOOD WATER ORDER The Clerk reported that objections had been lodged against this Order and as a result terms of settlement had been agreed between the parties as under. The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had viewed the site at Wych Cross, as well as the suggested alternative site and had decided that the latter was more open and would result in a greater disfigurement of the Forest, as well as being more costly. It was RESOLVED that the action of the Chairman and Clerk be approved.

13. MILITARY VEHICLES ON ASHDOWN FOREST The Chairman reported that he had taken this matter up with the General Commanding, who had informed him that written instructions had been given to each Unit and that be therefore considered the issue of separate leaflets unnecessary. His own instructions were quite clear. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk convey to General Guyson-Ellis the resolution from this Board that it was desirable that separate printed instructions be issued and that the Clerk ask that specific instructions be given to an outgoing Officer to sign that he had passed on the information to his successor.

14. ASHDOWN FOREST BILL The Clerk reported that the Bill had passed all its stages in the Commons, and had had a first reading in the House of Lords. Agents had informed him that it was doubtful whether the parliamentary timetable would permit of the Bill receiving the Royal Assent before the summer recess. Noted.

15. MILITARY TRAINING AREAS The Clerk reported that in view of the stage reached with the Ashdown Forest Bill, he had informed Messrs. Wood and Watford that the time had arrived to submit the claim for compensation. Certain adjustments would have to be made in the claim, having regard to the fact that the military had cleared a considerable area of barbed wire apart from ether minor adjustments. He had informed Major Todd of the Lands Branch of his instructions to Messrs. Wood and Walford. It was RESOLVED that if the claim from Messrs. Wood and Walford was received before the date of the next Meeting the Chairman and Clerk be empowered to approve it before submission to the War Department.

16. LICENCES The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting the following licences had been granted.

Lt.-Col. Gordon White	Underground electricity cable to Lavender Cottage.
Lt.-Col. Gordon White	Additional tracks to ditto.
Mrs. Wilmot	Track to Lark Rise, Fairwarp.
Withyham St. John's School	Posts for playing ground.
Maj.-Gen. le Fleming	Direction board to "Windylaw", Colemans Hatch.
S.E.E. Board	Underground cable to "Ardens", Nutley.

17. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1947 The Clerk reported that on receipt of a Memorandum from the Uckfield Rural District Council, notifying the changes effected by the 1947 Act on agreement entered into under Section 44 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1932, he would take up the matter with the County Planning Officer, asking the position under the County Planning Scheme. Approved.

18. LITTER - VOLUNTEER WARDENS A letter from the Chief Constable of East Sussex was read, stating that the Chairman of the County Council had received a complaint from the Danehill Women's Institute of litter on Ashdown Forest. The Chief Constable suggested that as the number of police in the area was very few it might be possible to organize a body of public-spirited men and women who would be prepared to act as part-time Rangers and report cases of picnic parties etc. leaving litter on the Forest. It was RESOLVED no action be taken.

19. MEMBERSHIP The Clerk reported that the Cuckfield Rural District Council had re-appointed Mrs. Ridley as their representative for the current year. The East Sussex County Council had not yet filled the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. Looker.

20. NOTICE BOARD AT GOAT CROSS ROADS - JAMES LONGLEY & CO. An application was received from Messrs. Longley & Co. to erect a small name board at the Goat Cross road during reinstatement of Coldharbour Manor. It was RESOLVED that consent be not granted.

The Board then went into Committee

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

IN COMMITTEE

The Board considered the report of the Maresfield Committee regarding:

- (a) Encroachments at Lavender Cottage, Nutley
- (b) Encroachments at Millbrook Farm, Nutley

The Clerk reported that he had inspected the encroachment at Lavender Cottage and had marked the point to which the wall of the garage had been demolished. The Chairman reported that everything complained of had now been removed.

RESOLVED that the Committee's report be received and their recommendations adopted.

RANGERS' APPLICATIONS FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE The Board discussed the delay of the Ranger in reporting the encroachments at Lavender Cottage as well as the procedural arrangements after a licence has been granted for specified purposes. The terms of appointment for the Rangers and their duties were also discussed.

RESOLVED that the whole question of the Rangers, duties, wages and clothing allowances be referred to a Committee consisting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of each of the District Committees with power to act.

Applications were received from the Rangers for payments in respect of clothing damaged through attending forest fires as follows:

Ranger Day	£11.3s.0d.
Ranger Walters	£10.0s.0d.

It was RESOLVED that these retrospective claims be approved and cheques drawn in settlement.

MR. R. LONSDALE FELL- SEPTIC TANK An application from Mr. Lonsdale Fell to construct a septic tank on the Forest near Hurstlands Farm, Hartfield was considered and it was RESOLVED that consent be not granted.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Special Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on 12th August, 1949.

S. J. Marsh - Chairman
Lt.-Commander H. R. Hardy - Vice-Chairman
Rear Admiral T. P. H. Beamish, C.B., R.N.
Col. R. S. Clarke, M.P. and Mr. G. A. Warburton

1. RANGERS The general conditions of employment were discussed. RESOLVED that the salaries of the Rangers be reviewed in February 1950 and the Board provide waterproof clothing for the Rangers' use in winter. The Committee interviewed the following selected candidates:

Mr. A. J. Muddle, Pimp Barn, Withyham.
Mr. C. Walter, Holly Cottage, Nutley.
Mr. R. J. Franks, Hamsell Manor Hostel, Eridge Green.
Mr. K. A. Tomkins, Hamsell Manor Hostel, Eridge Green.

RESOLVED unanimously that Mr. A. J. Muddle be appointed on the advertised terms with one free day each week and he commence his duties on 5th September, 1949.

2. MILITARY TRAINING The Committee considered in detail the annexed report prepared by Messrs. Wood & Walford who were represented at the meeting. The Clerk stated that the principle of reinstatement had been agreed with the Military Authorities. It was RESOLVED that the Surveyor and Clerk be instructed to submit a claim at a figure which they may think profitable prepare on the following basis:

Appendix 1 to Report.

Item 1	Final figure to be adjusted to exclude damage by enemy action.
Item 2, 3 and 8	Delete.
Item 4	increase to f875.
Item 5 to 7	As estimated.

together with fees of preparing original Map and Schedule of Condition and Surveyors' fees for survey and negotiating present claim with the Clerk and Lord's Solicitors' fees.

S. J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 5th October, 1949, at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh Esq. - Chairman
Lt.-Commander H. R. Hardy - Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Ursula Ridley, Rt. Hon. The Earl of Lewes
Rear Admiral T. P. H. Beamish, C.B., R.N.
Messrs. J. R. Coulthard, J. H. Griffin, A. K. L. Harvey, W. Mitchell, F. H. Nias, J. R. Owen, F. T. Ridley, J. Rowe, H. Waters and A. C. Wolfson.

Apologies for absence were received from Col. R. S. Clarke, M.P. and Mr. G. A. Warburton.

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

2. BRIDGE AT WATER FARM (P. 292) A letter from Mrs. Card of Birches Farm, Colemans Hatch, was received expressing thanks for the repair of this bridge.

3. ASHDOWN FOREST ACT, 1949 (P. 296) The Clerk reported that the Act received the Royal Assent on 30th July, 1949 and copies had been sent to every member of the Board, as well as to the Local Authorities and Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society. Letters had also been sent to the Local authorities and the Society expressing the Board's sincere appreciation of their efforts with regard to it.

He further reported that it would be necessary to have his Bill of Costs taxed, when it had been settled by Parliamentary agents it would be submitted to the Chairman for approval before being lodged for taxation. Approved.

4. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947 (P. 296) A letter from the East Sussex County Council was read stating that it was not the Town Planning Authority's intention to upset the provisions of the agreement entered into between the Conservators and the County Council. It was not possible to produce a plan until the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Bill is made law. The Chairman said it was anticipated that this would be in December. Noted.

5. LITTER (P. 297) A letter from the Chief Constable of East Sussex was received enclosing copy of a letter from the Secretary of Danehill Womens Institute which complained of litter at the following places:-

Between Forest Row and Wych Cross
The Forest track opposite Birch Grove House
The bus stop opposite the Red Lion
In front of the Castle Tea Rooms, Nutley.

On the proposition of Lt.-Commander Hardy it was RESOLVED that a suitably secured litter basket be provided opposite the Red Lion.

6. LAVENDER COTTAGE (P. 289) The Clerk reported that Ranger Walters had reported that everything complained of at the above property had been removed. Noted.

7. RATE COLLECTION (P. 295) Admiral Beamish enquired what steps had been taken to comply with the District Auditor's report on rate collection. The Clerk reported that 280 claims had been forwarded by post and that the Rangers were in course of collection of the remainder.

8. KINGSTANDING WIRELESS STATION (P. 266) A letter from the East Sussex County Council was received enclosing copy letter from Uckfield Rural District Council complaining of the appearance of the above site and of the County Council's letter to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning. RESOLVED that the Board give their fullest support to the action of the County Council.

9. MILLBROOK FARM, NUTLEY - ENCROACHMENT (P. 291) The Clerk reported he had written to the Solicitors asking for the removal of the cesspool. The Chairman reported that it was in course of removal and a fresh one was being constructed on the owners' property. NOTED.

10. WEIR WOOD WATER ORDER (P. 295) The Clerk reported that a draft agreement had been submitted to the Development Corporation which had been approved by the Chairman and the Lord's Solicitors and subject to certain revisions subsequently returned to the Promoters Agents with the suggestion that a meeting should take place for the settlement of the clause and draft agreement.

RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to execute the agreement on behalf of the Conservators when ready.

11. RANGERS' REPORTS Ranger Day reported that there had been three cases of military vehicles on the Forest. A number of small fires had occurred. He had investigated a complaint by Miss Lund Roberts of Duddleswell of damage to her drive by tractors. The drivers had been interviewed and the position improved.

Ranger Muddle reported that a shed had been erected on the Forest at Friars Gate which the owner had promised to remove.

At Forest Lodge, Friars Gate a new pathway had been made with hardcore.

Three parties of gypsies had been moved from the Forest.

12. FINANCES

Receipts The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:-

Rates	£160.9.6
Acknowledgments	£1.0.9
Local Authorities Contributions	193.15.0
Compensation Rents	7.1.6
War Office on account of costs of	
Ashdown Forest Bill	600.0.0

Bank accounts The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:

General Account	£665.2.6
Wages Account	£10.0.2
Petty Cash account	1.19.3

Accounts for Payment Accounts totalling £103 16s. 3d. were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

Payments since 1st Meeting The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following cheques had been drawn:-

G. Day allowance for burnt clothing	£11.3.0
J. Walters allowance for burnt clothing	10.0.0
Forest Lumber Co. Refund of deposit re timber hauling at Furnace Farm	£25.0.0

13. LICENCES The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following licences had been granted.

Mr. Lawrence Reed water main and access to garage for property near O1dlands, Duddleswell.

Lt. Col. W.S. Webb access to garage at Windwhistle

14. RESERVE FUND Admiral Beamish drew attention to the diminution of capital and enquired whether it was not desirable to set aside a sum each year to provide for renewal of motor cycles. The Chairman stated the matter would receive attention.

15. LICENCE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Admiral Beamish moved "That the whole question of licences granted by the Conservators be examined by the appropriate Sub-Committee with a view to bringing all present and future licences into line with present day financial considerations and the benefits that accrued to the Licensees". RESOLVED that the matter be referred to a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman the Chairmen of both District Committees and Mr. F. H. Nias.

16. FOREST ROW WAR MEMORIAL (P. 266) The Clerk reported receipt of letters from Major General K. J. Martin enquiring whether any development charge was payable in respect of the proposed work on the Forest Row Recreation Ground. He, the Clerk, had suggested that Mr. Burns, the architect, enquire of the Ministry of Town and Country. Planning and if any charge was proposed he would look further into the matter. Noted.

17. BONFIRE AT CHUCK HATCH An application having been received from the residents at Chuck Hatch for a bonfire on 5th November on the Chairman's instructions authority had been given. Approved.

18. HORSE RIDING ON FAIRWARP RECREATION GROUND The Clerk reported that on receipt of complaints of horse riding on Fairwarp Recreation Ground he had written the proprietor of the school who had replied that he had done so in ignorance and had given instructions to all concerned to desist. Noted.

19. LONDONDERRY FARM, DIRECTION POST (P. 141) The Clerk reported that he had again written to Mr. Mason calling on him to remove this post. He has replied that he knew of no law local or national which give the Conservators any power and that he would not engage in any further correspondence. The Clerk had forwarded him a copy of the bye-laws and informed him that unless he applied for a licence proceedings would be taken.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to take proceedings under the Bye—laws.

20. RANGERS' CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND APPOINTMENT OF RANGER MUDDLE The Minutes of the Special Committee Meetings held on the 6th July and 12th August having been circulated it was RESOLVED that the same be approved and the Committee's actions approved.

21. MILITARY VEHICLES ON FOREST (P. 295) The Chairman referred to the breaches of the agreement by the military authorities, on three occasions.

For sometime past an agreement has existed between the military authorities and the Board that no vehicles of any kind should be allowed on the Forest, except on certain scheduled tracks, and this agreement has now been embodied in a Bill which received the Royal Assent at the beginning of August. On three occasions in the course of the last few months this agreement has been broken, on the first occasion by a detachment from Maresfield Camp, on the second occasion by the Inns of Court Regiment from Crowborough Camp, and on the third occasion by a R.A.S.C. Company from Crowborough Camp. All three units had previously received instructions from the General Commanding Home Counties District that military vehicles were not allowed on the Forest. The third breach of the regulations occurred on two successive days, and was perhaps the most flagrant of all, our Ranger be informed

on the second day by the same driver to whom he had spoken on the first day that the vehicles were there on orders from their Commanding Officer who had told them to remain for an hour.

By the good offices of Lord De La Warr and Colonel Clarke, the whole matter has now been referred to the Secretary of State for War for the necessary strengthening of discipline.

Copies of the statement were handed to the press.

22. EQUIVALENT AREAS (P. 178) The Clerk reported that the Board required some 116 acres to meet all requirements for equivalent areas.

Campfield Rough would provide 26 acres.

Earl De La Warr was willing to provide 60 acres and it was proposed that the balance should be secured by reverting to Thornhill Farm area.

The military authorities were negotiating for the purchase of an adjoining area of Pippingford Park. On the proposition of the Chairman it was RESOLVED that a letter of thanks be forwarded to Lord De La Warr for his help in the negotiations.

23. FUTURE MEETINGS Col. Clarke having written of the difficulty he had in attending on the first Wednesday in the month it was RESOLVED that meetings in 1950 be held as follows:

8th February	12th July
5th April	11th October
13th December	

24. TIMBER HAULING OF FOREST (a) F. Withey The Clerk reported an application from Mr. Withey to extract eleven trees from Kidbrook Park. He had informed Mr. Withey that consent would be granted on the usual terms subject to a deposit of £3 and an acknowledgment of 10/-. He had received no reply and work had not commenced. (b) E. Longhurst & Sons This firm having applied for permission to remove timber over the Forest from Oldlands Hall, Duddleswell the Clerk had requested details of the quantity to be extracted duration of work and a plan of the proposed routes. He was awaiting a reply. (c) Round Timber Company - Kidd's Hill Mr. Owen referred to the damage to the Forest occasioned by the extractions by the above Company, and regarded the £50 deposit as inadequate for the restoration. He suggested that any future applications be referred to the appropriate Committee to survey and that a much larger deposit be required. Mrs. Ridley suggested that the Contractors be urged to finish their operations while the ground is dry.

25. RAVENSBURY MOTOR CYCLING CLUB - APPLICATION TO HOLD TRIALS ON FOREST An application from this club was received for permission to hold reliability trials on the Forest near Nutley. RESOLVED they be informed the Board cannot consent.

26. LADY COOPER - COMPLAINT OF UNDERGROWTH A letter from Lady Edwin Cooper was received complaining of the undergrowth obstructing the track near her property. RESOLVED her letter lay on the table.

27. BEACON TRAILER COMPANY - FURNACE FARM COLEMANS HATCH The Clerk reported that the above Company had completed their work and restored the surface of tree Forest to the Ranger's satisfaction. RESOLVED that the deposit of £5 be refunded to them.

28. FOREST HALL, NUTLEY A letter from Uckfield Rural District Council was received stating that in September, 1948 the present owner of the Cafe enquired whether the Council would reconsider granting approval of development. The Council asked whether the Board considered the establishment detrimental to the amenities of the Forest. RESOLVED that the Council be informed that the Conservators regard the development as detrimental and give their fullest support to the Council in their efforts to preserve the amenities.

The Board then went into Committee.

IN COMMITTEE

CLAIM AGAINST WAR DEPARTMENT The Clerk reported that the military had now cancelled their training notice as from 1st September, 1949. After discussion with the Chairman and with his authority figures had been settled with Messrs. Wood & Walford, particulars of which had been forwarded to the Command Land agent.

SHEEP ON FOREST The Chairman explained the position regarding sheep, which he had gone into thoroughly and general discussion ensued. The Board then went out of Committee.

29. SHEEP ON FOREST On the proposition of Admiral Beamish it was RE6OLVED that the presence of sheep on the Forest which with the approval of the Lord of the Maxtor has persisted for many years is agreed to but that the bye—law concerning the number of animals a Commoner is entitled to turn out be strictly enforced when a complaint is made which in the opinion of the Board is justifiable.

30. TREE CLUMPS (P. 257) The Chairman reported that he had seen Earl De La Warr and it was anticipated that the matter would be dealt with shortly.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE RE LICENCES

A Meeting of the Committee duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Friday, 14th October, 1949 at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh - Chairman
Lt. Commdr. H. R. Hardy - Vice-Chairman
Rear Admiral T. P. H. Beamish, R.N. and F. H. Nias.

An apology for absence was received from Mr. J. R. Owen.

1. FINANCES The Committee considered their terms of reference and decided that they should be interpreted in the widest possible terms. In the course of subsequent discussion all present sources of revenue were reviewed including (a) the collection of rates at half yearly instead of yearly intervals (b) the lack of uniform basis for the present acknowledgments for roads (c) notice boards and (d) underground mains and pipes.

It was RESOLVED that the meeting stand adjourned until 3rd November, 1949, when a memorandum with suggested scales of acknowledgment to be prepared by the Clerk should be submitted for consideration; further that he instructed to obtain particulars of licences and acknowledgments in operation in the New Forest and Epping Forest.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Special Sub-Committee re licences duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Thursday, 3rd November, 1949, at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. S. J. Marsh - Chairman
Lt.-Comdr. H. R. Hardy - Vice-Chairman
Rear Admiral T. P. H. Beamish, R.N.,
Mr. F. H. Nias and Mr. J. R. Owen

1. COL. GORDON-WHITE, LAVENDER COTTAGE, NUTLEY Application to assign the licence for the road having been received, the Clerk was instructed to reply the matter would be brought before the Board in due course.

2. LICENSES The Sub-Committee considered the memorandum prepared by the Clerk. It was RESOLVED to recommend:

1. The memorandum be approved subject to the following modifications under heading Roads (a) that column 2 read "Tracks and roads" and (b) in the Remarks column the word "capital" be inserted after the word "additional"; (c) the Clerk pursue enquiries through Messrs. Hunt & Co. to ascertain the views of the Lord of the Manor as to his retention of the acknowledgments payable to him; (d) that where a track or road is need for more than one property the scale be apportioned between the various properties and proportionately on the length of the road used by one or more licensees.

2. That the existing licences generally be revoked by three months' notice with a view to all licences being placed on the new uniform scale and to take effect at such date as the Clerk is able to carry out the necessary clerical and other arrangements and not later than 1st July, 1950.

Chairman

(Note. The workings of a typical case will be available at the meeting)

The freehold of the soil of the regulated forest is vested in Earl De La Warr as Lord of the Manor of Duddleswell. The Conservators under the Confirmation Act 1885 are charged with the duty of making byelaws and regulations for the prevention and protection from nuisances and for keeping order on the Forest including (Inter alia) (a) its protection from encroachments and trespasses and its preservation in its natural condition and (b) the prevention of all cutting of turf and other acts tending to damage the surface of the Forest. By virtue and in furtherance of these separate interests the Lord and Board have granted licences for various purposes. The following extracts from the earlier minutes of the Board give some historical background to this subject:

On 29th October, 1887 it was agreed that as Lord De La Warr had assented to permission being granted for brakes litter and peat to be cut, the Ranger should be authorised to grant written licences to small occupiers within and immediately round the Forest. Peat was only to be taken from specified areas. On 27th June, 1891, the Rangers were authorised to grant licences to Cottagers within the pale; while on 10th August, 1895 the class of persons to whom licences might be granted was extended to these who were above the class of Cottagers.

No licences could be granted, to either persons without the pale or to these convicted of breaking the bye-laws, without the Conservators express consent.

In May 1895 and 1896 applications were made, in order to hold cocoanut-shies on the Forest, all of which were granted, as was an application for a licence to make a Rifle Range on the Forest in October, 1896.

In April, 1897, a proposal was made that licences should be granted to allow small occupiers on the Forest to keep stacks of faggots and/or turf on the open Forest and in May licences were prepared to be given by the Rangers to all those who had commenced stacking within the preceding ten years.

On 2nd May, 1902, a suggestion was made that if licences were granted to make roads or metal tracks over the Forest, the licensees should pay annual acknowledgment to the Lord of the same amount as that paid to the Conservators. also that deposits paid as security of compliance with licences should be placed on deposit at the Bank and not paid into the Current Account.

In July 1903 a licence was granted to allow bricks to be stacked nearby where a house was being built. Ample time was allowed for completion of the building. It was decided that when and if a space of time is specified, if the licensee overruns his time allotted, he should pay a progressive weekly rent for the delay.

In certain cases licences have been granted by the Conservators alone when the Lord should have been a party in addition. To overcome this difficulty Messrs. Hunt proposed to issue a circular letter in 1940 asking licensees to confirm that their existing licences shall be deemed to have been made with the Conservators and Lord De La Warr jointly and severally.

In accordance with the instructions of the Committee I have obtained the following information from the Forestry Commission as regards the New Forest and also Epping Forest.

New Forest Easements

Schedule of Charges made by the Forest Commission Roads and Approaches available for Vehicles

1. Where access already exists and an old track is repaired and made good for the exclusive benefit of a dwelling house and grounds in the occupation of a private proprietor:

An annual acknowledgment of

5/- where the rateable value of the premises served does not exceed £20

10/- where the rateable value of the premises served is between £20 and £50

£1 where the rateable value of the premises served is between £50 and £100, and

10/- for every £50 or fraction of £50 beyond £100

2. Where an old track is repaired and made good for his own use by a private proprietor but is at the same time useful for the public and is enjoyed by the public free of charge:

An annual acknowledgment of 5/- to prevent the upkeep of the road being put upon the Crown in future.

