



WIMBLEDON AND PUTNEY COMMONS CONSERVATORS

**REPORT OF THE CONSERVATORS
AND**

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2018**

FOR

THE WIMBLEDON AND PUTNEY COMMONS ACT 1871

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 303167

Kreston Reeves LLP

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor

9 Donnington Park
85 Birdham Road
Chichester
West Sussex
PO20 7AJ

**Wimbledon and Putney Commons
Conservators**

**Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31st March 2018**

Conservators	Mrs D Neil Mills (Chairman) – Elected April 2018 Mrs S. Gillbe – Re-elected April 2018 Mr D Hince – Elected April 2018 Mr P. Hirsch – Elected April 2018 Mrs S-J Holden – Elected April 2018 Mr M Rappolt - Appointed by Secretary for Defence May 2017 Dr R Taylor Appointed by DEFRA April 2013 Mr N Ware - Appointed by Home Secretary March 2018
Outgoing/Retiring Conservators	Ms P Whyte (Outgoing Chairman) – Elected April 2015 – Retired April 2018 Sir I Andrews (Appointed by Secretary for Defence) - Appointed May 2009 – Retired May 2017 Mr J Cameron – Elected April 2015 – Retired April 2018 Mr D Frampton (Appointed by Home Secretary) January 2009 – Retired January 2018 Mr K Luck – Elected April 2015 – Retired April 2018
Chief Executive	Mr S Lee
Principal address	Manor Cottage Wimbledon Common London SW19 5NR
Registered charity number	303167
Independent auditors	Kreston Reeves LLP Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor 9 Donnington Park 85 Birdham Road Chichester West Sussex PO20 7AJ
Solicitors	Russell-Cooke LLP, 2 Putney Hill, London SW15 6AB
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc 8 Alexandra Road Wimbledon London SW19 7L

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COMMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

We all recognise the magnificence of Wimbledon and Putney Commons and as Conservators we are united in our commitment to uphold the founding principles of the 1871 Act to preserve, enhance and protect the open space for the purposes of exercise and recreation. We also however recognise the current challenges that face the organisation, including the need to secure our long-term financial position in order to meet the investment requirements of this unique resource.

Despite the challenges, I believe that we have an unprecedented opportunity to build on the existing strengths of the organisation, not least of which include a team of committed and eminently capable people. As Conservators, we are responsible for ensuring that all initiatives that we undertake are aligned with the founding principles, properly resourced and delivered with excellence and it will be a great honour for me to help lead that process as the newly elected chairman.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the previous Conservators including two of the three appointed Conservators whose terms of office came to an end during the financial year as well as those elected Conservators whose terms of office came to an end.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S FOREWORD

The position of Chief Executive of Wimbledon and Putney Commons presents a broad range of opportunities and challenges. One of the most rewarding aspects of the position is the opportunity to work with many different partners in furthering the objectives of the Charity.

Our Commons Strategy launched in June 2017 was developed in consultation with the Stakeholder Engagement Group, staff and of course the Board of Conservators. The Strategy sets out the Vision, Mission and underpinning Values, for the organisation, together with the long-term aspirations for the Commons under five strategic themes.

The new strategic approach looks to retain and enhance the Commons' natural habitats, improve access and opportunities for healthy recreational pursuits while continuing our work to actively engage with the community to improve understanding of the Commons and its management. Above all it is about ensuring that the Commons remain at the very centre of the life for the local community and a home to abundant wildlife.

In February 2018, from the strategic priorities identified by the Board, a three year Business Plan together with a detailed financial plan was approved. A significant focus over the past year has been to bring our finances back into balance and new initiatives have been introduced to help raise funds to support the Commons. This included two successful fundraising appeals and the launch of a voluntary payment scheme in the Windmill car park.

The past year has seen significant changes to the composition of the Board of Conservators. Two Conservators representing the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office were appointed by the respective Secretaries of State in May 2017 and March 2018. Voting in triennial elections closed on the 28th February 2018 and one Conservator was re-elected and four new Conservators elected to the Board. The elected Conservators took office on the 4th April 2018.

Finally, I would like to thank our highly committed and experienced staff who do so much to make Wimbledon and Putney Commons such a unique open space in London. We are also fortunate in having support from our volunteers. In addition, there are a host of other organisations who have supported the Commons, including the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Wimbledon Foundation (the community funding arm of the All England Lawn Tennis Association), the local amenity societies and business associations together with individuals who have supported the Charity and given generously of their time.

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WHAT WE ACHIEVED DURING THE PAST YEAR

The adoption by the Board in June 2017 of the Commons first ever Strategy provides a framework for consistent, long-term management based on an agreed set of policy priorities which identify the objectives of site management and seek a balance between any conflicts of interest. These are grouped under five strategic areas of key responsibilities. A link to the Strategy is included below:

<https://www.wpcc.org.uk/downloads/publications/commons-strategy-2017-2019.pdf>

Our Vision

“Wimbledon and Putney Commons will be recognised as an exceptional and welcoming natural place for visitors where wildlife thrives”

Our Key Objectives

- 1) **Safeguard** and improve for the public benefit the natural environment and wildlife conservation together with the use of Wimbledon and Putney Commons in a manner appropriate to its rich heritage;
- 2) **Engage** with the Commons’ communities to promote and foster for the public benefit a wide knowledge and understanding of the historical, ecological and recreational significance of the Commons.

We will **achieve** these through exemplary organisation and management, delivering services, projects, and attracting more resources to the benefit of the Commons.

In planning and delivering its activities, the Conservators have referred to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit. We confirm we have complied with our duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

In September 2017 WPCC received two Gold Awards in the annual London in Bloom ‘Common of the Year’ competition, one for Wimbledon Common and the other, for the first time, for Putney Lower Common, a reflection of all the hard work of staff and volunteers.

The restoration works associated with the new development on Putney Lower Common were completed and the newly sown wild flower meadows and new plantings provided a glorious display of colour during the summer months that was positively received by the local community.

The Commons were also successful in obtaining a Countryside Stewardship Grant from Natural England of nearly £13,000 per annum for five years commencing in January 2018; none of this grant was receivable prior to 31 March 2018. This grant is directed towards enhancement of the heathlands and acidic grasslands that make up the Commons Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) status.

In connection with the commemorations of World War I, The Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust launched a campaign to commemorate all of the airfields that were critical in the defence of the nation. Many airfields are now disused and research by the Trust revealed that Wimbledon Common had its own airfield located on The Plain from 1915 to 1918. A formal ceremony was held to unveil a plaque the trust had donated on The Ranger’s Office on Wednesday 13th December 2017.

Access and Recreation

In the summer we launched our Access for All Appeal, to raise £55,000 to restore Inner Windmill Road, one of the main arterial hard surfaced routes across the Commons and in a poor condition of repair. It was envisaged keeping the appeal going until the end of January 2018, but we were able to close it two months earlier because our target was achieved. As well as many individual donations we also received

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a £4,500 grant from the Wimbledon Foundation, the grant making arm of the All England Lawn Tennis Club. Thank you to everyone who supported the appeal, works are now complete.

On the back of this initiative and working in partnership with Wimbledon Village Stables, a further £30,000 was raised to restore our horse rides, with work undertaken along Bluegate and Memorial Rides.

