

**MINUTES of the 582<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the BANSTEAD COMMONS CONSERVATORS  
held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at The Banstead Centre, The Horseshoe, Banstead.**

**Present:** Mr. J Peacock Chairman  
Mr. J McCrae  
Cllr. V Broad  
Mr. R Mantle  
Mr. D Atkins  
Cllr. G Curry  
Mr. J Milner Clerk  
Warden

Also present was Alan Higgs and Ann Boyce.

**Part 1**

The chairman spoke about the sad loss of John Mill's wife Ros. Over the years Ros had been a good friend to Banstead Commons Conservators, particularly in her role as a councillor, and he wishes to formally record the condolences of all of the Conservators to John and his family.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Mr. J Mill  
Mr. N Cull

**2. 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.** Twenty-five sheep are now on Banstead Downs and, at the right time, they will be moved to Park Downs. Costs are slightly down on last year.

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** – A meeting had been held between Steve McLeod (RBBC) the Clerk and Warden with representatives of Travis Perkins when they agreed to re-site the fencing and gate on the line shown on the circulated photographs which is to our satisfaction. This is subject to their Legal department and the Lessor also being in agreement.

iii. **Summer Walks** – It was agreed that at least one Conservator with knowledge of the common be in attendance at each walk. A schedule will be drafted for next year's walks.

**4. 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Banstead Commons Conservators**

The Banstead Downs Golf Club 100 and 125 year anniversary booklets had proved useful but there was still a shortfall of old photographs for Banstead Heath and Burgh Heath. Various suggestions to obtain old photographs included advertising on social media or in local publications including the Tribute paper, the Banstead Challenger and the Surrey Mirror.

**5. Warden's Report**

The Warden reported that the last three months work had been routine and mainly grass cutting, including the Mill Field and Sportsman Field. The heritage sites have been cut and are kept tidy even though English Heritage no longer make a financial contribution. A good deal of time has been spent on blocking entrances to the common due to a large amount of travellers being in the area. They then have to be unblocked to allow legal access and then when necessary, blocked again. To date we have not had any unlawful intrusions onto the commons. Fly tipping has abated slightly, other than dumping of garden waste and next year we are expecting more trees than usual to have died due to drought conditions this year. Our fingerpost signs are renewed as necessary but the public footpath and bridleway signs, which are the responsibility of SCC Rights of Way are deteriorating badly and in some cases falling over which means they are not there for people to notice and therefore do not always follow the correct direction.

**6. Forthcoming Events**

None reported.

**7. Any Other Business**

- i. **Suggestion of Dog Poo Bins at New Road** – Ann Boyce had previously submitted an email and now spoke on the need for Dog Poo Bins on the common near New Road. She said that at times it was on the footpaths as well as on the common and was difficult to escape from. After a long discussion on the topic including current policy, picking up in plastic bags and then throwing them down or hanging them from trees, public education, no car parks on commons so no single entry point, it was determined that we would again try to raise public awareness by signage on notice boards. Cllr. Curry said that strategically placed black bins could also now accept dog mess which need to be better advertised, including on the actual bins.
- ii. **Tadworth & Walton Tree Wardens Group** - This group had asked if they could manage the small area of Burgh Heath to the south of Shelveys Way/A217 junction. Despite the fact that it would be time consuming for our staff to supervise and may be a dangerous road to go down it was thought that, if possible, we should do something to help them in what is a community activity. We will, therefore, meet with them and ask them to itemise what they would wish to do and produce a detailed work plan.
- iii. **Burgh Heath Pond** – Horley Piscatorial Society has won the RBBC tender to fish on 3 stretches of water including Burgh Heath Pond. Of the three, one is at Horley, which is close to their base, another is Earlswood Lakes

which is by far the largest, and Burgh Heath Pond which is the furthest away from them and is the smallest of the three, but, apparently, they intend to fish it regularly. David Atkins has circulated points we need to clarify with them and I will have a meeting with them in order to do so. Any further points to the Clerk please, sooner rather than later.

- iv. **Clearing the gulley at Mere Pond** – Cllr. Curry asked if there were any likely problems in clearing the gulley that runs into the Mere Pond to try to improve the flow of water. The Warden said there are no issues except they should be aware of rats having been there and the possibility of catching a virus from them which could be very nasty.
- v. **Clearing scrub on Banstead Downs Golf Course** – Alan Higgs asked if permission was required to clear some of the scrub to the right of the 4<sup>th</sup> hole on Banstead Downs Golf Course. It was thought no special permission was required but to be safe he should check with Georgina Terry of Natural England.

## 8.

### **Dates of the Next Meetings**

19<sup>th</sup> January 2019

27<sup>th</sup> April 2019 – note this is the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month as the 3<sup>rd</sup> is Easter week end.

20<sup>th</sup> July 2019

19<sup>th</sup> October 2019