3. Where a new entrance and road are made for the exclusive benefit of a dwelling house and grounds in the occupation of a private proprietor:

An annual acknowledgment of

10/- where rateable value is under £20

£1 where rateable value of premises served exceeds £20 but does not exceed £50

£1.10/- where rateable value of premises served exceeds £50 but does not exceed £100

When the rateable value exceeds £100 there will be a charge (in addition to the sum of £1 10s. Od. above referred to; at the rate of 15/- for every £50 or fraction of £50 of rateable value beyond £100.

4. Where an old entrance exists amounting to an easement and nothing is done to improve the access though the user is more frequent: Nothing is to be charged in this case (provided the access shall not be used for any additional buildings let separately to tenants)

5. Where a new entrance is required for land not built upon, 10/- to be the acknowledgment but revisable whenever buildings are put up.

6. Where more than one house or building is served by the same easement the value of the several buildings to be added together to arrive at the sum on which the acknowledgment is to be paid according to the scale.

7. Cases of entrances which may lead to extensive development of property to be treated on their merits.

Footpaths or New Ticket Gates (not available for Vehicles):

8. An annual acknowledgment of 5/- unless special circumstances justify a higher charge.

General

9. Sheds, water easements, sign posts, etc., to be charged according to merits of each case but charge to be not less than 5/- per annum.

10. Poles

1/- per annum per single pole over waste

2/- per annum per double pole over waste

Special consideration if line goes through Enclosure.

Office Charges:

11. A charge of 10/- to be made in respect of work entailed on errant or transfer of permission.

Epping Forest

There is no scale of charges as such, as each case is dealt with on its merits. In practice, however, it is usual for the Conservators to charge a capital sum of 1/- per yard run for water mains, and an annual charge of 1/- per annum for notice boards, direction signs and the like placid on Forest land. A capital sum is also charged for electric mains, the amount being dependent on the particular circumstances. Charges for connecting houses with electricity or water by means of underground services vary some-what, but generally are at the rate of 1/- per annum.

As, however, the Conservators have power to grant wayleave for access to enclosures they do, where only narrow strips of Forest land are involved, allow roads to be constructed for the development of estates. In these cases a capital charge is made, the amount thereof being dependent on the circumstances in each case.

I have made a detailed examination of the present acknowledgments and find there is no uniform basis as regards roads or notice boards. Examples of these can be produced if required. I have considered the possibility of treating the Rateable Value as a factor in arriving at a proper acknowledgment but it seems more satisfactory to work on a uniform yardage basis.

I suggest for consideration%

Roads

Yards	Repair and maintenance of tracks and roads £ s d
1-25	0.7.6
26-50	0.15.0
51-75	1.2.6
76-100	1.10.0
Over 100	2.0.0
Over 200	2.10.0
Over 300	3.0.0
Over 400	3.10.0

Over 400 add 5/- per 100 yards. Non-Commoners to pay an extra 100%.

Remarks: An equal amount to be paid to the Lord. Any future new road to pay an additional capital sum based on amenities conferred.

<u>Direction Boards</u>	10/- per name
<u>Notice Boards</u>	7/5d.
<u>No Parking Notice</u>	5/-
<u>Electric Mains</u>	1/- per 100 yards
<u>Main Water Pipes</u>	1/- per 100 yards
<u>Service Connection</u> <u>or other pipes</u>	2/6 per 100 yards

Timber haulage

To be considered on the following principles:

- (a) Yardage of clearing road
- (b) Duration of haulage, operations
- (c) Deposit for restoration of Forest

If these recommendations are adopted an increased revenue of approximately £80 may be expected.

The question of raising rates half-yearly is one of policy for the Board to settle. Apart from costs of collection I would suggest that this project be not pursued.

R. W. FOVARGUE
BATTLE, Sussex.

29th October, 1949

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

Mr. Jack Card, Mrs. Grace Card, Mr. A. F. Clease
Mrs. M. Comyns, Mr. J. R. Coulthard, Miss M. Edwards
Mrs. Field, Mr. A. K. L. Harvey, Miss Hett, Mr. H. Kirby
Mr. W. B. Knott, Mr. S. J. Marsh, Mr. Wm. Mitchell
Mr. F. T. Ridley, Mr. H. J. Ridley, Mr. J. Rowe
Mr. N. Stephens, Mr. T. Townsend, Dr. S. Lewis-Walker
Mr. A. C. Wolfson and Mr. C. G. White representing
Michael Hall School.

1. CHAIRMAN It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. S. J. Marsh be elected Chairman of this meeting.

2. NOTICE OF MEETING The Clerk read the notice convening this Meeting.

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

4. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill three vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Rear-Admiral T. P. H. Beamish, C.B., R.N., and Messrs. J. R. Owen and F. T. Ridley.

On the proposition of Mr. J. R. Coulthard, duly seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED that the three retiring Conservators be re-elected to hold office for the three years ending 31st December, 1952.

5. ELECTION OF RECREATION GROUND SUPERINTENDENTS The Chairman expressed thanks to the Superintendents for their services during the past year. On the proposition of Mr. F. T. Ridley, seconded by Mr. J. Rowe, it was unanimously RESOLVED that the following be re-elected:

Nutley	Mr. S. J. Marsh
Colemans Hutch	Mr. J. R. Owen
Forest Row	Lt.-Commdr. H. Bristowe
Fairwarp	Mr. A. K. L. Harvey

6. ASHDOWN FOREST BILL The Chairman explained the provisions of this Bill and emphasised that military vehicles were only permitted on four defined tracks and limited to 15 cwt. capacity. Dr. Lewis Walker proposed and Mrs. Field seconded that the Commoners record their thanks to the Conservators for the way in which negotiations had been conducted and for resisting encroachment on the Forest. Carried unanimously.

The Meeting also accorded a special vote of thanks to the Chairman for his personal efforts.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS Mr. Jack Card and Mr. T. Townsend expressed thanks for the repair of the bridge at Water Farm and for the improvement as regards horse riding on the Forest.

8. RUBBISH DEPOSITS NEAR PRIORY ROAD Mr. White, Bursar of Michael Hail School, complained of rubbish deposited on the Forest adjoining Priory Road. The Chairman promised the matter would be referred to the Conservators and any necessary action taken.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 7th December, 1949, at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh, Esq. - Chairman

Mrs. Ursula Ridley, The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Lewes, Rear-Admiral T. P. H. Beamish, C.B., R.N., Messrs. J. R. Coulthard, A. K. L. Harvey, W. Mitchell, J. R. Owen, F. T. Ridley, J. Rowe, G. A. Warburton and A. C. Wolfson.

Apologies for absence were received from Col. R. Clarke, M.P., and Mr. F. H. Nias and the Clerk.

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

The Chairman referred to the illness of the Clerk. He was glad to report that he was making admirable progress and on behalf of the Board expressed their best wishes.

2. ELECTION OF CONSERVATORS (P. 243) The Clerk reported that at the Commoners' Meeting to-day the three retiring Conservators, Admiral Beamish and Messrs. J. R. Owen and F. T. Ridley, were re-elected.

3. LITTER BASKET OPPOSITE RED LION (P. 300) The Clerk reported that the Uckfield Rural District Council having expressed willingness to arrange for the emptying of the basket, he had notified the County Council and awaited their decision as to fixing the sign-post.

4. MILLBROOK FARM CESSPIT (P. 301) The Clerk reported that the cesspit had now been removed. Noted.

5. WEIR WOOD WATER ORDER (P. 301) The Clerk reported that the Ministry of Health had announced their withdrawal from the Order of Work No. 8 (Wych Cross Reservoir) stating as their reason the delay in settling the agreement. It is proposed to make a Compulsory Purchase Order for this land at a later date.

6. PATH AT FOREST LODGE (P. 302) Ranger Muddle reported that the metalling of this path was due to a mistake on the part of the builders and it had now been made good.

7. LICENCE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (P. 303) The Minutes of the Meetings of the Special Committee of 14th October and 3rd November and the Clerk's Memorandum having been printed and circulated, it was RESOLVED that they be approved and their recommendations adopted, subject to the design and position of notice boards being approved before the issue of a Licence.

The Clerk reported that there were at present 513 rates of 2/6d. and under. Noted.

8. FOREST ROW WAR MEMORIAL (P 303) A letter from Major General K. J. Martin was received enclosing a copy of a message of congratulation from His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

9. LONDONDERRY FARM - DIRECTION POST (P.303) The Clerk reported that he had issued a summons against Mr. Mason returnable on 1st December. On 30th November he received a letter from Mr. Mason stating that he had sold the property in August 1948. Ranger Day was instructed to call the house and had confirmed that the owner was Mrs. Mason. On the instructions of the Chairman the summons was withdrawn. Mrs. Mason had indicated her willingness to enter into a revocable licence for the post. He had written Mrs. Mason and awaited a reply.

10. TIMBER EXTRACTION - OLDLANDS, DUDDLESWELL (P.305) The Clerk reported that he had informed Messrs. Longhurst & Sons that the Conservators could not permit any extraction on the West side of the property but a licence would be granted at their expense in respect of the track near Browns Brook subject to the following conditions:-

(1) An acknowledgment of £20.

(2) A deposit of £250.

(3) A period expiring on 31st December, 1950.

(4) No inconvenience or nuisance to the Commoners and no stacking of timber on the forest.

(5) No other track to be used other than that shown on the plan, which is to be reinstated to the Conservators' satisfaction at the termination of the licence and any defects made good out of the deposit.

The firm had replied on 24th October that should they desire to take advantage of the offer they would write again in the near future. Nothing further had been heard.

11. REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING OF COMMONERS The Clerk reported that at the Annual Meeting of Commoners held prior to this meeting the Superintendents of the Recreation Grounds had been re-elected; thanks were expressed for the efforts of the Conservators in resisting encroachments on the Forest by the military and for the repair of the bridge at Water Farm, and improved conditions as regards horse riding on the Forest. The Bursar of Michael Hall School had complained of rubbish deposited on the Forest adjoining the Priory Road.

12. RANGERS' REPORTS Ranger Day reported that he had collected Forest Rates and investigated changes of ownership and had made a survey of licensed roads. Military vehicles had been parked on the Forest on two occasions. The Beacon Trailer Co. had hauled timber across the Forest near Chelwood Beacon. On two occasions he had cut up fallen trees which obstructed the highway. Mr. A. Stevenson of Humphries Farm, Fords Green, had metalled a track to his house for a distance of thirty yards.

Ranger Muddle reported that he had collected Forest Rates and surveyed licensed roads. He had reported that Mrs. Smith of Moorlands, Friars Gate had a signpost and brick rubble on the Forest. Messrs. Holcombe and Sons had deposited building materials and a concrete mixer on the Forest near Spring Garden Cottage. Mr. Gillham of Nutley had deposited brick rubble on the Forest at Little Garde, Nutley, and the East Sussex County Council had deposited leaves near Friars Gate. He had also reported on the obstructions on the right of way at Londonderry Farm.

13. LICENCES (P.302) The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following licences had been issued:

South Eastern Electricity Board - Additional lamp standard at Highgate, Forest Row, South Eastern Gas Board - Additional water mains to Bank Farm and Cottages adjoining at Forest Row. Approved. Southdown Bus Co. - Time-Table Board An application from the Company was received for a Time-Table Board at The Goat. RESOLVED that consent be granted subject to the revised acknowledgment of 7/6d per annum. Lavender Cottage, Nutley Letters from the owner, Lt.-Col. Gordon-White and the Solicitors for the proposed purchaser were received applying for the transfer of the licences for the roads and electricity mains. RESOLVED that licences be granted to the purchaser to cover the total length of the roads to the property on the new scale of acknowledgment. Messrs. Trollope & Colls Application for a temporary access over the Forest to Wych Cross Place, to fill in a bomb crater on the Forest boundary. RESOLVED that consent be granted subject to their undertaking to make good any damage to the surface of the Forest. Messrs. Holcombe & Sons Ranger Muddle having reported that this firm had deposited building materials and a concrete mixer on the Forest near Spring Garden Cottage, the Clerk had informed them that a licence was necessary subject to a deposit of £10 and no concrete mixing on the Forest. The deposit had been paid and the firm undertook to make good any damage and stated they had given instructions that no concrete mixing was to be done. Beacon Trailer Company This Company had expressed their regret at the breach of the arrangement as to extraction, had paid a deposit of £20 and had undertaken to make good any damage. Noted. Mr. A. T. Stevenson The Clerk reported that he had written Mr. Stevenson informing him that a licence was necessary for the metalling of the track to his cottage at Nutley, and awaited his reply. Mr. E. J. Gillham The Clerk reported that he had written Mr. Gillham who expressed his regret at the breach of the bye-laws and enquired as to the cost of the licence.

14. MEMBERSHIP The Clerk reported that the East Sussex County Council had nominated the following as their representatives for the three years commencing 1st January, 1950 -

Miss H. Blount, C.B.E., Imberhome, East Grinstead.
Col. R. S. Clarke, M.P., Brook House, Ardingly.
Mrs. S. M. Looker, Chapel Meadow, Forest Row
Mr. F. H. Nias, Caburn, Mayfield.
Mr. G. A. Warburton, Shefford, Ridgewood, Uckfield.

15. FINANCES The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	£122.9.6
Acknowledgments	£3.6.9

Local Authorities' Contributions	£32.7.1
Deposit	£30.0.0

RATE COLLECTION The Clerk reported that the amount taken on charge for the year totalled £446 18s 6d and the sum of £424 18s 6d representing 97% had been collected to date.

BANK ACCOUNTS The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balance:

General Account	£585.17.1
Wages Account	£18.8.3
Petty Cash Account	£18.4.2

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT Accounts totalling £146 19s 6d were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof. Details are:

Ashdown Garage Ltd. Petrol etc.	£4.0.4
Ridley F. T. & Sons Ltd. - Petrol	
and Repairs	£5.7.3
Ranger Day Postages and Petty Payments	£1.5.7
Ranger Day Waterproof Flight Deck Suit	<u>£5.0.0</u> £6.5.7

Ranger Muddle Postages and	
Petty Payments	£0.8.5
Waterproof Flight Deck Suit	<u>£5.0.0</u> 5.8.5

Petty Cash Account Credit	27.18.3
---------------------------	---------

Fovargue R. W. ¼ year' salary to 31st December	68.15.0
Postages and Receipt Stamps	£22.2.2
Telephone Calls	<u>£7.2.6</u>
	<u>29.4.8</u>
	146.19.6

16. FORDS GREEN RECREATION GROUND The Chairman reported an application from Mr. Hodsworth, Secretary of the Nutley Bonfire and Carnival Committee for permission to erect swings, a see-saw, a sliding chute and a small roundabout on Fords Green Recreation Ground. The Chairman had enquired who would be responsible for third party insurance and asked for detailed plans. No reply had been received. The Clerk reported that the legal position was not free from doubt and suggested that Counsel's opinion should be sought. RESOLVED that consideration of the matter be deferred.

17. LONDONDERRY FARM - RIGHT OF WAY The Clerk reported that Ranger Muddle had prepared a report on the obstructions to rights of way at the above property. A copy of the report had been forwarded to the Maresfield Parish Council.

18. GORSE TRIMMING, DUDDLESWELL A letter from the County Surveyor was received asking for permission to trim the gorse at the junction of the Hartfield - Maresfield Road with the Nutley - Duddleswell Road, to improve visibility. RESOLVED that consent be granted. Mr. Owen asked whether the Rangers could cut burnt gorse when circumstances permitted.

19. ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL, CROWBOROUGH The Clerk reported that the correspondent of the above School had complained that the wire surrounding the recreational area had been cut and asked permission to erect a notice board to the effect that the land was used under permission from the Conservators, and that persons found damaging the fence were liable to prosecution. On the Chairman's instructions permission had been given.

20. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CLERK The Chairman reported that the Clerk had suggested to him the desirability of appointing a Deputy Clerk. RESOLVED that MR. WILLIAM AUGUSTUS RAPER be appointed Deputy Clerk as from 1st January, 1950, and that he be empowered to sign cheques on behalf of the Conservators.

21. DUMPING OF LEAVES AT FRIARS GATE The Clerk reported that the County Divisional Surveyors had given instructions that no further dumping was to take place. Noted.

22. MILITARY USE OF TRACKS Ranger Day reported that he had met a representative of the War Department and had gone over the full length of the four tracks and defined them with wooden stakes. These will be replaced by reinforced concrete posts placed at twenty-yard intervals. The posts will be prefabricated but will be set with concrete footings involving concrete mixing and carting over the Forest.

23. MILITARY VEHICLES ON FOREST (P.304) The Chairman reported that as a result of the complaint to Mr. Shinwell of the Army's breaches of the agreement, the G.O.C. Home Counties District, has issued revised instructions to all units under his command which would, it was hoped, prevent any recurrence of such breaches.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 8th February, 1950, at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh, Esq.

Mrs. Ursula Ridley and Messrs. J. H. Griffin, W. Mitchell J. R. Owen, J. Rowe, G. A. Warburton and A. C. Wolfson and Mr. C. H. Now representing Earl De Le Warr

Apologies for absence were received from Col. R. S. Clarke, Lt.-Cdr. H. R. Hardy, Mr. J. R. Coulthard, Mr. A. K. L. Harvey, Mr. F. H. Nias and Mrs. Looker. The Chairman expressed regret at the absence through illness of the Vice-Chairman and Admiral Beamish.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (P.279) It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. S. J. Marsh be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. MEMBERSHIP The Clerk reported that the Uckfield Rural District Council had made the following appointments for the three years expiring 31st December, 1952: Mr. J. R. Coulthard, Mr. A. E. McLaren and Mr. A. Wolfson.

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

4. LITTER BASKET OPPOSITE "RED LION" (P.316) The Clerk reported that the East Sussex County Council had agreed to the proposed litter basket being affixed to the signpost and the Uckfield Rural District Council to the periodical emptying.

5. LICENCE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (P.317) The Clerk reported that he from Earl De La Warr was still awaiting a reply.

6. LONDONDERRY FARM - DIRECTION POST (P.317) The Clerk reported that Mrs. Mason had now signed a licence for this. Noted.

7. TIMBER EXTRACTION - OLDLANDS, DUDDLESWELL (P.317) The Clerk reported that he had heard nothing further from Messrs. Longhurst & Sons. Noted.

8. MR. A. T. STEVENSON - TRACK TO HUMPHREYS COTTAGE (P.319)

The Clerk reported that Mr. Stevenson had written that he and his neighbour were willing to enter into a licence and pay the costs and acknowledgments. As Mr. Stevenson was tenant only it would be necessary to get the owner's consent also.

9. FORDS GREEN RECREATION GROUND (P.321) The Clerk reported that he had obtained Counsel's opinion which was as follows:

Provided a reasonable space is left available for cricket and other games, I am of opinion that the Conservators can properly allow a Children's Playground to be established at Fords Green and a portion of the ground to be marked out for that purpose as a 'special purpose of recreation' within Byelaw 17.

Byelaw 2 forbidding the erection of posts, hurdles or other erections affects 'unauthorised persons' only, and under Byelaw I (c) a person acting under the authority of the Conservators or their officers in writing is not an unauthorised person. I do not therefore see how the authorisation of a Children's Playground as suggested could involve an inconsistency with any of the Byelaws.

The question of liability for accident involves difficult questions of law, and the answer depends upon minute differences in the facts and circumstances of each case; (compare *Stone v. Bolton*, 1949, W.N.432, in which two judges have decided each way and leave has been given to appeal to the House of Lords) but I think the Conservators would be most imprudent if they omitted to ensure against liability to any person injured by, upon, or in the neighbourhood of any of the suggested erections, whether each injury should arise from faulty erection adjustment, construction or material of the equipment, or from carelessness or accident in its use.

10. THIRD PARTY INSURANCE The Clerk was instructed to take out the necessary insurance policy to cover all likely third party liability in respect of all the recreation grounds under the Conservators' centre..

11. LONDONDERRY FARM - RIGHT OF WAY (P.321) The Clerk reported that Mrs. Mason had telephoned that she was willing to clear away all the obstructions and wished to meet representatives of the Parish Council. The Parish Council had been informed. Noted.

12. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN (P.279) It was unanimously RESOLVED that Lt.-Cdr. H. R. Hardy be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

13. ELECTION OF COMMITTEES (P.279) It was unanimously RESOLVED that the following Committees be re-elected en bloc:

Maresfield Committee The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board (ex officio), Rear Admiral T. P. H. Beamish, Messrs. A. K. L. Harvey, F. H. Nias, F. T. Ridley and G. A. Warburton.

Forest Row Committee The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board (ex officio), Messrs. J. R. Coulthard, W. Mitchell, J. R. Owen, J. Rowe, H. Waters and A. C. Wolfson.

Emergency Committee The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, the Chairmen of the Forest Row and Maresfield Committees and Mr. J. Rowe.

14. RANGERS REPORTS Ranger Day reported as follows:

Gorse Cutting He and Ranger Muddle had cut gorse on the road verges.

Haulage Tracks, Kidds Hill The Round Timber Co. have not restored the surface of the Forest since their operations ceased last summer.

Timber Extraction

- (a) The Forest Row Timber Co. had been using a Forest track in their extraction from High Beeches, Forest Row.
- (b) The Beacon Trailer Co. were still hauling over the Forest near Chelwood Beacon.

Tompsetts Bank, Forest Row Mrs. Demetriadi had erected a wire netting fence outside her property.

Gypsies He had attended East Grinstead Bench on the prosecution of three gypsies when they were each fined 10/-.

Contract Ploughing, near Tilehurst The East Sussex Agricultural Executive Committee in the course of unloading and re-loading farm implements, had rutted the Forest and stopped up the water tabling. He had also reported other matters which are dealt with separately on the agenda.

Ranger Muddle reported that he had moved gypsies from Fairwarp and Kingstanding, had collected Forest rates and reported on changes of ownership and read licences and had cut gorse and litter. He also reported that the sand pit at West Camp, St. John's, had been transferred from the W.D. to the Ministry of Works.

15. MRS. DEMETRIADI - FENCE OUTSIDE TOMPSETT'S BANK RESOLVED that Mrs. Demetriadi be informed that she must remove the fence.