In November 2018 we introduced a voluntary car park donation scheme at the Windmill car park. Although early days, this has generated a very welcome additional £2,000 in the period to 31st March 2018. For people who want to support the Commons year round there is the opportunity of providing an annual one-off donation. This can be donated through Gift Aid increasing the benefit for our Charity, see the link below:

[https://www.wpcc.org.uk/downloads/charitygadsingledonation-\(2\).pdf](https://www.wpcc.org.uk/downloads/charitygadsingledonation-(2).pdf)

We continue to appeal to those who use the car park for commuter purposes not to do so as it disenfranchises those who genuinely want to visit and use the Commons and we will be considering what steps we can take to prevent them from doing so.

Community

We continued to develop our engagement strategy to better understand the visitor and stakeholder issues.

The Stakeholder Engagement Group met on four occasions and we were pleased that Roehampton Forum have been able to provide a representative. There are now fifteen members of the Group, representing many of the different constituencies using the Commons, from horse-riders and dog walkers to runners and golfers. Both Putney and Wimbledon amenity societies are represented, together with a number of local Residents' Associations.

The Wildlife and Conservation Forum met on seven occasions during the year. Under the Chairmanship of Dr R Taylor, the DEFRA Appointed Conservator, the group have been instrumental in progressing several initiatives, including the production of the annual Ecological and Environmental Monitoring Report see link below:

<https://www.wpcc.org.uk/downloads/nature/monitoring-report-2017---final.pdf>

During the year some 471 volunteers have contributed approximately 3,500 voluntary hours to help protect and preserve the commons:

- *conservation work* – such as the scrub bashers who held 24 sessions with some 58 individuals and other conservation work including that done on Farm Bog by London Wildlife Trust;
- *estate work* – the introduction of a mid-week volunteer estate team in the autumn has so far attracted 16 people;
- *monitoring work* - of the wildlife survey team, led by Dr R Taylor, our DEFRA appointed Conservator, which goes from strength to strength; 14 people have undertaken monitoring of specific flora and fauna, from butterfly transects to small mammals.

The Commons' involvement in the national Walking for Health programme started in June 2016. As part of this programme, over the past 12 months there have been 24 organised walks and 82 individuals have taken part. The highest number of people that attended a single event during this period was 28 walkers. With the assistance of three regular volunteers, we are able to provide two walks for each session to accommodate both moderate and slower walkers.

Partnerships are at the very heart of our work and a particular highlight of 2017 was the celebration of the bicentenary of the historic Windmill. Throughout the year working together with the Wimbledon Windmill Museum Trustees a number of events were held, including a Family Open Day, Volunteer Celebration and the Christmas Carol Concert. Having abandoned the entrance fee in 2017, visitor numbers to the museum soared from 2,421 in 2016 to a staggering 16,996 in 2017. The completion of

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Heritage Lottery funded work has seen the introduction of a new education programme and children's activities.

Working with The Royal Wimbledon Golf Club and endorsed by Natural England we are helping to enhance the biodiversity of the acidic grasslands/ heathlands of both the Royal Wimbledon golf course and the Commons, at no cost to WPCC. Both sites form part of the same SSSI and acidic grassland has been lifted from the Commons and placed at several sites on the golf course, whilst 'heather brashings' have been harrowed into the bare areas of ground on the Commons.

In the autumn discussions commenced with the South East Rivers Trust on a potentially exciting project to enhance the Beverley Brook. This formed the focus of our annual Winter Talk "Reviving London's Rivers – Challenges and Successes in SW London" organised by the Wildlife and Conservation Forum which was held on 13th February 2018. It was well attended with over 80 people.

During the summer and early autumn a consultation exercise was undertaken to gather views of the local community about the benches placed by The Spencer on the Putney Lower Common. A total of 1,239 responses were received of which a total of 96.5% of respondents supported the benches. The responses also demonstrated that 37% of people had utilised the benches but were not customers of The Spencer.

Another important part of the work of the Commons' staff is providing public reassurance and dealing with incidents, particularly those of an anti-social nature. This work is undertaken predominantly by the team of six Mounted Keepers, who undertake daily patrols of the Commons. During the course of the past year our Mounted Keepers have dealt with 1,063 specific incidents. Over half of these (568) have related specifically to interventions regarding dog behaviour or cyclists utilising non-designated paths. Rough sleepers have increased and there were 64 incidents last year where action was necessary to assist vulnerable people or move people off the Commons. There are numerous other incidents including lost children, littering, barbecues, parking and people foraging for fungi.

Communication and Promotion

In 2017 we extended the range of events. In addition to the highly successful annual BioBlitz/Weekend of Nature held in June and the Commons Open Day held in September, there are now a range of bat walks, bird walks, fungi forays, treasure hunts and summer activities. Our events are aimed at engaging children and families to learn about the Commons - the Easter/Summer/Halloween treasure hunts attracted over 1,100 participants, many of whom commented that they had not visited the Commons previously.

Over the past year there have been 39 walks and talks connected with the Commons wildlife and history. These events have included staff led walks, school and university visits, talks to local residents associations and volunteer led nature walks. Over the year approximately 1,550 people have joined us for these events.

During 2017, we held our first Christmas Craft Fair and worked in collaboration with the Wimbledon Windmill Trustees to hold another very successful Christmas Carol Concert.

Throughout the year in addition to the Annual Newsletter, there is now an e-newsletter that is distributed electronically every six weeks or so. In addition, the Board issues Media Statements and publishes its Resolutions after each Board meeting and on specific issues as they arise.

Governance

The appointment of an Interim Manager in late May 2017 by the Charity Commission was welcomed by the Charity as a step towards bringing resolution to the long running issue of the easement at Putney Lower Common. The Commission have indicated that they will issue their final report from the Statutory Inquiry by the end of October 2018. It is not yet possible to determine what the financial impact for the Charity might be of the Commission's final report.

In appointing an Interim Manager, the Charity Commission stated:

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The Commission considers that the trustees have demonstrated their ability and willingness to operate the charity and has decided that they should continue to do so.

On 2nd May 2017, having been through a thorough process with nine applicants, the Secretary of State for Defence approved the appointment of Mr Michael Rappolt, replacing Sir Ian Andrews (retired on 1st May 2017), who had been on the Board since 2009. Late in the year work commenced on the selection process for the appointment of a new Conservator by the Home Secretary, to fill the vacancy created by the completion of nine years on the Board by Mr Derek Frampton who retired from the Board on the 4th January 2018. On the 14th March 2018, with eleven applications, having been received and considered the Home Secretary confirmed the appointment of Mr Nigel Ware.

In February 2018 the triennial elections were held and ten Candidates stood in the elections. One Conservator was re-elected and four new Conservators elected; the newly elected conservators took-up office on the 4th April 2018. Turnout was up by 28% from 16.4% to 21.0% which was very much welcomed and demonstrated the effectiveness of the work that had been directed towards improving awareness amongst the levy-paying community. Another welcome trend in voting patterns was that the percentage of those electors voting on-line, at 46% of the total of those voting, was much higher this time than last and this has saved the WPCCC in the region of £700 in postage.

