



CONSERVATORS' MEETING
to be held on
Monday 11 July 2022 at 4.30pm
in the Wimbledon Common Golf Club, Camp Road
SW19 4UW

AGENDA

PART A(1) PUBLIC

- 7.22.1 Confirmation of Attendance and Apologies for Absence**
- 7.22.2 Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests in Respect of Items to be Considered in this Part of the Meeting**
- 7.22.3 WPCC Board Meetings**
- i. Resolutions of the Part A(1) Board Meeting of 1 June
 - ii. Minutes of the Part A(1) Board Meeting of 1 June
- 7.22.4 Matters Arising from Previous Meetings [4.35pm]**
There are no Matters Arising
- 7.22.5 WPCC Forum/Group Meetings**
There have been no public Forum/Group meetings since the 1 June Board meeting.
- 7.22.6 Conservation Update [4.40pm] Page 2**
- 7.22.7 Chief Executive's Report – non-confidential items [4.50pm] Page 4**
- 7.22.8 Update on the Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons [5.00pm) Verbal Update**
- 7.22.9 Public Questions on Matters Considered in Part A(1) of this Meeting [5.10pm]**
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PART A(2) CONFIDENTIAL

Resolution from the Board meeting held on 12 July 2021

Having agreed the 'Policy on Public Admission to Meetings and Publication of Agendas, Minutes and Resolutions' and to hold Board meetings in public from 1 October 2021, the Board:

- a) resolved to exclude the public for discussion of item(s) under WPCC Part A2 Board meetings on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons.

7.22.10 Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests in Respect of Items to be Considered in this Part of the Meeting

7.22.11 WPCC Board Meetings

- i. Resolutions of the Board Meeting of 1 Jun2 2022
- ii. Minutes of the Confidential Board Meeting of 1 June 2022
- iii. Minutes of the Confidential Board Meeting of 27 June 2022

7.22.12 Matters Arising

7.22.13 Chief Executive's Confidential Report

7.22.14 Management Accounts

- i. April 2022
- ii. May 2022

7.22.15 Business Plan Update

7.22.16 Fundraising Update

7.22.17 Constitutional Matters

7.22.18 Conservation Project

7.22.19 Top 10 Risks

7.22.20 Draft Minutes/Notes

To receive:

- i. Minutes of the Constitution Committee meeting held on 14 June 2022
- ii. Stakeholder meeting held on 23 March 2022

To approve:

- iii. Annual Open Meeting held on 29 June 2022

7.22.21 Items for inclusion in a Media Release by the Board

Committee(s):	Date(s):	Item no.
Board of Conservators	11 July 2022	7.22.6
Subject: Conservation Update	Public	
Report of: Chief Executive	For Decision and Information	
<h1>SUMMARY</h1> <p>This report provides an update on the conservation and management work carried out by the staff and volunteers.</p>		

Whilst larger conservation projects are quiet during June, with just the scrub bashing volunteer groups out on Putney Heath, the Chief Executive thought the Board would like to see a summary of some of the work that has been carried out by the WPC Maintenance Team during the last month.

Completed Maintenance Tasks (June 1st to 30th)

Mow fairground site in preparation of Bookfest setup

Jubilee celebrations – Windmill prep and takedown work with cherry picker

Tree safety work – Kinsella Gardens area (dead Elm trees along boundary wall)

Ditch maintenance work – inspect main culverts and water jet with ditches reshaped and cleared if needed

Stump grinding (hired tracked machine) on 3 main heathland sites over the 7 days of hire

- Tibbet's Meadow heathland site
- Green Ride heathland site
- Roehampton Ride heathland site

Tree safety work – Parkside general deadwood and clear branches from obscured traffic cameras

Grass mowing/strimming of Southside Common islands (All)

Installation of traffic limit signage (Camp Rd/Windmill Rd)

Grass mowing/strimming of areas outside the pubs (Crooked Billet and Hand in Hand)

Grass mowing/strimming of Westside Common islands (Just roadside sightlines and posts)

Research and investigate red/white diesel situation

Tree failures - multiple Willow trees down along Kingsmere path/bank – chainsaw and chipper needed

