

**MINUTES of the 584th Meeting of the BANSTEAD COMMONS CONSERVATORS
held on Saturday 27th April 2019 at The Banstead Centre, The Horseshoe, Banstead.**

Present: Mr. J Peacock Chairman
Mr. D Atkins
Mr. N Cull
Mr. J Milner Clerk
Warden

Also present were;

Ian Mockford, Heathside Place Resident
Fawid Daerni, Heathside Place Resident

Part 1

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr. J Mill
Cllr. V Broad
Mr. R Mantle
Cllr. G Curry

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.** The sheep have now completed their task in the pens on Park Downs and Banstead Downs and the areas they have grazed are looking really good.
- 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** – There has been no further movement on this issue and the Clerk will continue to liaise with Steve McLeod (RBBC) for an update on when the work may be completed.

iii. **Summer Walks** – As there was no-one to lead the walk on Banstead Downs On 7th May it was decided to postpone it until Tuesday 21st May and relocate the meeting place to the far end of Banstead Downs Golf Club car park. This would enable a visit to the golf club side of the Downs, particularly the area to rear of The Drive. Federation of Residents Associations to be contacted so their members are informed.

21st May – Banstead Downs

4th June - -Park Downs – nominated Conservator John Peacock

2nd July – Banstead Heath – nominated Conservator – David Atkins

6th August – Burgh Heath

All walks starting at 6.00pm

4. 125th Anniversary of Banstead Commons Conservators

As the current work replicated a previous history of the commons by Maurice Thompson which had not been officially published it was decided not to continue with our research but to bring his book up to date. There appears to be no copyright issues.

5. Golf Club Issue

The chairman explained that the golf club had an area for dumping rubbish but then used it as a track and looked for other locations to dump their green waste. The issue is not straightforward as we dump our arisings when forage harvesting. The area will be visited during the walk on Banstead Downs on 21st May.

6. Access to Burgh Heath Common

Several years ago the access gate from Heathside Place to Burgh Heath common was closed due to the large amount of garden rubbish being brought through it and dumped on the common. Recently a resident of Heathside Place, Ian Mockford, had asked for it to be opened again as the walk to the local shops was excessively long without such access. The site had been visited by the Clerk and Warden who determined to keep a watch on the area and consider opening the gate if there was no more dumping. The chairman had sympathy with the request to open the gate but had seen elsewhere on the commons where similar gates had been opened and the problem quickly returned. Subsequently Cllr. Nick Harrison had become involved and supported opening the gate. After discussion among the Conservators it was agreed that a site meeting would be arranged between the Clerk and Warden and Cllr. Harrison and Ian Mockford to discuss the possibility of opening the gate, and, if so, the conditions on its remaining open.

7. Tadworth & Walton RA – Tree Management

Gillian Hein had submitted a draft management plan in support of a previous application by Tadworth & Walton Tree Wardens to manage the area at the end of Shelveys Way junction with A217. After due consideration the Conservators decided not to allow them to do so as the plan was not in line with our objectives for the area and it will be necessary, in the foreseeable future, to bring down some of the larger trees there for reasons of safety.

8. Warden's Report

The Warden reported that the winter work went well and was mostly completed on time; some of the machinery broke down so time was spent on repair work. All commons accesses are open with the exception of those we deliberately block off to prevent unlawful access. Fly tipping is a continual problem and, although we haven't had any large amounts dumped on the commons they have come very close, Mill Road where a lorry dropped a large load for example. We are also getting lots of garden waste which is a seasonal problem in spring and autumn; this is by both local residents and contractors unwilling to pay disposal charges. A grab machine would be of great assistance to the staff in removing such waste and in recovering brick and builders rubble which we can mostly re-use.

With the Derby being not far away new posts are being strategically sited to prevent caravan access.

9. Belmont Vision

The Belmont Vision, which is the Neighbourhood Forum for Belmont, South Cheam, Shanklin Village, South Sutton and Carshalton Beeches had drawn up options for the local environment challenges brought about by the possible development of the old Sutton Hospital site, particularly the transport infrastructure which has 3 options for roads crossing Banstead Downs. Nick Cull was able to state that Neighbourhood Forums are constituted under the Town & Country Planning Act and Sutton Council have accepted Belmont Vision but has only agreed the area that it will cover. He further stated that London Borough of Sutton will not support anything that includes loss of 'green space'.

It was decided that we will await further developments, if any should arise.

10. Forthcoming Events

None reported.

11. Any Other Business

David Atkins said that flowers had been left as a memorial on Banstead Heath. They were there for a while and then removed. Also the bags with dog poo were becoming more prevalent and more notices by accesses were required as well as notices and police action on the Heath and Downs regarding the unlawful use of motor cycles and quad bikes at those locations.

12. Dates of next meetings

20th July 2019

19th October 2019