The Charity also undertook a procurement process to appoint new accountants and auditors. Ten specialist charity auditors and accountancy firms were invited to submit a tender. Following an evaluation process and interviews Kreston Reeves LLP were appointed by the Board in February 2018.

What We Want to Achieve in 2018/19

The focus for 2018/19 is to bring the new Board together and ensure that they are fully inducted, understand the legislative and policy framework under which the Charity operates and are fully conversant with the issues that have impacted on the management of the Charity over recent years. The new Board will need to review the priorities arising from the approved Strategy and develop its own aspirations.

We will continue to manage the Commons for visitors, users, and for wildlife and to work towards achieving 'favourable' status of the SSSI and SAC.

The main priorities for the year include:

Developing a Financially Sustainable Position for the Charity

- Prepare a submission to Natural England for grant funding towards the enhancement of our woodlands;
- Launch further appeals to raise funds for specific projects including a Wildlife Garden;
- Identify further opportunities for charitable fund-raising to support the objects of the Charity.

Developing the Team

- Continue to invest in staff and volunteers;
- Further develop volunteering opportunities.

Developing an Understanding of Commons' Visitors

- Undertake work to understand visitor opinions, their demographics and numbers visiting the Commons.

Developing the Landscape and Infrastructure

- Prepare a Land Management Plan;
- Undertake a condition survey of the Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Field pavilion.

Developing the Effectiveness of Governance Arrangements

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- Deal with the conclusion of the Statutory Inquiry and act on its findings;
- Improve transparency;
- Through the work of the Constitution Working Party start to consider measures to enable more effective governance, without diluting the existing statutory powers and duties or changing the fundamental principles underlying the 1871 Act.

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

Financial Review

The table below summarises the financial position for the year ended 31 March 2018:

	Unrestricted funds £,000	Restricted funds £,000	Total funds £,000
Total income	1,663	100	1,763
Total expenditure before additional charges in respect of defined benefit pension scheme	(1,617)	(45)	(1,662)
Net income before additional charges in respect of defined benefit pension scheme	46	55	101
Additional charges in respect of defined benefit pension scheme	(257)	-	(257)
Net income/(expenditure) before investment losses	(211)	55	(156)
Net loss on investments	(37)	-	(37)
Net income/(expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses	(248)	55	(193)
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension scheme	134	-	134
Net movement in funds for the year	(114)	55	(59)
Total funds brought forward	(1,041)	25	(1,016)
Total funds carried forward	(1,155)	80	(1,075)
Comprising:			
Negative pension reserve	(2,934)	-	(2,934)
Other reserves	1,779	80	1,859
Total funds	(1,155)	80	(1,075)

The unrestricted income for the year was £119,921 greater than last year with the main increases being £81,319 in respect of the levy from residents in the levy-paying area and £53,066 in respect of sports facilities. The levy accounted for 68% (2017: 68%) of the total unrestricted income received by the Charity in the year.

In view of the on-going need properly to maintain the estate, the Conservators increased the 2018/19 levy to its maximum permitted level which will generate an additional £43,740 of income in the year ending 31 March 2019.

Total unrestricted expenditure on charitable activities for the year amounted to £1,617,286, before taking account of the additional charges in respect of the defined benefit pension scheme, which

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represented a reduction of £271,615 over the previous year. The key changes in expenditure were as follows:

- A reduction in legal fees of £186,837
- A reduction in pension shortfall payments of £79,000
- The costs of the interim manager of £24,500

During the 2017/18 year, the Conservators were able to achieve one of their top priorities which was to make a surplus at the operating level. The above table shows that for the year ended 31st March 2018 there was an excess of unrestricted income over expenditure of £46,000 before taking account of the additional charges in respect of the defined benefit pension scheme - such additional charges do not of themselves result in a cash outflow for the Charity.

As a result of a decline in stock markets in the first quarter of 2018, the Charity incurred an unrealised loss on its investment portfolio of £36,918.

The overall movement in funds for the year was a decline in unrestricted funds of £114,602 and an increase in restricted funds of £54,804.

Pension Scheme

The Charity is a member of the London Borough of Merton Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). As at 31st March 2018 the WPCC's pension deficit within the LGPS was £2,934,000. This represents a snapshot of WPCC's share of assets and liabilities in the LGPS that change year on year, depending on a range of different factors. The deficit at 31st March 2017 was £2,811,000.

The contribution levels are set by the actuaries to the scheme based on the triennial actuarial valuation, which valuation is computed on a different basis to that used for accounting purposes. At the last actuarial valuation in 2016, the LGPS had assets sufficient to cover 94% of its accrued liabilities.

The London Borough of Merton has agreed a funding strategy with the LGPS, whereby the contributions are set at a level which is expected to result in the elimination of the deficit within a period of some 17 years. It should be noted that the pension liability included in the balance sheet does not represent a liability which is payable in the near future and its inclusion does not impact on the operating position of the WPCC.

Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP) in the United Kingdom requires the inclusion in WPCC's accounts of the deficit on the LGPS. The deficit itself is shown as a liability on the balance sheet with a corresponding amount charged to a negative pension reserve. The movements in the deficit from year to year are charged/credited within the Statement of Financial Activities and comprise primarily the current service cost of providing the pension, an interest charge on the pension liability and an actuarial gain or loss.

Risk Management

The Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators Risk Management Strategy includes a risk register identifying the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. From this the Board prioritises its top ten risks in terms of the potential impact and likelihood of occurrence. These are reviewed regularly by the Board to assess the terms of the actions being taken to mitigate the risks and to consider any new risks.

During 2017/18 the principal risk remained the outcome of the Statutory Inquiry by the Charity Commission into the Putney Hospital Easement. This was mitigated by the appointment by the Charity Commission of an Interim Manager with a narrow remit to determine whether the non-conflicted Conservators' decision in February 2017 not to pursue the loss arising from the easement was in the best interests of the Charity. The Interim Manager's draft report is still to be received and will be followed in due course by the Charity Commission's final report. In the event that the Conservators

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were to be required to pursue the loss arising from the granting of the easement it is likely that this would result in the Charity having to incur substantial legal expenses.

The Charity Commission wrote to the Conservators on the 26th April 2018 advising that it had received complaints relating to the conduct of the Charity's recent triennial Conservator elections. The Commission stated in the letter that it had not reached a view on the validity of the complaints and allegations received and wished to give the Conservators an opportunity to comment on them before it reached a view. The Conservators have provided a detailed response to the Charity Commission. The Charity Commission has confirmed that it is investigating the matter within the existing Statutory Inquiry.

A Levy-payer advised the Conservators in early May 2018 that, having obtained a legal Opinion, the provision of 22 benches on Putney Lower Common was unlawful. At a Special Board meeting in late May 2018 the Board considered an Opinion it had commissioned from a barrister and approved a further Licence with the landlord of The Spencer for the period 25th May 2018 to 31st October 2018.

Despite various amendments that have been introduced over the years, the administrative provisions of the 1871 Act have not been materially updated since 1871 and this presents a risk that has been acknowledged by the Charity Commission. A Constitution Working Group has been established to review the current arrangements. This is not about introducing a more permissive regime or diluting the fundamental purposes of the Charity, but to introduce a workable set of rules to enable the organisation to fulfil its core objectives in a 21st century working environment.

