

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

Mr. H. Mallaby Deeley, M.P., J.P. (in the Chair), Messrs. G. J. Allen, H. F. Bidder, W. F. Laing, W. Rason, W. B. Robarts, M. Taylor, W. G. Stapleton, W. T. Willcocks, and the Clerk, Mr. Chas. J. Marten.

1. *Minutes*.—The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th April, 1921 were read and confirmed.

2. *Appointment of Conservators*.—A letter dated 21st April last was read from the Clerk of the Beddington & Wallington Urban District Council that the following gentlemen were elected representatives of that Council on the Board of Conservators until 1923:—

For Beddington, Councillor A. H. Allen,

For Wallington, Councillor W. T. Willcocks.

A letter dated 27th April last was read from the Clerk to the Urban District Council of Mitcham that Messrs. G. Farewell Jones and W. F. Laing were re-appointed Conservators of Mitcham Common for the ensuing two years.

3. *Election of Chairman*.—It was proposed by Mr. Laing, seconded by Mr. Robarts and resolved that Mr. H. Mallaby Deeley be and is hereby elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

4. *Election of Treasurer*.—It was proposed by Mr. Martin Taylor, seconded by Mr. W. Rason and resolved that Mr. G. J. Allen be and is hereby elected Hon. Treasurer for the Board for the ensuing year.

5. *Finance*.—The Clerk reported a balance at the bank of £156 1s. 9d. and a debit balance due to himself on petty cash account of £12 1s. 1½d.

The following cheque was passed for payment:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. C. J. Marten—Quarter's salary as Clerk	...	12	10 0
Half year's clerical assistance to 25th June	...	5	0 0
Petty cash	...	35	0 0
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		52	10 0

The Clerk produced copies of the annual accounts for the year ended 31st December last and the same were to be distributed for the next meeting.

The Clerk reported that he had applied to the Croydon Corporation for payment of their annual contribution due upon the above mentioned accounts, and the Corporation Accountant had requested the Conservators to accept payment of a contribution on the basis of the actual items appearing in the Revenue & Expenditure Account—the present system of calculating the contribution taking into account not only these items but the credits on the 31st December and also petty cash balance paid to the Clerk but unexpended. It was resolved that the Board accept payment on the basis suggested by the Corporation Accountant.

6. *Lower Green*.—(a) *Trees, etc.*—The Chairman reported that he had inspected the enclosure opposite the Bank referred to in the application received at the last meeting from Mr. Thew, and that the trees required trimming and the enclosure cleaned. The matter was left in the hands of the Chairman as was also the question of trimming the large trees on the Cricket Green opposite this enclosure.

(b) *Cricketers Inn sign post*—A letter dated the 23rd June was read from the London General Omnibus Co., that this sign post was a source of danger to omnibus traffic and asking the Board's permission for them to remove it from its present position on the footpath to the green in line with the trees immediately behind the footpath. It was resolved that the Company be referred to the Urban District Council in the matter.

7.—*Beddington Corner*—The Clerk reported that he had recovered from Messrs. Hodgson's Brewery Co. the sum of £5 for damage occasioned by their employee to post and rails at Beddington Corner.

8. *Cricket*.—The Clerk reported that he had communicated to Messrs. Bush & Co. the Board's decision as to their application for a guaranteed permit for cricket and football for the new pitch opposite Tramway Terrace and the Club had agreed to accept the permit for the current year which had been granted.



9. *Football*.—The Clerk produced 29 applications for football permits for the coming season. It was proposed by Mr. Stapleton, seconded by Mr. Roberts and resolved that the applications be referred to a sub-committee consisting of the Chairman and Messrs. H. F. Bidder and W. T. Willcocks with power to grant permits.

10. *Golf*.—A letter dated 28th April last was read from Messrs. Fladgate & Co. on behalf of the Princes Ladies Golf Club asking for particulars of the relationship between the Board and the Princes Golf Club Ltd. It was proposed by Lt.-Col. Bidder, seconded by Mr. Martin Taylor and resolved that Messrs. Fladgate be informed that enquiries are now being made into the relationship between the Board and the Company and that the results will be published in due course.

11. *Applications*.—An application dated 11th June was read from the Superintending Engineer G.P.O. applying for consent to the laying of an underground telephone line in the footway along the east side of London Road, Mitcham, bordering on Upper Green for about 60 yards. The Board were of opinion that the matter was not within their jurisdiction.

12. *Croydon Sports pitches*.—A letter dated the 17th June was read from the Croydon Borough Road Surveyor applying for permission to place a small hut on Mitcham Common for the use of their keeper employed there. The application was granted.

13. *Common Keeper's reports*.—(a) *Fires*.—The Common Keeper reported a large number of fires upon the Common since May 15th, some caused by the railway locomotives and in 3 cases by boys. The Clerk reported that he had warned the boys in the latter case but there was not sufficient evidence to justify prosecution. In the case of a large fire which occurred on the 12th inst., the sum of 5/- was voted to the Common Keeper in connection with expenses incurred by him in obtaining assistance in putting out the fire.

