

THURSDAY, THE 14th DAY OF OCTOBER, 1926.

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

Sir H. M. Mallaby Deeley, Bart., J.P., in the chair, and Messrs. G. J. Allen, W. Carlton, J. Fitch, S. L. Gaston, G. Hitchings, W. H. Lewis, H. Richards, W. B. Roberts, S. Roden, W. West, W. T. Willcocks and the Clerk Mr. C. J. Marten.

1. THE MINUTES of the Meeting held on the 15th day of July, 1926, were read and confirmed.

2. FINANCE. The Clerk reported a balance at the Bank of £373 8s. 9d., and a balance in his hands on Petty Cash Account of 8/11.

He further reported the following receipts since the last meeting, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Bank Holiday Registration Fees	8	0	0
Sale of Copy Scheme	0	0	6
Sale of dead tree	0	13	0
Mitcham Urban District Council Contribution for 1926	100	0	0
The following cheques were passed for payment viz.:—			
C. J. Marten, quarters salary due the 29th Ultimo	£12	10	0
C. J. Marten, Petty Cash	40	0	0
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	32	10	0
H. R. Filbee, erection of posts at Tamworth Villas	42	7	0
H. R. Filbee, cleaning Bathing Lake	50	0	0
G. H. Hitchings, repairing posts, rails, fixing Bye-law Bills, supplying Notice Boards, etc.	14	0	9

3. BATHING LAKE. The Clerk reported that Mr. Filbee had finished the cleaning of the Bathing Lake on the 13th September, and had deposited the mud and other substances removed from the Lake in the holes on the Common near by, and some of these deposits required levelling.

It was resolved that the cheque ordered to be drawn in respect of this matter be held by the Clerk until the levelling had been finished.

4. TREES. It was reported that the remainder of the Willow tree at the rear of the Blue House had been blown down together with two other trees in the neighbourhood and the wood had been sold.

A letter dated the 17th ultimo, was read from the Croydon Borough Road Surveyor that the trees required for Mitcham Common—limes and planes—would shortly be ordered and the planting commenced as soon as possible after they were delivered.

The Clerk reported that he had reminded Mr. Morgan that the authorised expenditure of £200 was to include sufficient protection for the trees and that they were to be planted 13 yards apart instead of 10 yards as originally arranged.

5. WINDMILL HOUSE. The Clerk reported that Mr. Watson had again asked to have cut the dry grass around his fence and this work had been carried out by Mr. Skilling at the cost of £1.

6. GOLF. A letter dated the 28th July, was read from the Clerk of the Mitcham Urban District Council, that he had received a complaint of the danger to the public from the Golfers playing upon the public links.

A letter dated the 16th August, was read from Mr. T. Devereux asking that warning regulations should be issued to Golfers upon Mitcham Common for the protection of the public.

The Clerk reported that he had written to Captain Smith informing him of this correspondence.

The Chairman stated that a notice was exhibited in the Golf House instructing the Golfers not to play when the public were in the fairway.

It was proposed by Mr. Lewis seconded by Mr. Richards and resolved that six Notice Boards be erected at appropriate positions on the Common warning the Golfers and the public of the danger and prohibiting the obstruction of players.

A letter dated the 4th instant was read from Captain Smith, Secretary of the Mitcham Golf Course, returning the plan showing the alteration to the 15th hole which alteration was approved by the Improvements Committee on the 10th June, last, and stating it was found that that alteration was not a solution of the difficulty, that he now proposed to make the 15th Hole a short hole from the old tee to a new green away from the pond and then to make the 16th a long Hole by making the tee about 70 yards north of the new 15th green as shown upon the revised plan.

It was resolved that Captain Smith's proposals be sanctioned.

7. FOOTBALL. The Common Keeper reported that in carrying out the drainage of pitches Nos. 5 and 6, Mr. Filbee the Contractor had filled up and levelled the pitches with mould taken from excavations and with other mould supplied by him without expense to the Conservators.

8. BREACHES of BYE-LAWS. The Clerk reported that he had received from Mr. J. M. Furnival an undertaking not to again park his car upon the Common.

He further reported that he had written again to Mr. L. B. Clarke, but had received no reply.

It was resolved that Mr. Clarke be informed that if no notice were taken of the Boards communications they will take proceedings under the Bye-laws. The Clerk was instructed to prosecute if no answer be received.