Given the need to drawdown on General Funds over the previous two years, achieving a financial break-even remains a high risk. The focus on income generation and reducing expenditure have all helped to deliver the small operating surplus in 2017/18 before taking account of the additional LGPS charge described above.

The Charity is responsible for a diverse range of activities and continues to commit resources to health and safety including training and development of staff. An independent audit is provided through a Health and Safety Consultant.

Fund-raising

During 2017/18 the Charity launched its first public appeal in many years for funding to support the restoration of the Inner Windmill Road. The Charity utilised the support of a fund-raising specialist to assist with launching and managing the public campaign. The person acting for the Charity was a full member of the Institute of Fundraising and abides by their code of conduct. Through a JustGiving page and notices on the Commons asking for donations, the target of £55,000 was reached in early December and the appeal was closed. Approaches were made to obtain grant-funding and a £4,000 grant was secured from the Wimbledon Foundation. The campaign was promoted through the Charity's e-newsletter and on the WPCC website.

A further campaign was launched with the Wimbledon Village Stables to raise funds to restore the horse-rides on the Common. During the year just over £30,000 was raised, again through JustGiving and donations by individuals.

The Charity received no formal complaints about its fund-raising activities. No directed marketing campaigns were undertaken to promote the fund-raising activities of the Charity. All funds received were designated under the Charity's restricted funds.

Where appropriate Gift Aid has been reclaimed from HMRC to maximise the funds towards these specific projects which form part of the charity's restricted funds.

Reserves

At 31st March 2018 the Charity had unrestricted reserves (excluding the negative pension reserve of £2,934,000) of £1,778,474 and restricted reserves of £80,040. Within the unrestricted funds, £1,196,255 is attributable to the Mill House Fund which, at the time of its creation, was designated by the Conservators for use on land, buildings and investments.

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The negative pension reserve represents the net liability in respect of the LGPS and is calculated in accordance with the specific requirements of the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The net liability is being funded by regular contributions to the pension scheme out of the Charity's income at a rate determined by the scheme's actuary.

The following table sets out the Conservators' estimated potential requirements for unrestricted funds in the next few years for the purposes stated:

a. Provision of working capital to cover day to day fluctuations in income and expenditure and meet, in the short term, either unexpected expenses or income shortfalls	£450,000 to £500,000
b. The estimated cost of the next election of Conservators in 2021	£55,000
c. Possible additional payments to the Local Government Pension Scheme following the next triennial actuarial valuation in 2019	£200,000 to £250,000
d. Potential litigation or legal costs arising as a result of the ongoing Statutory Inquiry and other legal challenges	£75,000 to £125,000
e. Renovation works to estate buildings	£275,000 to £325,000
f. Costs associated with changes to the constitutional arrangements	£50,000 to £75,000
g. Funds to finance the investment in tangible fixed assets	£121,000

Overall this gives a total requirement of between £1,226,000 and £1,451,000, or £951,000 to £1,126,000 if the work on estate buildings is excluded as this would be charged to the designated Mill House Fund. As described above, the unrestricted funds at 31st March 2018, excluding the designated Mill House Fund and the negative pension reserve were £582,219 which is less than the total requirement described above. Should it prove necessary, the designation for all or part of the Mill House fund could be removed. Therefore, WPCC believes it has adequate resources to meet its reserves policy.

Investment Management

The Charity has placed the revenue remaining from the enforced sale of Mill House in the hands of its investment advisers Charlwood Leigh.

These investments were put in place by Charlwood Leigh on behalf of the Wimbledon and Putney Conservators in 2007. The Conservators adopted a low to medium risk investment strategy with the risk rating of the funds in the region of 4/10 with 10 being of the highest risk nature and 1 the lowest.

The Charity's principal objective from the investment is protecting the capital against inflation whilst attempting to produce the income streams formerly delivered from the rent of the Mill House property, which were in the region of £30,000 per annum. The Conservators review the investment performance on a regular basis with their advisers Charlwood Leigh.

As at 1st April 2017, the collective investment account had a value of £1,563,289.68. As at the 31st March 2018 the value stood at £1,526,371.67 – a fall in value of £36,918.01 equating to a capital loss of 2.36%. During the period the total dividends paid were £35,572.74. For the same period the FTSE All Share fell by 2.40%.

The Charity's assets can be invested widely and are diversified by asset class, geographical spread and by business sector and market caps. This reduces the level of overall risk should a company, sector or country fall out of favour with investors.

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Going Concern

The Conservators have considered the Charity's forecasts for the next three years and believe that the Charity has sufficient funds to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Conservators continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of the accounts.

Although the net pensions liability computed under FRS 102 is substantial, the Conservators presently anticipate that any increase in funding that may be required after the next actuarial valuation in 2019 will be manageable within the Charity's resources.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Objectives and Activities

The Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act 1871 ("the 1871 Act"; see link below) incorporated the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators as a body of persons. The 1871 Act set out the Conservators' statutory functions and duties, and it conferred powers on the corporate body. Section 8 of the 1871 Act provides:-

"There shall be a body of Conservators for carrying this Act into execution, the full number of whom shall be eight, and who are hereby incorporated by the name of the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators, and by that name shall be one body corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal, and with power to take and hold and to dispose of (by grant, demise, or otherwise) land and other property (which body corporate is in this Act referred to as the Conservators)."

<https://www.wpcc.org.uk/downloads/publications/1871-act-amended2.pdf>

The preamble to the 1871 Act requires the Conservators to keep the Commons:

"open and unenclosed and unbuilt on, and to protect... and preserve the same for public and local use, for purposes of exercise and recreation and other purposes".

In addition, the Conservators have duties under the 1871 Act:

- to preserve the natural aspect and state of the Commons;
- to protect and manage trees, heather, gorse and other vegetation;
- not to sell, lease, grant or in any manner dispose of any part of the Commons, except as expressed under the 1871 Act.

In April 1972 the site was registered as a charity with a founding objective:

"to preserve the Commons as open spaces for purposes of exercise and recreation and other purposes."

Under the Wimbledon and Putney Commons (Special Levies) Regulations 1990, as amended by the Wimbledon and Putney Commons (Special Levies) (Amendment) Regulations 1993, WPCC have the power to raise a "special levy". This is collected by the boroughs of Wandsworth, Merton and Kingston in a proportion relevant to the number of "D" Band properties in each borough within the levy-paying area. The boroughs pass on this levy by way of an addition to the Council Tax on properties in the area.

Under Section 84 of the Act the Conservators have the power to make byelaws to regulate and control the use of the land for which they are responsible.

Governance is prescribed within the separate Commissioners Clauses Act 1847, as amended by the 1871 Act that deals with the constitution and regulation of the organisation.

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators Report of the Conservators for the Year Ended 31st March 2018

The Commons are comprised of 461 hectares (1,140 acres) and contain a wide variety of landscapes, buildings, infrastructure and visitor facilities. Unlike land that is constituted as parkland, the glory of the Commons is that they are a relic of the former manorial lands.

As stewards of the Commons and through our independent governance structure, Conservators safeguard the natural aspect and condition so that the Commons are safe, available, welcoming and accessible for all.