Intensive litter pick of A3/Roehampton Lane/Tibbet's Ride roadsides

Grass mowing/strimming of areas around Ross Court and the Tibbet's Ride areas

Tree failure – Oak tree large branch failure on slope between Manor Cottage and Queensmere

Bomford (tract-fitted hedge cutter) mow horse crossing sight line bramble back along Cannizaro Road

Strim/cut back pathways around both ravines and golf tees

Tree failure – Oak tree failure on Wildcroft Rd – chainsaw and chipper needed (OPM present)

Grass mowing/strimming of pathways around Putney Heath (general)

Mow Rushmere amenity site (Top area near Wimbledon Village end only)

Mow Roehampton Cricket pitch outfield/amenity areas and Grantham Ponds area

Covering volunteer groups supervision for PH (regular mid-week scrub bashers and corporate groups)

In house tractor and trailer refresher training and familiarisation for Sarah Murton

Remove old logs and woody waste from log pile site with digger and tractor trailers; Remove debris and create habitat piles with the waste on Putney Heath woodland sites; Grade and level the site with digger and chain harrows

Annual golf course maintenance walkthrough with head greenkeeper and works report compiled

Removal of fallen dammed tree in Beverley Brook (Mill Corner end) – chainsaw and winch used

Continued chipping of brash and debris created by heathland management sessions (all chipping removed from heathland site) 4 days' worth of work

Tree failure – Oak tree failure on Sunset Rd – making safe followed by eEmergency road closures to Sunset Rd to perform cherrypicker based trees safety work to Oak tree failure

Intensive litter pick of Rushmere sites and surrounding areas in prep of Wimbledon Tennis fortnight

Sunset Rd/Springwell carpark roadside posts strimmed and Bomford used to open sightlines whilst road closures were in place

Large fly tip (tractor and trailer needed for removal) of builder's waste dumped on Telegraph Rd

New telegraph carpark gate damaged due to a vehicle impact – gate made secure whilst repair in arranged

General Bomford ride/path widening works required due to vegetation encroachment

Large scale watering of young trees with tractor trailed water bowser unit across site

Mow out existing fire break paths across all heathland and longer grassland areas

Litter Picking Operative – litter picking and litter/dog bin emptying every Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday through this month.

Committee(s):	Date(s):	Item no.
Board of Conservators	11 July 2022	07.22.6
Subject: Chief Executive Report	Public	
Report of: Chief Executive of Wimbledon and Putney Commons	For Decision and Information	
Summary		
The report provides an update on non-confidential operational matters since the Board meeting on 1 June 2022.		

Telegraph Car Park Gate – A new height restriction gate was fitted at the Telegraph car park earlier this year after it was damaged from being hit by a car. Last week, a minibus tried to drive into the car park and, as it was too high, has caused significant damage to the new gate. Fortunately a member of the public witnessed it happening and it is now being dealt with by the culprit’s insurers.

Auction Prizes – One of the prizes auctioned at the AELTC Afternoon Tea was a visit to the stables, a tractor tour around the Commons and a picnic lunch. This event took place on Sunday 3 July. The second Bird Walk is taking place on 13 November.

REMPF – The Playing Fields have been busy over the last few weeks. Along with the regular school activities, on 6 June they hosted the DOKO Challenge 2022 organised by the Gurkha Welfare Trust. Based on the traditional Gurkha Recruitment Doko race, this challenge sees participants undertaking a 5km run carrying a traditional Doko basket filled with sandbags weighing either 5kg, 10kg or 15kg. This year there were Gurkhas actually taking part as well. On 2 July there were a series of American football matches and 3 July, they were the venue for the Mongolian Day of Culture which includes running events for children, play music and sing and Mongolian Wrestling.

Rangers Office Phones – The phone system in the Rangers Office has been upgraded to a VOIP system (Voice over internet protocol), which uses the fibre broadband to make calls. This will result in a significant monthly saving. The REMPF and Maintenance Centre will be also be upgraded in due course, linking the three phone systems.

Wimbledon Tennis – A large number of e-mails are being received into WPCC’s Complaints inbox with varied complaints in respect of the tennis. We receive a few e-mails each year but so far this year over 200 e-mails have been received. Several are also coming in to the main Ranger’s Office inbox via the “contact us” form on the website, despite a large notice advising the complainants that they have reached the wrong site. It is not clear why there has been such an increase in e-mails incorrectly coming to WPCC this year. A standard response, with the correct contact details, has been sent to each one.

