

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators, MAY 2014

Minutes of the Conservators' Meeting held on Monday 12 May 2014 at 5pm in the Information Centre, Wimbledon Common, London SW19 5NR.

Conservators Present: Mr D Devons (Chairman)
Mr D Frampton
Mr J Horrocks
Mr A Simon (Vice-Chairman)
Dr R Taylor
Professor R Touquet

Officers Present: Mr S Lee (Chief Executive)
Ms P Graystone (Deputy Clerk & Ranger)
Ms A Evans (PA to the Chief Executive)

2 members of the public

05.14.1 Apologies

Sir Ian Andrews for lateness

05.14.2 Declarations of Interest

Mr Devons and Mr Simon confirmed they were both trustees of the Wimbledon Windmill Museum Trust. Mr Simon was also an executive member of the Wimbledon Society and sat on the PCC of Putney Parish. Mr Horrocks confirmed he was an executive member of the Putney Society.

05.14.3 Minutes of Meeting held on 14 April 2014

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2014 were approved subject to two minor changes.

05.14.4 Matters Arising None

05.14.5 Chief Executive's Report

A General Update

- Ai **Matters Arising Sheet** - The Chief Executive reported that he had reviewed the Matters Arising Sheet and most of the issues on it required specific funding. It would be better if these items were brought to the Board annually, prior to the budget meeting, so the Conservators could decide if funds should be allocated for any of the items. All other items would be picked up monthly in his report. This was agreed.
- Aii **Travellers** – A useful meeting had taken place with Mr McCue from Wandsworth Council concerning a more co-ordinated approach to managing travellers in the area. Mr McCue has also offered the opportunity for him and the Senior Keeper to meet with Inspector Biggs, Wandsworth Events Police and Support Service, who had developed robust procedures for managing travellers. This visit had been arranged for later this week.

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to discuss the Licence Agreement for the forthcoming Village Fair to be held on Rushmere on Saturday 21 June 2014. The licence had been very specific about no selling of cars. The licence was now agreed subject to some minor amendments he was expecting from the Guild.

- Ax **Conservators' Walks** – Two dates had now been agreed for the walks of the Commons by the Conservators, one on the evening of the 29 July 2014 and another on the morning of the 15 November 2014. It was proposed that these last a couple hours and that different parts of the Common be visited on each occasion. Further details would be circulated in due course.

B Report

The Chief Executive reported as follows:

- Bi **Putney Lower Common Hospital** – Confirmation had been received that the Appeal against the Judgment of Mr Justice Wyn Williams granted by Lord Justice Rimer will be held on the 30 June 2014 at the Fleet Street Law Courts. A letter sent by Mr Evans had been published in the Wandsworth Guardian on 1 May 2014 concerning a letter the Chairman wrote back in July 2013. In addition an item appeared in the latest Putney Society Bulletin; Mr Evans was now editor of that publication.
- Bii **Attack on Putney Heath** – The Chief Executive reported that the police had confirmed that the youth arrested and charged for the offence had now been sentenced to 9 months in prison to be followed by an 9 month Control Order.
- Biii **Responsible Dog Control** – The up-dating of the Dog Walking Leaflet for the Commons continued and it was hoped to have a draft for the next Board meeting.

The Keepers were now recording all significant interactions/occurrences with the public in order to build up a picture of what was happening on the Commons on a day-to-day basis. The Chief Executive would bring this report to the Conservators quarterly. This report would also help determine where priorities should be focused in future.

Two Keepers had recently been involved in an incident where a runner had collapsed and his heart had stopped but, as they were trained in the use of a defibrillator, they had been able to resuscitate him. The run organisers had not known that the staff had a defibrillator and this was one example of something that should be publicised more widely. This information would be included in an event application form once that was in place. It was agreed that a note of thanks should be sent to the two Keepers involved.

- Biv **Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)** – During the beginning of April contractors working on behalf of the Forestry Commission had carried out three days' spraying work on the Commons. With a recorded 53% reduction in the total number of OPM nests identified across infected areas last year, the decision had been taken to spray certain areas where OPM had previously been identified on the Commons. A second spray would be carried out in the coming week.

05.14.6 Natural History Sub-Committee

Report of the Meeting - Dr Taylor reported that this would be a verbal update as the last meeting had been delayed to 7 May and it had not been possible to produce the minutes of the meeting in time for the Board meeting.

The meeting had begun with a walk to look at the site of the Holly removal. This was considered to be an excellent project that had been implemented very well. Two of the local expert volunteers had joined the walk and had undertaken to carry out some monitoring of the birdlife in the area.

Mr Haldane had reported to the meeting that a mowing contractor had now been appointed and that the grass on the Plain would be cut in the first week of August. The grass was not currently growing very well, and a lot of rabbits in the area were exacerbating the problem.

The routine monitoring for birds and vegetation had begun and it was hoped that the butterfly and insect recording would begin soon.

The next meeting would be taking place on 28 May and a walk around the area to be covered by the BioBlitz was planned.

Draft programme for the Bioblitz on 12/13 July – The Conservators noted the decision to have two walks each with a selection of expert volunteers and a member of the management team, rather than individual walks. Dr Taylor noted that the current publicity mentioned a family event in the afternoon and this would need to be amended as this was unlikely to take place. An A5 leaflet would be produced to publicise the event and posters would be put up in the notice boards. These would need to be produced to coincide with the delivery of the newsletter.

05.14.7 Annual Open Meeting

Agenda - The Agenda for the Annual Open Meeting (AOM) was approved.

Notices – The two notices for the Annual Open Meeting were approved subject to amending "Conservators" to "Trustees (Conservators)".

It was agreed that the Conservators should agree a policy on whether they continue to be called Conservators, other than for official documentation, and move to be called Trustees. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the June meeting.

Minutes - The minutes of the 2013 meeting were approved.

From the floor, Mr Cameron asked if the list of questions he had circulated at the 2013 meeting would be appended to the Minutes. The Chairman responded that, although he had verbally agreed to this at the AOM, the other Conservators had subsequently rejected this approach and therefore his list of questions would not be appended to the minutes. Mr Cameron commented that he would raise this at the Open Meeting.

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05.14.9 Any Other Business

Map – North View - It was reported that the map in the map board at North View had faded. The Chief Executive would arrange to get this replaced.

05.14.10 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed a Monday 9 June 2014 at 5pm at the Information Centre

The meeting finished at 6.35pm

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David P. Evans".