

## Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators, May 2010

**Minutes of the Conservators' Meeting** held on Monday 10 May 2010 at 5pm in the Information Centre, Wimbledon Common, London SW19 5NR.

**Present:** Mr A Simon (Chairman)  
Mr D Devons (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr D Frampton  
Dr S Frank  
Mr J Horrocks  
Mr N Plastow MBE

**In attendance:** Clerk & Ranger, Chief Executive (Mr G Vincent)  
Deputy Clerk & Ranger (Ms P Graystone)  
PA to the Clerk & Ranger (Miss A Evans)

1 member of the public was present for part of the meeting.

### 05.10.1 Apologies

Sir Ian Andrews  
Mrs D de Coverly Veale

### 05.10.2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 12 April were approved subject to several minor amendments.

### 05.10.3 Matters Arising

**Dog-Walkers on Putney Lower Common** – Mr Horrocks reported that he had made contact with Mr Mike Hildesley of the Friends of Barnes Common and was hoping to arrange a meeting with him in the near future.

**Combat Against Cancer Run** – The Clerk & Ranger reported that nothing further had been heard from the organisers of this event.

**Management of the Plain** – Dr Frank reported that he had not yet completed his paper on the management of the Plain but hoped to have it ready for the June meeting.

**Signs around Ponds** – Mr Frampton reported that several signs around the ponds asking dog-walkers to keep their dogs out of the water had been damaged, particularly around Bluegate Pond. The Clerk & Ranger confirmed that the signs were regularly monitored and replaced as necessary.

### 05.10.4 Clerk & Ranger's Report

## ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

**Tibbet's Corner, Local Safety Scheme** – The Clerk & Ranger confirmed that a meeting had been arranged with Mr Sanders and his colleagues from Wandsworth Council on Friday 14 May at the Ranger's Office to discuss the proposed safety improvements to Tibbet's Corner roundabout. The Clerk & Ranger, Mr Devons and Mr Horrocks would be attending.

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**Cycling on the Commons** – The Clerk & Ranger reported that he had received an e-mail from a member of the public requesting the Conservators to allow cycling on a larger number of paths on the Commons. It was agreed that, as cycling was being actively promoted by many organisations, a Sub-Committee should be set up to review the Conservators' policy on cycling paths. Mr Devons, Mr Plastow and Mr Horrocks would sit on the Sub-Committee: matters for consideration would include which, if any, paths could be made into cycle paths, what additional maintenance work might be required, and the possible use of the paths by semi-professional cyclists.

### 05.10.5 Natural History Sub-Committee (NHSC) Report

**Floating Platforms on Queensmere** – Dr Frank reported that the swans had not returned this year and the new floating platforms on Queensmere were now occupied by geese. The male of the pair of swans that had nested there in 2009 had been injured in a territorial fight at Wimbledon Park and that the female had found a new mate.

**Pegasus Crossing** – Mr Horrocks reported that, since the last NHSC meeting, a length of hedge had been planted at the new Pegasus Crossing by TFL, but it did not cover the full agreed extent. The NHSC would discuss this at their next meeting.

**The Plain** – Dr Frank reported that the last NHSC meeting had discussed the possibility of carrying out the September cut of the Plain somewhat earlier, perhaps late August, to allow the grass to grow longer before the winter. It was requested that the Wildlife and Conservation Officer, Mr Peter Haldane, discuss this with the contractors.

**Invertebrate Survey** – Dr Frank reported that Richmond Council was proposing to carry out an invertebrate survey on Barnes Common. They had suggested to Mr Haldane that the Conservators should make a financial contribution to enable Putney Lower Common to be included in the survey. The Clerk & Ranger reported that he had agreed to a contribution of £300.

**Brambles near the Ranger's Office** – Concern was expressed that a bramble patch close to the Ranger's Office had been cleared, as it was a known nesting site for Whitethroats. It was suggested that an ecological register should be drawn up to list the main habitat areas on the Commons, and agreed that this should be considered by NHSC at their next meeting.

### 05.10.6 Annual Open Meeting – 21 June 2010

a) **Minutes of the 2009 Annual Open Meeting** – The minutes of the 2009 Annual Open meeting were considered and approved subject to several minor amendments.

b) **Agenda for the 2010 Annual Open Meeting** – The Agenda for the 2010 Annual Open Meeting was approved.

c) **Official Notice/Advertisement** The official Notice/Advertisement for the 2010 Annual Meeting was approved.

d) **The Financial Statements and Annual Report for 2009/10**- The Chairman reported that the Finance Sub-Committee had considered the Financial Statements and Annual Report for the financial year 2009/10 and recommended their approval by the Board. Subject to several minor amendments, they were approved.

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators, May 2010

05.10.11 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 14 June 2010 at 5pm at the Information Centre

The meeting closed at 6.55pm

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. D. ...".

29.6.2010