16. DR. McNAIR SCOTT – SEWAGE EFFLUENT AT “CROFTS”, FAIRWARP Ranger Day reported that effluent from a cesspit at “Crofts” had been discharging on to the Forest. The pipes carrying the effluent from the cesspit to a soakaway on the Forest had been broken and Dr. McNair Scott had sought permission to open the Forest to repair them. The Clerk reported that he had informed Dr. Scott that no licence had been granted for the discharge on to the Forest nor would one be granted, and calling on him to abate the nuisance and render the soak pit safe. He had received a letter from Messrs. Holcombe & Sons stating that the soakaway had been in existence for twenty years without apparent harm and that of a new soakaway were constructed inside the property some effluent would eventually find its way on to the Forest. The Clerk advised that no easement could be created where there had been a nuisance. RESOLVED THAT Dr. McNair Scott be so informed and that the soakaway must be constructed inside his property.

17. MR. A. VERE – REPAIR OF TRACK TO “HIGH COTTAGE” Ranger Day having reported that Mr. Vere had repaired the track to the cottage, the Clerk had informed Mr. Vere that a licence was necessary. Mr. Vere had replied that there was evidence of previous repair. The Clerk reported that the track in question was included in a list of unauthorised roads, etc., prepared in 1939 when the Board decided that no action be taken. RESOLVED that the Board adhere to their previous resolution.

18. MR. R. LONSDALE FELL – PATH TO “HOLLY COTTAGE” Ranger Day reported that Mr. Fell had commenced concreting the path to this cottage. A letter from Mr. Fell was read applying for a licence for a concrete path. RESOLVED that he be informed the Conservators cannot consent to concrete but would agree to the use of Forest stone subject to a licence, and that the concrete already laid must be removed.

19. FOREST HALL, NUTLEY - REPAIR OF PATH An application was received from Mr. J.H. Hughes on behalf of the users of Forest Hall for a licence to repair the path to the Hall with clinkers. RESOLVED that consent be granted subject to a nominal acknowledgment of 1/-• per annum.

20. RUBBISH NEAR FOREST HALL NUTLEY AND PRIORY ROAD, FOREST ROW

Mr. Hughes complained of the quantity of tins, etc., deposited on the Forest near Forest Hall and a letter from Col. R. S. Clarke was read referring to the rubbish near Priory Road, Forest Row. RESOLVED that the Uckfield Rural District Council be asked if they could help by collection with their refuse vehicle.

21. COL. WEBB, “WINDWHISTLE”, COLEMANS HATCH The Clerk reported that the Vice-Chairman had given consent to Col. Webb to deposit material on the Forest verge subject to the ground being cleared of brambles, levelled off, surfaced with soil and seeded with grass. Approved.

22. FINANCES

Receipts The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	£16.1.0
Acknowledgments	£62.19.4
Deposits -	£5.0.0
Local Authorities contributions	£291.4.0
Compensation rents	£3.7.6

Rate Collection The Clerk reported that the amount taken on charge totalled ci50 3s. Od, and the sum of £440 19s. 0d. had been collected to date representing 98%.

Bank Accounts The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following balances:

General Account Credit	£686.0.6
Wages Account "	£27.11.3

Petty Cash Account Dr.

£1.4.0

Accounts for Payment Accounts totalling £141 4s. Od. were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof:

Petty Cash Account	£41.4.0
Clerk's salary	£100.0.0

23. KINGSTANDING WIRELESS STATION (P.301) A letter from East Sussex County Council was read enclosing copy of their letter to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, complaining that nothing had been done to improve the appearance and suggesting a meeting between representatives of the Ministries concerned, the County and District Councils and the Conservators. RESOLVED that the County Council be informed that the Conservators fully support their action.

24. FOREST ROW LUMBER CO. EXTRACTION FROM PIPPINGFORD PARK

The Clerk reported that on receipt of a letter from this Company applying for permission to haul timber over the Forest he had asked for details of the quantity to be removed, duration of work and proposed route. The Company replied that the quantity was approximately 75,000 cubic feet and the duration 12 months. They Also enquired as to the use of the track from Kidds Hill to Thorn hill Farm, which was one of the tracks scheduled in the 1949 Act. RESOLVED that they be informed that the Conservators will require a deposit of £250 and the usual undertaking for satisfactory restoration and that no consent would be granted until the Military had been informed as to the proposed use of the track.

25. ASHDOWN FOREST BILL - TAXATION OF BILLS OF COSTS The Clerk submitted his bill of costs and that of Parliamentary Agents. RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign the requisition for taxation by the Taxing Officer of the House of Commons.

26. LICENCES (P.318) The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting the following licences had been issued

Mr. H. W. Kelly - temporary licence for saw bench

Mr. H. W. Kelly - licence for woodstack

Col. and Mrs. Hamill-Stewart for access, repair of track and water mains at "Arnolds", Fairwarp.

An application from the Uckfield Rural District Council had been received for repair of track to their proposed sewage purification works at Fairwarp. RESOLVED that a licence be granted on the usual terms subject to an acknowledgment of 2/6d. per annum.

27. NEW CRICKET GROUND, ST. JOHN'S An application from Withyham Parish Council was received for the Conservators' approval of a new cricket ground at St. John's in substitution for that taken over by the Military and now forming part of St. John's ****. The new ground was nearby and an estimate for the necessary work had been forwarded to the War Department who had agreed to meet the whole cost. A letter from Messrs. Adams, the Lord's Solicitors, was received stating that they had informed the Parish Council that a ruling as to development charge would have to be obtained from the Central Land Board and that it would be necessary to ensure that neither the Lord nor the Conservators would be subject to any liability. The Clerk reported that the Board had previously intimated their approval. RESOLVED that the Council be informed that the Conservators approve the application subject to a licence.

28. CLUMPS (P.306) The Chairman reported that he had been in touch with Mr. Spendlove, the Lord's Agent, who had this matter in hand, who had promised to inform the Chainmen when the trees were ready. Noted.

29. ARMY VEHICLES ON FOREST (P.322) The Chairman reported that on receipt of a report from Ranger Day that Army vehicles were again on the Forest, he had immediately communicated with General Gregson-Ellis' G.S.0.1 who had taken immediate action. It appeared that the Army Order regarding Ashdown Forest had not yet been circulated to all units. RESOLVED that the Clark enquire of General Gregson-Ellis whether all units under his command had received copies of the Order.

30. TRACK TO SPRING GARDEN COTTAGE A letter from Mr. A. K. L.

Harvey was received complaining that the track pat is property had been cut up by lorries carrying building materials to the above property. The Clerk reported that he had written Messrs. Holcombe & Sons asking for an undertaking to restore and a deposit. They had replied that the letter had been passed to the architect but that in the meantime they would do all they could to minimise the damage. The Clerk reported that the Conservators held a deposit of £10 in respect of a temporary licence to deposit building materials on the Forest.

31. TIMBER EXTRACTION, PUTLANDS AND FAIRWARP FARMS The Clerk reported that he had been informed by Ranger Day that Mr. Pope, Agent for the owner, had asked for permission to throw trees on to the Forest at the above farms and that the extraction would be carried out by the Forest Row Lumber Co. He had therefore written. Mr. Pope and the Company asking for their usual undertaking and a deposit of £10 from each. He had now heard from Mr. Pope that he had sold the trees as they stood. RESOLVED that the deposit required from the Forest Row Lumber Co. be increased to £20.

32. BEACON TRAILER CO. - TIMBER EXTRACTION. CHELWOOD BEACON

A letter from Col. R. S. Clarke was received drawing attention to the extractions at Chelwood Beacon. The Clerk reported that he had previously drawn the Company's attention to this and the Ranger had pointed out the Forest boundary. They had expressed their regret and paid a deposit of £20. RESOLVED that the Clerk inform them that a licence was necessary and make clear to them the boundaries of the Forest.

33. COMPENSATION CLAIM (P.306) The Clerk reported that he was meeting representatives of the Claims Branch on the 10th instant to discuss the claim prepared by Messrs. Wood & Walford. At the same time he would raise the question of equivalent areas. The Board then went into Committee

IN COMMITTEE

34. ESTIMATE The estimate of normal income and expenditure, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and approved.

35. CLERK'S SALARY The Clerk's application for an increase of salary to £400 from 1st January, 1950, was approved.

36. APPOINTMENT OF RANGER The Chairman reported that Ranger Muddle had been given notice terminating his services on 20th February. Advertisement had been inserted in the two local papers and the Times. RESOLVED that a Committee consisting of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Board, the Chairmen of the District Committees and Mr. G. A. Warburton, be authorised to interview applicants and appoint new Ranger. The Board then went out of Committee

RESOLVED that the Resolutions of the Board in Committee be approved.

S.J. Marsh Chairman

ESTIMATES OF NORMAL EXPENDITURE for the year ending 31st December, 1950

1949 Estimate £	1949 Actual Expenditure £		1950 Estimate £
275	275	Clerk's salary	400 xx
48	50	Postages, telephones, travelling and hire of room	75
50	48	Printing and stationery	50
55	52	Ordnance sheets	-
495	480	Rangers' wages and insurances	585
60	131	Rangers' expenses: petrol, repairs, road fund licences, telephones etc. and clothing allowance.	100
8	-	Audit stamp duty	12

Estimated normal income

Rates		325
Acknowledgments		160
Military compensation rents		25
Balance divisible among Local Authorities as under:		712
East Sussex County Council	5/10ths	356.10.0
East Grinstead U.D.C.	1/10th	71.4.0
Cuckfield R.D.C.	1/10th	71.4.0
Uckfield R.D.C.	3/10ths	213.12.0

712.0.0

xx This figure is subject to confirmation or adjustment by the Board.

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday 5th April, 1950 at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh Esq., Chairman

Mrs. S. M. Looker, Miss S. M. Blount, Co1. R. S. Clarke M.P., Messrs. A. E. McLaren, W. Mitchell, F. H. Nias, F. T. Ridley J. R. Owen, John Rowe, G. A. Warburton and Mr. C. H. New representing Earl De La Warr.

Apologies for absence were received from Lt.-Cdr. H. R. Hardy, Mr. J. H. Griffin, Mr. A. K. L. Harvey and Mr. A. C. Wolfson. The Chairman expressed a welcome to the new members of the Board.

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

2. RESIGNATION OF ADMIRAL BEAMISH The Chairman reported that Admiral Beamish had found it necessary to relinquish some of his appointments and had tendered his resignation as a Conservator. On his proposition it was RESOLVED that the Clerk write Admiral Beamish expressing the regret of the Board that he was unable to continue as a Conservator and their appreciation of his services, advice and help over many years.

3. ELECTION OF CONSERVATOR TO FILL VACANCY It was RESOLVED that the matter of filling the vacancy created by Admiral Beamish's resignation be put on the agenda for the next meeting when nominations in writing he considered.

4. MR. A. T. STEVENSON TRACK TO HUMPHREY'S COTTAGE (P.323)

The Clerk reported that as Mr. Stevenson was tenant only of the cottage at Humphrey's Farm, Nutley, he had written Mrs. Ridley, the owner, asking if she was prepared to enter into a license provided the tenants were prepared to pay the costs and the acknowledgments. He was awaiting a reply.

5. THIRD PARTY INSURANCE (P.324) The Clerk reported that he had instructed the Sun Insurance Office who were making an inspection of the grounds and awaited their quotation.

6. MRS. DEMETRIADI (P.325) The Chairman had inspected this property and found there was a distinct encroachment and that there was no ditch as alleged. The Ranger reported that the fence had now been removed.

7. DR. McNAIR SCOTT - SEWAGE EFFLUENT "CROFTS", FAIRWARP (P.325)

The Clerk reported that he had written Dr. McNair Scott and his builders asking for an assurance that there would be no further discharge on to the Forest, to which he had received no reply. Ranger Stanton reported that there was no sign of discharge.

8. MR. R. LONSDALE FELL - PATH TO "HOLLY COTTAGE" (P.320)

The Clerk reported that he had written Mr. Fell as directed at the last meeting. Mr. Fell replied that he was not prepared to enter into a License to repair the existing path but would do so if a tarred or brick surface was permitted. He had been informed the Conservators would not consent to either and must remove the concrete already laid. No reply had been received. Ranger Day reported that the concrete had not been removed and Mr. Fell had gravelled the remainder of the path and coated it with cinders. Another wider track was being made apparently as an access to the garage. This was being coated with the same material. Mr. Fell also had a heap of sand on the Forest. RESOLVED that the Clerk inform Mr. Fell that unless he complies with the Conservators requirements within 21 days, the bye-laws will be invoked.

9. REFUSE ON FOREST (P. 326) The Clerk reported that he had written the Rural District Council Surveyor regarding the deposits at Fords Green and Priory Road. The Surveyor suggested that the best method would be to dispose of the refuse by burying near the sites. The Clerk further reported that he had written the Garrison Engineer, Uckfield regarding the refuse at Priory Road and had received a reply that no dumping had been carried out by army lorries for some years. Mr. Hughes had offered assistance in the clearance of refuse near Forest Hall and suggested that it was desirable to erect a "No Litter" board. A further letter was received from Michael Hall Schools regarding the deposits at Priory Road and Col. Clarke also drew attention to this nuisance. RESOLVED that the Garrison Engineer be asked to give his attention to the matter and inform him that failing satisfaction the matter would be referred to the Command Headquarters.

Refuse at Browns Brook. A letter was received from the Surveyor of the Uckfield Rural District Council stating that house refuse had not been collected in the Browns Brook area and that he had arranged for this to be done as regularly as weather circumstances would permit the use of the roadway. Ranger Stanton reported that Mrs. Hemsley had been depositing refuse of all kinds on the Forest and on interviewing her she admitted that she had done so ever since she had lived on the property. RESOLVED that she be informed that she must make arrangements to clear the refuse within 21 days, failing which the Board would invoke the bye-laws.

10. KINGSTANDING WIRELESS STATION (P.326) The Chairman reported that a meeting took place on the 24th March between representatives of the Planning Authorities, the Conservators and the Government Departments. The Planning authorities and the Conservators put forward their suggestions for improvement of the conditions by the removal of wire, the camouflage of existing buildings and the planting of trees. The representatives of the Government Departments expressed their willingness to do all in their power to improve the conditions and stated that some of the work was already in hand.

11. ASHDOWN FOREST BILL - TAXATION OF COSTS (P.327) The Clerk reported that the Taxation Officer had allowed Parliamentary Agents and his own costs without any deduction. He had therefore written to the Treasury Solicitor asking for the payment of the balance.

12 ARMY VEHICLES ON THE FOREST The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Major-Gen. Gregson Ellis enclosing copy of an Order circulated to all troops under his command. The recent offenders had been united under Eastern Command and a similar Order is being issued by Headquarters of this Command. The Chairman reported that there had been further cases of military vehicles on the Forest and he had immediately communicated with the G.S.O. 3 and subsequently with Major-Gen. Gregson Ellis, who had informed him that it appeared that the London Command had not notified all their Units of the Order and that the matter was being attended to at once.

13. COMPENSATION CLAIM The Clerk reported that he and Messrs. Wood & Walford had met representatives of the Claims Commission who had recommended the payment of £5,800 as compensation. The Clerk explained that the proposal was that the military authorities would make a lump sum payment and that Messrs. Wood & Walford would proceed to get tenders for the carrying out of the works. It was suggested that it would be desirable to have separate tenders in respect of the filling in of trenches and the re-sowing of denuded areas. It was RESOLVED that as soon as the compensation money is received the Clerk get Messrs. Wood & Walford to report, a copy of their report be circulated to all members, and that Messrs. Wood & Walford be asked to attend the Conservators meeting.

14. DISTRICT AUDITORS REPORT (P.295) The following report was received from the District Auditor.

I have to report the completion of the audit of your accounts and of those of your officers for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

No matters arose to which it is considered necessary to direct your attention on this occasion.

It is desired to express appreciation of the ready and courteous attention paid by the Clerk and his staff to audit requirements.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sgd.) A. R. H. HOBBS
District Auditor.

15. FAIRWARP RECREATION GROUND An application was received from the Fairwarp Village Hall Committee for the Conservators consent to the provision of a new ground equivalent in area to and in substitution for the ground at Duddleswell which was no longer used. The Chairman explained that the old ground which was set apart under the Award had not been used since 1914. The site for which application was now made was adjacent to the village. RESOLVED that consent be granted subject to a licence and a nominal acknowledgment of one shilling per annum.

16. COLEMANS HATCH CRICKET CLUB -• EXTENSION OF PAVILION An application from the Club for permission to extend the pavilion in accordance with the submitted plan was received. RESOLVED that consent be granted.

17. WEIR WOOD WATER BOARD. WYCH CROSS SITE (P.316) The Clerk reported that Mr. Nias had informed him that it was desired to proceed with the work at Wych Cross Reservoir as a matter of urgency. The Clerk of the Weir Wood Water Board had forwarded details of the proposals which did not differ from the revised proposals put forward by the Conservators to the original promoters, the Crawley Development Corporation. It was proposed to proceed by way of Compulsory Purchase Order which was necessary in order to deal with the commonable rights under the Lands Clauses Acts. An equivalent Area could be provided in exchange. RESOLVED that the Weir Wood Water Board be informed that the Conservators are prepared to proceed on the terms originally agreed.

18. WEIR WOOD WATER BOARD. PARLIAMENTARY AGENTS COSTS The Clerk reported that he had received from Parliamentary agents their bill of costs amounting to £52 12s. 4d. in connection with the opposition by the Conservators and Earl De La Warr to the original Order. RESOLVED that a cheque be drawn in payment of the ***** payable by the Conservators and that the Clerk apply to the Weir Wood Water Board for discharge of this account and of the other legal expenses on the ground that a great deal of the work in connection with the original Order would, but for that Order, have been necessary in connection with the present proposals.

19. APPOINTMENT OF RANGER The Clerk reported that the Committee appointed at the last meeting met on the 27th February. 26 applications were received and 4 applicants interviewed. As a result David Stanton had been appointed and his services commenced on 1st March.

20. RANGERS' REPORTS Ranger Day and Stanton reported as follows:-

Fir Clumps These had been replanted with young fir trees with assistance from Buckhurst Estate employees. The Buckhurst Estate had provided chestnut spiles for the protective herbed wire surrounds. In addition wire netting cages had been made to protect the young trees from rabbits.

Fire Brooms These had been out and prepared for use of the four neighbouring Fire Brigades.

Fires A number of small fires had occurred many of them at night.

Ranger Stanton further reported as follows:

Refuse on Forest

(a) At Yew Tree Farm had been cleared.

(b) At the stone quarry near Jacks Platt Duddleswell. Mr. Hobbs had filled in the part of the quarry which is not being worked.

(c) Browns Brook, Fairwarp Refuse of every kind had been deposited. He had found a box with the address of Mrs. Hemsley Stone Cottage, Fairwarp, who on being questioned admitted dumping there and that she had done so ever since living at that address. She denied being solely responsible. No evidence of other names was found. On being informed that she must remove it he stated she would be unable to do so herself. Track to Spring Garden Cottage The track to which Mr. Harvey referred at the last meeting had been temporarily repaired. On completion of building operations it is to be restored. Road Material Deposits Duddleswell The County Council had removed these following complaint by the Clerk. Encroachments (a) Miss Cooper-Willis This lady had erected a lean-to shed on the Forest. (b) Mr. C. Walters Mr. Walters had deposited a quantity of building and other materials on the Forest without a Licence.

21. MR. C. WALTERS – DEPOSIT OF BUILDING MATERIALS ETC. The Clerk reported that he had written Mr. Walters and awaited a reply.

22. MR. J. HOBBS STONE QUARRY, JACKS PLATT The Clerk reported that following a report from the Ranger regarding the deposit of large quantities of refuse in the stone quarry near Jacks Platt, he had inspected the site and had written Mr. Hobbs calling on him to remove the refuse and to adequately fence the dangerous stone pit. The Ranger reported that Mr. Hobbs had now partly filled in that part of the quarry which was not being worked. RESOLVED that the Clerk give Mr. Hobbs notice that unless he complied with all the requirements under the respective bye-laws within 21 days proceedings will be taken. It was further RESOLVED that the Maresfield Committee be requested to inspect the site.

23. LIAISON BETWEEN LORD'S REEVE AND THE CONSERVATORS .On the proposition of Mr. Nias it was RESOLVED that to ensure the necessary liaison between the Lord's Reeve and the Conservators, the Reeve be requested to intimate clearly to future applicants for licences for stone digging that such licences are for surface diggings only in strict accordance with the Forest bye-laws.

24. MARESFIELD COMMITTEE - CHAIRMAN The Chairman reported that the resignation of Admiral Beamish rendered necessary the appointment of Chairman of the Maresfield Committee. RESOLVED that Mr. G. A. Warburton be appointed.

25. FINANCES

Receipts The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received.

Rates	0.8.0
Acknowledgments	36.19.2
Deposits	10.0.0
Local Authorities Contribution	178.0.0
Compensation Rents	7.6.6

Bank Accounts The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:

General Account	727.8.6
Wages Account	3.11.1
Petty Cash Account	8.3.6

Against which there were cheques outstanding totalling £9 19s 1d

Accounts for payment Accounts totalling £149 103. 3d. were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

26. MR. TOWNSEND'S ENCROACHMENT Ranger Day reported that Mr. Townsend of Yew Tree Cottage, Colemans Hatch, was erecting a fence on the north and west sides of his property which encroached on the Forest. A new ditch was being dug outside this fence and there were deposits of various materials on the Forest. The Clerk reported that he had written Mr. Townsend but had received no reply. RESOLVED that the matter be left to the Clerk to pursue.

27. BARBED WIRE ST JOHNS CAMP The Clerk reported that he had written the Garrison Engineer regarding the dump of barbed wire above the entrance to St. Johns Camp, and had been informed that the matter was one for the Ministry of Works. He had therefore written the Superintendent of Works requesting early attention. Noted.

28. EQUIVALENT AREAS, MILITARY TRAINING, (P.304) The Clerk reported that he had taken up this matter with the Claims Commission who had replied that final authority had not yet been received for the compulsory acquisition of Pippingford Park, but that there was no military objection to the 4 acres in the north west corner as an equivalent area provided there was no interference with the military access to the North. The timber clearance from the Park was not being done at the request of the W.D. but the owner had been informed there was no objection to the sale of the trees. Extraction was over the track to Thornhill Farm and one of the tracks scheduled in the 1949 act.