The Clerk reported that he had written the following persons in respect of the undermentioned offences and had received apologies and undertakings in each case, viz. :—

Frank Snelling, driving motor car on the footpath.

William Woolmer, setting light to dead rushes, etc., near the Golf House.

W. E. Dulake, depositing old posters from Advertising Hoardings at Mitcham Junction.

The Clerk reported that he had written to S. Maycock and S. King for bathing in the lake on the 5th August at 12.30 p.m. without a bathing costume, but had received no reply from either party.

The Clerk was instructed to look into the position as to the possibility of prosecuting for such offence apart from the Bye-laws, and to consider the question of framing a new Bye-law to cover the matter and to report thereon at the next meeting and also upon the regulations at present in force in respect of bathing. In the meanwhile, in case of repetition, he was to instruct the Common Keeper to act by informing the police.

Mr. J. Beckerson, of 46, West Grove Road, Finchley, was reported for driving a small motor van upon the Common opposite Rumbold Villas on the 29th September, and that no letter had been received from him in reply to the Clerk's warning. The same action was directed as in the case of Mr. Clarke.

9. NOTICE BOARDS. The Common Keeper reported that the post to the Notice Board at the corner of Cedars Road had been broken off and a new post had been supplied and the post affixed by Mr. Hitchings.

10. BEDDINGTON CORNER. The Clerk reported that two posts and the intervening rail having been broken off at the Mill Green Road, he had had the same replaced by Mr. Hitchings at a cost of 35/9.

11. TAMWORTH VILLAS. The Common Keeper reported that during the night of the 21st September, three of the new posts had been pulled out and removed and two partly pulled out. The matter had been reported to the Police, but no information had been received.

The Clerk reported that Mr. Filbee had renewed the posts at a cost of 10/-.

12. BYE-LAWS. An estimate was received from the Croydon Advertiser, Limited, for the supply of 200 Bye-law Posters for £6 or 300 for £6 10s. 3d. The Clerk was instructed subject to the difference in price being satisfactory, to obtain 100 only of the posters.

13. NUISANCES. The Clerk reported that he had ascertained that the price of wire baskets for the reception of waste paper varied from about 12/- to 30/-, but that it would probably be well to get the baskets made to the Board's specification. Mr. Lewis offered to look further into this matter and obtain prices.

A letter dated the 14th instant, was read from Mr. D. J. Rawkins, the freeholder of some houses at the corner of Cedars Avenue and Commonsale Lane, that he had received complaints from two of the occupiers of these houses of the insanitary condition of the pond in front of these houses and asking that the Board would fill in the pond or otherwise mitigate the nuisance.

The Clerk was directed to investigate the complaint and report at the next meeting.

14. CRICKET. The Borough Road Surveyor reported that the number of Cricket permits issued by his department for the cricket season ended the 30th September, last, was 487, each permit representing a separate match.

15. ELECTRIC MAINS. The Clerk reported that the County of London Electric Supply Co., Ltd., in connection with their proposal put before the Improvements Committee on the 10th June, last, for inserting electric mains along Windmill Road and Beddington Lane, had within the last few days asked for permission to insert the mains along the Common on the east side of the road instead of under the roads themselves and had pointed out that gas, water and sewers were all laid under the Commons and not under the roads.

It was proposed by Mr. Rodon seconded by Mr. Roberts and resolved by 4 votes to 3 that the Board's consent to the proposal be not given.

IN COMMITTEE.

Land at Mitcham Junction.

The Clerk reported that on instructions from the Chairman he had written to the Surveyor of the Southern Railway giving him Notice that the Board had resolved to instruct the Common Keeper to remove the board erected upon the land as reported at the last meeting and that the matter had thereupon been referred to the Company's Solicitor from whom he had received a letter dated the 6th August, that on the 15th July, 1872, a Committee of Commoners pursuant to the provisions of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, accepted a sum of £1,370 10s. 10d., as compensation for the extinction of all commonable and other rights over the land in question and that having regard to the fact that the Commoners accepted this money for the extinction of the Commonable rights, he felt sure that the Conservators were not going to set up that they still had common rights in respect of the land.

The Clerk reported that he had seen Mr. Garney at the office of the Company's solicitor who had produced to him the deed by which the transaction had been carried out.

He also reported that he had found that the Notice Board in question had been erected on the 30th November, 1923.

It was resolved that the matter be held in abeyance until such members as desired had had an opportunity of inspecting the plan referred to in Paragraph 1 of the Scheme scheduled to the Conservators Act.