

12th January, 1921.

A Meeting of the Conservators was held at the Town Hall, Croydon, on the above date, when there were present:—

H. Mallaby Deeley, Esq., M.P., J.P., (in the Chair), Messrs. G. J. Allen, A. H. Allen, Lt. Col. H. F. Bidder, Messrs. G. Farewell Jones, W. F. Laing, A. Mizen, W. B. Robarts, W. G. Stapleton, M. Taylor, W. T. Willcocks, and the Clerk, Mr. C. J. Marten.

1. *Minutes*.—The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th October, 1920, were read and confirmed.

2. *Improvements Committee*.—The report of the Improvements Committee of the proceedings of their meeting held on the 8th December last, was adopted.

3. *Finance*.—The Clerk reported a balance at the Bank of £160 16s. 8d., and a petty cash balance in his hands of £5 5s. 1cd. He also reported the following receipts:—

	£	s.	d.
Beddington & Wallington Urban District Council, contribution	30	0	0
Postmaster General, Wayleaves	7	6	4
Price received for dead willow tree		10	0
On account of golf permits issued	75	10	0
Fines	2	8	0

It was proposed by Mr. Willcocks, seconded by Mr. Laing and resolved that a grant of £10 be made to the Clerk for extra clerical assistance in connection with the issue of golf permits.

The following cheques were passed for payment:—

	£	s.	d.
The Clerk—			
Petty cash	30	0	0
Quarter's salary to 25th ult.	12	10	0
Clerical assistance <i>re</i> golf permits	10	0	0
Edridge, Son & Marten, costs <i>re</i> cattle prosecutions	2	2	0

4. *Golf*.—It was proposed by Lt. Col. Bidder, and seconded by Mr. G. F. Jones, that an enquiry be made into the question whether any, and what annual sum is now payable to the Conservators by the Princes Golf Club Co., Ltd. An amendment was proposed by Mr. Stapleton and seconded by Mr. Robarts that the Clerk be instructed to take Counsel's Opinion as to the position under the agreement with the Golf Club Co., Ltd., dated 20th July, 1901 and as to its enforcability by or against the Conservators. The amendment was carried by 6 votes against 4. It was then put and carried as a substantive resolution by 6 votes against 3.

Lt. Col. Bidder gave notice that he would move again at the next meeting for an enquiry into the position of the annual sum reserved by the agreement.

5. *Bathing Regulations*.—The Clerk produced draft bathing regulations and it was proposed by Mr. Martin Taylor, seconded by Mr. G. J. Allen and resolved that the same be referred to the next meeting of the Improvements Committee.

6. *Horses and Cattle*.—The Clerk reported that he had prosecuted the following in respect of breaches against the bye-laws as to grazing:—

6th Nov. 1920.	Hy. Rosier in respect of 2 horses.	Fined 20/-
	Fredk. Seal in respect of 1 horse.	Fined 20/-
13th Nov. 1920.	Daniel North in respect of a pony.	Fined 20/-
	George Desnos in respect of 6 horses.	Dismissed.

7. *Football*.—The Clerk reported that the Common Keeper had reported that football had been played upon the Common on Christmas Day but that there appeared to be nothing in the regulations to prevent the game being played on that day or on Good Friday.

8. *Military Band on Lower Green*.—The consideration of this matter was adjourned to the next meeting of the Improvements Committee.

9. *Unemployment.—(a) Football and cricket grounds.*—A letter dated 29th December, was read from the Clerk to the Mitcham Urban District Council that his Council were exercised in finding employment for the increasing number of unemployed in the district and that it had been suggested that the Conservators should be asked to undertake the provision of additional football or cricket grounds upon the common and that his Council should vote the sum of £250 towards the funds of the Conservators for this purpose. A spot proposed as suitable was the Common lying between the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway and Cedars Road, coloured green on the enclosed tracing, and the Council offered the services of their Surveyor and staff to manage and superintend the work if so desired by the Conservators. It was resolved that the Board do not agree to the use of the portion of the Common indicated on the plan being devoted to the purpose but that they would agree to allow the work to be done upon the portion of the Common on the east side of the Carshalton Road between Mitcham Junction and Beddington Corner.

(b) *Figgs Marsh.*—Correspondence was read from the Clerk to the Mitcham Urban District Council with reference to a scheme approved by the Ministry of Transport for the widening of Streatham Road to a width of 60 feet, from its junction at London Road, Figgs Marsh to the railway bridge passing over the road, to complete which scheme the Council would require to take a few feet off Figgs Marsh upon its total length in Streatham Road, which strip of land the Conservators were asked to surrender. The Clerk also reported the receipt, on the 10th inst., from the Clerk to the Council, of notice of entry on this land pursuant to section 2 of the Unemployment Relief Works Act, 1920. It was proposed by Mr. Martin Taylor, seconded by Mr. G. J. Allen and resolved that the Conservators do not object to the taking by the Council of the land in question.

10. *Common Keeper's Reports.*—The Common Keeper reported that a seat on Figgs Marsh had been broken and carried away and a seat on Cranmers Green had also been broken while a seat on the Common near Mitcham Junction had been removed from its position. He had obtained an estimate from Mr. G. H. Hitchings for embedding 7 seats in concrete for the sum of £7 15s. No action was taken in the matter.

The Common Keeper also reported damage to trees on the Croydon Road near the Bidder Monument.

11. *Damage to tree on Figgs Marsh.*—The Clerk reported that he had received no reply to a letter he had written Mr. R. Woods in accordance with the instructions of the Improvements Committee with reference to damage to a tree on Figgs Marsh. Mr. Mizen mentioned that Mr. Woods had been in hospital. The Clerk was instructed to write him again.

12. *Mitcham Fair.*—A letter dated 31st December was received from Mr. L. T. Davey offering his services as a surveyor, overseer and collector in view of the proposed removal of Mitcham Fair. It was resolved to inform Mr. Davey that the Conservators were not in a position to avail themselves of his services.

13. *Golf.*—The Clerk reported that he had received an application for renewal of a permit from Mr. Harley Audain and that, as directed at the last meeting of the Improvements Committee, he had refused same. Correspondence was read from Mr. Audain and Mr. W. C. Evans dealing with an episode with Mr. Hannah and his partner, but the instructions of the Improvements Committee having no reference to this matter, the Clerk was directed to take no further action.

14. *Improvements Committee.*—It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Improvements Committee on Wednesday, February 23rd, at 6 p.m., at the Clerk's office.

15. *Common Keeper's Uniform.*—Reference was made to the fact that the Common Keeper was wearing a uniform provided by himself, and it was proposed by Mr. Mizen and resolved that the Common Keeper be allowed the sum of 3/- per week for the upkeep of a uniform to be approved by the Board.

16. *Pound.*—Mr. Mizen referred to the dilapidated state of the Pound and to the fact that the woodwork was being stolen. The Clerk stated that the Common Keeper had reported upon this matter and had drawn Mr. Dale's attention to the Pound, and that he had obtained the following offers for the wood, which was only fit for firewood :—

Mr. Hitchings	...	...	...	30/-
Mr. Dale	...	...	...	35/-
Mr. Bentley	...	...	...	£2.

It was resolved that Mr. Bentley's offer of £2 be accepted.

H. J. Daley