29. EQUIVALENT AREAS KINGSTANDING (266) The Clerk reported the Lord's Solicitors informed him they had now received from the Ministry of Works an acceptance of the offer to sell part of the Five Hundred Acre Wood.. The offer was subject to the following points:-

1. Completion should not take place until the boundary fence and ditch had been completed, the Ministry to be allowed three months to do this.
2. The payment of the costs and expenses of the Clerk under Scale II.
3. The Ministry suggested that it might be possible to dispense with a formal contract and that the matter proceed on the basis of the offer, the acceptance of the offer and the correspondence.
4. Lord De La Warr's Trustees solicitors suggested that the lands be dedicated by the Lord as waste of the Manor of Duddleswell.

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Board for Lord De La Warr's co-operation and assistance. RESOLVED that the Board give their fullest support to Lord De La Warr over the question of fencing.

30. TIMBER EXTRACTION

(a) Five Hundred Acre Wood The Ranger reported that Messrs. A. J. Heath Ltd. of Crowborough were hauling timber from the north side of the above wood using a Forest track for a distance of approximately half a mile. The Clerk reported that he had written Messrs. Heath for details of the quantity to be extracted and the approximate duration of the work, and await a reply.

(b) Hindleap Warren The Ranger reported that Messrs. Stenning & Son were hauling timber over a Forest track for a distance of approximately 200 yards. The Clerk reported that he had been informed by Messrs. Stenning & Son that between 15,000 and 16,000 cubic feet were to be extracted over a period of some six months. They had referred the matter to the Agents for the estate, Messrs. Turner, Rudge & Turner. RESOLVED that it be left to the Clerk to determine the amount of the deposit required in each case.

31. EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - DIRECTION SIGNS - DUDDLESWELL

CROSS ROAD An application from the County Surveyor for permission to erect a direction sign on the Forest near the above cross roads was approved.

32. MRS. STANIER - DITCH NEAR HILLSIDE, COLEMANS HATCH A letter from Mrs. Stanier was received complaining of the state of a ditch on the Forest near her property. RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Ranger.

33. CHELWOOD VETCHERY A letter from Messrs. Turner, Rudge & Turner was received stating that in connection with a forthcoming sale they proposed attaching a sale poster to the licensed direction board. Approved.

34. MR. C. D. ASH - ENCROACHMENT The Clerk reported that on receipt of a report from the Forest Ranger that Mr. Ash had planted rhododendrons on the Forest he had written Mr. Ash who had now removed them. Noted.

35. DISPLACED PERSONS CAMP, FAIRWARP A letter from the Surveyor Uckfield Rural District Council was received stating that a considerable amount of rubbish was being thrown over the hedge of the above property on to the Forest. RESOLVED that he be thanked for his information and the Clerk communicate with the responsible authority.

36. FIR CLUMPS (P.327) The Chairman expressed the appreciation of the help given by Earl De La Warr in the replanting of the clumps, and the Clerk was instructed to convey the thanks of the Board to his Lordship.

The Board then went into Committee

IN COMMITTEE

The Clerk reported that he had now heard from the Lord's Solicitors that in view of present conditions his Lordship could not see his way to reducing his share of the acknowledgments.

He further reported on a number of protests received as a result of the recent notices of revocation of licences and introduction of the new scale of acknowledgments.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 12th July, 1950 at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh Esq., Chairman

Lt.-Comdr. H. R. Hardy, Vice-Chairman

Mrs. Looker, Mrs. Ursula Ridley, Colonel R. S. Clarke, M.P. and Messrs. J. R. Coulthard, J. H. Griffin, A. K. L. Harvey, W. Mitchell, F. H. Nias, S. R. Owen, F. T. Ridley, and A. C. Wolfson and Mr. C. H. New representing Earl de la Warr

Apologies for absence were received from Miss M. Blount, Mr. G. A. Warburton and Mr. H. Waters. The Chairman expressed regret at the illness of Mr. Waters.

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

2. MEMBERSHIP (Page 323) The Clerk reported that the Uckfield Rural District Council had appointed Major R. P. Livingstone in the place of Mr. McLaren (resigned)

3. ELECTION OF CONSERVATOR (Page 330) The Clerk reported that no nominations had been received. On the proposition of Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Owen, it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. Trevor Mountain be elected as Conservator in the place of Rear Admiral Beamish to serve for the remainder of the three year term ending 31st December 1952.

4. MR. A. T. STEVENSON TRACK TO HUMPHREY'S COTTAGE (Page 330) The Ranger reported that most of the clinkers complained of had been removed and grass and scrub had grown over the remainder.

5. THIRD PARTY INSURANCE RECREATION GROUNDS (Page 330) The Clerk reported that he had obtained from the Sun Insurance Office a quotation for this insurance and had taken out a policy in respect of the various grounds at an annual premium of 17s. 6d. per ground for a cover of £5,000. An additional premium of 13s. per annum would be payable in respect of the Nutley Recreation ground if and when the proposed developments materialised. RESOLVED that the same be approved.

6. MR. R. LONSDALE FELL - FOOTPATH TO HOLLY COTTAGE (Page 331) The Clerk reported Mr. Fell had removed the concrete and materials and had entered into a licence for an alternative path.

7. REFUSE AT PRIORY ROAD (Page 331) The Clerk reported correspondence from Michael Hall School and the Garrison Engineer. He had been in touch with the County Surveyor's department and it had been suggested that an improvement would be effected if the depression was filled in and the site levelled off. He was awaiting further details of this. NOTED.

8. REFUSE AT BROWNS BROOK (Page 331) Ranger Stanton reported that Mrs. Hemsley had now removed the refuse. NOTED.

9. WEIR WOOD WATER ORDER. WYCH CROSS SITE (Page 333) A letter from the Clerk of the Weir Wood Water Board was received stating that a compulsory purchase order had been made and scaled. A certificate of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries would be necessary as common land was involved. He enquired the Conservators' views on the equivalent area. Mr. Owen reported that the Uckfield Rural District Council owned land near the Roebuck and suggested they should be approached. RESOLVED that the Clerk make the necessary enquiries.

10. WEIR WOOD WATER ORDER. PARLIAMENTARY AGENTS COSTS (Page 333) The Clerk reported that Parliament Agents Bill of Costs had been submitted for taxation and allowed, and the costs of taxation amounted to £4. 5. 9. which was divisible between the Lord and the Conservators.

11. MR. C. WALTERS. DEPOSIT OF BUILDING MATERIALS. (Page 334) The Clerk reported that Mr. Walters had agreed to limit the deposit of materials to an area defined by the Ranger. A further question had arisen in connection with the use of the track which served Mr. Walters' and the adjoining property. He was awaiting a reply from Mr. Walters on this. NOTED.

12. MR. TOWNSEND'S ENCROACHMENT (Page 335) The Clerk reported that he had made an inspection of Mr. Townsend's property and had requested him to remove the encroachment and, the deposits of materials. The latter had been removed but the fence remained. Mr. Townsend had written that in view of his wife's illness the matter be allowed to stand over for a time and the Ranger had been informed. NOTED.

13. ST. JOHN'S CAMP. BARBED WIRE: (Page 335) A letter from the Assistant Regional Director Ministry of Works was received stating that the Ministry recommended that in the public interest the wire should be removed, but in view of the Government's restriction of capital works it was not possible at the moment to do this. The Chairman reported that the site would be required for dumping of leaves by the County Council. The Clerk reported that he had raised this matter with the W.D. Land Agent who was enquiring into the possibilities of disposal within the camps area. It was RESOLVED that Colonel Clarke be asked to raise the matter in the House of Commons.

14. ROAD MATERIAL DEPOSITS. COOKS CORNER. Mr. Owen reported that he had received complaints of the dangerous conditions arising out of the use of the site near Cooks Corner for the deposit of road materials and suggesting that the quarry at St. John's be used for this purpose. The Chairman referred to the Agreement with the County Council limiting the number of dumps to three and care would have to be taken not to invalidate this. RESOLVED that the matter be left to the Chairman and Mr. Owen with power to act.

15. TIMBER EXTRACTION (A) 500 ACRE WOOD (Page 335) The Clerk reported that Messrs. Hills & Dunn had written that they had removed approximately 3 tons of fir and had no large timber to extract.

(B) HINDLEAP WARREN (Page 336) The Clerk reported he had received a letter from the Solicitors to the Manor Charitable Trust claiming that specific rights of way were conveyed to them. He had informed them that there could be no prescriptive right over a common and asked for a sight of their abstract of title. He was awaiting their reply. NOTED.

16. DISPLACED PERSONS' CAMP, FAIRWARP (Page 336) The Clerk reported that the Chief Officer of Hostels had made an inspection and found a small quantity of litter which was removed. NOTED.

17. BOOSTER STATION, QUABROOK The Clerk reported that on receipt of an application from the Uckfield Rural District Council for permission to erect a small booster station in connection with the water supply to Danehill, near Quabrook, for a limited period subject to licence, he had informed the Chairman, who in company with Mr. Owen had inspected the site and recommended a position. RESOLVED that a licence be granted for a limited period subject to the removal of all buildings and satisfactory restoration on termination of the licence, and that the Council be asked to suitably paint the building to harmonise with the surroundings.

18. MILLBROOK CULVERT IMPROVEMENT The Clerk reported that he had received an application from the East Sussex County Council for consent to the strengthening of the roadside bank at the above due to subsidence.

The matter had been referred to the Chairman who had given his approval. RESOLVED that the Chairman's motion be confirmed.

19. MILLBROOK FARM - SLEEPER BRIDGE An application from the Misses Oldham and Martin for consent to the erection of a sleeper bridge in place of an old one which had collapsed, had been referred to the Chairman, who had given his approval. One and only of the bridge would be on the Forest. APPROVED.

20. RANGERS' REPORTS The Rangers reported that they had completed the protection of the young trees planted in the clumps at Camp Hill, Kingstanding and Gill's Lap. Damaged birch trees adjoining the Wych Cross - Forest Row Road had been removed and broken and fallen branches cleared.

Refuse on Forest: Ranger Stanton reported that he had spent considerable time in burying rubbish near Fords Green. On two occasions he had found the rubbish had been unearthed and strewn around the Forest. There was a quantity of large refuse which it was impossible to bury. With the increased use of the Forest the problem of litter was an ever increasing one.

Drainage Effluent Browns Brook - Mr. Dadswell: Ranger Stanton reported that following a letter from the Clerk, Mr. Dadswell had made an attempt to abate the nuisance.

Lady Cooper - Encroachment: Ranger Stanton reported that a hedge had been planted on the Forest outside the boundary of her property, Rockwood, Fairwarp. He was awaiting Lady Cooper's return, to interview her on the matter.

Mobile Wireless Stations: The Rangers haring reported that they had found transmitting vans and other vehicles on the Forest. The Clerk had written the person in charge informing him that no consent had been obtained for this, nor would it be given under any circumstances whatever.

21. FINANCES

Receipts: The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received.

Rates	0.0.6
Acknowledgments	65.0.11
Deposits	15.0.0
Local Authorities Contribution	200.18.2
Compensation Rents	3.17.6
Miscellaneous	0.9.6

Bank Accounts: The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:-

General Account	643.5.6
Wages Account	25.17.3
Petty Cash Account	1.0.8

Accounts for Payment: Accounts totalling £216.17.4. were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

Petty Cash Account: The Clerk reported that the float of £40 for the Petty Cash Account was insufficient to deal with the number of small bills which arose between meetings and asked that it be increased to £60. RESOLVED that it be so increased.

22. FOREST RATE (page 294) The Clerk referred to the estimates of expenditure for the year as approved at the February meeting of the Board amounting to £1,222 of which £712 is to be borne by the Local Authorities. It was duly proposed and seconded 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 Enclosure Acts, 1845-1878 and the Commons Regulation (Ashdown Forest) Provisional Order Confirmation Acts, 1885 and the Ashdown Forest Act, 1937, 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 owners and their respective acreages and the respective sums payable by them are set out in the Rate Book produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

23. LONDONDERRY FARM, NUTLEY (Page 321) A letter from the Uckfield Rural District Council was received stating that their footpath consultant had investigated the complaint. Interviewed Mrs. Mason and explained the position to her.

24. LICENCES (Page 327) The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following licences had been granted:
Mr. R. L. Fell, for foot-path
Mr. R. W. Train, for woodstack
Fairwarp Village Hall Committee, for alternative recreation ground.

25. IMPLICATION TO DEPOSIT SAWDUST ON FOREST An application from Messrs. Beasley & Co. to deposit sawdust in a pit near Courtlands, Nutley was received. RESOLVED that consent be not granted.

26. SOUTH-EASTERN ELECTRICITY BOARD - STRUT AT STREETFIELD FARM, NUTLEY An application for consent to the erection of a strut to an existing pole was approved subject to the usual licence.

27. R.A.F. LADIES GOLF CLUB - COMPLAINT The Clerk reported that on receipt of a letter from the Secretary of the Ladies Golf Club complaining of the nuisance caused by people and children on the fairways, he had asked Ranger Day to report. Ranger Day reported that he had made visits on two week-ends. On the first occasion he found no-one and on the second a few people near the fairway and some boys playing. He told all of them of the danger of being hit and they left. From enquiries he understood that the boys who had played cricket on the fairway were from Broadstone Camp. General discussion ensued and the Chairman and Clerk explained that the public had no legal right over the Forest. The Act of 1885 gave them right of access to the viewpoints mentioned therein only. The Golf Club were licencees of the Lord and the Conservators and they only had equal rights with the Commoners. RESOLVED that the Ladies Club be recommended to try persuasion and point out the danger of walking over or remaining on the fairways, and that the Clerk write to the Warden of Broadstone Camp regarding boys playing cricket on the course.

28. EAST SUSSEX FIRE BRIGADE - FOREST FIRES A letter to the Chairman from the Chief Officer of East Sussex Fire Brigade reporting on the trial recently given to a "Land Rover" was received. The report stated that the trial was very satisfactory, the vehicle being able to negotiate difficult terrain and would be very useful for conveyance of firemen to fires in remote parts of the Forest, damping down after fires, and if equipped with radio, for communication purposes. It was hoped to have a vehicle ready for service in the autumn. NOTED.

RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD GO INTO COMMITTEE

IN COMMITTEE

LITTER BINS: RESOLVED that the proposed bins be tried as an experiment.

MILITARY TRAINING: RESOLVED that the land proposed at Thornhill as an equivalent area be accepted. The Clerk reported on the present position of the compensation claim.

LICENCE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The Clerk asked for instructions on the appropriate acknowledgment for joint tracks used by Commoners and non-commoners. RESOLVED that where there is joint use of a licensed track by two or more users the acknowledgment payable by non-commoners be 50% increase over the rate for commoners and in the case of single tracks 100% increase.

MISS COOPER WILLIS: The Clerk reported correspondence with this lady who objected to the scale of acknowledgment and claimed a way of necessity to her property. RESOLVED that the legal position of the Board be further explained and no variation be made in the acknowledgment payable by her.

QUARRIES: Correspondence with the Lord's Solicitors and from Mr. Warburton was read. RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Board, the Chairman of the Maresfield Committee and the Clerk, meet the Lord's Agent on the site.

CLERK'S APPOINTMENT: The Clerk informed the Board that he desired to resign his appointment at the end of this year if his partner Mr. W. A. Raper could be appointed in his stead. Notwithstanding his resignation he would always be available to give Mr. Raper any assistance he might require. The Clerk then withdrew and on his return was informed that the Board were willing to release him at 30th June 1951 and in the meantime he and Mr. Raper should act as joint clerks on the understanding the latter forthwith assume increasing responsibility for the routine work and attend all meetings but Mr. Fovargue still continue to advise on matters of special difficulty.

CLERK'S FEES: Mr. Hardy stated that he had been informed that there was difficulty with the Military Authorities in regard to the payment of the fees for professional services rendered by the Clerk for attendances and correspondence arising out of the Military use of the Forest between 1940 and the present time. He moved that the burden of these charges should be the responsibility of the Board and responsibility accepted for payment of a sum of £157.10.0. in accordance with the claim already submitted on that behalf. This was recommended and upon being put to the meeting carried unanimously.

RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD GO OUT OF COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the acts and proceedings of the Board in Committee be approved and adopted.

The meeting terminated at 4.30 p.m.

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 11th October, 1950 at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh - Chairman

Lt.-Commdr. H. R. Hardy - Vice-Chairman

Miss M. Blount, Major R. P. Livingstone and

Messrs. J. R. Coulthard, A. K. L. Harvey, W. Mitchell, T. R. Mountain, J. Rowe, G. A. Warburton and A. C. Wolfson

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Looker, Mrs. Ridley, Col. R. S. Clarke, Mr. J. R. Owen and Mr. F. T. Ridley, and Col. Adams.

1. DEATH OF MR. H. R. WATERS Before proceeding with the business of the Meeting, the Chairman referred to the loss sustained by the Board through the death of Mr. H. R. Waters. Members stood in silent tribute and it was RESOLVED that the Board place on record their appreciation of his services and regret at his passing.

2. MEMBERSHIP The Clerk reported that the death of Mr. Waters created a vacancy. RESOLVED that the matter be left over until the Annual Meeting of the Commoners on 13th December. The Chairman welcomed two new members of the Board, Major Livingstone and Mr. Trevor Mountain.

3. REFUSE AT PRIORY ROAD (P. 338) The Clerk reported that W. Roser was prosecuted for depositing paint tins and windscreens on the Forest. The maximum penalty of was applied for but the magistrates fined him £1.

A letter from the County Surveyor was received stating that soil was deposited at the same site by the Contractors to the Uckfield Rural District Council in 1947. At no time had the County Council given permission for dumping. RESOLVED that to prevent further dumping a notice board be erected on the site.

4. WEIR WOOD WATER ORDER. EQUIVALENT AREA (P. 338) The Clerk reported that he had received a plan from the Uckfield Rural District Council of the land at Wych Cross which was proposed as an equivalent area for the reservoir site. The Weir Wood Water Board stated that as the land was frontage only it was necessary for the Council to have access through it to land at the rear. A meeting had been arranged with the Clerk of the Weir Wood Water Board to discuss procedure. RESOLVED that the Board cannot permit access through the land offered, as an exchange area. Further RESOLVED that subject to fencing at the Weir Wood Water Board's expense and the land offered being sufficient in area to compensate for the land to be acquired for the reservoir the Board approve in principle.

5. MR. WALTERS TRACK TO HOLLY COTTAGE (P. 338) RESOLVED that the Clerk press Mr. Walters for a reply.

6. LADY COOPER, ENCROACHMENT (P. 341) RESOLVED that the Clerk inform Lady Cooper that unless the hedge is removed by her the Ranger will be instructed to remove it.

7. ST JOHN'S CAMP BARBED WIRE (P.339) The Clerk reported that in reply to a question voiced by Col. Clarke in the House of Commons the Minister of Works stated "he hoped it would be possible to undertake a comprehensive clearance of barbed wire in this district, including the entrance to St. John's Camp, some time during the autumn". RESOLVED that the Clerk press for immediate action.

8. ROAD MATERIAL DEPOSITS (P. 339) A letter from the County Surveyor was received stating that the recent dumping of chippings at Kingstanding was through an error on the part of a lorry driver. As soon as this was

known the Ranger was informed of the position. Instructions had been given for all material to be removed from the site and the Divisional Surveyor informed that the site was not to be re-used. Noted.

9. RANGER'S REPORT Ranger Day reported that he and Ranger Stanton had continued cutting dangerous and unsightly trees on the verge of the Eastbourne Road.

In co-operation with the County Council roadmen, they had cut gorse and brushwood from blind corners at cross roads at Chuck Hatch and Kidd's Hill.

"No Litter" notice boards had been erected at Kingstanding, Stone Hill and Dodds Bank, and existing boards at The Goat cross roads and Colemans Hatch had been repainted.

He had spent considerable time investigating the dumping at Priory Road, Forest Row.

10. RESIGNATION OF RANGER STANTON The Clerk reported that Ranger Stanton terminated his employment on 30th September and that advertisement had been inserted in two local papers for appointment of a successor. The latest date for applications was 14th October. RESOLVED that a Committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of the District Committees be authorised to interview applicants with power to act.

11. ASHDOWN FOREST ACT. COSTS OF PROMOTION OF BILL The Clerk reported that he had received from the Treasury the balance of the costs and disbursements of Parliamentary Agents and himself after taxation. These were as follows:

Parliamentary Agents	£819.19.8
The Clerk	£253.7.9
Conservators Disbursements	237.11.4

12. FINANCES

Bank Accounts The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following balances:

General Account	£444.9.10
Wages Act aunt	£3.2.4
Petty Cash account	£2.3.6

Receipts The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received.

Rates	£162.12.0
Acknowledgements	£11.1.9
Requisition Compensation Rents	£39.7.6
H.M. Treasury Balance costs of Ashdown Forest Bill.	£710.18.9

Payments since last Meeting The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following cheques had been drawn.

Messrs. Dyson Bell & Co. Balance costs in connection with Ashdown Forest Bill	£569.19.8
R. W. Fovargue	£252.2.9

RESOLVED that the same he approved.

Accounts for Payment Accounts totalling £108 10s. Od. were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

11. SOUTH EASTERN ELECTRICITY BOARD. PROPOSED OVERHEAD LINES AT

NUTLEY The Clerk reported on receipt of a report from Ranger Stanton that the Electricity Board proposed erecting over-head lines near Fords Green, Nutley, he had asked the Board to submit plans of their proposals and informed them that the Conservators could not permit overhead lines. The Board had replied that as the lines

would carry 11,000 volts it was necessary for them to be carried overhead and referred to the Uckfield Gas and Electricity Act of 1926, wherein the Conservators agreed to overhead lines in Nutley over or alongside the High Road. RESOLVED that the Chairman and Mr. Warburton meet a representative of the Electricity Board on the spot and ascertain their proposals.

14. PROPOSED TEA GARDENS AND CARAVAN SITE, DUDDLESWELL MANOR.

The Clerk reported that the County Planning officer had referred an application for the above for the Conservators observations. The Chairman had met the Planning Officer and inspected the site and reported that as it was not visible from the Forest and the Conservators' jurisdiction was limited to the Forest they could not object. The County Planning Officer's attention had been drawn to the Ashdown Forest Preservation Area formed by the Uckfield Rural District Council who secured undertakings from adjoining land owners that they would not allow their land to be used for commercial purposes. It was believed that the former owner of the land in question gave such an undertaking. Noted.

15. LICENCES The Clerk reported that since the last Meeting the following Licences had been issued:

Mrs. J. M. Turner, road to Hindleap East.
Miss Spalding, Road and water main to Gorselands, Nutley.
Mr. C. W. Maudslay, direction boards to The Beacon.
Lt.-Col. V. W. H. Duke, road to Hindleap West.
Messrs. Bower. Reed to Hindleap South.