This requires the WPCC to:

- conserve, enhance and protect the Commons natural aspect and wildlife for present and future generations to enjoy;
- demonstrate sound governance and financial discipline by constantly reviewing operational procedures and all aspects of management;
- seek to balance the enjoyment of the majority of users who come for informal activity and appreciation of the Commons quiet natural aspect with the needs of groups who undertake formal and/or more rigorous recreational activities;
- improve understanding and identity of Wimbledon and Putney Commons and interpret its rich and varied heritage;
- work in partnership with stakeholders to promote and achieve the Vision;
- improve facilities used for organised recreation, sport and events;
- encourage volunteering as a rewarding activity engaging people of all ages and abilities;
- work in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The Commons are a part of the UK series of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) reflecting the importance of their grassland and heathland habitats. Under European Conservation Law they are also a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) with importance for beetles and insect diversity. The Commons are also designated as Metropolitan Open Land, which affords the land the same level of protection as the Green Belt.

In planning and delivering its activities, the Conservators have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We confirm that we have complied with our duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Structure

The Board consists of eight Conservators. Five Conservators are elected triennially by those who live within the levy-paying area who are entitled and registered to vote, if their place of residence (or place treated as their residence) is within three-quarters of a mile of Wimbledon Common or anywhere within the old Parish of Putney. The 1990 Election Bye-laws supplement the requirements under the 1871 Act prescribing the timescales and procedures for undertaking the triennial elections.

Three other Conservators are appointed by central government departments – currently the Department of Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Home Office and the Ministry of Defence.

Governance

The work of the Charity is overseen by the Board of Conservators, more commonly today referred to as Trustees in this context. The Board of Conservators sets policy and is responsible for the conduct of WPCC's affairs and for ensuring that the Charity operates in accordance with its founding legislation, charity law and other statutory requirements/byelaws. The role of the Board is to develop and agree the Charity's vision, mission, values and strategy. The Board is responsible for implementing and monitoring the strategy through a three year rolling business plan, which includes a financial plan.

The Chairman is elected from within the Board on an annual basis. The Board meets on a bi-monthly basis or more frequently as required. The Board receives regular reports at its meetings on the financial

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators
Report of the Conservators
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status of the Charity and how progress is being made against approved budgets, the status of its investments, together with reviewing the Top X risks. Reports are also brought to the Board on operational and property matters as required.

Since the year end, the Board has established two Committees:

- **Audit and Risk Committee**

On behalf of the Board of Conservators, it is the responsibility of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) independently to:

- monitor the integrity of the annual financial statements of WPCC, reviewing significant financial reporting issues and judgements contained in them;
- ensure effective policies and procedures and compliance systems for managing risk are in place and to review their effectiveness;
- make recommendations to the Board of Conservators in all matters in relation to the external auditor;
- ensure effective procedures and safeguards are in place to monitor the prevention of fraud and corruption;
- prepare and publish an annual report of the work of the ARC; and
- report back to the Board of Conservators on all matters where decisions are required unless, exceptionally, authority has been delegated to the ARC by the Board of Conservators in respect of a particular matter.

- **Finance and Investment Committee**

On behalf of the Board of Conservators it is the responsibility of the Finance and Investment Committee (FIC) to be responsible for:

- Scrutinising and overseeing all financial and investment aspects of WPCC so as to ensure short and long term viability of WPCC;
- reporting back to the Board on all matters where decisions are required unless specifically delegated by the Board.

Terms of Reference for the Audit and Risk Committee have been approved by the Board and placed on the WPCC website. The Terms of Reference for the Finance and Investment Committee once approved by the Board will also be placed on the Charity's website.

The Board has commenced a review of the constitution of the Charity. The Charity Commission has previously acknowledged concerns about the Charity's governing documents. The underlying principles of the Charity to preserve, protect and enhance the Commons and make it available for exercise and recreation cannot be changed. The initial task over the coming months is to consider what is working well, what is not working and what needs to be done to improve the constitutional arrangements of the Charity. If any changes were to be proposed these would be subject to consultation with the public and stakeholders and would require further legislation.

The Conservators have established a Stakeholder Group which is a body of people with knowledge and interest in the Commons, providing views and suggestions to the Board. There are currently fifteen members of the Stakeholder Engagement Group, representing local organisations. In addition, there is a Conservation and Wildlife Forum with volunteer experts supporting the Commons' staff in their role of protecting the natural environment of the Commons.

Following their election or appointment to the Board of Conservators, each Conservator receives a briefing pack outlining their role, together with information on WPCC, its founding legislation, its policies, structures and work.

Each new Conservator completes a register of interests which is updated annually and whenever any changes occur. Each Conservator also completes a related party transaction form.

**Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators
Report of the Conservators
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A formal induction process is provided for each new Conservator. All Conservators are offered opportunities to learn more about the WPCC's work, through individual meetings with staff and site visits.

Management

The day-to-day management of the Charity is delegated by the Board of Conservators to the Chief Executive who has overall responsibility to the Board for the effective planning, performance, management, direction and leadership of Wimbledon and Putney Commons in accordance with policies and budgets set by the Board. The Chief Executive is supported by the Senior Leadership Team consisting of the:

Chief Operations Manager - responsible for direction of all staff and day-to-day operations activity;

Deputy Clerk and Ranger - responsible for finance, administration, HR and election/ appointment of Conservators.

PA/Communication Officer – responsible as PA to the Chief Executive, secretariat to the Board, communications and filming/events.

Conservation and Engagement Officer – responsible for conservation/ecology and public engagement.

Pay policy for senior staff

The Board considers that the Conservators and Senior Leadership Team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day to day basis. All Conservators give of their time freely and the founding Act prohibits any Conservator receiving remuneration or holding any office of profit.

The pay of staff is reviewed annually by the Board as part of its budget preparation process. The Finance and Investment Committee has a responsibility to consider staff remuneration within their Terms of Reference for the Chief Executive and members of the Senior Leadership Team.

CONSERVATORS' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The Conservators acknowledge their responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements for each financial year in accordance with Section 2 of the 1871 Act, which are required to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, surplus or deficit of the Charity for that period.

The Conservators are also responsible for preparing the Report of the Conservators and the financial statements in accordance with applicable charity law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)) under FRS 102.

