MITCHAM COMMON CONSERVATORS

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATORS
AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended
31ST MARCH 2023

DSK

DSK Partners LLP
Chartered Accountants &
Statutory Auditors

MITCHAM COMMON CONSERVATORS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31st MARCH 2023

Contents

Membership

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

Mr John Cheetham	(1/2)
Ms Alison Dines	(4/4)
Councillor Richard Clifton	(2/3)
Ms Anne Fairweather (Vice-Chair)	(4/4)
Councillor Simon Fox	(0/4)
Councillor Neil Garratt	(0/4)
Councillor Jenifer Gould	(4/4)
Councillor Matt Griffiths	(3/4)
Councillor Natasha Irons	(3/4)
Councillor Dan Johnston	(2/4)
Mr Norman Jones	(4/4)
Councillor Chrishni Reshekaron	(1/4)
Councillor Martin Whelton	(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 website. 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 6 of the Financial Statements shows that as at 31st March 2023 a total of £775,359 was held in bank accounts. Of this, £210,434 covers Current Liabilities and of the remaining £564,924, £209,587 is allocated to the Equipment Replacement and Capital Projects funds leaving £355,338 unallocated.

Issues

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

1. In August a gas explosion in Galpins Road lead to the construction of a temporary road over part of the Common and emergency repairs to a gas main running across the Common from Croydon Road to Galpins Road. A retrospective licence agreement with the Conservators will ensure that the Common is fully reinstated once repairs and emergency works have been completed.
2. Mitcham Common Management Plan 2023-2028 adopted.
3. Mitcham Golf Club 3-year rental review completed and revised rent agreed.
4. Licence agreement with Merton Council permitting the construction of a raised pedestrian crossing near the Commonside East/Manor Road junction.
5. Dialogue with Merton and Sutton Councils regarding improvements to the Goat Road/London Road junction.
6. Renewal of advertising signage licence with Mitchells & Butlers Retails LTD.
7. Mr John Cheetham appointed Honorary Conservator of Mitcham Common

Martin Whelton

Councillor Martin Whelton
Chair, Mitcham Common Conservators
Date: 10th July, 2024.

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 2023 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 2023 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 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 ww.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: 10/07/2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 31st March 2023

		2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
QUOTED INVESTMENTS at Market Value			1,344,396		1,463,481
CURRENT ASSETS					
SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS					
Insurance in advance		343		356	
Due from brokers		18		17,442	
			361		17,798
TAILORED ACCOUNT	Unity Trust Bank	26,753		10,361	
RESERVE ACCOUNT	Unity Trust Bank	748,606		724,886	
			775,359		735,247
			2,120,116		2,216,526
Deduct: CURRENT LIABILITIES					
CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS					
Maintenance of Common		207,384		180,686	
Audit and Accountancy fees		3,050		3,000	
			(210,434)		(183,686)
NET ASSETS			**1,909,682**		£ **2,032,841**
<u>REPRESENTED BY:</u>					
GENERAL ACCUMULATED FUND					
Balance as at 1st April 2022		2,128,809		1,699,514	
Add: Excess of income over expenditure		(123,158)		123,739	
Less: Movement in the year		305,556		305,556	
			1,700,095		2,128,809
EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND					
Balance as at 1st April 2022		20,109		20,109	
			20,109		20,109
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND					
Balance as at 1st April 2022		(116,078)		189,478	
Add: Movement in the year		305,556		(305,556)	
			189,478		(116,078)
			1,909,682		£ **2,032,841**

INCOME STATEMENT
for the year ended 31st MARCH 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Corporation Grants				
London Borough of Merton	24,104		24,104	
Rural Payments Agency	6,333	30,437	6,333	30,437
Licence Fees				
M Hammond	21,928		13,165	
Mitchell and Butlers	10,000		10,000	
London Borough of Merton	1,250		-	
Tropic Skincare	4,450			
Cricket green school	100		-	
London Borough Sutton	650	38,378	-	
				23,165
Miscellaneous receipts				
LUCA	350		550	
Morticuran	-		75	
Pandora event	6,750		6,750	
Wild in the City	97		31	
Herne Hill Harriers	-		970	
Donation	87		-	
Filmfixer	-		-	
London Borough of Merton (consultancy fees)	20,884		19,714	
J. Keller Bench	900		-	
		29,068		28,090
Mitcham Golf Club Trustees		63,100		63,100
Dividends and Interest on investments		60,929		76,677
Wayleaves		470		517
Interest		8,125		434
		230,507		222,420
EXPENDITURE				
Fees- Incl fees to Clerk to the Conservators	1,280		600	
Maintenance of Common	207,384		180,685	
Audit Fee and Accountancy	4,124		3,120	
Insurance	777		770	
Bank Charges	72		72	
Sundry Expenses	-		730	
Fair refundable deposit	1,000		900	
Pandora refundable deposits	3,000		200	
		217,637		187,077
Surplus before sale of investments		12,870		35,343
Net Profit/(Loss) on sales of investments		13,142		1,874
Change in Market value of Investments		(149,170)		86,521
BALANCE TRANSFERRED (FROM)/TO GENERAL ACCUMULATED FUND	£	**(123,158)**	£	**123,738**

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

M.Whelton
Chairman

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31st MARCH 2023

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 2023 recharged expenses of £207,384 to Merton Council.

MAINTENANCE OF THE COMMON
Year ended 31st March 2023

	2023		2022	
	£		£	
EXPENDITURE				
Employees				
Salaries- Manager and Warden	118,036		105,302	
Other duties	315		-	
Petrol, Derv and Oil	710		597	
Repairs and Maintenance of Vehicles	863		1,000	
Transport SLA/Rech-Dir Non Std	2,150		3,231	
Plant Hire for Leisure	3,560		1,628	
Car/ Cycle Allowance- payroll	573		620	
Supplies and Services				
Tree Work	8,760		8,275	
Removal Rubbish/ Spoil	12,080		4,280	
Electricity	949		-	
Gas (Inc. Butane)	2,291		803	
Use of Water (Metered)	283		(3,379)	
Maintenance of grounds	25,501		14,145	
Nature Conservation	15,728		12,325	
BT Equipment	-		1,477	
Internal Printing	213		228	
Print room costs	772		(147)	
Balliffs	-		390	
Cosultancy	384		339	
Building cleaning	699		702	
Miscellaneous expenses	729		943	
Graphic design	-		(305)	
Telephones- General	1,834		200	
Telephones- Payroll	252		252	
Telephones- Mobile	303		174	
IT licenses applications	145		-	
IT Hardware Purchase	-		29	
Website Design and Maintenance	254		282	
Accountancy and Administration- LBM	10,000		10,000	
Total Expenditure		207,384		163,391
TOTAL INCOME		-		-
Net Expenditure				
Mitcham Common Education Trust		-		
Mitcham Common Enviornment Trust		-		
Net Expenditure recharged by London Borough of Merton	£	**207,384**	£	**163,391**

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