

MITCHAM COMMON CONSERVATORS

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATORS  
AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended  
31ST MARCH 2022



DSK Partners LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors

MITCHAM COMMON CONSERVATORS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31st MARCH 2022

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Contents

Page:

Chair's Foreword	1
Statement of Members' Responsibilities	2
Report of the Auditors	3
Statement of Financial Position	5
Income Statement	6
Notes to the Financial Statements	7
Maintenance of Common	8

### Membership

The members of the Board for the year and their attendance at the 4 Board meetings were:

Mr John Cheetham	(4/4)
Councillor David Dean	(2/2)
Councillor Nina Degrad	(1/4)
Ms Alison Dines	(3/4)
Councillor Nick Draper (Chair)	(4/4)
Ms Anne Fairweather (Vice-Chair)	(3/4)
Mr Neil Garratt	(0/4)
Councillor Joan Henry	(3/4)
Mr Maurice Groves	(0/2)
Mr Norman Jones	(4/4)
Councillor Russell Makin	(4/4)
Councillor Andrew Pelling	(3/4)
Councillor Chris Williams	(4/4)

### Governance

The Board of Conservators is made up of representatives of the three London Boroughs of Merton, Sutton and Croydon. Each sends four representatives. The City of London sends a single representative. Together, they form the Board of the Mitcham Common Conservators. Four committee meetings are held each year. The Agenda and Minutes are placed in the public domain on our web site. [www.mitchamcommon.org](http://www.mitchamcommon.org). The Board also hold two site inspections every year.

Much work is delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair to ensure the smooth running of the Board's work programme between meetings.

### Management

Merton Council act as the Board's agent and employ a manager and warden to undertake the maintenance of the Common in accordance with an agreed management plan.

### Budget

Mitcham Common is run extremely frugally. The Conservators monitor the budget at every meeting to ensure that we remain within agreed estimates or take corrective action.

This financial year the funding from Merton Council was £24,105, Croydon and Sutton Councils no longer provide any funding towards the maintenance of the Common.

### Unallocated Financial Reserves

Page 5 of the Financial Statements shows that as at 31st March 2022 a total of £735,247 was held in bank accounts. Of this, £183,686 covers Current Liabilities and of the remaining £551,561, £209,587 is allocated to the Equipment Replacement and Capital Projects funds leaving £341,974 unallocated.

### Issues

The following highlights some of the wide range of issues the Conservators had to consider over the year in review:

1. On-going discussion with representatives of Sutton Council and the local community on resolving the issue of unauthorised motorbike activity on the Hackbridge boundary with the Common.
2. Agreement to work with Mitcham Golf Club on future joint projects aimed at raising additional income for the Club.
3. Willow Lane project completion.
4. Agreement to actively engage with music event promoters with the aim of holding events on the Common in future years.
5. On-going dialogue with Sutton Council on planning application to re-develop Beddington Industrial Estate.
6. In response to a request from the Friends of Mitcham Common for funding to undertake a hedgehog survey on the Common, the Board referred the matter to the Mitcham Common Education Trust for their consideration.
7. Discussion on the impact of Storm Eunice which highlighted the need for a future roadside tree maintenance programme to be implemented on the Common.



Councillor Martin Whelton  
Chair, Mitcham Common Conservators

Date:

7/6/2023

#### STATEMENT OF MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The members are responsible for preparing the Report of the Members and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the members have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. Under legislation applicable to the members must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the common and of the profit or loss of the common for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the common will continue in business.

The members are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the common's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the common and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the common and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT  
TO  
MITCHAM COMMON CONSERVATORS**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Mitcham Common Conservators (the 'entity') for the year ended 31st March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Position, Income Statement and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 1A 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the entity's affairs as at 31st March 2022 and of its surplus for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs UK) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the members' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the members' have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the entity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**Other information**

The members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information in the Report of the Members, but does not include the financial statements and our Report of the Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in regards to this.

**Opinion on the other matters**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Members for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Members has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the entity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Members.

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of members' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or



**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT  
TO  
MITCHAM COMMON CONSERVATORS**

### **Responsibilities of members**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Member's Responsibilities set out on the page three, the members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the members determine necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the members are responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the members either intend to liquidate the entity or cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Using our general commercial and sector experience and through discussions with the directors and management, we identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements as well as those arising from management's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error.
- We examined the company's regulatory and legal correspondence and discussed with the directors and management any known or suspected instances of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We communicated identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.
- In addressing the risk of management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries. We also challenged assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates and judgements.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentation, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditors-responsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditors-responsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Auditors.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the entity's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the entity's members those matters we are required to state to them in a Report of the Auditors and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the entity and the entity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Romit Basu FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

**for and on behalf of:**

**DSK Partners LLP**

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

DS House

306 High Street

Croydon

Surrey

CR0 1NG

Date: **07/06/2023**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
as at 31st March 2022

