

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MITCHAM COMMON CONSERVATORS**  
**(A Statutory Corporation constituted by the Metropolitan Commons**  
**(Mitcham) Supplemental Act 1891)**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 AT 6.30pm**

**Present:**

**Cllr. N. Draper (Chairman)**

**Mr. J. Cheetham**

**Cllr D. Dean**

**Ms A. Dines**

**Mr. N. Jones**

**Cllr R. Makin**

**Cllr C. Williams**

**In Attendance:**

**Mr. M. Boyle – Manager of Mitcham Common**

**Mr. P. Moorhouse - Warden**

**Absent:**

**Cllr. N. Degrad**

**Cllr. N. Garratt**

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**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The Chair thanked Maurice Groves for his 7 years of service.

**1. Appointment of Conservators**

London Borough of Merton: Councillor David Dean appointed until May 2022

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Ms Anne Fairweather.

Cllr Joan Henry

Cllr Andrew Pelling

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

**4. Minutes (enclosed) of the last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate account.

## **5. Matters Arising**

Pg. 2 – Croydon Council still not confirmed J. Cheetham appointment. It has been reported there are bottlenecks because of reduced staffing level in Democratic Services.

Pg. 2 – Redhouse Road planning application decision expected within the next few weeks.

Pg. 3 – Events:

- The November run went well. 800 runners are expected for the January run and 4 portaloos have been recommended.
- The website events page is work in progress.

Pg. 3 – Croydon Road shared path: no representation to cabinet member as of yet.

## **6. Administration and Management Report**

Conservators were in receipt of the report. The Warden highlighted key information from the motorbikes meeting, explaining Sutton Officers will attempt to have their fence line repaired, then require Day Group to repair their boundary fence with the Gunsite. A future problem solving meeting has been scheduled with Sutton.

## **7. Income and Expenditure (Until November 2021)**

The Manager explained some key points:

- Expenditure will not be overspent.
- Investment is doing ok and will make the base estimate.
- Spring fair took place.
- Facility licence income is higher because of the Pandora event.
- Professional fees are difficult to estimate hence the variance.
- Income levels are higher than anticipated and it is therefore unlikely that a reserves transfer will be required this financial year. However with a base figure for expenditure likely to be greater than income in future years, other income streams need to be explored in order to set a balanced budget.

## **8. Investments: Portfolio Valuation (enclosed for members) – report from Mr Richard Auld**

- Recommends no changes at this meeting.
- Ms A Fairweather will head an Ethical Investments Committee.

**9. Friends of Mitcham Common** – To report on recent activities and raise any relevant matters

Friends' September report was omitted from the last Minutes. Below is a summary of the Membership Secretary's report for both September and December 2021:

**September**

- Since March we have gained 25 new Friends and our membership total is now 310, this includes 32 honorary Friends.
- Welcomed the new Mayor, Michael Brunt, to a Magpie Meet at the Miller & Carter on 20 May.
- Engaged with the Pollards Pop-Up Bus Shelter project and led a walk for them at the beginning of September which included a visit to the community/arts/garden space behind the Ravensbury Arms car park. We also had a stall at the Hadley Road Community Allotment.
- The Manager has given us permission, in principle, to do some tree planting on Mill Hill. We are planning to have a copse near Janet's new bench and it is hoped that this might be planted before our Open Day next year.
- Requested confirmation of the staffing costs for the use of the Ecology Centre for Open Day next year.

**December**

- Will be welcoming the Mayor at our Magpie Meet on Thursday 2 December and also at our Friends' Xmas party on Tuesday 14 December, for which the Manager has given us permission to use the Ecology Centre.
- During a recent litter-pick, evidence was found of an address in some litter on Cedars Avenue so hopefully an FPN will be issued. Expressed concern at the fly tipping along Willow Lane.
- Expressed thanks for the pre-planting clearance undertaken by MCC prior to proposed tree planting outlined at September meeting.
- Emma Onyejekwe is interested in surveying the hedgehogs on Mitcham Common and will submit a report to the Manager detailing her proposal.

**10. Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust**

Mr J. Cheetham outlined recent activities and considerations:

- There has been no formal meeting.
- However, there has been a meeting of interested parties on 23/11/21

- Majority of trustees are in favour of continuing the trust provided money can be found. Potential funding could come from the Growback Fund or EU Horizons Fund. A part time fundraiser would need to be employed.
- It would appear that only Sutton remains fully committed to the Trust. Croydon, Wandsworth and Merton seem less committed. In light of this Conservators discussed current governance and questioned whether residents could run the Trust.

11. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022

12. Any Other Business – There was no other business

N/A  
7/3/22.