16. MR. KELLY. SAW BENCH (P. 327) The Clerk reported that Mr.

Kelly had informed him that he had removed the saw bench and applied for a refund of the deposit of £10. The Ranger having reported that the site had been cleared satisfactorily, it was RESOLVED that the refund be made.

17. COMPENSATION CLAIM (P. 332) The Clerk reported that Messrs.

Wood and Walford had informed him that they had been unable to make any progress with the Claims Department, as the Command Land Agent had been transferred to another area. He had instructed them to write to the present Command Land Agent that unless an early reply was forthcoming the matter would be raised on a higher level. He had received a telephone message from Captain Hibberd apologising for the delay and stating that he was pressing on with the completion of his report. Noted.

18. TONBRIDGE SCHOOL O.T.C. The Clerk reported that he had received an application from the Officer Commanding the School Cadet Force for a field day on the Forest on 19th October. The Chairman had agreed that the best site would be the area Wych Cross - Chelwood Vetchery. Noted.

RESOLVED that the Board go into Committee.

IN COMMITTEE

Miss Cooper-Willis, Licence for Road The Chairman and Clerk reported on this matter and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk secure opinion of Counsel, if possible one of the standing Counsel retained by the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society.

Quarries The Clerk reported that Colonel Adams, the Lords representative had arranged to meet the Chairman and himself prior to the meeting but had been prevented from attending by illness.

RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk meet Colonel Adams as soon as possible.

The Board then went out of Committee.

RESOLVED that the acts and proceedings of the Board in Committee be approved and confirmed.

S.J. Marsh
Chairman

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

Mr. Jack Card, Mrs. Grace Card, Col. R. S. Clarke, Mr. L. H. Braun, Mr. J. R. Coulthard, Miss A. Edwards, Lt.-Cmdr. H. R. Hardy, Miss Hett, Mr. H. Kirby, Mr. W. B. Knott, Brigadier K. J. McNair, Mr. S. J. Marsh, Mr. Wm. Mitchell, Mr. Trevor Mountain, Mr. F. T. Ridley, Mr. J. Rowe, Mr. & Mrs. S. L. Smith, Miss Swire, Mrs. Warren, Mr. N. .5tephens, Miss P. Walker, and Nr. A. C. Wolfson

1. CHAIRMAN It was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. S. J. Marsh he elected Chairman of this meeti.1g.

2. NOTICE OF MEETING The Clerk read the notice convening this Meeting.

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

4. ELECTION OP CONSERVATORS The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill the three vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Lt.-Cmdr. H. R. Hardy, Mr. A. K. L. Harvey and Mr. John Rowe, and one occasioned by the death of H. J. Waters.

On the proposition of Mr. S. J. Marsh, duly seconded by Mr. J. R. Coulthard, it was unanimously RESOLVED that the three retiring Conservators be re-elected to hold office for the three years ending 31st December, 1953.

It was proposed by Mr. S. J. Marsh, seconded by Mr. F. T. Ridley, that Mr. William Gillham he elected to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Maters. Mr. Wm. Mitchell proposed and Mr. John Rowe seconded that Mr. Jack Card be elected. A ballot then took place resulting as follows:

Mr. William Gillham - 365a. 1r. 24p.

Mr. Jack Card - 28a. 1r. 15p.

Mr. Gillham was therefore declared duly elected to serve for the year ending 3rd December, 1951.

5. ELECTION OF RECREATION GROUND SUPERINTENDENTS The Chairman expressed thanks to the Superintendents for their services during the past year. On the proposition of Mr. F. T. Ridley, seconded by Mr. J. Rowe, it was unanimously RESOLVED that the following be re-elected:

Nutley	Mr. S. J. Marsh
Coleman's Hatch	Mr. J. R. Owen
Forest Row	Lt.-Cmdr. H. Bristowe
Fairwarp	Mr. A. K. L. Harvey

6. GENERAL BUSINESS The Chairman referred to the Agreement reached with the military, which restricted military vehicles to four defined tracks.

Mr. Jack Card and Mrs. Grace Card complained of the nuisance caused by horse riding over the Forest near their property. The Chairman promised that the matter would be referred to the Forest Row Committee

Col. Clarke enquired the position regarding cattle turned out on the Forest. The Chairman explained that Commoners have a perfect right to turn out, and that owners must fence against them.

Lt.-Cmdr. Hardy paid tribute to the Chairman and Col. Clarke's work on behalf of the Commoners in respect of the successful conclusion of negotiations with the Military.

Mrs. Smith enquired the position regarding the state of a sleeper bridge and footpath leading from the Golf Course to the Ridge Road. The Chairman promised that the Conservators would look into the matter.

S. J. Marsh
Chairman

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday, 13th December, 1950 at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh Esq., (Chairman) Lt.—Cmdr. H. R. Hardy (Vice Chairman) Miss M. Blount, Mrs. Looker, Mrs. Ursula Ridley, Col. R. S. Clarke, M.P., Major R. P. Livingstone, and Messrs. J. R. Coulthard, J. H. Griffen, W. Mitchell, T. R. Mountain, F. H. Nias, F. T. Ridley, J. Rowe, G. A. Warburton and A. C. Wolfson and Col. C. H. N. Adams representing Earl De La Warr.

Apologies for absence were received from A. K. L. Harvey and Mr. J. R. Owen.

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

2. WEIR WOOD WATER ORDER. EQUIVALENT AREA (P.345) The Clerk reported that an equivalent area on the opposite side of the road to the proposed reservoir site had been agreed with the Uckfield Rural District Council. The Compulsory Purchase Order for the reservoir site had not yet been received and preliminary consent of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the exchange area had been sought. Noted.

3. MR. C. E. WALTER. TRACK TO HOLLY COTTAGE (P.345) The Clerk reported that Mr. Walter had agreed to abandon the track from the high road near William IV and to enter into a licence for the track which serves Rangers Cottage and the extension from there to his own property. Noted.

4. COMPENSATION CLAIM (P.347) The Clerk reported that the claim had not been finally settled but had been sent by the Command Land Agent to higher authority. The various fees had been agreed. Noted.

5. TILE LODGE ACCESS ROAD The Clerk reported an application from Solicitors acting for a prospective purchaser of part of Tile Lodge for an additional access road from the main road. He had referred the matter to the Uckfield Rural District Council who replied that no application for Town Planning permission had been received. The Chairman pointed out that the Conservators duty was to preserve the Forest in its natural condition and he was of the opinion that they had no power to grant a licence for an entirely new road. RESOLVED that consent be not granted.

6. TIMBER EXTRACTION, 500 ACRE WOOD (P.339) The Clerk reported that Messrs. Hills and Dunn had informed him that no haulage of heavy timber was involved. They had signed an undertaking for restoration of the Forest and had paid an acknowledgment of £1 and a deposit of £10. Approved.

7. TIMBER EXTRACTION, PIPPINGFORD PARK (P.327) The Clerk reported that he was awaiting details from the Forest Row Lumber Co. of the quantity of timber to be extracted. Noted.

8. TIMBER EXTRACTION, THE RIDGE, COLEMANS HATCH The Clerk reported that the Chairman had inspected this area and recommended two extraction routes. The owner had promised to supply a plan and full details of routes and quantities. Noted.

9. TIMBER EXTRACTION, HINDLEAP WARREN (P.339) The Clerk reported that the owner's Solicitors had claimed a way of necessity in respect of the extraction routes. He was awaiting opinion of Counsel in case of Miss Cooper-Willis. Noted.

10. TIMBER EXTRACTION, THORNHILL The Clerk reported that Mr. Lorne had been extracting underwood from Pippingford Park over the track to Thornhill on which the military had rights under the recent act. Mr. Lorne had applied for permission to use the track for a further period. RESOLVED that the matter be left to the Clerk to fix the amount of deposit.

11. TIMBER EXTRACTION, BROADSTONE PLACE The Clerk reported that the County Planning Authority had informed him that it was proposed to fell 116 trees at Broadstone Place. As it appeared that the proposed extraction route would be over a track for which three other owners had licences to repair, he had asked the owner, Mr. Cranfield for full details, which he promised to supply.

12. KINGSTANDING WIRELESS STATION, EQUIVALENT AREA (P.335) The Clerk reported that there had been no further development. Noted.

13. ANNUAL MEETING OF COMMONERS The Clerk reported that at the Annual Meeting of the Commoners held prior to this meeting, the three retiring Conservators, Lt.-Cmdr. H. R. Hardy, Mr. A. K. L. Harvey and Mr. John Rowe were re-elected and Mr. William Gillham was elected by Ballot to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. H. J. Waters.

Complaint was made regarding the nuisance caused by horse riding near Birch Farm, Coleman's Hatch and the Chairman promised this would be referred to the Forest Row Committee. An enquiry was made regarding the sleeper bridge on the footpath from the 10th green to the Ridge. This also would be referred to the Forest Row Committee.

14. RANGER'S APPOINTMENT The Clerk reported that five applicants attended for interview when Mr. William Frank White was appointed. He commenced his duties on 13th November.

Application had been made for a telephone installation and an agreement had been signed.

15. RANGER DAY, INCREASED SALARY The Chairman reported that after the last meeting he had conferred with the Chairmen of the two District Committees and it was recommended that Ranger Day's salary be increased to £5 15s. Od. per week to date from 9th October, 1950. RESOLVED that the same be approved.

16. RANGERS' REPORTS

Ranger Day reports as follows:

Rate Collection He had spent a considerable time on collection of Forest Rates. Lady Cooper, Encroachment He had removed the encroachment caused by the planting of Lonicera hedges. Refuse Deposit Fairwarp Refuse had been deposited by the cottagers outside of the Displaced Persons Camp at Fairwarp. This had now been satisfactorily cleared. S. Pearce, Deposits on Forest Mr. Pearce had left three poultry arks outside his property and building materials near "Yew Tree Farm". This had all now been removed. Mr. Drew, Timber Extraction and Deposit. With the Chairman he had inspected the site and approved an extraction route from "Old White Farm", Forest Row. A licence had been granted to Mr. Drew for temporary deposit in the Forest. Motor Cycle Trials The Ravensbury Motor Cycle Club had used the Forest at Fairwarp for trials meetings. It has been reported to the Clerk, who had written the Club. Timber Extraction "The Ridge" Coleman's Hatch The Chairman had inspected the site and approved the two extraction routes. Gypsy Prosecution He had attended Uckfield Bench for the prosecution of a gypsy for leaving a caravan on the Forest. A conviction was obtained and a fine of £1 5s. Od. imposed. Refuse at Priory Road A notice board had been made and erected at the site. Gorse Clearance He and Ranger White had cut gorse from a blind corner at Duddleswell Cross Roads.

Ranger White reports as follows:

Since his appointment on 13th November he had spent some time with Ranger Day making a complete and comprehensive survey of the Maresfield Area and also Ranger Day's area. He had reported refuse deposits at "The Beacon" and "Forest Edge" both of which have since been removed. Gypsies had been removed from the New Road, Crowborough.

17. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, STREETFIELD FARM (P.342) The Clerk reported that following the last Meeting the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Warburton met representatives of the Electricity Board at Fords Green, Nutley. The Electricity Board proposed overhead lines alongside the main road by Fords Green Recreation Ground, to which consent was given. RESOLVED that the sub-committee's action be approved.

18. LADY COOPER, ENCROACHMENT (P.345) The Clerk reported that the encroachment had been removed by the Forest Ranger.

19. BARBED WIRE, ST. JOHN'S CAMP (P.346) The Clerk reported that Ranger White had reported that the whole of the wire had been removed. The Chairman expressed thanks to Col. Clarke for his help in raising the matter in the House of Commons.

20. SPRING GARDEN COTTAGE DEPOSIT OF BUILDING MATERIALS The

Clerk reported that the materials had been removed and the surface of the Forest restored to the Ranger's satisfaction. He had therefore refunded the £10 deposit. RESOLVED that his action he confirmed.

21. DANGEROUS ROADSIDE TREES The Clerk reported that on receipt of a report concerning dangerous beech trees near Kingstanding he had referred the matter to the Lord's Solicitors.

22. KINGSTANDING WIRELESS STATION FENCING The Rangers having reported that the Contractors engaged in erecting new fencing at the Wireless Station had deposited building materials on the Forest, he had written the firm concerned. He had received a reply expressing regret and stating that instructions had been given to their employees that no further materials were to be deposited and those already there to be used up as quickly as possible. Noted.

23. FINANCES

Receipts The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	£127.10.0
Acknowledgements	£12.18.2
Deposits	£16.0.0
Compensation Rents	£2.1.9

Bank Accounts The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:

General Account	£410.2.9
Wages Account	£12.17.3
Petty Cash Account	£10.15.4

Local authorities contributions amounting to £392 2s. 0d. are due to the Board.

Accounts for Payment Accounts totalling £180 12s. 9d. were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

24. LICENCES The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following licences had been granted:

Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes	water main to Suntings Ghyll
South Eastern Electricity Board	Underground cable to "Unlace", Fairwarp.
South Eastern Electricity Board	Underground cable to "Forest Bank", Nutley.
South Eastern Electricity Board	Six poles at Fords Green.
D. A. P. Evans	Access road to "North Lodge", Duddleswell.
Miss G. B. Downes	Underground telephone cable to "Spring Garden Cottage".
Mrs. Blathwayt	Road to "Putlands Farm", Fairwarp.
The Rev. Canon R. J. Campbell	Road to "Heatherdene", Fairwarp.
Mrs. Stock	Road to "Putlands Cottage".
Wyche Cross Estate	Temporary deposit of birch poles,
J. H. Drew	Temporary deposit of timber Tompsetts Bank.

Mrs. Hills "Holly Cottage" St. John's Common The Clerk reported that the annual acknowledgment in respect of the licence for repair of track was increased under the new scale from £1 to £4 10s. 0d. He had received a letter from Mr. Purkis on behalf of Mrs. Hills complaining of the increase in view of the fact that Mrs. Hills had no car and the track was used by owners of two other properties. The Ranger reported that of these two, one used it as a way on foot only and the other by motor cycle. RESOLVED that the matter be left to the Clerk to deal with.

25. NUTLEY RECREATION GROUND, CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND (P.330) A letter from the Secretary, Nutley Children's Playground Fund, was received applying for the Conservators consent to the use of part of the Fords Green Recreation Ground as a Children's Playground. The Clerk reported that the 1885 Act provided for the playing of cricket and other games. The Conservators were insured against third party risks in respect of all recreation grounds with a maximum cover of £5,000. A small additional premium was payable when the various fixtures were installed. RESOLVED that the application be approved.

26. POST OFFICE TELEPHONES. IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICE AT FAIRWARP An application from the Post Office Telephone Department for consent to the erecting of five poles and replacement of existing underground cable at Fairwarp, in accordance with submitted plan, was approved.

27. DATE OF MEETINGS IN 1951 RESOLVED that Meetings in 1951 be held as follows:

21st February, 18th April, 18th July, 17th October, and 12th December.

RESOLVED that the Board go into Committee.

IN COMMITTEE

Miss Cooper-Willis (P.348) The Clerk reported that he had submitted case for the opinion of Counsel, who had asked for additional information on title. This had been furnished and he would report further at the next meeting.

Refund of Rates The Clerk reported that Miss Cooper-Willis purchased another holding from Mr. Martin in 1935. Mr. Martin was the owner of a number of properties which had rights of common but this particular holding, which was one of the enclosures sold under the Award, had no rights. By inadvertence Miss Cooper-Willis was included in the list of Commoners, and she had paid Forest Rates of 6d. per annum ever since. Subject to Counsel's approval, he proposed refunding Miss Cooper-Willis the 8s. Od. for rates paid for sixteen years. Approved.

Quarries (P.348) Col. Adams reported that following representation made by him both Hobbs and Walter had stopped working. All licences were now on a monthly basis and had a copy of Bye-law 8 printed on the back. The Lord's Solicitors were willing to insist that no bull-dozers should be used, and would be prepared to call on licencees to restore. Recommended that the Board accept Col. Adams' offer that the Lord should request the two licencees put back the top soil, and that Mr. Hobbs be informed he must comply with the Bye-laws.

Fencing. Gills Lap Quarry Col. Adams undertook to ask the Estate Office to deal with this.

The Board then went out of Committee.

RESOLVED that the acts and proceedings of the Board in Committee be approved and confirmed.

S.J. Marsh Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday, 21st February, 1951 at 2.30 p.m.

Col. R. S. Clarke, M.P., Mr. J. R. Coulthard, Mr. J. H. Griffin, Mr. D. Gillham, Lt.-Cdr. H. R. Hardy, Major R. P. Livingstone, Mr. S. J. Marsh, Mr. Wm. Mitchell, Mr. Trevor Mountain, Mr. F. H. Nias, Mr. J. R. Owen, Mr. F. T. Ridley, Mr. John Rowe and Mr. G. A. Warburton.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Looker, Mr. A. K. L. Harvey and Col. Adams.

1. CHAIRMAN On the proposition of Mr. Warburton, duly seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr. S. J. Marsh be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. VICE-CHAIRMAN On the proposition of Mr. Marsh, duly seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED that Lt.-Cdr. H. R. Hardy be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

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

4. WEIR WOOD WATER ORDER, EQUIVALENT AREA (P.51) The Clerk reported that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had inspected the land proposed as an equivalent area at Wych Cross and approved it. A letter had been received from the Weir Wood Water Board suggesting the land be transferred subject to an exiting tenancy, to which he had replied that steps must be taken to exclude the area from the tenancy and that the land should be fenced in order that the regulated Forest may be clearly defined. Mr. Nias reported that the Weir Wood Water

Board were concerned at the possible cost of fencing. The Chairman pointed out that only one end required delineating and this might be done by posts of a type approved by the Conservators. RESOLVED that the Weir Wood Water Board be informed accordingly.

5. TILE LODGE ACCESS ROAD (P.351) The Clerk reported that an application had been received from Mr. Bowen's Solicitors for permission to make up a foot track from the existing access road to the North East corner of the property. On the Chairman's instructions he had informed them that consent could not be granted. Approved.

6. TIMBER EXTRACTION - THE RIDGE (P.352) The Clerk reported that Mr. Raikes had submitted a plan for the proposed extraction routes and quantities to be extracted. The Vice-Chairman approved the routes and a licence had been granted on a deposit of £100 paid. Approved.

7. TIMBER EXTRACTION - HINDLEAP WARREN (P.352) The Clerk reported that on receipt of a report from Ranger Day that Mr. Abram Turner was extracting Chestnut poles from Hindleap Warren to the Priory Road, he had informed Mr. Turner that a licence and deposit was necessary. Mr. Turner had signed an undertaking and paid a deposit of £5 but had not yet supplied details of quantity to be extracted.

8. TIMBER EXTRACTION - THORNHILL (P.352) The Clerk reported that he had informed Mr. Lorne that a Licence was necessary and a deposit of £20 but had received no reply. Mr. Owen reported that as a result of the extraction the state of the Forest was deplorable. It was RESOLVED that Mr. Lorne be informed that there must be no more withdrawals until he has paid a deposit of £100 ***** resumed until weather conditions permit and that he must communicate with the Forest Ranger before he does so.

9. TIMBER EXTRACTION - BROADSTONE PLACE (P.352) The Clerk reported that he had been informed by Mr. Cranfield's Agents that the timber will be extracted over an alternative route which does not affect the Forest. Noted.

10. RESIGNATION OF RANGER WHITE The Clerk reported that Ranger White terminated his employment on 16th December. The Chairman reported that Ranger Day was now covering both areas of the Forest and that his work was giving full satisfaction.

11. NUTLEY RECREATION GROUND (P.355) The Clerk reported that he had received an enquiry from the Secretary of the Sussex Playing Fields Association with regard to an application by Nutley Children's Playground Committee for a grant. He had replied fully setting out the Conservators position and had at the same time informed Mr. Bodsworth that his Committee must submit a detailed plan of their proposals. Noted.

12. QUARRIES (P.355) The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Col. Adams enclosing a copy of the new form of permit which embodied Bye-law 8 in the conditions. Col. Adams also stated that Earl De La Warr's Agent, Mr. Spendlove, had promised to see that the pit at Ghylls Lap was adequately fenced and that Hobbs' and Walter's pits received attention so as to comply as far as practicable with the Bye-laws.

13. MRS. HILL'S LICENCE FOR ROAD (P.354) The Clerk reported that Mrs. Hill had informed the Ranger that she had rights of common. This was being investigated as it would reduce the annual acknowledgment. Noted.

14. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE (P.323) It was unanimously RESOLVED that the following Committees be re-elected en bloc.

Maresfield Committee G. R. Warburton, Chairman Messrs. A. K. L. Harvey, F. H. Nias and F. T. Ridley

Forest Row Committee Messrs. J. K. Coulthard, W. Mitchell, J. R. Owen, J. Rowe, H. Waters and A. C. Wolfson

Emergency Committee The Chairman of the Forest Row and Maresfield Committees and Mr. J. Rowe

15. FINANCES

Receipts The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	£11.4.0
Acknowledgments	£150.14.7
Local Authorities Contributions	£213.12.0
Deposits	£110.0.0

Bank Accounts The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:

General Account	£858 6 11
Wages Account	£0.11 9
Petty Cash	£27 11 6

Accounts for Payment Accounts totalling £150 14s. 6d. were produced and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

16. RANGER'S REPORT Ranger Day reported as follows: Horse Riding on Forest With the Chairman and Vice-Chairman he had inspected the tracks near Birch Farm of which Mr. and Mrs. Card complained at the Commoners' Meeting. Spring Garden Cottage Trenches dug in connection with water and telephone supply to this property had been left in an unsatisfactory condition. Telephone poles, Newbridge Three telephone poles had been erected on the Forest near Suntings Ghyll. Gypsies Summonses had been taken out against two gypsies and the cases adjourned for their attendance. Building Materials on Forest Building materials had been deposited on the Forest at "Cherry Croft", Mount Pleasant and Marden's Hill. After the Clerk had written a second time in each case the materials had been removed. Mr. J. P. Price. Track to Yew Tree Farm The track to the above property had been roughly made up with hard core and covered with ash. No water tables had been provided and the state of the track was unsatisfactory and unsightly.

17. HORSE RIDING ON FOREST (P.352) The Clerk reported that on the Chairman's instructions he had written Miss Edwards the proprietor of Ryst Wood Riding Establishment that her riding school must not use the Forest between the Ridge and Quabrook. Noted.

18. TELEPHONE POLES AT SUNTINGS GHYLL The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Post Office Telephones Department stating that alternative arrangements had been made and the poles would be removed as early as possible. Noted.