(b) *Beddington Corner*.—The Common Keeper reported that on the instructions of Mr. Willcocks the chains and posts round the triangle opposite the Goat Inn had been repaired by Mr. Hitchings and that on the instructions of the Chairman new posts had been erected at the ends of the path in front of Tramway Terrace.

(c) *Blackmailing*.—The Common Keeper reported as to complaints of insulting behaviour coupled with demands for money and the Clerk reported the steps which he had taken in conjunction with the Police to put an end to this matter. Two prosecutions by the Police had resulted and there had since been no further complaint.

(d) *General*.—The Common Keeper also reported the removal of gipsies and boys camp on the Common and that football on Figgs Marsh and also cricket on the Marsh on Sundays had been stopped. He also reported 4 boys for bathing in the Lake without proper costume. The Clerk reported that he had taken steps to prosecute two of these lads but found that the bye-law was defective and that prosecutions would not succeed. He was instructed to draft new bye laws covering this matter for consideration at the next meeting.

15.—The Common Keeper was granted leave of absence for a fortnight at the end of August

16. *Bank Holiday applications*.—The Clerk referred to the Minutes of the Board meetings held on April 29th, June 10th, July 22nd and November 11th, 1915 as to a scale of charges for the use of the Common by proprietors of amusements and refreshment stalls on Bank holidays, the operation of the scale being postponed until after the War. The following applications were then granted for August Bank Holiday subject to the charges as fixed in 1915 being paid and the ground being cleaned and left tidy after the holiday.

Harriet Evans	Refreshment stall
Mr. Ayres	
Mrs. B. Brooker	Cocoanut shie
Mrs. Smith	Swings and cocoanut shie
Mr. Tortolano	Refreshment stalls
Mrs. Hinds	do.
Mr. Pearson	do.

17. *Refreshment Stall*.—The Clerk reported that he had been informed that a coffee stall had been erected near Mitcham Junction Station on a piece of land on the east side of the Carshalton Road lying between that road and the ditch immediately north of the entrance to Mitcham Junction Station. He reported that the plan referred to in the Scheme scheduled to the Metropolitan Commons (Mitcham) Supplemental Act, 1891 showed that the piece of land in question was under the management of the Conservators. It was resolved that the Clerk take steps to get the stall removed.

18. *Golf permits*.—It was proposed by Mr. Laing, seconded by Mr. Willcocks and resolved that a grant of £5 be made to Mr. F. Harris, the caddie master, for assistance in checking the permits for the current year.

19. *Sale of Flints*.—Mr. Stapleton reported that he had ascertained from the Croydon Borough Road Surveyor that the latter had accepted an offer made by the Conservators through Mr. G. J. Allen to purchase flints on the Common for 2/3 per yard. These flints were still on the Common between Windmill Road and the Croydon Road. The matter was left to the Chairman and the Clerk to effect a sale if possible with the Borough Road Surveyor at a price more nearly approximate to current values.

20. *Military band*.—Lt. Col. Bidder referred to the permission that had been given to enclose temporarily the Band stand on Lower Green, and it was resolved to leave the matter in the hands of the Chairman of the Board for further consideration with Mr. Bullock, of the Mitcham Urban District Council and Mr. Holloway, the conductor of the band.

21. *Control of Lower Green*.—Mr. Laing referred to disorderly conduct outside the Vestry Hall by certain youths in the evening, and the matter was referred to a sub-committee consisting of the Chairman, Mr. Laing and the Clerk.

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The Clerk reported that on the 3rd August he had suggested that a special meeting should be called to consider an application for permission to hold this concert and another proposed for the 13th August but this suggestion had not been accepted.

The Concert was held and the Summons consequently issued but he, the Clerk, had suggested that if the Defendants would undertake not to erect the fence except in accordance with the Scheme and Bye-law, the matter need go no further. This suggestion also had not been accepted.

The matter had therefore come before the bench and had been adjourned on the Chairman's suggestion, to see if a settlement could be arrived at.

A letter dated 24th October was read from the Defendants' Solicitors, Messrs. Peard & Son, suggesting that the Summonses be withdrawn on the understanding that formal application be made to the Conservators for Band Concerts in 1922; that the Conservators would sympathetically consider the application and, if acceded to, would by resolution definitely allocate a site to be agreed on for the purpose; and that in the event of the said application being acceded to the Conservators would by resolution assent to the erection of a temporary fence for enclosing the Band when playing as provided by the subscribers, providing the person or authority erecting the fence undertook to remove the same after each performance and to render the sockets for the fence free from all danger to the public using the common.

It was proposed by Mr. G. J. Allen, seconded by Mr. W. B. Robarts and unanimously resolved that the action in this matter of the Chairman and the Clerk pursuant to the standing resolution of the Board respecting prosecutions for breaches of the bye-laws be approved.

It was further proposed by Mr. W. T. Willcocks, seconded by Mr. Landon and unanimously resolved that after hearing the facts and reading the correspondence prior to and after the issue of the summons and having considered the letter of the 24th ulto. from Defendants' Solicitors to the Board's Solicitors the Board are of opinion that the terms suggested by that letter contained no proper basis for a settlement, but that they were willing to withdraw the summonses provided that an apology be tendered by Lt.-Col. Bidder and an undertaking given by all three defendants not again to contravene the bye-laws.

*W. T. Willcocks*