

THURSDAY, 9th DAY OF JULY, 1925.

A meeting of the Conservators was held at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham on the above date, when there were present:—Sir H. M. Mallaby-Deeley Bart., J.P., in the chair, and Messrs. G. J. Allen, A. H. Bailey, S. L. Gaston, G. Hitchings, G. F. Jones, S. Roden, F. T. Wood and the Clerk, Mr. C. J. Marten.

1. THE MINUTES of the Meeting held on the 23rd day of April, 1925, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS. A letter dated the 24th April, last, was read from the Clerk to the Beddington and Wallington Urban District Council, that Councillor H. C. Maynard and Mr. W. T. Willcocks had been elected representatives of the Council for Beddington and Wallington respectively, on the Board of Conservators until 1927.

A letter dated the 8th inst., was read from Mr. Maynard, regretting his inability to be present.

A letter dated the 29th April last, was read from the Clerk to the Urban District Council of Mitcham, that Mr. G. F. Jones had been re-elected a Conservator and Mr. H. Richards elected as a Conservator in the place of Mr. W. F. Laing.

A letter dated the 27th May, last, was read from the Town Clerk of Croydon that Councillor Samuel Roden had been appointed as a Conservator in the place of Alderman Major Fox, resigned.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER for the ensuing year. It was proposed by Mr. S. L. Gaston, seconded by Mr. G. J. Allen and unanimously resolved that Sir H. M. Mallaby Deeley, Bart., J.P., be re-elected Chairman of the Conservators for the ensuing year.

It was proposed by Mr. F. T. Wood, seconded by Mr. A. H. Bailey and unanimously resolved that Mr. G. J. Allen be re-elected as Treasurer of the Conservators for the ensuing year.

4. FINANCE. The Clerk reported a Balance at the Bank of £393 16s. 10d., and a Credit Balance in hand on Petty Cash Account of £15 5s. 2½d.

He reported the following receipts since the last meeting:—

	£	s.	d.
Bank Holiday Registration Fees	8	0	0
The following cheques were passed for payment:—			
G. H. Hitchings, repairs to Notice Boards ...	4	10	0
Edridge Son & Marten, costs of Prosecutions	10	7	6
	£	s.	d.
C. J. Marten, Quarters salary due the 24th, ultimo	12	10	0
Half year's clerical assistance due 24th, ultimo	5	0	0
Petty Cash	30	0	0
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5. FOOTBALL.

(a) A Report was received from the Croydon Borough Surveyor that the number of Football permits issued for the last Football season was 533, and it was proposed next season to allocate 20 pitches on Mitcham Common instead of 14, as in former years, the additional pitches being provided on the added area recently allocated to the Corporation.

(b) The Clerk reported that he had recently inspected the Football and Cricket Pitches. Of these Nos. 2 and 4 opposite Tramway Terrace were good, No. 1 was rough, No. 3 was bare and very boggy, as also were Nos. 5 and 6.

Cricket Pitch No. 1 was fair and Nos. 2 and 3 very bad, although No. 3 had since been improved by the Old Linkonians Cricket Club, the present holders of the permit.

It was proposed by Mr. Gaston, seconded by Mr. Bailey and resolved that in order to improve the Cricket and Football pitches the possibility of charging clubs for the use of pitches be considered and report presented at the next meeting.

The Clerk was directed to obtain an estimate for the draining of the football pitches, Nos. 3, 5 and 6.

(c) Allocation of pitches. The Clerk presented the applications for the use of Football pitches for the next season and the same were allotted to Clubs for alternate Saturdays.

6. EXTENSION OF RIDE. An application was received from Sir Arthur Roberts on behalf of himself and other riders, asking the Conservators to extend the Ride round the Common from Tooting Bec Road to Galpins Road then to the Red House and Reddington Lane Station then by Windmill Road to Croydon Road there joining the present ride, also to allow them to erect two or three jumps along the ride at Commonside East, at their expense.

It was proposed by Mr. Roden, seconded by Mr. Gaston and resolved that the application be refused, the Board not being satisfied as to the necessity of the extension.

7. COMMONSIDE EAST. Footbridge. A letter dated the 17th June, was read from Mr. A. J. Hawker of "Agehome," Mitcham, asking the Conservators to replace a sleeper footbridge over the ditch a little to the right of his house. The application was granted.

8. COMMON KEEPER. A letter dated the 19th ultimo, was read from the Common Keeper Cowley, applying for an increase of salary which stood at £2 per week, plus 3/- per week allowance in respect of uniform.

