

14th December, 1921.

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, A. H. Allen, H. F. Bidder, G. Farewell Jones, C. Landon, 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 meetings held on the 13th July, 1921, and 11th November, 1921, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. CONSERVATORS.—A letter dated 9th November last was read from the Town Clerk of Croydon that his council had appointed as Conservators of Mitcham Common Mr. Ald. Allen, J.P., Mr. Ald. M. Taylor, Mr. Ald. Stapleton and Mr. Coun. Robarts to hold office for one year ending 9th November, 1922.

3. SOIL & MANORIAL RIGHTS.—The Clerk produced the Conveyance to the Conservators by the Trustees of the Soil and Manorial Rights duly sealed by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, and stamped and completed.

4. PROSECUTIONS.—The Chairman referred to the case of Mitcham Common Conservators v. Bidder & Others and said that the matter having been settled and the terms made public he thought nothing further should be said about the matter.

The Clerk reported that he had prosecuted Edward Dixey, of 23, West Street, Carshalton, for turning out three horses and placing a van upon the common on 4th October, 1921. The defendant was fined 30s. in the two cases.

5. FINANCE.—The annual accounts for the year ended 31st December last, having been distributed as directed at the last meeting, it was proposed by Mr. G. J. Allen, seconded by Mr. Martin Taylor and resolved that the same be adopted.

The Clerk reported a balance at the Bank of £264 11 1 and a debit balance due to himself on petty cash account of £33 0 8.

He further reported the following receipts since the last meeting:—

	£	s.	d.
Contribution from Croydon Corporation	72	15	6
„ „ Beddington & Wallington U.D.C.	30	0	0
„ „ Showmens Guild	50	0	0
Postmaster General, wayleaves	7	6	4
Registration fees, amusement and refreshment stalls	1	10	0

The following cheques were passed for payment:—

Sir L. Halsey, audit fee	4	4	0
Mr. G. H. Hitchings, repairs, Beddington Corner	11	4	0
Messrs. Edridge, Son & Marten—			
balance of costs Conveyance of Soil and Manorial Rights	19	6	3
Costs of Counsel's opinion re			
Princes Golf Club	23	17	6
Prosecution of Edward Dixey	1	1	0
Stanley Dale, repairs, Beehive Bridge and enclosure on Figgs Marsh and Lower Green	44	4	3
The Clerk, petty cash	5	11	4
	40	0	0

It was proposed by Mr. Stapleton, seconded by Mr. G. J. Allen and resolved that Mr. Stanley Dale's account of £127 9s. 10d. for the provision of new notice boards and repairs to the old boards be paid subject to the approval of the work by Messrs. A. Mizen and M. Taylor.

6. LOWER GREEN.—The matter of cleaning the enclosure opposite the Bank and of trimming the trees and bushes was left in the hands of the Chairman.

The Traffic Superintendent of the London General Omnibus Co. wrote drawing attention to some trees overhanging the roadway between Lower Green East and the Causeway and asking that these might be pruned. This matter was also left to the Chairman—the Clerk being instructed first to ascertain exactly which trees were referred to.



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7. **BYE-LAWS.**—The Clerk produced draft bye-laws to cover the regulation of bathing. It was proposed by Mr. Martin Taylor, seconded by Mr. Landon and resolved that it be referred to a sub-committee to consider the present bye-laws of the Conservators and to report as to the necessity for their revision. The Chairman, together with Messrs. Willcocks, G. J. Allen and A. Mizen were then appointed to serve on the sub-committee.

8. **SALE OF FLINTS.**—A letter dated 18th July last was read from the Croydon Borough Surveyor offering 5s. per cubic yard for the purchase of the flints on the common between Windmill Rd. and the Croydon Rd. It was proposed by Mr. G. Farewell Jones, seconded by Mr. A. H. Allen and resolved that this offer be accepted subject to the flints being removed within 12 months.

9. **REFRESHMENT STALL.**—The Clerk reported that he had written Mr. Tortolano to remove the coffee stall that he had erected on the piece of land near Mitcham Junction Station. Mr. Tortolano had answered that the land upon which he had put the stall was the property of the Railway Co. The Clerk had consequently interviewed the Surveyor to the L.B. & S.C. Rly., and had inspected the estate plans, from which it appeared that the land was conveyed to the company in 1873. It was resolved to take no further action in the matter.

