

CORSE LAWN REGULATED PASTURELAND

Information for all residents and pasture owners on Corse Lawn

This information sheet has been produced and circulated to ensure that all residents on Corse Lawn are aware of the history and regulations relating to the regulated pastureland and to know who to contact with any queries.

The common fields and common meadows of the parish of Eldersfield were inclosed in 1845 but no attempt was made to inclose the "waste land" until 1860 when the Inclose Commissioners for England and Wales issued a provisional Order for the inclose of the waste land. The Inclose Act 1861 enacted that the inclose should be proceeded with.

A provision in the Inclosure Act 1845 enacted that any persons whose interest in the land to be inclosed should together exceed in value one half of the whole interest could ask the Commissioners to direct that the waste land should be converted into a regulated pastureland to be stocked and depastured in common by the persons interested in proportion to their rights and interests. The necessary majority of persons asked the Commissioners to do this for Eldersfield Marsh and Corse Lawn and the award was made in 1865, turning the Marsh and Corse Lawn into regulated pasturelands.

Six acres of the waste land were allotted to the Churchwardens as recreation land and allotments for the labouring poor of the parish. A further one acre was allotted to the Churchwardens as a site for a Chapel and school.

The Award of 1865 awarded private roads of 12 feet width for the benefit of old inclosures adjoining the pastureland. Such roads to be paid for and maintained by the owners of such old inclosures. These private roads should only be stoned. Apart from these roads, which are clearly defined on the Award map, the construction of any other road across the pastureland to give access to land or new houses bordering on the regulated pastureland is unlawful.

Before statutory inclose, common pastures were owned by a number of persons in undivided shares. The Law of Property Act 1925 enacted that where land was held in common before that date, it should in future be held by not more than four of the owners in trust for themselves and the remainder of the owners. However, under the provisions of the Act the ownership of Corse Lawn regulated pastureland was vested in the Public Trustee for the benefit of all owners. The Public Trustee does not in any way manage the land.

Corse Lawn regulated pastureland is divided into 342 stints (sheep pastures). Each sheep pasture allows one sheep to pasture on the regulated pastureland. Two sheep pastures allow pasture of one other animal under one year old, three sheep pastures allow pasture of one other animal under three years, and five sheep pastures allow pasture of a milk cow or other animal over three years. No pigs are allowed to pasture on the regulated pastureland. Pasture owners can depasture their animals over the whole of the pastureland.

The Inclosure Act also provides that any person having any animals on the pastureland contrary to the regulations should on conviction before Magistrates pay a penalty.

Some stints are attached to parcels of land and cannot be sold separately from the land; if the land is sold, the stints transfer with the sale. Others are not attached and can be sold separately. The reeves hold a list of the ownership of the stints. Any changes of ownership should be notified to the Secretary.

The Law of Property Act 1925 enacted that it is unlawful to erect any building or fence or to construct any other work or put any obstruction on the pastureland whereby access to the pastureland is prevented or impeded.

All hedges and ditches adjoining the regulated pastureland are owned by the occupiers. It is their responsibility to cut back hedges to ensure they do not grow onto the pastureland and to ensure a free flow of water along the ditches.

The Inclosure Act required that the pasture owners should meet on the first Monday in every February to elect reeves to regulate and manage the pastureland. All pasture owners are invited to attend these annual general meetings where the Treasurer presents the Annual Treasurer's Report. At the AGM the reeves elect a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for the year ahead. Further meetings are held throughout the year as required. The role and responsibility of the reeves is to maintain the pastureland and ensure that it is preserved as such for the benefit of all the pasture owners.

Any queries or concerns regarding the pastureland should be directed to one of the current reeves listed below:

Alan Cooper, Chairman 01452 780371

Pat Crockett, Secretary 01452 780257

Barry Yoxall, Treasurer 01452 780582

Mary Mitchell 01452 780683 Richard Ridley 01452 780721

Dick Hiorns 01452 780648 Ellen Challoner 01452 780758

Any pasture owner who is interested in becoming a reeve should contact the Secretary for further information.

Secretary, March 2017

