

29th October 1919.

A Meeting of the Conservators was held at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham, on the above date, when there were present :

Mr. H. Mallaby Deeley, M. P., J. P., (in the chair); Messrs. G. J. Allen, G. Farewell Jones, W. F. Laing, A. Mizen, W. B. Roberts, M. Taylor, W. T. Willcocks, and the Clerk, Mr. Chas. J. Marten.

1. *Minutes*.—The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th July, 1919, were taken as read and confirmed.

2. *Finance*.—The Clerk reported a balance at the bank of £20 18s. 2d., and a debit balance due to himself on petty cash account of £12 18s. 9½d. He also reported the following receipts since the last meeting :—

Croydon Corporation, 1918, contribution	...	£37	13	5
Showmen's Guild donation	...	50	0	0
Beddington and Wallington Urban District Council	...	30	0	0
Clerk to the Justices of the Croydon Division	...	12	2	0
By sale of copy of the bye-laws	...		1	0

The following cheques were passed for payment :—

Mr. C. J. Marten, ½ year's salary to 29th Sept	£25	0	0
Clerical assistance, ½ year	5	0	0
Petty cash	25	0	0
Edridge, Son, & Marten.—Costs of prosecutions, in respect of horses and cattle to the 9th August	5	5	0

3. *Applications*.—An application by the Harrier Section of the St. Paul's Temperance League, South Norwood, for permission to mark out a mile track on the Common for training purposes was refused.

An application by the Mitcham Branch of the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers for permission to erect on the Common one or two Army huts for a Club for ex-service men of Mitcham and District was also refused.

4. *Market on Fair Green*.—A letter dated 24th ulto. was read from the Clerk to the Urban District Council of Mitcham, that his Council were proposing to permit the establishment of an open market round the Fair Green, and asking the Conservators' permission for the extension of this market to the Fair Green itself. The Chairman reported that since this letter was written he had been approached by the Urban District Council and had granted the permission desired. It was resolved that the Chairman's action be approved.

5. *War Trophy*.—A letter dated the 24th ulto. was read from the Clerk to the Urban District Council of Mitcham, applying for permission for a German heavy gun to be preserved as a trophy of the Great War, to be placed on some suitable spot on the Common or one of the Greens. It was resolved that the Board offer no objection to the gun being placed on the small triangular piece of Common near the Lower Green, opposite the Bank premises at the back of the water trough.

6. *Mitcham Fair*.—A letter dated the 24th ulto, was read from the Clerk to the Mitcham Urban District Council, conveying the following resolution passed by his Council on the 23rd ulto :—

"That in view of the fact that the Annual Fair whilst held on the existing site is a danger to the public, the Council request the Mitcham Common Conservators to endeavour to arrange an alternative site whereby the protection of the public is assured and the continuance of the Fair secured to the satisfaction of the Home Secretary, the Conservators and the Showmen."

The Clerk was directed to acknowledge receipt of this letter, and to state that the contents thereof had been noted by the Board. It was proposed by Mr. Willcocks, seconded by Mr. Laing, and resolved, that the Chairman be asked to interview the Home Secretary on the matter.

7. *Mitcham War Memorial*.—A letter dated the 20th inst. was read from the Secretary of the Mitcham War Memorial Committee as to the desirability of placing the Mitcham War Memorial upon the site now occupied by the temporary Memorial on the Lower Green, and enquiring whether in the event of the Committee definitely deciding upon this site as the most desirable one, the Board would grant the necessary permission. It was agreed that no objection be offered to the use of the site in question for this purpose.

8. *Animals upon the Common*.—The Common Keeper reported a considerable decrease in the number of animals turned out upon the Common. The Clerk reported since the last meeting he had issued further warnings to persons found to be turning out, and that he had prosecuted and secured convictions as under:—

July 26th. John Ellis, of Love Lane, Mitcham, in respect of a pony, fined 10s.

G. Mullinger, Walnut Tree Cottage, Mitcham, in respect of a pony, fined 10s.

F. Barrett, Cranmer Farm, Mitcham, in respect of two horses, fined 20s.

Aug. 9th. Henry Banks, of Beddington Lane, in respect of cattle, fined 40s.

Augustus Andrews, Clapham, in respect of two horses, fined 60s.

9. *Football*.—The Clerk reported that 19 permits had been issued, and that 14 further applications had been refused, two of which were from boys' Clubs who desired to play on Figgs Marsh on Saturday mornings. The Clerk was directed to endeavour to arrange with the Clubs to whom permits had already been granted for the use of pitches for these boys' Clubs in the mornings.

The Common Keeper reported that many persons had been playing football on the Commons on Sunday mornings, and that on Figgs Marsh the number of persons on one morning had exceeded 100, but so far as the other Greens were concerned, the players had generally desisted when warned by him.

The Clerk reported that he had obtained the assistance of the Police in dealing with the matter on Figgs Marsh, and that he had issued warnings to the persons whose names and addresses had been given by the Common Keeper, and that he had summonses pending against certain persons who had refused to desist when warned.

A letter dated the 8th August last was read from the Town Clerk of Croydon that his Corporation were being pressed for the provision of additional football grounds, and applying for the allocation of additional land as shewn on the accompanying plan for use by Croydon Residents for this purpose: the land to be cleared and laid out by the Croydon Corporation. It was resolved that the application be granted.

10. *Golf*.—The Clerk reported that 105 applications for permits to play golf had been refused by him since the last meeting. Messrs. G. J. Allen, W. F. Laing, and W. T. Willcocks, with the Chairman ex-officio, were appointed a Committee to consider and report at the next meeting as to the desirability of any alteration in the method of issuing permits.

11. *Meetings in 1920*.—The following dates were fixed for meetings in 1920, subject to alteration if necessary:—

Wednesday, January 14th, at Croydon.

„ April 14th, at Mitcham.

„ July 14th, at Croydon.

„ October 13th, at Mitcham.

The meetings to be held at 6 o'clock.

12. *Nuisance on the Common*.—It was reported that Mr. Clarkson, Contractor for the Mitcham Urban District Council, was dumping house refuse on the Common. The Clerk was directed to write to the Clerk to the U.D.C. asking that this practice should be discontinued immediately.

