

MITCHAM COMMON CONSERVATORS

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATORS
AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended
31ST MARCH 2021



DSK Partners LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

MITCHAM COMMON CONSERVATORS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31st MARCH 2021

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Membership

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

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

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 meetings are held each year; this year the March meeting was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Agenda and Minutes are placed in the public domain on our web site. www.mitchamcommon.org

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 4 of the Financial Statements shows that as at 31st March 2021 a total of £699,887 was held in bank accounts. Of this, £167,656 covers Current Liabilities and of the remaining £532,231, £251,218 is allocated to the Equipment Replacement and Capital Projects funds leaving £281,013 unallocated.

Issues

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

1. Up to five-fold increase in visitor numbers due to Covid-19 restrictions
2. Seven Islands Pond and One Island Pond destocked of fish in response to complaints about antisocial behaviour.
3. Representation of Merton's Local Plan submitted to the Council.
4. Mitcham Garden Village Trustees were granted a licence to install pedestrian path from the Village to Cranmer Road.
5. On-going dialogue with Merton Council with regard Willow Lane fly-tipping. This matter is still unresolved
6. Replacement of Beddington Lane Medium Pressure Gas Main on the Common.
7. Board submitted representation to Sutton Council on planning application to re-develop Beddington Industrial Estate.
8. In response to a request from the Friends of Mitcham Common, the Board resolved to compile monthly news bulletin for the Friends.
9. Appointment of Mr Richard Bailey as an Honorary Conservator of Mitcham Common

Councillor Nick Draper
Chair, Mitcham Common Conservators

Date:

2/6/22



**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 2021 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 2021 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**

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Responsibilities of members

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:

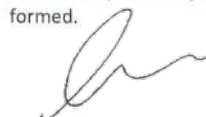
- Using our general commercial and sector experience and through discussions with the directors and management, we identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements as well as those arising from management's own assessment 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. 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

75 Park Lane

Croydon

Surrey

CR9 1XS

Date: **08/06/2022**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 31st March 2021

		2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
QUOTED INVESTMENTS at Market Value			1,376,386		1,121,181
CURRENT ASSETS					
SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS					
Insurance in advance		362		180	
Due from brokers		122		6	
			484		186
TAILORED ACCOUNT	Unity Trust Bank	13,040		8,458	
RESERVE ACCOUNT	Unity Trust Bank	686,847		682,283	
			699,887		690,741
			2,076,757		1,812,108
Deduct: CURRENT LIABILITIES					
CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS					
Maintenance of Common		161,116		163,392	
Audit and Accountancy fees		3,540		3,540	
Other creditors		3,000			
Licence Fees Deferred		-		-	
			(167,656)		(166,932)
NET ASSETS			£ 1,909,101		£ 1,645,176
REPRESENTED BY:					
GENERAL ACCUMULATED FUND					
Balance as at 1st April 2020		1,435,589		1,622,573	
Add: Excess of income over expenditure		263,925		(171,770)	
Less: Transfer to Capital Projects Fund		-		(15,214)	
			1,699,514		1,435,589
EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND					
Balance as at 1st April 2020		20,109		20,109	
			20,109		20,109
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND					
Balance as at 1st April 2020		189,478		174,264	
Add: Transfer from General Accumulated Fund		-		15,214	
			189,478		189,478
			£ 1,909,101		£ 1,645,176

INCOME STATEMENT
for the year ended 31st MARCH 2021

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
<u>Corporation Grants</u>				
London Borough of Merton	24,104		37,304	
Rural Payments Agency	6,333	30,437	16,107	53,412
<u>Licence Fees</u>				
M Hammond	-		5,040	
Mitchell and Butlers	10,000		12,603	
London Borough of Merton	1,588		21,343	
		11,588		38,986
<u>Miscellaneous receipts</u>				
LUCA	-		-	
Sundries	12		662	
B&M McHugh	-		-	
Onsite Central	6,000		-	
The Film Off	550		-	
London Borough of Merton (consultancy fees & Misc)	15,023		-	
		21,585		662
Mitcham Golf Club Trustees		57,750		63,000
Dividends and Interest on investments		53,170		66,891
Wayleaves		381		381
Interest		705		2,666
		175,617		225,998
EXPENDITURE				
Fees and Expenses- Clerk to the Conservators	400		800	
Maintenance of Common	161,115		163,391	
Audit Fee and Accountancy	3,780		3,540	
Insurance	582		764	
Consultancy	-		828	
Professional Fees	467		467	
Bank Charges	398		72	
Sundry Expenses	-		155	
Fair refundable deposit	-		-	
Other refundable deposits	750		1,478	
		167,492		171,496
Surplus before sale of investments		8,124		54,502
Net Profit/(Loss) on sales of investments		1,956		434
Change in Market value of Investments		253,845		(226,706)
BALANCE TRANSFERRED (FROM)/TO GENERAL ACCUMULATED FUND				
		£ 263,925		-£ 171,770

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

and were signed

N.Draper
Chairman

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31st MARCH 2021**

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 2021 recharged expenses of £161,115 to Merton Council.

MAINTENANCE OF THE COMMON
Year ended 31st March 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
EXPENDITURE		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries- Manager and Warden	109,587	105,302
Other duties	-	-
<u>Transport</u>		
Petrol, Derv and Oil	40	597
Repairs and Maintenance of Vehicles	2,425	1,000
Transport SLA/Rech-Dir Non Std	2,120	3,231
Plant Hire for Leisure	3,760	1,628
Car/ Cycle Allowance- payroll	568	620
<u>Supplies and Services</u>		
Tree Work	2,163	8,275
Removal Rubbish/ Spoil	5,540	4,280
Electricity	354	282
Gas (Inc. Butane)	822	803
Use of Water (Metered)	18	(3,779)
Maintenance of grounds	4,134	14,145
Nature Conservation	15,217	12,325
BT equipment	-	1,477
Tools - Purchase	7	-
Bailiffs	-	390
Internal Printing	250	228
Print room costs	-	-
Consultancy	339	339
Building cleaning	(186)	702
Miscellaneous expenses	1,207	943
Telephones- General	1,682	200
Telephones- Payroll	252	252
Telephones- Mobile	241	174
IT licenses applications	144	-
IT Hardware Purchase	75	29
Website Design and Maintenance	355	253
Accountancy and Administration- LBM	10,000	10,000
Graphic design	-	(305)
Total Expenditure	161,115	163,391
TOTAL INCOME	-	-
Net Expenditure		
Mitcham Common Education Trust	-	1,040.00
Mitcham Common Environment Trust	-	5,213.00
Net Expenditure recharged by London Borough of Merton	£ 161,115	£ 169,644

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