10. **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS.**—An application was received from the Mitcham Comrades Football Club for permission to make collections on Three Kings Green during the progress of their football matches. It was resolved that the application be not granted.

11. **FAIR GREEN.**—A letter dated 29th September last was read from Mr. A. Band asking that a tree on the corner of Fair Green, Western Road end, might be topped. The matter was left in the hands of the Chairman with power to act.

12. **APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES.**—Lt.-Col. Bidder desired to move two resolutions of which notice had not been given at the last meeting of the Board. It was proposed by Mr. Martin Taylor, seconded by Mr. Landon and resolved that the motions be heard. Lt.-Col. Bidder then proposed and it was seconded by Mr. Laing and resolved that a sub-committee be appointed to consider the position of Princes Golf Club in the light of Counsel's opinion and to report what, if any, steps should be taken to define the relation of the club and the Board. It was proposed by Mr. Stapleton, seconded by Mr. Landon and resolved that the Chairman and Messrs. G. J. Allen, H. F. Bidder and W. T. Willcocks be appointed to serve on the sub-committee with instructions to report to the Improvements Committee.

It was proposed by Lt.-Col. Bidder and seconded by Mr. G. Farewell Jones that the control of the commons be vested between the meetings of the Board in sub-committees to be appointed for the purpose. After discussion it was proposed by Mr. Stapleton, seconded by Mr. Martin Taylor and resolved that the Board proceed to the next business. The motion was lost. Lt.-Col. Bidder then withdrew his motion in order to re-submit the same after re-drafting. At the close of the meeting Lt.-Col. Bidder gave notice that he would move a resolution at the next meeting for the appointment of a committee to deal with questions arising between the dates of the meetings of the Board.

13. **GOLF.**—The Clerk reported that Messrs. H. W. Reid, Courtenay Swan and T. Lawson had been reported for breaches of the regulations for the playing of golf—that he had communicated with each of them and received letters of explanation and apology in reply. These letters were considered satisfactory.



14. LOWER GREEN.—A letter dated 26th October last was read from the Clerk to the Mitcham Urban District Council asking whether, in order to assist and relieve unemployment, the Conservators would consider the laying out of that part of the Lower Green in the rear of the Vestry Hall if the Council would undertake to vote the necessary funds as a contribution towards the expenses of the Conservators. The Clerk produced a plan which he had obtained of the suggested laying out. The matter was referred to the Improvements Committee.

15. FOOTBALL.—Letters were read from the Balham and District Football League and the Surrey County Football Association complaining of the condition of some of the pitches on Figgs Marsh, a large number of stones having been scattered over them during the process of widening and repairing roads.

The Clerk reported that permission had been granted to the Tramway Co. to stack material along the Marsh during repairs to the London Road but that he had taken action owing to the carters and contractors having driven their lorry on to the Marsh doing considerable damage. He was instructed to communicate with the Surrey County Council upon the subject.

16. CRICKET.—A letter dated 31st October was read from the Clerk to the Mitcham Urban District Council enquiring whether the Conservators would allow the Council properly to level the common between (a) the road leading from Bluehouse Bridge to Cranmer and the railway and (b) the road leading from Bluehouse to Cedars Avenue and the railway for the purpose of providing cricket pitches. A further letter dated 9th November was read from Mr. Chart that the Mitcham School Managers were proposing to ask for the allocation of that portion of the Lower Green immediately opposite the Police Station for cricket for the boys of the elementary schools and that the Council were prepared to vote the funds required for the levelling and improvement necessary for this purpose by way of a contribution to the Conservators and if so desired were prepared to execute the necessary work. These matters were also referred to the Improvements Committee.

17. MEETINGS.—It was resolved that the next meeting of the Improvements Committee be held on Wednesday, Jan. 11th, 1922, at Croydon, and that the Board meetings in 1922 be held as follows:—

Wednesday, February 8th, at Mitcham.

„ April 12th, at Croydon.

„ July 12th, at Mitcham.

„ October 11th, at Croydon.

*W. H. H. H. H.*

*8/2/22.*