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Conservators to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Conservators are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures, which should be disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

**Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators
Report of the Conservators
for the Year Ended 31st March 2018**

The Board of Conservators is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the 1871 Act. The Board of Trustees is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to disclosure to our auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving the Conservators' annual report:

- There is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- The Conservators, having made enquiries of fellow Conservators and the Charity's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken steps that she/he is obliged to take as a Conservator in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by order of the Board of Conservators on (*date*) and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs D Neil Mills (Chairman)
Elected Conservator

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Independent auditors' report to the Conservators of Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2018 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2018 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Conservators' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Conservators have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Independent auditors' report to the Conservators of Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Conservators are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Conservators' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Conservators

As explained more fully in the Conservators' responsibilities statement, the Conservators are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Conservators determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Conservators are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Conservators either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Independent auditors' report to the Conservators of Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

Kreston Reeves LLP

Statutory Auditor and Chartered Accountants

9 Donnington Park
85 Birdham Road
Chichester
West Sussex
PO20 7AJ
Date:

Kreston Reeves LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Statement of financial activities For the year ended 31 March 2018

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Restricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £	Total funds 2017 £
Income from:					
Donations	2	28,607	88,208	116,815	23,238
Charitable activities	3	1,598,307	11,730	1,610,037	1,525,818
Investments	4	35,688	-	35,688	39,329
Total income		1,662,602	99,938	1,762,540	1,588,385
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5,6	1,874,286	45,134	1,919,420	2,074,619
Total expenditure		1,874,286	45,134	1,919,420	2,074,619
Net income / (expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)					
		(211,684)	54,804	(156,880)	(486,234)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	(36,918)	-	(36,918)	141,156
Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		(248,602)	54,804	(193,798)	(345,078)
Actuarial gains on defined benefit scheme		134,000	-	134,000	19,000
Net movement in funds		(114,602)	54,804	(59,798)	(326,078)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		(1,040,924)	25,236	(1,015,688)	(689,610)
Total funds carried forward		(1,155,526)	80,040	(1,075,486)	(1,015,688)

The notes on pages 23 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Balance sheet As at 31 March 2018

	Note	£	2018 £	£	2017 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		120,603		137,310
Investments	11		<u>1,526,371</u>		<u>1,563,289</u>
			1,646,974		1,700,599
Current assets					
Stocks	12	825		1,122	
Debtors	13	131,502		73,618	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>297,957</u>		<u>136,569</u>	
		430,284		211,309	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(206,128)</u>		<u>(95,211)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>224,156</u>		<u>116,098</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			1,871,130		1,816,697
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		<u>(12,616)</u>		<u>(21,385)</u>
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities			1,858,514		1,795,312
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23		<u>(2,934,000)</u>		<u>(2,811,000)</u>
Net liabilities including pension scheme liabilities			<u>(1,075,486)</u>		<u>(1,015,688)</u>
Charity Funds					
Restricted funds	18		80,040		25,236
Unrestricted funds	18				
General conservancy fund			582,219		524,880
Defined benefit pension scheme			(2,934,000)		(2,811,000)
Designated funds	18		<u>1,196,255</u>		<u>1,245,196</u>
			<u>(1,155,526)</u>		<u>(1,040,924)</u>
Total deficit			<u>(1,075,486)</u>		<u>(1,015,688)</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Conservators on

and signed on their behalf, by:

The notes on pages 23 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Statement of cash flows For the year ended 31 March 2018

	Note	2018 £	2017 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20	<u>159,217</u>	<u>(557,771)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends and interest from investments		35,688	39,329
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets		4,250	11,251
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>(28,998)</u>	<u>(1,130)</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>10,940</u>	<u>49,450</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Repayments of borrowings		<u>(8,769)</u>	<u>(9,695)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(8,769)</u>	<u>(9,695)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		161,388	(518,016)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		<u>136,569</u>	<u>654,585</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	21	<u><u>297,957</u></u>	<u><u>136,569</u></u>

The notes on pages 23 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2018

1. Accounting policies

1.1 General information and basis of preparation of financial statements

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators is an unincorporated charity in England. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are included within the Conservators' report.

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

1.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis, despite there being an overall deficit after taking into account the net pension obligations. These obligations are long term and the Conservators have prepared detailed cash flow forecasts to ensure the Charity can continue to operate at least over the next two years. This is in accordance with relevant Accounting Standards and policies as required by "Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting by Charities"

1.3 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised but see page 5 of the Conservators' report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2018

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Commons plant and machinery	-	25% on reducing balance
Playing fields equipment	-	25% on reducing balance

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

1.6 Heritage assets

The value of the Commons land and buildings owned by the Conservators has not been included in the balance sheet. Under the 1871 Act none of the properties can be sold and therefore have no market value in the Conservators' hands. For this reason, no depreciation on land or buildings is shown. Under the 1871 Act, the charity may not use the property values as security to overdraw on its bank account. The insurance value of the buildings is £9.5 million agreed with the Conservators' Insurance Brokers SBJ Bluefin (UK) Limited on 1 April 2016, being their estimate of the cost of rebuilding all the properties on the Common.

1.7 Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

1.8 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its income and gains falling within part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that they are applied to its charitable activities.

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2018

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Leasing and hire purchase

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capitalised as tangible fixed assets. Assets acquired by finance lease are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Assets acquired by hire purchase are depreciated over their useful lives. Finance leases are those where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership are assumed by the charity. Obligations under such agreements are included in creditors net of the finance charge allocated to future periods. The finance element of the rental payment is charged to the Statement of financial activities so as to produce a constant periodic rate of charge on the net obligation outstanding in each period.

1.11 Stocks

This represents the stock of publications, maps, postcards, and Christmas cards at the lower figure of either cost or net realisable value at the balance sheet date. No value has been attributed to the stock held of the book 'Wimbledon Common and Putney Heath - A Natural History' as the cost of publication has already been covered by donations and sales. Future sales will be included in income as and when they occur.

1.12 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.13 Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.14 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

1.15 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.16 Pensions

The charity operates a defined benefits pension scheme and the pension charge is based on an interim actuarial valuation dated 31 March 2018. The latest full actuarial valuation is dated 31 March 2016.

**Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2018**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

1.17 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Conservators in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Conservators for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.18 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

As detailed in note 21 the company operates a defined benefit pension scheme for the benefit of employees. The cost of operating the scheme is determined using actuarial valuations undertaken by the scheme actuary. Their valuation involves making assumptions about discount rates, future salary increases, mortality rates and future pension increases. Due to the complexity of the valuation, the underlying assumptions and the long term nature of the scheme, such estimates are subject to significant uncertainty.

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2018

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Restricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £	Total funds 2017 £
Golf club contributions	16,592	-	16,592	16,078
Footpath appeal	-	57,112	57,112	-
Horseshide appeal	-	31,096	31,096	-
Other donations	12,015	-	12,015	7,160
	<u>28,607</u>	<u>88,208</u>	<u>116,815</u>	<u>23,238</u>
Total donations and legacies				
	<u>28,607</u>	<u>88,208</u>	<u>116,815</u>	<u>23,238</u>
Total 2017	<u>23,238</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,238</u>	

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Restricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £	Total funds 2017 £
Levy received from councils	1,136,954	-	1,136,954	1,055,635
Higher level stewardship scheme	5,988	-	5,988	5,988
Woodland management grant scheme	6,789	-	6,789	6,789
Windmill restoration income	-	11,730	11,730	55,525
Sports facilities	269,829	-	269,829	216,763
Property rent and wayleaves	103,111	-	103,111	102,705
Rent from filming and fairs	50,325	-	50,325	55,263
Logs and timber sales	23,014	-	23,014	24,539
Publication sales	2,297	-	2,297	2,611
	<u>1,598,307</u>	<u>11,730</u>	<u>1,610,037</u>	<u>1,525,818</u>
Total 2017	<u>1,470,293</u>	<u>55,525</u>	<u>1,525,818</u>	

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Restricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £	Total funds 2017 £
Investment income	<u>35,688</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,688</u>	<u>39,329</u>
Total 2017	<u>39,329</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,329</u>	