19. YEW TREE FARM ROAD The Chairman reported that he and the Vice-Chairman had seen the owner of the road who had made arrangements for the removal of the clinkers and the carrying out of repairs with Chichester gravel. Noted.

20. TELEPHONE AND WATER SUPPLY TO SPRING GARDEN COTTAGE The Clerk reported that Miss Downe's Surveyor had promised that the trenches would be properly filled in as early as possible. Noted.

21. WIRELESS STATION, KINGSTANDING (P.354) The Clerk reported that the County Council had forwarded a copy of the letter which they had sent to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning asking that the trees used for screening should be of the varieties appropriate to the district. Noted.

The Ranger having reported that coke from the filter tank had been thrown on the Forest the Clerk reported that he had written the Ministry of Works, who had promised investigation and the necessary action. Noted.

22. ROAD CONDITIONS HUBBARD'S HILL The Clerk reported that on receipt of an application from the County Surveyor for permission to dig a ditch on the Forest leading to a stream to obviate flooding of the highway between Mardens Hill and Lye Green, he had referred the matter to the Vice-Chairman who had authorised consent subject to a Licence. The County Council had been so informed and a draft licence submitted. Approved.

7

23. ROAD MATERIAL DEPOSITS, ST. JOHNS The Clerk reported that he had received an application from the County Surveyor for permission to use the quarry at St. Johns recently cleared of barbed wire for the deposit of road materials. The Board had previously agreed to this in July last subject to the tidying up of material deposits at Kingstanding. As this had now been done he had informed the Surveyor that the Conservators approved the application. Approved.

RESOLVED that the Board go into Committee.

IN COMMITTEE

Estimates (P.329) The Clerk referred to the estimates for the year ending 31st December, 1951, copies of which had been circulated, and to the Ashdown Forest Act 1937 under which the contributions payable by the Local Authorities were limited to £500 or a sum equivalent to the difference between the annual income of the Board and one thousand pounds whichever of such sums is less. The act however gave such Local Authorities the power to make contribution in excess of such sums if they thought fit. The estimates for the current year had therefore been prepared on the basis that one Ranger only was employed and the contribution payable by the Local authorities would be kept within the limit of £500. It was recommended that the estimates be approved.

Compensation Claim (P.351.) The Clerk reported that he had been informed by the War Damage Land agent that investigations into the claim were well advanced at the War Office. Recommended that the Clerk press for a settlement.

Rubbish Deposits, Dodd's Bottom The Chairman reported he had received a communication from the Women's Institute, Nutley, regarding the deposit of rubbish opposite Courtlands. Recommended that the Clerk inform the Women's Institute that the Conservators have no power to collect the refuse and that if information could be given regarding offenders the Board would take proceedings under the Bye-laws.

Miss. I. Cooper-Willis, Licence. The Clerk reported on Counsel's opinion in this matter; after discussion it was recommended that further discussion be adjourned.

The Board then went out of Committee.

RESOLVED that acts proceedings and recommendations of the Board in Committee be approved and confirmed.

The Maresfield Committee met at the conclusion of the Conservators' meeting and appointed Mr. Warburton their Chairman.

The Forest Row Committee also met and appointed Mr. J. R. Owen their Chairman.

S. J. Marsh Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday 18th April, 1951, at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh Esq., Chairman Mrs. Ursula Ridley, Major R. P. Livingstone, Messrs. J. R. Coulthard, W. D. Gillham, J. H. Griffin, W. Mitchell, T. Mountain, F. H. Nias, J. R. Owen, G. Warburton and A. C. Wolfson.

Apologies for absence were received from Miss M. Blount, Col. R. S. Clarke, Lt. Comdr. H. R. Hardy, Mr. A. K. L. Harvey, Mr. F. T. Ridley, Mr. John Rowe and Col. Adams.

Before commencing the business of the meeting the Chairman expressed a welcome to Mr. W. D. Gillham.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S APPOINTMENT AS HIGH SHERIFF. The Chairman also expressed the pleasure of the Board on the appointment of Lt. Comdr. H. R. Hardy as High Sheriff for Sussex. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk convey to Lt. Comdr. Hardy the Board's warm congratulations on the honour conferred upon him.

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

2. WEIR WOOD WATER ORDER. EQUIVALENT AREA. (P.356) The Clerk reported that he had received a notice of Compulsory Purchase Order.

Fencing. He had informed the Weir Wood Water Board of the Conservators decision regarding fencing.

3. TIMBER EXTRACTION, KIDD'S HILL. (P.356) The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Solicitors acting on behalf of the Forest Row Lumber Co. who had agreed to a deposit of £250 (which had been paid) subject to the conditions set out in their letter.

(a) That their Clients would only be held responsible for damage actually caused by them.

(b) That they would not be required to carry out repairs which might prove unnecessary in the event of the Military Authorities making up the road.

The Clerk further reported that he had received a letter from the Solicitors acting for Mr. T. Lorne, who pointed out that he was not a timber haulier but was merely concerned with charcoal burning. They also gave details of the limited removals carried out by Mr. Lorne. In these circumstances they asked that the deposit of £100 be waived and suggested that a limited license be granted to their Client. He had informed them that the Conservators would agree in the special circumstances to a deposit of £10, which had not yet been received.

4. NUTLEY RECREATION GROUND (P.357) The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Sussex Playing Fields Association enquiring who would be responsible for (a) the management and control of the Children's playground (b) the maintenance of the equipment. The General Purposes Committee had considered this matter and were of the opinion that the Board had no powers to assume responsibility in the matter and that the Maresfield Parish Council would be the most likely body. He had informed the Playing Fields Association and the Secretary of the Nutley Children's Playground Fund accordingly.

5. MRS. HILLS HOLLY COTTAGE, CROWBOROUGH (P.357) The Clerk reported that he had been informed by the Ranger that Mrs. Hills contended that her property carried Common Rights and as such the acknowledgment should be reduced. He had asked Mrs. Hills to supply evidence of this but none had been forthcoming. He had also received a letter from her Solicitors complaining of the increase in the acknowledgment and suggesting that the occupiers of the adjoining properties should contribute. He had informed them that the acknowledgment was in accordance with the Conservators scale.

6. HORSE RIDING ON THE FOREST (P.358) The Clerk reported that he had received a report from a Ranger of two persons riding on the Forest on the track by Birch Farm. He had written to the persons concerned explaining the position regarding the exercise of horses on the Forest. He had also had correspondence with Miss Edwards, the proprietor of Ryst Wood Riding School and explained the position to her.

7. TELEPHONE & WATER SUPPLY, SPRING GARDEN COTTAGE (P.358) The Ranger reported that these trenches had now been satisfactorily filled in.

8. KINGSTANDING WIRELESS STATION (P.358)

(a) Easements. The Clerk reported that he had received a request from the Ministry of Works for a permanent easement for the water mains and drainage. He had informed them that such a licence could not be granted and pointed out that local authorities and statutory undertakings had revocable licences from the Board and there had never been any difficulty.

(b) Planting of Trees for screening The Clerk reported that he had had an interview with a representative of the Ministry who had suggested planting as follows:

Two rows of beech outside
Five rows of Austrian pine
Two rows of beech

The rows to be 7 feet apart and the trees planted 6 feet apart. This recommendation was on the advice of the Forestry Commission. RESOLVED that the same be approved.

9. MR. C. WALTER, SAW MILL. The Clerk reported he had received a letter from the Uckfield Rural District Council regarding an application for planning consent to carry on the business of a log merchant. He had informed them that Mr. Walter holds a revocable licence from the Conservators for a saw bench. RESOLVED that the matter be kept under review.

10. P.O. TELEPHONES OVERHEAD LINES TO MILLBROOK. The Clerk reported that he had received an application from the P. O. Telephone Department for consent for two telegraph wires crossing the Forest near Millbrook, Nutley. On the Chairman's instructions he had informed them that consent could not be granted.

11. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY ST. JOHN'S CROWBOROUGH. The Clerk reported that he had received an application from the South Eastern Electricity Board for posts and stays on the Forest at St. John's. As it appeared that the poles would be placed on the road verge, the Chairman had authorised him to grant consent subject to the usual Licence.

12. SUNTINGS GHYLL, ACCESS ROAD. The Clerk reported in February he had received an application from Messrs. A. Turner Ltd., for a new approach road over the Forest to Suntings Ghyll. He had informed them on the Chairman's instructions that consent could not be granted. He had now received a further letter asking the Board to reconsider the matter. RESOLVED that the Chairman's action be approved and the Board adhere to his decision.

13. HOLLY COTTAGE FRIARS GATE. The Clerk reported that on receipt of a report from the Forest Ranger that building materials and soil had been deposited on the Forest and the footpath blocked by the planting of holly trees, he had written the owner concerned. He had that morning interviewed Mrs. McCallum and her representative had shown Mrs. McCallum the Award Map which clearly showed the Forest Area, and her Agent had produced a plan of the land sold to her which did not include any Forest land. Mrs. McCallum thereupon enquired whether the Conservators would consider leasing to her a portion of the Forest next to her property and he informed her that they had no power to do so. RESOLVED that Mrs. McCallum be informed that she must remove the soil and materials from the Forest and the obstruction to the footpath.

14. BUILDING MATERIALS THOMPSETTS BANK. The Ranger having reported that Messrs. Jenks & Clark had deposited building materials on the Forest at Thompsetts Bank. He had written the firm concerned, who had now removed them.

15. RANGER'S REPORT Ranger Day reported as follows:

Fires Since the last meeting a number of small fires had occurred. Fire Brooms He had cut and wired 200 wire brooms which had been handed to the local Fire Service. Blind Corners Undergrowth at blind corners had been cut. Recreation Ground, Fairwarp. He had met the Representative of the Fairwarp Parish Council and agreed the boundaries of the proposed new Recreation Ground. Track at Spring Gardens He had assisted in erecting a notice board and digging trenches to prevent vehicles from using the foot path near Spring Gardens.

16. LICENCES The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following licenses have been granted:

Miss J. C. Downes for track to "Baylham Cottage".

Miss F. Story for track to "Rosemary".

Mrs. G. Kennard for track to "Pleasant Farm".

South Eastern Electricity Board for erecting poles and stays at St. John's, Crowborough.

Mr. E. J. C. Homewood for water main to "Nursery Cottage".

Mr. C. W. Maudsley. A Licence had been prepared regularising the planting of flowering shrubs on the boundary of "The Beacon", Duddleswell. He had since been informed by the Ranger that laburnums were included and he had therefore written Mr. Maudsley asking for their removal and substitution with some other type. A letter from Mr. Maudsley had been received asking if it would be sufficient if he removed the seed pods after flowering. He also stated that a slight amendment in the Licence was necessary to which the Chairman had agreed.

17. FINANCES.

Receipts. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	3.8.6
Acknowledgments	32.12.9
Local Authorities Contributions	39.8.0
Deposits	255.0.0
Military Compensation	6,268.4.9

Payments since last meeting. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting a cheque had been drawn in favour of Messrs. Wood & Walford for their fees in connection with preparation of the claim for compensation against the military. Approved.

Bank Accounts. The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances.

General Account	6958.13.4
Wages Account	19.12.7
Petty Cash Account	29.8.2

Accounts for Payment. Accounts totalling £299. 5. 3d. were produced, and it was RESOLVED that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

18. MISS STURDY. APPLICATION TO FELL BEECH TREE ON FOREST. The Clerk reported that on receipt an application from Miss Sturdy of Shepherd's Gate, Colemans Hatch to fell a beech tree in her boundary hedge on to the Forest, he had forwarded it to Mr. Owen, who had authorised consent. Approved.

RESOLVED that the Board go into Committee.

IN COMMITTEE

Compensation Claim. (P.359) The Clerk reported that the sum of £5,819.15.0 compensation had been received from the War Department plus survey and legal fees, and asked for the Board's instructions regarding:

- (a) investment of the money for the time being
- (b) proposals for the restoration work.

Recommended that the matter be referred to a Committee consisting of the Chairman, and Vice Chairman of the Board, the Chairman of the District Committees and Col. R. S. Clarke and that a representative of Messrs. Wood & Walford be asked to meet them.

Licences. Miss Cooper-Willis (P.359) The Clerk reported that he had discussed the matter of Miss Cooper-Willis' Licence with the Chairman and advised that no action be taken until he had had an opportunity of discussing the matter with Col. Adams, He also reported that he had forwarded a cheque to Miss Cooper-Willis in repayment of 16 years Forest Rate. The Clerk further reported that a further case requiring investigation had arisen and advised deferring action pending discussion with Col. Adams. Recommended that the repayment to Miss Cooper-Willis be approved and that further consideration of the two licences be deferred.

Finances. The Clerk reported that on the Chairman's instructions he had written the members appointed by the Local Authorities pointing out that the financial position of the Conservators to-day was practically the same as it was prior to 1937 and that the 1937 Act gave power to the Local Authorities to make contributions in excess of £500 if they thought fit. The Cuckfield Rural District Council had intimated that they would not seek any repayment of excess contributions and provided the other local authorities concerned adopted a similar course, they would be prepared to contribute their share of the expenses involved in the employment of a second Ranger. Recommended that the Board try the experiment of running the Forest with one Ranger only and review the position at the October meeting so that the Local Authorities should have ample notice of any likely additional financial help being required of them.

Resignation of Clerks. The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from the joint Clerks tendering their resignations as from 30th June, 1951, owing to pressure of other commitments. He stated that the matter had been considered by the General Purposes Committee who had decided to approach Mr. P. A. Williams, Solicitor, a partner in the firm of Messrs. Whitley, Hughes & Luscombe of East Grinstead and ascertained that he was willing to accept the office of Clerk if the appointment were offered to him.

It was RECOMMENDED.

1. That the resignation of the Joint Clerks be accepted with regret and the sincere thanks of the Board be tendered to them for their valuable and ready assistance and sound advice at all times.

2. That Mr. Williams be appointed Clerk as from the 1st July, 1951 at a salary of £300 per annum and the appointment be terminable by either side on six months notice.

The Chairman informed Mr. Fovargue of the foregoing decisions and he and other members of the Board expressed their personal appreciation to him of his services. Mr. Fovargue returned thanks.

The Board then went out of Committee. RESOLVED that the acts proceedings and recommendations of the Board in Committee be approved and confirmed.

S.J. Marsh Chairman

A Meeting of the Board duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday July 15th, 1951, at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh Esq., Chairman Miss M. Blount, Major R. P. Livingstone, Messrs. T. Mountain, J. R. Coulthard, W. Mitchell, W. D. Gillham, Mr. F. T. Ridley, J. R. Owen, John Rowe, J. H. Griffin, Mr. A. K. L. Harvey.

Apologies for absence were received from Col. Adams, Mrs. Ridley, Lt. Comdr. H. R. Hardy, Col. Clarke, Mrs. V.S.M. Looker.

Before commencing the business of the meeting the Chairman expressed a welcome to the new Clerk Mr. P.A. Williams.

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

2. Weir Wood Water Board. Equivalent Area. The Clerk reported that the Weir Wood Water Board had submitted a sketch of the type of fencing suggested. Resolved that the same be approved.

3. Timber Extraction, High Beeches. The Clerk reported that extraction had been completed and the Forest Row Lumber Company had asked for the return of the £10 deposit.

4. Nutley Recreation Ground. The Clerk reports he was awaiting the Maresfield Parish Council's consent to accept responsibility for maintenance of fixtures.

5. Kingstanding Wireless Station. The Clerk reported he was awaiting approval of Draft Licence.

6. Suntings Ghyll. The Clerk reported he had asked for the cinders to be removed which has been put down to make exit from the property.

The Chairman reported there was an existing access and that the Board could not grant another access. The Chairman stated that the Board was bound by the Act of 1885, but suggested a meeting on the site of the Chairmen of the Forest Row and Maresfield Committees with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Conservators. Approved.

7. Rate Approved. It was resolved that a rate of 6d. per acre be levied and the Rate Book was produced by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

8. Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club. The Clerk read a letter from the Club asking for the Board's consent to certain alterations viz. one of the greens and shortening of the course which would be of to the advantage of the Conservators. Resolved that the same be approved.

9. Ministry of Works and Telephone Exchange, Nutley. The Clerk read a letter and it was left for the Clerk to deal with.

10. The **** Club, Plaw Hatch, application for direction post. The Clerk reported on this request and the Board visited. The Clerk to inform the Club that the Board's attitude was not to consent to the application – this could only be granted to private properties.

11. Military Vehicles on Forest. The Clerk read correspondence and report. The Chairman reported he had telephone conversation with Military Headquarters and that this matter had now been put right. Mr. Owen referred to and brought ** to the roads by Military Vehicles.

12. District Auditors Report. The Clerk read a letter which stated the Audit was completed and in order, and that the Auditors wished to express their appreciation for the great assistance the Clerk and his staff had rendered.

13. Horse Riding on the Forest. The Clerk reported they since this matter was taken up the Ranger reported no further riding had taken place.

14. Refuse in the Forest. The Clerk read a letter from the Nutley Women's Institute of a complaint of refuse near their building. The Ranger reported this did not warrant a complaint. The Clerk was asked to write to the Women's Institute accordingly.

15. Mr. Tarling, encroachment in Forest. The clerk in company with the Ranger had inspected this encroachment and reported that Mr. Tarling had built up an earth bank and a concrete way outside his fence boundary and explained his reason for doing so was owing to the flooding of his garden and house by rain water which comes from the overflow of a drain in the Forest directly opposite. Also from the various roadways which slope downwards to his property. The Chairman stated it was a very definite encroachment and asked the Clerk to inform Mr. Tarling that he must remove same.

16. Access Rights, Pippingford Park. The Clerk reported on Mr. Hayley Morris' claims for access rights over certain Forest tracks and that he had investigated this claim and ***** no such right existed.

17. Finances. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received.

Rates
Deposits
Acknowledgments
Military compensation

Bank accounts. The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:

General Account
Perry Cash Account
Wages Account

Accounts for payment. Amounts totalling £12*.0.9. were produced and it was resolved that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

18. Licences. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following licences have been granted.

Miss C****[]*r	Road to bungalow at Hermitage, Fairwarp
Miss Tritton	Road and direction post to Hermitage, Fairwarp
Miss E.W. ****	Repairing and maintaining track at Yew Tree Farm, Nutley
Uckfield Rural District Council.	Sewers to Fairwarp
G.A. Gibbons	Temporary licence for extraction of timber

19. Mr. Fovargue expressed thanks to the Board for all the support they had given him in the post.

20. There being no other business the Meeting was concluded.

S.J. Marsh Chairman

A Meeting of the Special Purposes Committee duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Friday 27th July, 1951 at 6 p.m.

S. J. Marsh Esq., Chairman, Lt.-Commdr. H. R. Hardy, Vice Chairman, J. R. Owen, Esq. G. A. Warburton
Colonel R. S. Clarke M.P., R. Long, Esq. Messrs. Wood & Walford

REPARATION OF THE FOREST

The Chairman reported that in company with Ranger Day he had inspected sundry areas comprising gun pits, slit trenches and landing slips as shown on the agreed ***** which were referred to the Committee.

[illegible paragraphs]

The Chairman reported that he had inspected this site in company with Mr. Chippendale of the Ministry of Agriculture who recommended a seeding of 20 lbs of agrostis per acre, 3 lbs of clover per acre and 1* lbs of Italian rye grass per acre, the land to be previously treated with 6 cwt. Of nitro chalk per acre together with a dressing of 2 tons of ground carbonate of lime per acre. The method of cultivation to be disc harrow, fertiliser, disc harrow, sow, disc harrow, roll.

The matter was fully considered and it was decided to set aside two experimental plots on the air strip each 50x100 yards, the one to be treated in accordance with Mr. Chippendale's suggestions and the other to be disc harrowed and sown.

Power was given to the Chairman and Vice Chairman to act in the choice of **** for plots no. 2, the whole operation to be carried out under the supervision of Messrs. Wood and Walford.

A Meeting of the Special Purposes Committee duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Friday 9th October, 1951 at 3 p.m.

S. J. Marsh Esq., Chairman, Lieut-Commdr H. R. Hardy, Vice Chairman, Colonel R. S. Clarke M.P.

Apologies for absence were received from J. R. Owen Esq., and G. A. Warburton Esq.

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

2. The position as to licences for quarrying. The Clerk reported the procedure, adopted as to the issuing of Licences by the Manor Reeve on behalf of The Lord of the Manor and went on to read the wording of the Licence.

The Chairman stated Mr. Walters had ceased work on one end of the quarry at Lisburn and had commenced work on the other end.

Lieut. Commander Hardy suggested that to help towards eliminating the danger to man or beast the edges of the quarries should be sloped to save a sheer drop.

The Chairman agreed to visit the site with Lieut. Commander Hardy to see if this suggestion was capable of being carried out.

3. The suggested form of licence. The Chairman reminded the Committee that at the 1st Special Purposes Sub-Committee Meeting, the Clerk had reported that Colonel Adams was desirous of changing the form of licence from that which had been in existence since 1885.

The Clerk stated that he had had several interviews with Colonel Adams which had firstly resulted in Colonel Adams sending him a draft of the proposed new form. The Clerk did not agree with this new draft of Colonel Adams as it tended to exclude the Conservators from joining in the body of the Deed and did not give them the right to revoke the Licence. He had consulted Mr. Fovargue on the matter very closely and as a result a new form

of licence had been prepared which had been submitted to Colonel Adams. The Clerk and Colonel Adams had failed to agree and Colonel Adams had now decided to refer the matter to the Lord.

Colonel Clarke offered to have a word with the Lord privately and in the meantime no further action was to be taken.

4. Reparation of the Forest. The Clerk read a letter received from Messrs. Wood and Walford as to:

- (a) the experimental sowing on the landing strip and
- (b) restoration of earth works *** received for the work on (b)

The Committee resolved to accept the tender of Douglas Hamilton Ltd., Wadhurst.

5. Any other business.

- (a) The Chairman referred to the death of Mr. F. T. Ridley. The Committee expressed their regret.
- (c) Appointment of Second Ranger. [illegible]
- (d) Ranger Day [illegible]

S. J. Marsh Chairman

A meeting of the Board was duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday October 17th 1951 at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Mash Esq. Chairman, Lt. Commander H. R. Hardy Vice Chairman, Mrs. Looker, Mrs. Ridley, Messrs. Griffin, Coulthard, Harvey [illegible]

Apologies from Messrs. Warburton [illegible]

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

2. Before proceeding with the business of the meeting the Chairman referred to the loss **** through the death of Mr. F. T. Ridley. Members *** to pay tribute and it was resolved that the Board **** record their appreciation of his services and their regret at his passing.

