

Meeting of the 589th BANSTEAD COMMONS CONSERVATORS held on
Saturday 17 October 2020 at 9.30am via ZOOM

Part I

Present: Mr. J Peacock, Chairman
Mr. J Mill
Mr. N Cull
Mr. D Atkins
Cllr. N Moses
Cllr. P Harp
Mrs. L Shea, Clerk
Warden

Apologies Dr. W Bellenger
Mr. V Broad

Also present were:

Ian Mockford – Burgh Heath resident
Gillian Hein – Tadworth and Walton Residents Association
Monica Soto – Tadworth resident

1. **Apologies for absence.** Dr. W Bellenger. Mr V Broad was experiencing technical issues which prevented him joining the meeting.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting.** The minutes were agreed as circulated and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Clerk's report.**

H&S update the operational team has continued to work in a COVID-safe way and are following government guidance.

Tadworth Cricket Club have submitted their risk assessment and public liability insurance.

Chinthurst School is planning to use the pitch at Tadworth Cricket Club next year. Clerk proposed drawing up an agreement to cover next years activities, plan to introduce a fee for use of the Commons. Clerk liaising with RBBC.

Banstead Downs. Continue to have issue with motorbikes on the downs. A relationship has been formed with the PCSO team (team issued a section 59 on 20 Aug warning).

MP visit On Friday 18 September Crispin Blunt MP joined the Chairman, Warden, Clerk and Conservator W Bellenger for a walk around Banstead Heath to discuss our work and concerns regarding future funding. Crispin called Banstead Heath: "the jewel of our borough".
4. **Warden's report.** Staff are operating well in despite of the unusual working conditions due to COVID. The team kept on top of tasks this summer, bracken control and grass cutting completed. Cut and collect is complete on Banstead Heath, Park Downs and Park Downs, small section left on Banstead Downs. Not sheep grazing this year, for various reasons, will resume next year. Cost of purchasing sheep has been put into the repair of the cut and collect machines, we now have two functioning. Winter tasks have commenced. Ash die back remains a priority and trees that carry an increased risk to users (over bridleway, roadside, pathway etc.) will be dealt with first. RBBC has dealt with some of the trees and we have flagged up

further trees, including the Ash on Park Downs. Warden raised his concern related to cross team working during COVID. Fly-tipping continues to be an issue.

John M. asked if we could make use of the timber from the infected ash? Timber would need to be collected and taken to the roadside – we don't have the right machinery and there'll be no financial gain.

David A. asked whether there is any evidence that trees are showing resistance to ash die back? Weather plays a big part with how they've responded to the infection this year, ash trees have already dropped their leaves due to the dry summer. Suspect trees will deteriorate further next year.

David A. asked whether it was us or the Council who put planings on Hogwood Bottom ascent and descent and the path that goes across the motorway at the side of the golf course? It was the Public Right of Way department and the heavy rain has gullied it out, doubt they'll be back to repair.

Nick C. asked whether any consideration been given to using Ash shavings on muddy pathways. Experience has shown it is a short term gain, long term problem. Try not to spread infected ash to new locations on the Commons. If you have a really boggy area you have to think about putting a membrane down.

5. **Tadworth Cricket Club.**

Three requests for permissions have been made in writing to the Conservators:

- Repositioning of a training net (to the north east corner of the grounds)
- Install a second astroturf pitch
- Install astroturf outside the Clubhouse

This item was followed by a discussion related to our byelaws, the process involved in laying astroturf and the relationship between Tadworth Cricket Club and Chinthurst School.

It was noted that we need to establish what relationship is in place between Tadworth Cricket Club and Chinthurst School. Full details of the planned works would need to be submitted by the Club before the item can be discussed further.

6. **Resurfacing of the footpath leading from Hatch Gardens on to Burgh Heath**

The current path is broken tarmac. It was noted that any solid surface, even repairing is against the Commons Act – however, the [Commonland guidance sheet 1b](#): works and processes that do not need Section 38 consent states 'Resurfacing which consists only of the repair (with a similar surface) of existing lawfully constructed footpaths, roads and car parks.

Two options: BCC can either request the footpath is taken out of the Common or, use wording 'raise no objection, but if any one else does they'd have to remove it at the expense of the Council'.

Before any decision is taken the Clerk will ask for the exact details of the proposed materials the Council plan to use.

7. AOB

RBBC has sent details related to proposal for works at the end of Chetwode Road to be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy, including vegetation removal and maintenance of Lonesome Pond. Warden and Clerk will be meeting with local councillors w/c 19 Oct to discuss work in more detail.

Funding. Over the next 5-6 years we're going to lose approx. half of our income. The Council hasn't been forthcoming with a meeting to discuss future funding. We are not able to apply for a charitable status because we have an act which determines our behaviour.

Planning document 2021. Conservators supportive of the planned public awareness and engagement events.

Ian M. asked who the team met with at Burgh Heath Dirt Track. List of the various officers at RBBC Greenspaces is as follows:

Lee Wilcox – Senior manager for greenspaces, Fleet and engineering

Michael Hill – Greenspaces operations Manager (general grounds maintenance)

Daniel Balcombe – Play and projects officer (play area, multi-use games area, skate and tennis maintenance)

David Watts – Countryside and Woodlands officer

Victoria Bradford – Business development support officer (allotments-sports pitches)

Helen West – Events officer

David Chiverton – Cleansing operations Manager (litter-fly tipping)

Victor Davey – Engineer

Alan Bixby – Cemetery Officer

Peter Sykes – Acting tree officer

Gillian Hein asked if consideration had been given regarding residents and other local organisations to give a financial contribution. Suggest BCC submit an article in RA newsletter. Donations would be appreciated for capital equipment.

Dates of 2021 meetings:

16 January 2021

17 April 2021

17 July 2021

16 October 2021