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2018

5. Direct costs

	Charitable activities £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Windmill	22,078	22,078	109,777
Keepers & commons security	530,118	530,118	529,841
Commons maintenance	403,423	403,423	415,240
Playing fields maintenance	195,166	195,166	187,912
Property maintenance & improvements	151,209	151,209	180,466
	<u>1,301,994</u>	<u>1,301,994</u>	<u>1,423,236</u>
Total 2017	<u>1,423,236</u>	<u>1,423,236</u>	

6. Support costs

	Charitable activities £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Administration staff salaries	84,596	84,596	104,935
Audit and accountancy	13,000	13,000	11,040
Office expenses	16,790	16,790	23,719
Insurance	11,274	11,274	4,090
Utilities and services	16,555	16,555	18,281
Advertising and printing	21,640	21,640	18,712
Computer and IT support	12,084	12,084	9,186
Events	5,806	5,806	6,210
Council tax	22,376	22,376	22,195
Defined benefit pension cost	203,998	203,998	106,000
Profit/loss on sale of fixed assets	86	86	(9,821)
Interest cost on pension liability	74,000	74,000	89,000
Legal fees	44,254	44,254	231,091
Professional fees	14,084	14,084	16,745
Election expenses	52,383	52,383	-
Interim manager cost	24,500	24,500	-
	<u>617,426</u>	<u>617,426</u>	<u>651,383</u>
Total 2017	<u>651,383</u>	<u>651,383</u>	

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2018

7. Net income/(expenditure)

This is stated after charging:

	2018 £	2017 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets: - owned by the charity	<u>41,369</u>	<u>40,301</u>

8. Auditors' remuneration

The Auditor's remuneration amounts to an Audit fee of £9,500 (2017 - £8,985), and amounts relating to non audit services of £3,500(2017 - £2,035).

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2018

9. Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2018	2017
	No.	No.
Chief Executive	1	1
Chief Operations Manager	1	1
Deputy Clerk and Ranger	1	1
Administration	1	1
Wildlife and Conservation Officer	1	1
Security	7	7
Maintenance	7	7
Playing Fields	3	2
Property	1	1
	<u>23</u>	<u>22</u>

The number of higher paid employees was:

	2018	2017
	No.	No.
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	1

The Board considers that the Conservators and Senior Leadership Team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day to day basis. The Senior leadership team consists of the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operations Manager, Deputy Clerk & Ranger, Conservation & Engagement Officer and PA to Chief Executive and Communications Officer

Total key management personnel remuneration for the year was £324,066 (2017: £318,903).

Staff salaries

	2018	2017
	£	£
Wages and salaries	825,001	814,799
Social security costs	87,213	80,626
Other pension costs	300,398	216,000
Total	<u>1,212,612</u>	<u>1,111,425</u>

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2018

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Commons plant and machinery £	Playing fields equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2017	271,149	81,177	352,326
Additions	1,248	27,750	28,998
Disposals	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>(12,250)</u>	<u>(14,250)</u>
At 31 March 2018	<u>270,397</u>	<u>96,677</u>	<u>367,074</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2017	162,120	52,896	215,016
Charge for the year	27,361	14,008	41,369
On disposals	<u>(1,755)</u>	<u>(8,159)</u>	<u>(9,914)</u>
At 31 March 2018	<u>187,726</u>	<u>58,745</u>	<u>246,471</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2018	<u>82,671</u>	<u>37,932</u>	<u>120,603</u>
At 31 March 2017	<u>109,029</u>	<u>28,281</u>	<u>137,310</u>

The net book value of assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts, included above, are as follows:

	2018 £	2017 £
Commons plant and machinery	<u>24,489</u>	<u>32,652</u>

11. Fixed asset investments

	Listed securities £
Market value	
At 1 April 2017	1,563,289
Revaluations	<u>(36,918)</u>
At 31 March 2018	<u>1,526,371</u>
Historical cost	
	<u>1,500,000</u>
Investments at market value comprise:	
	2018 £
	2017 £
Listed investments	<u>1,526,371</u>
	<u>1,563,290</u>

All the fixed asset investments are held in the UK

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2018

12. Stocks

	2018 £	2017 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>825</u>	<u>1,122</u>

13. Debtors

	2018 £	2017 £
Trade debtors	77,737	39,670
Other debtors	53,765	33,948
	<u>131,502</u>	<u>73,618</u>

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2018 £	2017 £
Net obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts	5,470	7,147
Trade creditors	134,033	44,353
Other creditors	51,625	33,911
Accruals and deferred income	15,000	9,800
	<u>206,128</u>	<u>95,211</u>

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2018 £	2017 £
Net obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts	<u>12,616</u>	<u>21,385</u>

Obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts, included above, are payable as follows:

	2018 £	2017 £
Between one and five years	<u>12,616</u>	<u>21,385</u>

16. Financial instruments

	2018 £	2017 £
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	<u>1,526,371</u>	<u>1,563,290</u>

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2018

The fair value of these assets is readily obtainable as there is a ready market for their sale at publicly listed prices.

The gain/(loss) on these assets during the period was -£36,918 (2017: £141,156).

The interest income generated by these assets during the period was £35,688 (2017: £39,329).

17. Prior year adjustment

Investments held by the charity have been re-classified from current asset investments, as shown in the prior year financial statements, to fixed asset investments. This is to accurately reflect the Conservators' intentions to hold the investments for more than 12 months.

18. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2017 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2018 £
Designated funds						
Mill House	1,197,196	27,331	-	-	(28,272)	1,196,255
Election Sinking Fund	48,000	-	(52,383)	4,383	-	-
	<u>1,245,196</u>	<u>27,331</u>	<u>(52,383)</u>	<u>4,383</u>	<u>(28,272)</u>	<u>1,196,255</u>
General funds						
General Conservancy fund	524,880	1,635,271	(1,564,903)	(4,383)	(8,646)	582,219
Defined Benefit Pension	(2,811,000)	-	(257,000)	-	134,000	(2,934,000)
	<u>(2,286,120)</u>	<u>1,635,271</u>	<u>(1,821,903)</u>	<u>(4,383)</u>	<u>125,354</u>	<u>(2,351,781)</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>(1,040,924)</u>	<u>1,662,602</u>	<u>(1,874,286)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>97,082</u>	<u>(1,155,526)</u>
Restricted funds						
Windmill Restoration Fund	25,236	11,730	(15,992)	-	-	20,974
Footpath Appeal	-	57,112	-	-	-	57,112
Horserside Appeal	-	31,096	(29,142)	-	-	1,954
	<u>25,236</u>	<u>99,938</u>	<u>(45,134)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80,040</u>
Total of funds	<u>(1,015,688)</u>	<u>1,762,540</u>	<u>(1,919,420)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>97,082</u>	<u>(1,075,486)</u>

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2018

18. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2016 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2017 £
Designated funds						
Mill House	1,132,431	-	(76,391)	-	141,156	1,197,196
Election Sinking Fund	32,000	-	-	16,000	-	48,000
	<u>1,164,431</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(76,391)</u>	<u>16,000</u>	<u>141,156</u>	<u>1,245,196</u>
General funds						
General Conservancy Fund	810,709	1,542,681	(1,812,510)	(16,000)	-	524,880
Defined Benefit Pension	(2,739,000)	-	(91,000)	-	19,000	(2,811,000)
	<u>(1,928,291)</u>	<u>1,542,681</u>	<u>(1,903,510)</u>	<u>(16,000)</u>	<u>19,000</u>	<u>(2,286,120)</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>(763,860)</u>	<u>1,542,681</u>	<u>(1,979,901)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>160,156</u>	<u>(1,040,924)</u>
Restricted funds						
Windmill Restoration Fund	74,250	55,525	(104,539)	-	-	25,236
	<u>74,250</u>	<u>55,525</u>	<u>(104,539)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,236</u>
Total of funds	<u>(689,610)</u>	<u>1,598,206</u>	<u>(2,084,440)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>160,156</u>	<u>(1,015,688)</u>

The Election Sinking Fund is maintained to provide for the fees and costs of conducting the triennial election of five Conservators.