3. Nutley Recreation Ground. The Clerk reported that he had received ** from the Maresfield Parish Council accepting responsibility for maintenance.

4. [illegible]

5. Suntings Ghyll. The Chairman informed the Board that he and the Chairman of the Forest Row Committee had visited the site and it had been decided to allow Mr. Rhodes, the owner, to make a track across the Forest **** in place of the old trackway which had been abandoned for many years. This was granted, of course subject to the necessary licence being prepared and in acknowledgement rent being paid.

6. ***** encroachment. It had been received at the previous meeting that Mr. Owen and Mr. **** should visit the site and the Chairman reported that as a result of that visit the encroachment had now been removed and the matter had been settled satisfactorily.

7. Round Ground at Nutley. The Clerk reported Mr. D*** of the Brick Yard Farm, Nutley had been grazing cattle and fencing land off, which was part of the Forest, with stacks. When ordered by the Ranger to remove these stakes he had refused to do so stating that he had been **** on the *** of the East Sussex County Council that this portion of land belonged to the Council. Correspondence had ensued between the Clerk, the Council and Mr D****, and the Clerk was now able to report that the encroachment had ceased.

8. Miss Cooper Willis. The Clerk reported that the encroachment caused by a lean-to timber shed and **** dump had now been removed.

9. Mr. Sullivan, Sunnybrook Farm, Colemans Hatch. The Clerk reported that cord wood had been deposited on the Forest and that he informed Mr. Sullivan that this was ***** been removed and the matter was settled.

10. Tonbridge School. The Clerk reported that Tonbridge School had sought permission to hold a field day on the Forest, that this permission had been granted, the field day had been held and the Ranger had reported that all litter had been cleared up to his satisfaction.

11. Agricultural Executive Committee of Lewes. Erection of notice board. The Committee *** encroachment by erecting a notice board. The Clerk reported that as a result of correspondence with the Committee this had now been removed.

12. The District Auditors' Report The Clerk reads the following report:

District Auditors Office

11th September 1951

The Conservators of Ashdown Forest

Gentlemen

I have to report the completion of the auditing of your accounts **** of your officers for the year ended the 31st December, 1950.

There are no matters to which your attention need be specially directed on this occasion.

My thanks are due to your Clerk and his staff for their courteous assistance during the audit.

I am, gentlemen

Your obedient servant

A. Hobbs

District Auditor

13. Finances

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	£0.7.6
Deposits	----
Acknowledgements	£2.6.3
Military compensation	----

Bank Accounts

The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:

GENERAL ACCOUNT	£6378.16.6.
PETTY CASH ACCOUNT	£8.16.4
WAGES ACCOUNT	£22.1.5

Accounts for payment

Accounts totalling £56.3.8. were produced and it was resolved that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

14. The Ranger's Report. The Ranger reported as follows:

7th October 1951

Sirs.

I have to report the following:

[illegible]

Encroachment at the Birches

Miss Cooper Willis has removed the shed that had been erected on the Forest ****.

Blind Corners

I have cut undergrowth from blind corners in the Forest, in the Duddleswell and Nutley areas.

15. Appointment of Second Ranger

[illegible] He thought continuity in the office of Ranger was essential.

16. Licences

The Clerk reported that Colonel Adams on behalf of the Lord of the Manor had suggested a new form of licence which was at present under review and the following licences were *** being held over ****

1. Mr. J. E. Drew, Old White's Farm, Forest Row - roadway
2. Uckfield U.D.C.- roadway to sewage disposal *****
3. Mr. Rhodes, Suntings Ghyll – roadway
4. Uckfield U.D.C. – road drainage to Nutley *****
5. Mrs. Holmes-Seidle, Forest Bank, Nutley – extension to boundary

17. East Sussex County Council, Lewes. Proposed erection of guide posts in Forest.

The Clerk reads a letter asking for permission to erect guide posts. It was resolved that this be approved.

18. Any Other Business

Reparation of the Forest.

The Chairmen reported that two Special Purposes Committee meetings held recently the matter of reparation of the Forest had been considered

- (a) As to the filling in of all gun pits, slit trenches, etc.
- (b) As to re-seeding those parts of the Forest which had been left bare by use as air strips etc.

The matter had been carefully considered by the Special Purposes Committee and it had been resolved to obtain estimates from Contractors to undertake both types of work.

An estimate from Messrs. Douglas Hamilton Limited of Wadhurst for £61.10s. had been accepted for the filling in of *** and slit trenches within an experimental area lying between Wych Cross and Colemans hatch. An estimate **** Matthews, Haywards heath for £9 had been accepted for experimental reseeded.

Two experimental plots were involved, one being sown in accordance with the suggestions of the Ministry of Agriculture, the other being sown by a less expensive method. The plots had been sown and the grass was growing.

Mr. Nias raised the point as to whether the Special Purposes Committee had power to act without referring the matter back to the Board and on reference being made to the minutes it was found that this matter should have been referred back.

The Chairman asked for the approval of the Board for the work undertaken by the Special Purposes Committee. It was resolved that the action taken by the Special Purposes Committee should be approved.

S. J. Marsh Chairman

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

Messrs. W. Mitchell, N. Stephens, H. Kirby, S.J, Marsh, J. Card, G. Card, H.C. Hett, M. E. Warren, J. R. Owen, J. R. Coulthard, L. N. Braun, W. D. Knott; R. Bridgwater, C. W. Collins, W. D. Gillham, N. Comyns, F. W. Tyler, I, Walker, S. L. Smith, Mrs. E. C. Smith, Mrs. P. A. Mosse.

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

2. The Chairman introduced Mr. P.A. Williams as the new Clerk.

3. Notice of Meeting. The Clerk read the Notice convening this meeting.

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

5. Election of Conservators. The Clerk reported that it was necessary to fill the three vacancies occasioned by the retirement of Messrs. Gillham, S. J. Marsh, and W. Mitchell and one occasioned by the death of F. T. Ridley.

On the proposal of Mr. J. R. Coulthard duly seconded by Mr. J. R. Owen it was unanimously resolved that the three retiring Conservators be re-elected to hold office for the three years ending 31st December 1954.

It was proposed by Mr. J. R. Owen and seconded by Mr. N. Stephens that Mr. Jack Card be elected to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. J.F. Ridley; it was unanimously resolved that Jack Card be elected.

The Chairman then commented upon the very valuable and conscientious work done by the late Mr. J. F. Ridley.

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

On the proposal of Mr. J. R. Owen seconded by Mr. J. R. Coulthard it was unanimously resolved that the following be re-elected:

Nutley	Mr. S. J. Marsh.
Colemans Hatch	Mr. J. R. Owen.
Forest Row	Lt. Commdr. H. Bristowe.
Fairwarp	Mr. A. K. L. Harvey,

The Chairman proposed and Mr. J.R. Owen seconded and it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Trevor Mountain be elected as Superintendent of Chelwood Gate Recreation Ground to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Admiral T. P. H. Beamish.

7. General Business. Mr. Jack Card stated that there had been no horse-riding by unauthorised persons on the Forest since the last Commoners' Meeting.

The Chairman, replying to Mr. N. Stephens, gave a very concise and interesting description of how the Commoners' rights originated.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith complained about damage caused to sleeper tracks between Shepherds Gate and Colemans Hatch Post Office. The Chairman pointed out that this track had originally been constructed by the late Sir George Collier for the convenience of himself and friends and that except for every short distance only this track was not on the Forest.

The Chairman informed the meeting of the steps taken to date as to the Restoration of the Forest which was now in the experimental stages and results of re-seeding would be seen in the Spring. Owing to the very wet weather the filling in of split trenches and Gun Pits had been delayed.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had met and was in constant touch with the C.O.C. Home Counties District in connection with any damage or encroachments on the Forest by the military - they were now working in close harmony and he felt there would be no further complaints regarding the military.

Mr. J. R. Coulthard proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

A Meeting of the Conservators duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row on Wednesday December 12th 1951 at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. S.J. Marsh (In the Chair), Messrs. J.R. Coulthard, T.R. Mountain, R.P. Livingstone, J. Card, W. Mitchell, W. D. Gillham, F.H. Nias, A.C. Wolfson, J.R. Owen, G.A. Warburton, Colonel R.S. Clarke M. P.

Apologies for absence were received from Lt. Commander H.R. Hardy, Mr, J.H. Griffin, Mrs. Looker and Mrs. Ridley.

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

2. Nutley Recreation Ground. The Clerk reported that he had now received a letter from the Maresfield R.D.C., that they would accept responsibility for maintenance etc. The Chairmen asked to be informed before any swings or other fixtures were placed on the ground.

3. Kingstanding Wireless Station. The Clerk reported that this matter was held up while negotiations continued concerning the transfer of this site and the exchange of an Equivalent Area.

A permanent easement for various services had been asked for and had been refused as the Board were unable to grant permanent easements.

4. Reparation of the Forest. The Clerk reported he had been in touch with Messrs. Wood and Walford as to the progress that was being made and was informed that owing to the wet weather work had been delayed on the Gun pits and Slit Trenches.

5. Compulsory Purchase & Equivalent Areas.

A. Kingstanding Wireless Station. This matter was in the hands of Colonel Adams acting for Lord De La Warr and it was understood that progress was being made. B. St. Johns Camp, Crowborough. The Clerk reported that this was at present held up as Colonel Adams stated that his office had not been informed of the negotiations and the matter was therefore being considered by him on behalf of Lord De La Warr. C. Weir Wood Reservoir at Wych Cross. The Clerk reported that a draft Contract had been submitted to Colonel Adams. This Contract had been submitted to the Clerk who had made certain suggested alterations which had been accepted.

6. Rangers Report.

Sirs,

I have to report the following:

Wood Extraction - Kidds Hi11. Mr. W. Taylor, Hartfield Rd., Forest Row, is hauling wood across the Forest in Kidd's Hill Area. Notice Boards - Crowborough Warren. Messrs. Chas. Parris, Estate Agents, Crowborough, erected Notice Boards on the Forest advertising the sale of Crowborough Warren Estate. On my complaint these were removed. Forest Rates. I have collected a proportion of Forest Rates. Name Sign. Mr. Haycock, The Cottage, Chuck Hatch, has erected a sign on the Forest near this property. Builders' Material. Mr. Alfred Walters, Builder, Fairwarp, is carrying out building operations at Yew Tree Cottage, Fairwarp. He has deposited on the Forest nearby a quantity of tiles and also broken tiles, old plaster etc. thrown out to form a path. Messrs Holcombe. Builders Uckfield. In connection with drainage operations at Fairwarp, Messrs. Holcombe have built a shed on the Forest and have stacked here a quantity of socket pipes and other fitments. Track on Forest. Mr. Butler, Myrtle Cottage, Fairwarp is erecting a garage on his property. In connection with this work there are deposited on the Forest quantities of sand, bricks and beach. There was an old grass track leading to this building and this track Mr. Butler has metalled with broken bricks for a distance of 8 yards.

Gilbert Day
Forest Ranger

7. Finances. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

Rates	167.6.0
Acknowledgements	1.9.6
Compensation Rents	19.18.4

Bank Accounts. The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following credit balances:

General account	6438.6.2
Wages account	26.13.5
Petty Cash Account	50.15.1
Savings Bank	128.13.11

Accounts for Payment. Accounts totalling £190. 13s. 0d. were produced and it was resolved that cheques be drawn in payment thereof.

8. Uckfield Rural District Council Fairwarp Sewage Purification Plant.

The Clerk reported he had now received a letter from the Uckfield R.D.C. agreeing to pay an acknowledgement for the now roadway which was being made up and a Licence would be prepared accordingly.

9. Applications for Licences. The Clerk reported he was still awaiting to hear from Colonel Adams regarding an appointment to be made with the Lord to discuss the farm of Licence.

10. To Consider the Appointment of a Second Ranger.

The Clerk reported he had received letters from the various Councils concerned agreeing to the appointment of a Second Ranger with the exception of the East Sussex County Council who had informed him they would discuss this matter at their next meeting which takes place in February 1952.

11. Any other business. The Chairman read a letter from the East Sussex County Council regarding the widening of a portion of the London to Eastbourne Road which stated that as the road between Pippingford and Millbrook had a much wider verge than was required they would return a portion of same as an equivalent area for the portion they would require for widening.

Mr. Nias proposed that Mr. Marsh and Mr. Owen should deal with this matter and then present plans to the Board after which the matter could then be completed by the Special Purposes Committee.

Colonel Clarke proposed and Mr. Coulthard seconded that the Board should out of the considerable balance on the General Account place a sum of £5,000 on deposit with a Building Society. It was unanimously resolved that it should be left to the Clerk to make enquiries from suitable Societies and he should be given power to act with regard to the investment of this money as soon as possible

S. J. Marsh Chairman

A meeting of the Board was duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday February 20th 1952 at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh Esq. Chairman, Lt. Commander H. R. Hardy. Vice Chairman., Mrs. U. M. Ridley. Colonel R. S. Clarke. Messrs. J. R. Owen, J. R. Coulthard, J. Rowe, J. Card, W. D. Gillham, T. R. Mountain, M. Blount, W. Mitchell, A. C. Wolfson, R. P. Livingstone, G. W. Warburton, A. K. L. Harvey Esq.

1. The Minutes of the Last Meeting, copies of which had been previously circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. Apologies from Mrs. S. M. Looker.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes.

1) Reparation of the Forest. The Clerk reported that owing to the wet weather Messrs. Wood and Walford had no further progress to report. It was unanimously resolved to advise Messrs. Wood and Walford not to press the Contractors until the weather improved.

2) Compulsory Purchase and Equivalent areas.

(a) Kingstanding Wireless Station. The Clerk stated that he had nothing further to report since the last Meeting.

(b) St. Johns Camp Crowborough. The Clerk reported that Colonel Adams had now withdrawn his objections to this project and went on to inform the Board that the War Department were not bound by the 1949 Act to erect a fence but they were agreeable to place marker posts to define the boundary.

Colonel Clarke raised the question of straying animals. The Chairman pointed out that it was the duty of the owners of the land adjoining the Forest to fence against straying cattle. The Board resolved that the Clerk should go into the matter with the War Department and report back to the Special Purposes Committee.

(c) The Clerk read a letter from the Weir Wood Water Board requesting permission to make bore holes to take specimens of the subsoil. The Board approved.

3) Form of Licences. The Clerk reported a new form of Licence had been agreed with Lord De La Warr and that it differed very slightly from the original form of Licence. The Board approved the New Licence,

4) To Consider the appointment of a Second Ranger. The Clerk reported he had received confirmation from the East Sussex County Council that the Council had now agreed to share the expense of a Second Ranger and that all the Local authorities had agreed upon this matter.

The Chairman proposed, if the Board agreed, that this matter should be further discussed in Committee, The Board approved.

5) The East Sussex County Council. Road Widening Between Pippingford and Millbrook

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had discussed with Major Lunn the Road Widening proposed to be carried out by the East Sussex County Council on the south side of Nutley.

Major Lunn had promised to produce plans showing the Council's requirements; these plans had not yet been received.

It was decided that the Chairman and Mr. Owen should report again on this matter when they had had an opportunity of perusing the plans.

6) Investment of £5,000. The Clerk reported that he had since the last meeting invested £2,000 with the Thanet & Hastings Building Society Limited, £2,000 with the Church of England Building Society Limited and £1,000 with the Halifax Building Society Limited. The Board approved.

4. Proposed Direction Sign near Kingstanding. The Clerk read a letter from the East Sussex County Council requesting permission to erect a Direction Sign Board at Kingstanding. The Board approved.

5. Relinquishment of Rifle Range, Old Lodge by War Office

The Clerk reported that the Lands Branch Eastern Command had relinquished as from February 4th 1952 the Rifle Range, Old Lodge, Ashdown Forest. He had instructed Messrs. Wood and Walford to inspect the site and to report on any damage that had occurred. The Clerk then read Messrs. Wood and Walford's Report.

Colonel Clarke proposed that the Chairman the Vice-Chairman and Mr. Owen should inspect this site with a view to ascertaining what should be done to restore the Forest. The Board approved.

6. Rangers Report. The Ranger reported as follows:

11th February, 1952.

Sirs,

I have to report as follows:

Timber Extractions. I have reported various cases of Timber Extraction across the Forest. Some of these have been satisfactorily completed with all resulting ruts filled in. Mid Sussex Dump, Newbridge. The Mid Sussex Timber Company have commenced to clear their dump of Timber at Newbridge. Forest Rates. I have continued to collect Forest Rates, and to collect information about change of ownership of rateable properties.

Overhanging Trees. I have out a number of Birch Trees on the Wych Cross Read. These were leaning over the road in a dangerous manner. Clumps. Round the various Clumps Furze bushes have grown up in such a way as to be a danger to the trees in case of fire. I have commenced to cut this encroaching furze from Kingstanding Clump. Fires. A fire occurred at Pound Gate 19th January, extent 4 acres and a Fire occurred at Nutley Road 10th February, extent 3 acres.

GILBERT DAY
Forest Ranger.

7. Finances.

Receipts The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts had been received:

RATES	22.11.0
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	36.7.3
DEPOSITS	15.0.0
LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONTRIBUTIONS	334.12.0
COMPENSATION RENTS	0.5.0
MISCELLANEOUS	0.17.1

Bank Accounts. The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following balances:

GENERAL ACCOUNT	1583.7.10
WAGES ACCOUNT	20.11.6
PETTY CASH ACCOUNT D/R	1.3.7
POST OFFICE SAVINGS ACCOUNT	128.13.11

Accounts for Payment

MESSRS. CULLENS, EAST GRINSTEAD	13.16.2
ASHDOWN GARAGE LTD., CHELWOOD GATE	7.1.5
CLERK'S SALARY	75.0.0
PETTY CASH	60.0.0.

In Committee.

(a) The Vice Chairman proposed that under the heading of Food Supplies something should be done to improve the grazing on the Forest.

Mrs. Ridley stated she was being continually asked by the Cuckfield R.D.C., whom she represented on the Board, why something could not be done to improve the grazing to encourage more cattle on the Forest.

A general discussion took place and eventually the Chairman proposed that the matter should be discussed farther at a Special Purposes Committee Meeting to be arranged.

(b) Second Ranger. The Chairman reported that he had received an application for this position from a Mr, Stanton who was previously employed as a Ranger and had given very satisfactory work in the past.

The Board resolved that the Chairman should interview Mr. Stanton and engage him if he thought fit and then inform the Clerk of his appointment.

Chairman

A Meeting of the Special Purposes Committee duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Monday 7th April, 1952 at 10 a.m.

S. J, Marsh Esq., Chairman, Lieut. Commander H.R. Hardy, , Colonel R. S. Clarke M. P. Apologies for absence were received from G, A. Warburton Esq.

1. Saw benches on the Forest.

The Chairman informed the meeting that there were three saw benches on the Forest under Licence and the Ranger had reported encroachments, in the form of wood dumps. In the case of Kirby & Vinton's saw-bench there appeared to be a further encroachment in the form of a hedge.

The Committee duly considered the matter and suggested that the Clerk should arrange for the sites to be inspected by the Chairman of the Mansfield Committee and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board.

2. Reparation of the Forest.

The Chairman stated that Douglas Hamilton Ltd., the Contractors whose estimate had been accepted six months ago, had not yet commenced work on the gun pits and slit trenches.

He had, therefore, approached Messrs. C. J. Thorne & Co., Fairwarp, who had previously quoted, and had now received from them a revised quotation of £60.

Commander Hardy expressed his confidence in the firm of C. J. Thorne & Co., and moved that their Tender should be accepted. The Committee approved.

The Chairman reported that Messrs. Wood & Walford had not carried out the original instructions of the Board as to the sowing of plots at Chelwood Vetchery and had shown considerable carelessness in handling this and other work.

In all the circumstances it was resolved that the Clerk should instruct Messrs. R.H. & R.W. Clutton of East Grinstead to undertake the duties previously carried out by Wood & Walford, to accept the quotation of C.J. Thorne & Co., and supervise their work.

It was arranged that Mr. Raikes of Cluttons should meet the Committee in due course in regard to his duties generally.

3. Improvement of grazing on the Forest

The Chairman referred to the suggestion which had been made that a portion of the Forest should be re-sown, Colonel Clarke asked if nothing could be done to improve the existing ground without sowing, by such means as basic slag or other similar fertilisers, and went on to state that he had had a very interesting discussion on this matter with Sir William Gavin who is an expert on these matters. The Committee resolved that Colonel Clarke should communicate with Sir William Gavin and obtain his advice.

Commander Hardy read a letter received from T.H. Lock & Sons Ltd., Yeovil, giving suggestions of two mixtures for direct reseeding of the Forest and also the estimates per acre.

Mixture No. 1. 23 lbs. seed per acre at 64/9d per acre. Mixture No. 2. 22 lbs. Seed per acre at 55/3d per acre.

The Committee resolved that the Clerk should instruct Ranger Day to map out certain parts of the Forest where the Commoners would be most likely to want to graze their cattle and then discuss these plans in Committee with Mr. Raikes at the next meeting of the Special Purposes Committee.

Chairman

A Meeting of the Board was duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday April 6th, 1952 at 2.30 p.m.

Miss M. Blount, Mrs. U. M. Ridley. Messrs. S. J. Marsh, J. Rowe, J. R. Owen, J. R. Coulthard, G. A. Warburton, T. R. Mountain, J. Card, W. D. Gillham, J. N. Griffin,, Col. R. S. Clarke M.P.

Apologies for Absence were received from Lt. Commander H. R. Hardy, Mr. C. Wolfson Esq., and Mrs. S. M. Looker.

1. Election of Chairman. Proposed by Mr. Coulthard and seconded by Mr. Owen it was unanimously resolved that Mr. S. J. Marsh be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Mr. Marsh taking the Chair informed the Board that Mr. Williams had now completed his first year of office as Clerk and that his assistance and advice had been most helpful.

2. Election of Vice Chairman. Proposed by Mr, Marsh and seconded by Mr, Rowe it was unanimously resolved that Lt. Commander H.R. Hardy be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting

A. Appointment of Second Ranger. The Clerk reported that Ranger Stanton duties on March 10th 1952.

B. The Board passed the following resolutions:-

1. Resolved that an account be opened with the Halifax Building Society and that any two of the following officers be empowered to sign any withdrawals from the account: G. A. Warburton, J. R. Owen, S. J. Marsh.

2. In connection with the deposit of monies with the Hastings & Thanet Building Society resolved that any two of the following be empowered to sign Withdrawal Notices: G. A. Warburton, J. R. Owen, S. J. Marsh.