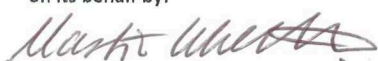
		2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
QUOTED INVESTMENTS at Market Value			1,463,481		1,376,386
CURRENT ASSETS					
SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS					
Insurance in advance		356		362	
Due from brokers		17,442		122	
			17,798		484
TAILORED ACCOUNT	Unity Trust Bank	10,361		13,040	
RESERVE ACCOUNT	Unity Trust Bank	724,886		686,847	
			735,247		699,887
			2,216,526		2,076,757
Deduct: CURRENT LIABILITIES					
CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS					
Maintenance of Common		180,686		161,116	
Audit and Accountancy fees		3,000		3,540	
Other creditors		-		3,000	
Licence Fees Deferred		-		-	
			(183,686)		(167,656)
NET ASSETS		£	2,032,841	£	1,909,101
REPRESENTED BY:					
GENERAL ACCUMULATED FUND					
Balance as at 1st April 2021		1,699,514		1,435,589	
Add: Excess of income over expenditure		123,739		263,925	
Less: Movement in the year		305,556		0	
			2,128,809		1,699,514
EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND					
Balance as at 1st April 2021		20,109		20,109	
			20,109		20,109
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND					
Balance as at 1st April 2021		189,478		189,478	
Add: Movement in the year		305,556		-	
			116,078		189,478
		£	2,032,841	£	1,909,101

**INCOME STATEMENT**  
for the year ended 31st MARCH 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
<u>Corporation Grants</u>				
London Borough of Merton	24,104		24,104	
Rural Payments Agency	6,333	30,437	6,333	30,437
<u>Licence Fees</u>				
M Hammond	-		-	
Mitchell and Butlers	10,000		10,000	
London Borough of Merton	25,405	35,405	1,588	11,588
<u>Miscellaneous receipts</u>				
LUCA	-		-	
Sundries	31		12	
Herne Hill Harriers	970		-	
Onsite Central	-		6,000	
The film off	-		550	
London Borough of Merton (consultancy fees)	1,684	2,685	15,023	21,585
Mitcham Golf Club Trustees		76,265		57,750
Dividends and Interest on investments		76,677		53,170
Wayleaves		517		381
Interest		434		705
		222,421		175,616
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Fees and Expenses- Clerk to the Conservators	1,930		400	
Maintenance of Common	180,685		161,115	
Audit Fee and Accountancy	3,120		3,780	
Insurance	770		582	
Consultancy	-		-	
Professional Fees	-		467	
Bank Charges	72		398	
Sundry Expenses	-		-	
Fair refundable deposit	-		-	
Other refundable deposits	500		750	
Redm Bent			-	
		187,077		167,492
Surplus before sale of investments		35,344		8,124
Net Profit/(Loss) on sales of Investments		1,874		1,956
Change in Market value of Investments		86,521		253,845
<b>BALANCE TRANSFERRED (FROM)/TO GENERAL ACCUMULATED FUND</b>		<b>£ 123,739</b>		<b>£ 263,925</b>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Conservators on  
on its behalf by:

and were signed



7/6/2023

M. Whelton  
Chairman

07/06/2023



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31st MARCH 2022

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**1 OBJECTS OF THE SCHEME**

The scheme with respect to Mitcham Common and Beddington Corner was confirmed by The Metropolitan Commons (Mitcham) Supplemental Act 1891 and requires the Conservators to regulate and manage the Commons as a place of public resort (other lands included in the scheme were removed from it under the provisions of the Mitcham Urban District Council Act 1923).

**2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Accounting Convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 1A for small companies "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Currency

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is also the functional currency of the company and rounded to the nearest pound.

Quoted Investments

Quoted Investments are stated at Market Value.

Dividends and Interest on Investments

Interest and dividends are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Other Income

Other Income is included in the period to which it relates.

Expenses

Expenses are recorded in the Financial Statements in the period in which they are incurred.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which the conservators consider appropriate. The Committee of Management have reviewed management accounts, projections and forecasts for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. On the basis of this review the committee believe it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

**3 APB ETHICAL STANDARD- PROVISIONS AVAILABLE FOR SMALL ENTITIES**

In common with many other businesses of our small size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

**4 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE**

Mitcham Common Conservators as at 31st March 2022 recharged expenses of £180,686 to Merton Council.

**MAINTENANCE OF THE COMMON**  
**Year ended 31st March 2022**

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries- Manager and Warden	105,302	109,587
Other duties	-	-
<u>Transport</u>		
Petrol, Derv and Oil	597	40
Repairs and Maintenance of Vehicles	1,000	2,425
Transport SLA/Rech-Dir Non Std	3,231	2,120
Plant Hire for Leisure	1,628	3,760
Car/ Cycle Allowance- payroll	620	568
<u>Supplies and Services</u>		
Tree Work	8,275	2,163
Removal Rubbish/ Spoil	4,280	5,540
Electricity		354
Gas (Inc. Butane)	803	822
Use of Water (Metered)	(3,379)	18
Maintenance of grounds	14,145	4,134
Nature Conservation	12,325	15,217
BT equipment	1,477	-
Tools - Purchase	-	7
Bailliffs	390	-
Internal Printing	228	250
Print room costs	147	-
Consultancy	339	339
Building cleaning	702	(186)
Miscellaneous expenses	943	1,207
Telephones- General	200	1,682
Telephones- Payroll	252	252
Telephones- Mobile	174	241
IT licenses applications		144
IT Hardware Purchase	29	75
Website Design and Maintenance	282	355
Accountancy and Administration- LBM	10,000	10,000
Graphic design	(305)	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>163,391</b>	<b>161,115</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>		
Mitcham Common Education Trust	-	-
Mitcham Common Environment Trust	-	-
<b>Net Expenditure recharged by London Borough of Merton</b>	<b>£ 163,391</b>	<b>£ 161,115</b>

This page does not form part of the audited financial statements.