

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MITCHAM COMMON CONSERVATORS**  
**(A Statutory Corporation constituted by the Metropolitan Commons**  
**(Mitcham) Supplemental Act 1891)**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 September 2020 AT 6.30PM**

**Present:**

**Cllr. N. Draper (Chairman)**  
**Mr R. Bailey (Vice Chairman)**  
**Mr. J. Cheetham**  
**Ms. A. Fairweather**  
**Cllr. J. Henry**  
**Cllr. R. Makin**

**In Attendance:**

**Mr. M. Boyle – Manager of Mitcham Common**  
**Mr. P. Moorhouse - Warden**

**Absent:**

**Cllr. N. Degrads**  
**Cllr. N. Garratt**  
**Mr. M. Groves**  
**Cllr. A. Pelling**  
**Cllr. C. Williams**  
**Ms. A Dines**  
**Cllr. S. King**  
**Mr. D. Napier**

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**1. Appointment of Conservators**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

London Borough of Croydon: Councillors N. Degrads, A. Pelling, S. King and Mr. J. Cheetham appointed until 2021.

London Borough of Merton: Councillors N. Draper, J. Henry, R. Makin and Mr. M. Groves appointed until 2021.

London Borough of Sutton: Councillors C. Williams, N. Garratt, Ms A. Dines and Mr R. Bailey appointed until July 2021.

Corporation of the City of London: Ms A. Fairweather already appointed until May 2021.

**2. Appointment of Chairman**

Cllr N. Draper nominated and appointed

**3. Appointment of Vice Chairman**

Ms A. Fairweather nominated and appointed.

Warm praise and thanks were given to Mr R. Bailey for his dedicated and knowledgeable service over the last 17 years. He was handed a card and presented with an Honorary Mitcham Common Conservator framed certificate.

**4. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Ms A. Dines, Cllr A. Pelling, Cllr C. Williams, Cllr S. King and Mr D. Napier.

**5. Declarations of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate account and were duly signed and dated by the Chair and passed to the Manager.

**7. Matters Arising**

**Item 5** - The day after the board meeting Mr Auld advised that due to market uncertainty the recommendations should be put on hold. This was agreed by the chair. There have been no transactions since the March meeting.

**Item 6** – Tree damage work completed in March.

- Poor seed germination on Galpins Road re-instatement area. Further work undertaken by in-house staff with cost deduced from deposit held as part of licence agreement.

**Item 9** – Spring Inspection cancelled due to Covid.  
- June board meeting cancelled due to Covid.

## **8. Administration and Management Report**

The Manager explained the report was self explanatory.

**Impact of Covid-19 on visitor numbers March – June** – Conservators discussed and noted:

- Increase in visitor numbers an observational estimate
- Nice to see extra people but the litter was an issue
- Volunteers have helped considerably with litter collection
- More people have discovered the Common
- Greater diversity of people using the Common
- Common has a poor perception amongst some people, but new discoverers have no preconceived ideas
- Common looks clean
- No fishing and congregations rules flouted

**Impact of Covid-19 on visitor numbers June onwards** – Conservators discussed and noted:

- Parties were dispersed with help from the Police
- At the time of meeting visitor numbers had returned to normal and included new walkers of a greater diversity

**Impact of Covid-19 on Common maintenance:**

- Increased workload has required some maintenance tasks and administration have been delayed or deferred including the new Management Plan

### **Croydon Road Pedestrian Phase**

- Completed project noted
- Additional work required to 'strengthen' bund to prevent pedestrians using dangerous crossing to golf course. During the Annual Inspection Members commented that the informal crossing opposite One Island Pond barrier was a far safer place to cross.

**Acid Grassland Working Party-** Noted

**Dog Control: Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) - Conservators discussed:**

- Resolved to use Kingdom for enforcement if necessary

**9. Income and Expenditure until end of August 2020**

The Manager took Conservators through the figures and explained the predicted loss of £30,000. Conservators discussed:

- Could a donation page be set up on the website
- People may value the Common more if they donate towards its upkeep
- The Conservators are not a registered charity would this be beneficial

**RESOLVED: Manager to investigate options for website 'donations page' and options for Mitcham Common Conservators to pursue charitable status.**

**10. Friends of Mitcham Common**

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the Friends of Mitcham Common did not attend the meeting. It was noted that the secretary Mr J. Kirby has resigned and there was no report from them. They have been active collecting litter around the Common.

**11. Investments: Portfolio valuation (enclosed for members)**

No transactions in recent months.

Ms A. Fairweather agreed to become a member on both the investment sub group and ethical sub group.

**12. Appointment to Mitcham Common Environmental Trust**

The appointment needs to be from Sutton so was deferred until December meeting because no-one from Sutton was present.

**13. Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust**

Mr J. Cheetham reported the trustees had not met for over 12 months. Both he and Cllr N. Draper remained very sad at the current situation and agreed it needed somebody from Merton or Sutton to take leadership.

**14. Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020**

**15. Any Other Business - none**