3. In connection with the deposit of monies with the Church of England Building Society resolved that any two of the following be empowered to sign Withdrawal Notices: G. A. Warburton, J. R. Owen, S. J. Marsh.

C. Relinquishment of rifle range, Old Lodge. It was resolved that no action need be taken.

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

Forest Row Committee. Messrs. J. R. Owen (Chairman), J. Card, J. R. Coulthard, W. Mitchell, J. Rowe, A. C. Wolfson, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board (ex-officio).

Maresfield Committee. Messrs. G. A. Warburton (Chairman), W. Gillham, A. K. L. Harvey, T. R. Mountain, F. H. Nias, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board (ex-officio).

6. Accident to Ranger Day. The Clerk reported that Ranger Day had met with an accident on March 8th last and that his motor cycle had suffered considerable damage but was being repaired. In consequence of this accident the Clerk reported that he had caused full comprehensive cover to be obtained in respect of both motor cycles.

7. Rangers' Reports.

14th April, 1951

Sirs,

Work at King Standing Clump. In company with Ranger Stanton I have completed cutting the encroaching gorse from this Clump. Timber Dump. Newbridge. There are still about fifty trees left to be cleared from this Dump by the Mid Sussex Timber Company. Timber Dump, Kidd's Hill. Forest Row Lumber Company have cleared all the Timber from this dump. The surface of the Forest now needs to be restored from the rutting caused by the carting of this Timber. Dump of Poles, Greenwood Gate. Messrs. Hill & Dunn, Mayfield have a quantity of Birch Poles dumped on the Forest near Greenwood Gate. These poles have been detracted across the Forest from Five Hundred Acre Wood. Water Track, Chelwood Gate. The Uckfield Rural District Council are laying a water main across the Forest from Chelwood Gate to Wych Cross. Footpath, Highgate, Forest Row. A footpath three feet wide and twenty-five yards in length crossing the Forest has been metalled. This path leads to Highgate, a property owned by Mrs. M. Reif, 3 Spring Meadow, Forest Row.

GILBERT DAY

Forest Ranger.

14th April, 1952.

Sir,

During the past five weeks the following items have received my attention:

1. Ranger Day and I have cleared the Kings Standing Clump of gorse and undergrowth thus preventing damage to the trees by fire. 2. I have collected a number of Rates, some of large amounts. There are still a number to collect but these are of smaller amounts. 3. Mr. Moon of Nutley has been offending by a breach of the Bye-laws. He has had chestnut poles upon the Forest in a dump and after being ordered to remove these he parked a lorry upon the Forest containing more chestnut poles. He has now cleared all these items off the Forest.

4. Messrs. A. J. Holcombe and Son who have been the Contractors for the Fairwarp Sewage Scheme have finished making the track into the sewage works and have cleared away all their materials except three huts which are situated upon the green. 5. Messrs. Steyning of East Grinstead. The above have bought some timber from Chelwood Vetchery and have had it drawn out across the forest by W. Fuller of Heathfield. They have not had permission from the Conservators and they have been reported by me.

RANGER STANTON

8. Clumps of Trees. A member of the Board asked if more trees could be planted in the clumps and it was resolved that the Chairman and Ranger Day should visit the clumps and report on the matter.

9. The Clerk drew attention to the balance at the Bank on the General Account viz: £1553. 5s. 6d. and reported that the Bank Rate on Deposit Accounts was now 2%.

Colonel Clarke proposed that £1000 should be put on deposit. This was duly seconded by Mr. Griffin and carried.

10. Finance.

RECEIPTS. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following amounts have been received:-

Rates	£41.1.0.
Acknowledgements	£3.1.0.
Deposits	NIL
Local Authorities Contributions	£43.24.2.
Compensation Rents	£1.1.8.
Miscellaneous (costs re Ashdown Forest .Act 1949)	£97.2.5.

BANK ACCOUNTS. The Bank Pass Sheets were produced showing the following balances:

General Account	£1553.5.6.
Wages Account	£4.0.4.
Petty Cash Account	£44.5.7.
Post Office Savings Account	£128.13.11.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. Accounts totalling £351. 2s. 5d. were produced and it was resolved that cheques be drawn on payment thereof.

11. The Chairman presented to the Board a framed copy of the Award Map of 1693, which had been made in 1776 and was said to be the only perfect copy in existence. It had formerly been in the possession of the late Lord Ashburnham.

He suggested that it should be hung in the Clerk's Office.

A hearty vote of thanks was proposed to the Chairman for his generosity and it was resolved that a note of this should be recorded in the Minutes.

Appointment of New Land Agents. On the adoption of the Report of the Special Purposes Committee it was agreed that Messrs. R. H. & R. W. Clutton of East Grinstead should be appointed to take over the duties previously carried out by Messrs. Wood & Walford.

Grazing on the Forest. The Board discussed how this could be improved and it was resolved that the Clerk should ask Messrs. Clutton to approach the Ministry of Agriculture and obtain their advice and report to the next Meeting of the Special Purposes Committee.

S. J. Marsh

Estimates of Normal Income & Expenditure for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

1951 expenditure	Estimated	1951 expenditure	Actual		1952 expenditure	Estimated
400		350		Clerk's salary	300	
27		25		Postages and telephone	26	
26		14		Hire of room & travelling	15	
15		14		Advertising	15	
5		4		Bank charges & cheque books	5	
6		6		Insurances	6	
4		28		Sundries (incl. Income tax)	6	
33		21		Printing	35	
23		13		Stationery	20	
12		16		Audit Stamp Duty	12	
328		339		Rangers Wages & Nat. Insurance Ranger Day 324 Ranger Kirby 26 Additional Ranger from March 10 th 262	612	
65		88		Rangers Motor Cycle taxation, insurance, petrol, repairs, etc. and clothing allowance, postage and telephone	120	
25		15		Repairs and maintenance	20	
-		6		Acknowledgement Rents & Rates - irrecoverable	8	
969		939			1200	

Under the Ashdown Forest Act, 1937, Section 15 (2) paragraph 2, the contribution of the Local authorities would be limited to 4300 (41000 loss the estimated normal income of £700), but as the increase in the expenditure estimates is largely the result of the engagement of a second Ranger, as agreed with the Loca³. Authorities involved, it is suggested that the full estimated deficit of £500 might be defrayed by the Local authorities as provided for under the 1937 Act, Section 15 (2) paragraph 3.

The position and allocations would then be as follows:

	Total	E.S.C.C.	E.G.U.D.C.	C.R.D.C.	U.R.D.C.
As per 1952 estimates	500.0.0	250.0.0	50.0.0.	50.0.0.	150.0.0.
Revised 1951 figures	331.1.6	165.10.9	33.2.2	33.2.2	99.6.5
Paid re. 1951	394.0.0	197.0.0	39.8.0	39.8.0	118.4.0
Payment now required	437.1.6	218.10.9	43.14.2	43.14.2	131.2.5

A meeting of the Board was duly convened and held at the Village Hall, Forest Raw, on Wednesday July 16th 1952 at 2.30 p.m.

S. J. Marsh In the Chair. J. Card, Esq., Colonel Clarke, M.P., Messrs. J. R. Coulthard, J. H. Griffin, Lt. Commander H. R. Hardy, A. K. Harvey, Esq., Mrs. S. M. Looker, Messrs. W. Mitchell, T. R. Mountain, J. R. Owen, G. A. Warburton, A. C. Wolfson

Apologies for absence were received from Miss M. Blount, M.B.E.,

E. W. Pye, Esq., Mrs. U. M. Ridley and John Rowe, Esq.

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

3. The Chairman referred to the death of Mr. F. H. Nias, Representative of the East Sussex County Council, and to the assistance which he had always given to the Board. The members present paid silent tribute to his memory.

The Clerk reported that Mrs. Ridley's absence was due to illness and it was resolved that the Chairman should send her a letter of sympathy.

4. Clumps of Trees. The Chairman reported that he had inspected the various clumps and that further saplings were to be planted in the autumn.

5. Rangers Reports:-

Ranger Day

6th July, 1952.

Clumps. In company with Ranger Stanton I have brushed the undergrowth from Camp Hill Clump, cut out six dead trees and cut a fire cordon round the clump. Kingstanding Clump is being attended to in a like manner.

Dumps. The Mid-Sussex Timber Company, East Grinstead have cleared their Dump of Timber at Newbridge, but the rutted surface of the Forest caused by the hauling has not yet been restored.

Messrs. Hills & Dunn, Mayfield, have cleared their Dump of Birch Poles near Greenwood Gate, but a large quantity of dead bark, littered from these poles is still strewn on the Forest.

Surveys. I have made a survey of the Hollies Doan, Hillside and Furnace Bank areas of the Forest with Mr. Thorne in connection with the restoration of the Forest. I also toured the Hollies Down, Vetchery Bank and Hindleap areas, pointing out to Messrs. Cluttons' representative areas for improvement of pasture.

Water Way Leave. Trench has been opened across the Forest from Quabrook to High Beeches and another from Wych Cross to Chelwood Gate. This was excavated under Way Leave granted to Uckfield Rural District Council. The Contractors, Messrs. Arnolds, have been granted, under Licence, permission to park Caravans and their necessary equipment on the Forest.

Dumps. Messrs. Turners & Sons, Timber Merchants: Lewes, deposited 2 large Starks of Cord Wood on the Forest near Greenwood Gate. This wood has been cut in the Five Hundred Acre Wood, which is the property of Earl De La Warr, and carted on to the Forest to facilitate loading. These stacks have now been cleared.

Ranger Stanton.

1. Hills and Dunn of Groombridge are hauling wood from Crowborough Warren and making dumps upon the Forest Verge opposite the Five Hundred Acre Wood. The matter has been reported to the office and they have taken action.

2. Camp Fields Rough - Equivalent Area.

This area has been inspected by the Chairman and the two Rangers and is considered most suitable as an Equivalent area.

3. Pippingford Park - Equivalent Area.

Ranger Day and I have traced the boundaries of this area and reported our observations to the Chairman.

4. An extra two notice boards have been ordered from Messrs. Gillham of Nutley bringing the total for my area to four. The notice boards are for the Byelaw poster.

5. Camp Hill Clump.

This Clump has now been completed.

6. Turners of Lewes have finished hauling timber across the Forest Bank Area, Nutley, but have not yet restored the surface of the Forest.

7. Ranger Day and I met the Vice Chairman and Mr. Warburton in Nutley on Monday, 14th July, and we inspected the three saw bench sites as follows:

1. C. Walter, Holly Cottage, Nutley,
2. Kirby, Fords Green, Nutley.
3. Walters, Horney Common.

8. Stannings of East Grinstead have not yet restored the Forest to its natural state where they have hauled timber out of the Vetchery enclosure.

A. Rangers' Motor Cycles. The Clerk reported the accident to Day's motor cycle which occurred on April 30th 1952. Repairs had now been completed and the two machines were again in use.

B. Hire of Motor Cycle for Ranger Stanton. The Clerk reported that Ranger Stanton had used his father's motor cycle to carry out his duties since March 10th until June 23rd 1952, a period of 16 weeks, and read a letter received from Stanton asking that £1 per week be paid for the use of this machine making a total payment of £16. 0. 0. The Board resolved that payment be made to Stanton for this amount.

6. The Clerk reported he had received notice from the following Councils of the appointment of their representatives of the Joint Committees.

Cuckfield R.D.C.
Uckfield R.D.C.

Mrs U. M. Ridley.
J. R. Coulthard, Esq.
E. W. Pye, Esq.
A. C. Wolfson, Esq.

7. Overhead Lines to Pound Gate School. The Vice Chairman reported on his interview at the site with Representatives of the East Sussex Joint Planning Committee and South Eastern Electricity Board. The Chairman confirmed the Vice Chairman's action in this matter that no overhead lines should cross the Forest and that poles could only be placed along the grass verge and must then be within six feet from the verge of the road. It was resolved that the Clerk should write to the Planning Authorities informing them of the Board's decision.

8. Forest Rate for Year ending December 1952.

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

9. Finance.

RECEIPTS The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the following had been received:-

RATES	£44.13.6.	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	£151.16.10.	
DEPOSITS	£35.0.0.	
LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONTRIBUTIONS	£262.4.11.	
COMPENSATION RENTS	£0.16.8.	
MISCELLANEOUS		
Church of England Building Society	£12.16.7.	
Hastings & Thanet Building Society	£23.15.0.	
	£36.11.7.	Interest on investments.

BANK ACCOUNTS The Bank Pass Sheets produced showed the following balances:

General Account	£513.10.7.
Wages Account	£13.3.8.

Petty Cash Account £10.17.7.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT Accounts totalling £293.16s.Od, were produced and their payment was duly approved.

10. Any Other Business. Mr. Wolfson read a letter from the Uckfield R.D.C. informing him that Miss Bloxham had been appointed Chief Welfare Officer, Civil Defence, and that she required a telephone to be installed at her private house Rangers Cottage, Nutley. The Board agreed that this was in order provided that the line was laid underground.

IN COMMITTEE.

REPARATION OF THE FOREST.

The Clerk read Messrs. Cluttons report on the satisfactory manner in which Messrs. Thorne & Co., had carried out the work on the Gun Pits etc., and submitted their quotation of £69 for further work. It was resolved that this quotation be accepted.

The Clerk suggested that the Board should give the Special Purposes Committee power to accept quotations up to £100 for urgent work that may be required in future, as delays were often caused owing to space at time between Board meetings.

The Chairman stated that these could come before the Special Purposes Committee and no further action was taken.

SAW BENCHES ON THE FOREST.

The Vice Chairman and Mr. Warburton gave a report of their visit to the three Licence holders viz:

Mr. C. Walters, Horney Common,
Mr. C.E. Walters, Holly Cottage, Nutley.
Mr. Kirby, Fords Green.

They stated that there were definite encroachments in all three cases. In respect of the first two mentioned permission had been given for limited area and these areas should be strictly observed. It was resolved that these two cases should be re-inspected by the Vice Chairman and Mr. Warburton.

In the case of Fords Green they were of opinion that this was a serious encroachment and it was resolved that the Vice Chairman and Mr. Warburton should again visit Kirby in company with the Clerk.

Both the Vice Chairman and Mr. Warburton were of the opinion that as much tact as possible should be shown when dealing with breaches of the bye—laws and the Chairman was asked to bring this to the notice of the Rangers.

IMPROVED GRAZING ON THE FOREST.

Messrs. E. H. & R. W. Cluttons report was circulated to all members of the Board. Mr. G. Raikes of Cluttons attended and answered various questions and gave his personal opinion of matters.

Colonel Clarke informed the meeting that he had approached and was at present in touch with several experts and departments including a prominent authority on agriculture, Sir William Gavin, and would report again to the Board when his enquiries were complete.

It was decided that in order to give the Board more time to study Messrs. Cluttons report the matter should be adjourned until the next meeting.

Mr. Griffin proposed that the press should receive a Statement for publication. It was resolved that the Chairman and the Clerk should prepare a Statement for the Press.

S. J. Marsh

A Meeting of the Board was duly convened and held at The Village Hall, Forest Row, on Wednesday October 15th 1952 at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. S. J. Marsh, In the Chair. Colonel Clarke, M.P., Messrs. J. R. Coulthard, W. D. Gillham, J. H. Griffin, Lt. Commander H. R. Hardy, Messrs. A. K. Harvey, W. Mitchell, T. R. Mountain, J. R. Owen, E. F. Pye, J. Rowe, G. A. Warburton, A. C. Wolfson Mrs. S. M. Looker.

Apologies for absence were received from Miss M. Blount, M.B.E. and Mr. J. Card.

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

3. Rangers Reports

Ranger Day 13th October, 1952.

Car Prosecution A lady from Gravesend had committed an offence by driving a car on to the Forest a greater distance than the permitted 15 yards. As she refused to have the car moved when requested I was advised to take out a summons. She was convicted and fined £1.0.0.

Dumps Messrs. Hills & Dunn, Mayfield, have removed their two dumps of Birch poles from the Forest, near Greenwood Gate.

Military Vehicles On 17th September and again on 23rd September I found military vehicles parked on the Forest, contrary to the Ashdown Forest Act. These cases I reported to the Chairman.

Golf Course Complaint On 19th September Captain Scott, Golf Secretary, complained of a girl riding a pony on the twelfth green of the Ladies Golf Course. On investigation I found that a local girl was responsible and having seen the owner of the pony got a promise that this offence would not be repeated.

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

Blind Corner I have cut undergrowth from the, blind corner at the top of Kidd's Hill.

GILBERT DAY
Forest Ranger

Ranger Stanton 13th October, 1952

1. Poundgate School. This property has been converted into a private dwelling house and has recently been up for sale. The question of boundaries was brought up by the Uckfield R.D.C. and I made certain observations for them with regard to the boundaries of this property by pacing them and comparing my findings with those on the plan from the R.D.C.

2. Overhead wires (Telephone) at Pound Gate to the property known as Forest Gate.
The presence of these wires was investigated and reported to the chairman and the office.

3. Saw Benches. The three saw benches in the Nutley area discussed at the previous meeting remain as before.

4. The Forest Rates for 1952 are being collected with all possible speed.

5. Various deposits of building materials have been reported as building work is undertaken around the Forest. L. Reed of Browns Brook is chief offender as he has been warned before to apply first for permission to make three deposits.

6. Litter. I am disposing of as much as I am able during the course of a week but find that much of the litter is not burnable and would require burying.

D. Stanton

Ranger

P.S. Jenks and Clark erected a builders board outside the property known as Londonderry the Crowborough Rd., Nutley. This has not been put in order.

4. District Auditors' Report.

To the Conservators of Ashdown Forest. 4th September 1952.

Ladies and Gentleman,

I have to report that the audit of your accounts, and of those of your officers for the year ended the 31st December, 1951 has been completed.

During the year under review, the sum of £5019 15s. 0d. was received from the Paymaster General for compensation as provided by Section 9 of the Ashdown Forest Act 1949. It is not possible at present, to reinstate much of the damage caused by military use, and £5000 of the compensation money has, therefore, been invested. In cases where it has been foreseen that local authorities will have an hand money not required for immediate use, the types of security in which they may invest it have normally been defined by statute, and it is suggested that in the case of the investment of this temporary surplus, the Conservators should have recall to the definition of "statutory securities" referred to in Section 14 of the Ashdown Forest Act 1937.

Various other matters, to which your attention need not be directed in this report, were discussed with your Clerk, to whom and to whose staff, my thanks are due for their assistance during the audit.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

H. Hobbs.

District Auditor.

A. The matter of the Investments totalling £5,000 at present in the Building Societies was discussed and it was unanimously resolved that these investments should remain unchanged.

B. Forest Rate for 1953. The Clerk reported that it would assist in an early collection of rates and also minimise the amount of arrears being carried over into the following year if the rate was made at the April meeting heretofore. The Board agreed.

5. Proposed Transformer Site Fords Green. The Clerk reported that he had received a request from the South Eastern Electricity Board for permission to erect a Transformer at Fords Green, and he produced plans of the site, also a plan of a suggested equivalent area to be purchased by the South Eastern Electricity Board and conveyed to the Conservators.

The Board agreed subject to the equivalent area being thrown open to the Forest.

6. Complaint concerning army vehicles and personnel using Ashdown Forest.

The Clerk read a letter of apology received from Lt. Colonel A.S.

Lewes of Home Counties District, Risborough Barracks, Shorncliffe, Kent.

The Chairman informed the meeting that a set of orders had been given to each Command using the Forest and felt no further action was necessary.

7. The Proposal by the Weir Wood Water Board to lay a water main from the Weir Wood reservoir in Forest Row to the proposed reservoir at Wych Cross across parts of Ashdown Forest.

The Clerk reported he had opposed the first route suggested by the Weir Wood Water Board on the grounds that a considerable number of trees would have to be felled and the amenities of the Forest would be spoiled. He had suggested an alternative route, partly over the Forest and partly over other land, in which he was interested in

another capacity, and had been successful in persuading the Weir Wood Water Board to agree to this route being adopted. New plans would be submitted in due course. The Clerk's action was approved.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk for his interest and trouble in saving the felling of the trees and thus preserving the amenities of the Forest.

8. Finance.

Since the last meeting the following amounts have been collected:

RATES	41.14.0.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	41.5.6.
COMPENSATION RENTS	18.16.8.

Bank accounts showing the following Balances.

GENERAL ACCOUNT	140.9.11.
WAGES ACCOUNT	27.10.7.
PETTY CASH ACCOUNT	11.15.11.

Accounts for payment.

Ferguson & Ferguson, Crowborough	21.9.0.
Ashdown Garage Ltd., Chelwood Gate.	6.4.10.
Petty Cash account	45.4.1.
C.J. Thorne & Co. Ltd. Fairwarp.	69.0.0.

9. Any other business. The Clerk read a letter received from Mr. A.C. Wolfson requesting permission from the Conservators to erect swings and roundabouts on the Cricket Ground at Forest Row in connection with the Coronation festivities.

The Board discussed this matter at length and the Chairman proposed, seconded by Colonel Clarke, that permission be given provided the site was approved on behalf of the Board and that no responsibility rested on the Board for maintenance.

Mr. Owen proposed, seconded by Mr. Griffin, that permission be not granted as no need for the swings and roundabouts had been established and they would spoil the amenities of the Forest.

The vote was taken on the amendment and lost. The Chairman's proposal was then put to the vote and was carried against three dissentients.

Mr. Wolfson then asked permission for a bonfire to be lit on the Forest on Coronation night. This was approved provided the local fire brigade was present.

IN COMMITTEE

A. Improved Grazing on the Forest. The Chairman reported that he in company with Mr. Raikes had visited the experimental seeded areas near the Vetchery and where seed had been sown without special preparation grass was showing but had been eaten by rabbits.

Mr. Raikes confirmed the Chairman's report and referred the meeting to his original report that without fencing against rabbits grass could not survive.

Colonel Clarke reported that he had discussed this matter with the expert, Sir William Gavin, who endorsed Mr. Raikes' report as to fencing. He had further ascertained that it would necessary for legislation to be passed in Parliament before fencing could be erected on the Forest.

The Board proposed that Colonel Clarke should draft a short statement on the subject for the Board.

B. Overhead wires near Pound Gate School. The Clerk reported that in Company with the Chairman he had met the officials of the Electricity Board and the East Sussex County Council County Planning Department on the site and this matter was now completed to the satisfaction of the Board.

C. Saw benches on the Forest. The Clerk reported that he was awaiting the date of an appointment to meet the Vice Chairman and Mr. Warburton to visit these saw benches.

The Chairman supported that this visit should be made with as little delay as possible.

S. J. Marsh Chairman