The Mill House Investment Fund represents the funds remaining out of the proceeds of the enforced sale of Mill House. This amount has been ring fenced by the Conservators to be expended only on land, buildings and investments.

The Windmill Restoration fund represents the fund remaining from a Heritage Lottery Grant received for use restoring the Windmill, on Windmill Road.

The Defined Benefit Pension Fund represents the defined benefit pension scheme liability.

The Footpath appeal fund includes the donated income and related expenditure on the footpath restoration campaign run during the year ended 31 March 2018.

The Horseride appeal fund includes donated income and related expenditure on the horse ride route restoration campaign started during the year ended 31 March 2018.

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2018

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Restricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £
Tangible fixed assets	120,603	-	120,603
Fixed asset investments	1,526,371	-	1,526,371
Current assets	350,244	80,040	430,284
Creditors due within one year	(206,128)	-	(206,128)
Creditors due in more than one year	(12,616)	-	(12,616)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(2,934,000)	-	(2,934,000)
	<u>(1,155,526)</u>	<u>80,040</u>	<u>(1,075,486)</u>

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Restricted funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £
Tangible fixed assets	137,310	-	137,310
Current assets	1,749,363	25,236	1,774,599
Creditors due within one year	(95,212)	-	(95,212)
Creditors due in more than one year	(21,385)	-	(21,385)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(2,811,000)	-	(2,811,000)
	<u>(1,040,924)</u>	<u>25,236</u>	<u>(1,015,688)</u>

20. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2018 £	2017 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(193,798)	(345,078)
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	41,369	40,301
Gains/(losses) on investments	36,918	(141,156)
Dividends and interest from investments	(35,688)	(39,329)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	86	(9,821)
Decrease in stocks	297	270
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(57,883)	17,603
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	110,916	(141,561)
Expenditure in dispute	-	(30,000)
Pension fund adjustments	257,000	91,000
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>159,217</u>	<u>(557,771)</u>

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2018

21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2018 £	2017 £
Cash in hand and at bank	<u>297,957</u>	<u>136,569</u>
Total	<u><u>297,957</u></u>	<u><u>136,569</u></u>

22. Contingent liabilities

On 18 August 2016 the Charity Commission opened a statutory enquiry relating to the granting of an easement in August 2014. The enquiry was to consider the potential financial loss to the charity as a result of the grant of easement being made at undervalue.

On 31 May 2017 the Commission appointed an interim manager to consider the trustees decision not to take further action in respect of the loss suffered by the charity in this respect.

The Conservators have taken legal advice and concluded the possibility of a positive outcome in pursuing the loss was small. The risk that further costs would be incurred and would also not be recovered was significant and therefore no action was to be taken in recovery.

The interim manager's draft report is not yet finalised. Once it has been submitted to the Charity Commission they will issue a final report and detail any required actions by the charity.

In the event that the Conservators are required by the Charity Commission to pursue the loss arising it is likely that the charity will have to incur substantial legal expenses. As part of the reserves policy the Conservators have set aside an amount of between £75k and £125k being a best estimate of the obligation that may arise.

23. Pension commitments

Retirement benefits to employees of WPCG are provided by the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) which is a defined benefit scheme.

The LGPS is a funded scheme, administered by the London Borough of Merton. Contributions are set every three years as a result of an actuarial valuation of the fund. There are no minimum funding requirements but the contributions are generally set to target a funding level of 100%, using actuarial assumptions.

In general, participating defined benefit schemes mean that the employer is exposed to a number of risks:

- Investment risk
- Interest rate risk
- Inflation risk
- Longevity risk (where members live longer than assumed)

In addition many unrelated employers participate in the London Borough of Merton scheme, and there is a potential orphan liability risk where employers who leave the Fund with insufficient resources to cover their pension obligations, will leave a deficit in the scheme that may fall on the remaining employers. There is however no way of ascertaining the potential loss, should such an event take place.

The date of the most interim actuarial valuation was 31 March 2018. The latest full actuarial valuation is dated 31 March 2016.

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2018

23. Pension commitments (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions at the Balance sheet date (expressed as weighted averages) :

	2018	2017
Discount rate at 31 March	2.55%	2.70%
Future salary increases	3.85%	4.10%
Future pension increases	2.35%	2.60%

The assets in the scheme and the expected rates of return were:

	Fair value at 31 March 2018 £	Fair value at 31 March 2017 £
Equities	4,922,000	4,772,000
Property	234,000	225,000
Cash	31,000	45,000
Gilts	1,556,000	1,606,000
Total market value of assets	<u>6,743,000</u>	<u>6,648,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £142,000.

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2018 £	2017 £
Current service cost	(329,000)	(216,000)
Administrative expenses	(5,000)	(6,000)
Net Interest on the defined liability (asset)	<u>(74,000)</u>	<u>(89,000)</u>
Total	<u>(408,000)</u>	<u>(311,000)</u>

Movements in the present value of the defined benefit obligation were as follows:

	2018 £	2017 £
Opening defined benefit obligation	9,459,000	8,153,000
Interest cost	253,000	273,000
Contributions by scheme participants	57,000	56,000
Change in financial assumptions	(171,000)	1,569,000
Change in demographic assumptions	-	112,000
Experience gain on defined benefits paid	-	(618,000)
Current service cost	329,000	216,000
Benefits paid	<u>(250,000)</u>	<u>(302,000)</u>
Closing defined benefit obligation	<u>9,677,000</u>	<u>9,459,000</u>

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2018

23. Pension commitments (continued)

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets were as follows:

	2018 £	2017 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	6,648,000	5,414,000
Expected return on assets	(37,000)	1,008,000
Interest income	179,000	184,000
Actuarial gains and (losses)	-	74,000
Contributions by employer	151,000	220,000
Contributions by scheme participants	57,000	56,000
Administrative expenses	(5,000)	(6,000)
Benefits paid	(250,000)	(302,000)
	<u>6,743,000</u>	<u>6,648,000</u>

Amounts for the current and previous period are as follows:

Defined benefit pension schemes

	2018 £	2017 £
Defined benefit obligation	(9,677,000)	(9,459,000)
Scheme assets	<u>6,743,000</u>	<u>6,648,000</u>
Deficit	<u>(2,934,000)</u>	<u>(2,811,000)</u>

24. Conservators' remuneration and related party transactions

During the year, no Conservators received any remuneration, benefits in kind or reimbursement of any expenses (2017 - £NIL).

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st March 2018 or the year ended 31st March 2017.