

**MINUTES of the 580th Meeting of the BANSTEAD COMMONS CONSERVATORS
held on Saturday 21st April 2018 at The Banstead Centre, The Horseshoe, Banstead.**

Present: Mr. J Peacock Chairman
Mr. J McCrae
Cllr. V Broad
Cllr. G Curry
Mr. J Milner Clerk
Warden

Also present was Alan Higgs.

Part 1

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. R Mantle, Mr. J Mill, Mr. D Atkins, Mr. N Cull.

2. Appointment of Conservators and Election of Chairman

Cllr. G Curry was welcomed as a newly appointed member of the Conservators. Cllr. Broad and John Mill have been re-appointed for a further 3 year term. John Peacock was nominated as chairman for the forthcoming year by Cllr. Broad and seconded by John McCrea. The vote was in his favour and John Peacock was duly elected.

3. Minutes of last Meeting

The minutes were agreed as circulated and signed by the chairman.

3. Matters Arising

i. Environmental Stewardship

- a. **Grazing/Cut & Collect.** The chairman reported that he thought the sheep have been fantastic this year on both Park Downs and Banstead Downs but we will have to wait and see the beneficial effects of their grazing. Banstead Downs was mowed after the sheep had completed their grazing and the results look very favourable at this stage.
 - b. **Natural England.** There has been no specific contact with Natural England during the last three months in respect of Higher Level Stewardship Agreement.
- ii. **Travis Perkins** – This issue is still being pursued by Steve McLeod, RBBC. The Clerk will liaise further with him.
- iii. **Summer Walks** – Members were reminded that the first walk will be on Banstead Downs on Tuesday 1st May, meeting at Highdown Road at 6.00pm.

4. **125th Anniversary of Banstead Commons Conservators**

The chairman reported that the first draft had been completed but was in need of tidying up and editing. He hoped to circulate it soon.

5. **Warden's Report**

The Warden reported that the wet weather had curtailed some of the activities, particularly at the Sportsman end of the Heath. Everything has been tidied up but not necessarily finished and whereas it may be possible to catch up with some parts it will not be all as other seasonal tasks take precedence. Staff have been busy repairing fences and ditches and were now making a start on grass cutting. A sink hole had appeared on Blue Ball Green and was filled in but will be kept under scrutiny.

There then followed a discussion on Walton Pond and the possibility of there being a sink hole within the pond and the various means of diverting water into the pond to keep up the water levels.

Rubbish was still being dumped on Highdown Road pavements and then pushed back onto the commons. It was suggested that the Clerk talk to Lee Wilcox about the possibility of a camera, or dummy, near to the entrance of the road to act as a deterrent.

6. **Forthcoming Events**

John Peacock will attend Tadworth R.A. Annual Meeting and give a presentation on aspects of the commons.

7. **Any Other Business**

- i. **Burgh Heath Signage** – The planned signage in connection with the Preston Regeneration Plan is now in place should Conservators wish to view it.
- ii. **Notice Boards** – It was suggested and agreed that for operational reasons the staff take back the responsibility of renewing the information on the BCC notice boards.
- iii. **Request for a Bus Stop in Mill Lane** - A request had been received for a Bus Stop to be sited in Mill Road about 60 yards from the A217 junction. This would initially consist of a hard standing of 3 x 2 metres and a Bus Stop sign on a pole. No shelter would be required as passengers would only alight and not board the bus at this point.
The request was refused on the basis that although the requirements were minimal at the moment it was thought that they could grow in the future; 60 yards was too close to the turning off the A217 and to move further along Mill Road would put it in an area where vehicles parked to use the commons thus adding to a potentially dangerous situation, and passengers alighting for Kingswood at that stage were thought to be very few.
- iv. **Cutting of Brambles** - David Atkins had been spoken to by local residents requesting that the brambles on the 'Chinthurst' margin of the common be cut before they turn into bushes and sprouting trees. The

Warden agreed to cut them back at the appropriate and convenient time.

8. Dates of the Next Meetings

21st July 2018

20th October 2018