Fundraising Update

Jubilee Celebration Event

The Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons organised a successful event for the community to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 2nd June 2022. Donations were invited on the night and were collected in donation buckets and online via Just Giving. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who made a gift and in total £2,881.55 was raised including Gift Aid. Donations will help with the upkeep of both the Commons and the Windmill. It is estimated that about 1,000 people attended.

Putney Lower Common Footbridge Appeal

In February 2022 a fundraising appeal was launched, asking the community to help 'Bring Back the Bridge'. By May our fundraising target of £15,000 was reached thanks to the generosity of local visitors and a major gift made by a generous resident in Barnes. In June, we were notified that we were successful in our application to the Wandsworth Grant Fund, and have been awarded £5,000 towards the project. The work to restore the bridge is due to take place in August and we look forward to celebrating it's reopening with the community in Putney. If there are additional funds remaining after the work is complete, all funds will be used to enhance and improve Putney Lower Common.

Grant Application to Natural England's 'Nature for Climate: Peatland Grant Scheme'

When you think of bogs, images of vast bleak landscapes may come to mind, however this important and rare habitat can still be found in wildlife rich habitats in London. Farm Bog, one of the last remaining bogs in London, is located on Wimbledon Common. The Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme (NCPGS) provides funding to restore peatlands in England. Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators have applied to the scheme's Discovery round in hope of securing a grant to fund a feasibility study for restoring Farm Bog and three other locations where peat has either been identified or historic maps suggest the habitat was previously a bog. It is hoped that the grant scheme will recognise the importance of these peatland habitats remaining in London and the value in ensuring that they continue to flourish.

EVENTS

17-19 June – Weekend of Nature – The annual Weekend of Nature event took place on the weekend of 17-19 June and, although quiet in comparison to previous years, was very successful. Those joining our staff and volunteers on the walks were full engaged and enthusiastic to learn about the Commons, its wildlife and the conservation work carried out.

Thanks to Peter Haldane and Angela Evans-Hill for organising the weekend, and to the volunteers for giving up their time to lead the events.

29 June 2022 – Annual Open Meeting, Holy Trinity Church, Roehampton, SW15 4LA

The Annual Open Meeting, the first face to face meeting since 2019, was attended by approximately 35 Levy-payers and members of the public. The main focus for the questions

was on the Conservators recent decision to withdraw the dog walking authorisations. The minutes of the meeting will be made public once approved by the Board.

5 July – Summer Evening Walk with the Management Team – 27 people attended the Management Walk on 5 July. Led by Peter Haldane, Conservation and Engagement Officer, these walks are an excellent opportunity for staff to show the conservation projects that are underway or completed and explain more about the management of the Commons.

21 July 2022 – Evening Reception at the House of Commons - Tickets went on sale to Friends on 20 May and were opened to the general public on 27 May. Tickets were sold out within two weeks. Four more tickets were released on 4 July once guest numbers were confirmed.

11 September 2022 - Annual Commons Open Day – Preparation for the first Open Day since 2019 is underway with a lot of interest from new stall holders this year.

Finances

A summary of the financial information for the year to end of May 2022 is provided below:

WPCC UN-AUDITED MANAGEMENT INFORMATION			
		31.05.2022	
		Year to date	
		£,000	
UNRESTRICTED			
Income			
Levy		221	
Sports and recreation		56	
Donations and grants		9	
Rents and wayleaves		24	
Other income		13	
Investment income		12	
		<u>335</u>	
Expenditure			
Employment costs		201	
Overhead expenditure		118	
Non-recurring costs			
		<u>319</u>	
Surplus/(deficit)		16	
RESTRICTED			
Income		35	
Expenditure		22	
Surplus/deficit)		<u>12</u>	
SUMMARY			
Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)		16	
Gain/(loss) on investments		(56)	
		<u>(40)</u>	
Restricted surplus/(deficit)		12	
		<u>(27)</u>	
Notes:			
1. The above figures do not include any year-end non-cash adjustments in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme.			