It was resolved that the Common Keeper's salary and allowance be raised to the sum of £2 10s., to include 3/- a week in respect of uniform.

9. STOOL BALL. An application was granted for the All Saint's Girl's Club to play stool ball on the east side of Carshalton Road, opposite Tramway Terrace, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

10. COMMONSIDE EAST. Vehicles on the turf. A letter dated the 18th May, last, was read from Messrs. Typke & King Ltd., that they proposed to make up the road leading from the main road into their works, and they took it the Conservators would have no objection.

A further letter dated the 27th June, was read from them as to tradesmen's vans crossing the Common immediately fronting their Offices, and enquiring if the Conservators would object to the erection of posts by them to prevent these happenings.

It was resolved that the Board should carry out these works, but the Clerk was first directed to interview the Secretary of Messrs Typke & King Ltd., upon the matter.

11. BREACHES OF BYE-LAWS.

(a) Commonside East. The Clerk reported that he had warned the Anglo American Laundry and Brooke Bond Tea Co., for allowing their vans to be driven across the Common in front of Tamworth Villas. The former Company had denied the offence, but the latter had sent an apology.

The Clerk also reported that he had warned Mr. Alfred Miles of 23, Alston Road, Tooting, for lighting a fire and rigging up a large tent upon the Common on the 10th April, and his apology was read.

(b) Fires. The Common Keeper reported Arthur Grabham and Elvin Mason for setting fire to the gorse between Mitcham Road and Beddington Lane, on the 1st instant. It was resolved not to prosecute.

(c) Horses upon the Common. The Common Keeper reported that horses belonging to Mr. Thomas Pomeroy, had been on the Common on several dates in June and July. It was resolved that prosecution be instituted.

12. CROYDON BOUNDARY. Access on to the Common. The Clerk reported on the access on to the Common from the Villa formerly known as "The Fernside Refreshment Room," situated at the Croydon boundary opposite "The Jolly Gardners," in the rear of Mr. Botton's house. As a result of the negotiations recorded in the Minutes referred to at the Board Meeting held on the 9th October last, an agreement dated the 4th February, 1902, was entered into between the Conservators of the one part and Fredrick Charles Warman of "Fernside," of the other part, whereby Mr. Warman agreed to pay a rent of 5/- per year for the use of the access and of a culvert which he had erected, and agreed not to make any alteration or addition thereto, without the consent in writing of the Conservators, and to remove or pull down the said culvert and means of access within three months after receipt of Notice from the Conservators and in consideration thereof, the Conservators agreed not to take any steps to remove or cause to be removed the said means of access or culvert. Neither the Minutes nor the Account Books of the Board showed that this annual payment had ever been made.

It was resolved that the Clerk communicate with the present owner with regard to the position.

13. RUMBOLD VILLAS, Carshalton Road. The Clerk reported with reference to the complaint of Mr. S. A. Stolls received at the last meeting, that the Common Keeper had found that the Common fronting, "Rumbold Villas," did not require clearance.

A further letter of complaint received from Mr. Stolls on the 9th ultimo, had been referred to Mr. Willcocks, who had seen Mr. Stolls, with the result that the latter agreed that no nuisance now existed, Mr. Willcocks suggested that no further action need be taken.

This recommendation was accepted.

14. NOTICE BOARDS. The Clerk reported that he had a Bye-law Board at Beddington Lane repaired by Mr. Hitchings.

The Common Keeper reported that a new post and rail was required to the fence adjoining the bridge over the stream on the west side of Goat Road. The matter was referred to Mr. Willcocks and Mr. Maynard.

15. RUMBOLD VILLAS. The Common Keeper reported that Mr. Owen had completed the erection of the posts at the boundary between the Common and the approach road to Messrs. Mizen's nursery.

16. REFRESHMENT STALL. An application by Mr. A. A. Kimber for permission to take a Refreshment Stall on the Common off the Windmill Road, on Saturdays and special occasions, was refused.

17. GOLF. A letter dated the 13th June, was read from the Secretary of the Mitcham Golf Course, that he had instructed the Green Keepers to slope the edges of the two pot bunkers on No. 8 Link, and that it would then be sanded and rendered safe to the public.

Mr. Hitchings raised the question of additional assistance for the Common Keeper in respect of the Golf Course, as owing to the number of public at the week ends, there was an element of danger in the play. The Chairman said that it might be possible to alter the Course with the sanction of the Conservators and suggested that the matter be left to the Trustees to consider.