



**Meeting 592 of the BANSTEAD COMMONS CONSERVATORS
held on Saturday 17 July 2021**

MINUTES – Part 1

Present:	Mr. J Peacock, Chairman Mr. D Atkins Cllr. N Moses Cllr. P Harp	Mr. V Broad Mr. J Mill Mrs. L Shea, Clerk Warden
Apologies:	Nick Cull	
Public	David Talbot, Banstead Residents	Shaida Dorabjee, Local Resident
Gallery:	Association Ian Mockford, Tattenham & Preston Residents Association Paul Stevenson, Banstead Heath Consultative Group	

1. Minutes of the last meeting

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

2. Matters arising

Natural England carried out a site visit on Banstead Heath, Park Downs and Banstead Downs as the grant is coming to an end this year. Natural England's North Downs team visited Banstead Heath in the morning and met with John P, warden & clerk at Park Downs in the afternoon. Current grants that are replacing stewardship grants are directed at farms (as is the replacement for single farm payment), there is however a pot of money to extend current grant for another two years. If Natural England circulate a report on their visits, it was recognised that it should be shared with RBBC.

John M acknowledged the efforts of Richard and the team for their hard work.

Public Engagement – Three of our four Guided Walks have been held: two over Banstead Heath and one on Park Downs. Fully booked within two weeks – c. £250 raised in donations.

Four articles have been submitted to each of the Residents Association newsletters.

John P gave a talk to Banstead Horticultural Society and talks to the Burgh Heath & Banstead Resident Associations are planned for later this year.

Social Media Nadean M highlighted that we now have 927 followers of our Facebook Page and more people are sharing and commenting on posts.

Vic B would like us to raise awareness of our statutory obligations with the local community and Council.

Oak Processionary Moth on Banstead Downs; Natural England have stated that on SSSI sites nests must be removed by hand. Due to absence of funding for such work, management of the tree pest has been handed back to RBBC as landowner.

The Green at Tadworth. Conservators David A, John P and the Clerk met with RBBC to discuss the track. BCC to research what materials have been used on similar tracks on other commons, contact was made with Wimbledon & Putney and Epping Common Conservators. As the status of the track is questionable, tripartite meeting with residents and RBBC to be scheduled to discuss the way forward. Wayleaves/Easements were mentioned. As landowners, RBBC can issue wayleaves to residents. The track is registered as footpath (91) and therefore maintenance of the footpath would be the responsibility of Highways.

CIL funding bid has been submitted for the replacement tractor at £26K.



Banstead Downs Chalk Spoils. PC Katie Jarrett was in touch with Peter H regarding the motorbikes on the Common. Letter of authorisation has been issued to Surrey Police to enable them to drive vehicles on the Common. Meeting to be arranged with JET Enforcement Team, Surrey Police and BCC – it was suggested we should invite Natural England enforcement team.

3. Warden's report

Site management is going well. Managing a few breakdowns, tractor and Landrover. Grass is growing quickly due to the warm, wet weather and team concentrating on fire breaks and path cutting. Bracken control in-line with Natural England agreement, topping the bracken in compartments where there is more than 60%. Grassland Meadows will be cut in September. Flytipping hasn't been as bad in recent months, mainly garden waste/grass cuttings. RBBC spy camera has been parked on Mill Road which may be acting as a deterrent. Ash dieback work is on hold until summer tasks complete.

Ash trees at on the road outside Chinthurst School are being managed by RBBC (because of required road closures), works were scheduled for the summer holidays. Meeting with RBBC greenspaces scheduled for Thurs 22 July. List of Ash dieback trees has been sent to RBBC to be funded or managed directly.

4. AOB

Nadean M. highlighted Banstead Village Residents Association article and gave thanks to the Clerk.

Meeting closed at 10:30am

Dates of 2021 meetings:

- 16 October 2021

Banstead Commons Conservators is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Banstead Commons Conservators - Quarterly Meeting, October 2021

Time: Oct 16, 2021 09:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81678540599?pwd=ZE53TkxhbnpjZlFlU9JNDIIV3NBQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 7854 0599

Passcode: 985569