

**Public Minutes of the Conservators' Meeting held on  
Monday 11 July 2022 at 4.30pm at the Wimbledon Common Golf  
Club, Camp Road, London SW19 4UW**

**Conservators:** Mrs Diane Neil Mills, Chairman (DNM)  
Mr Oliver Bennett (OB)  
Mrs Sue Bucknall (SB)  
Mr David Hince (DH)  
Mr Peter Hirsch (PDH)  
Mr Michael Johnston (MJ)  
Mr Nigel Ware, (NW)

**Officers:** Mr Steve Bound, Chief Executive (CE)  
Maggie May, Fundraising Officer (FO)  
Angela Evans-Hill, EA to Chief Executive/Communications  
Officer (EA to CE/CO)

**Members of the public:** No members of the public attended.

ITEM		ACTIONS
07.22.1	<b>Confirmation of Attendance and Apologies for Absence</b>  Apologies were received from the following:  Mr Mike Rappolt (MR) Ms Paula Graystone, Deputy Clerk and Ranger (DCR) Mr Peter Haldane, Conservation and Engagement Officer (CEO)	
07.22.2	<b>Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests in Respect of Items to be Considered in this Part of the Meeting</b>  DNM declared that she had received hospitality at this year's Wimbledon Tennis Championships. It was agreed that this did not preclude her from participating in any part of the meeting.	
07.22.3	<b>WPCC Board Meetings</b>  <b>i. Resolutions of the Part A(1) Board Meeting of 1 June 2022</b>  The Resolutions of the Board meeting held on 1 June 2022 were approved.  <b>ii. Minutes of the Part A(1) Board Meeting of 1 June 2022</b>  The Minutes of the Part A (1) Board meeting held on 1 June 2022 were approved.	

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<p><b>07.22.4</b></p>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>There were no Matters Arising</p>	
<p><b>07.22.5</b></p>	<p><b>WPCC Forum/Group Meetings</b></p> <p>There had been no public Forum/Group meetings since the 1 June 2022 Board meeting.</p>	
<p><b>07.22.6</b></p>	<p><b>Conservation Update</b></p> <p>The Board received and noted the Chief Executive's Report.</p> <p>In the absence of the Conservation and Engagement Officer, the CE reported that there had been no major conservation work over the previous month. However, he had provided a report showing the range of work that had been carried out by the Maintenance Team during the previous month.</p> <p>In response to a question, he commented that majority of the work listed would have been planned, but work dealing with tree failures for example would be reactive.</p> <p>He confirmed that WPCC was responsible for litter-picking at the side of the main roads.</p> <p>PDH asked for clarification on the use of red and white diesel. The CE explained that the law had recently changed and red diesel could now only be used for agriculture, horticulture and forestry. Vehicles used on sports facilities, such as the REMPF, could now only use white diesel. A record had been kept of the change in case of any queries if a vehicle tank was inspected and white diesel was found to be tainted "pink" [the stain from the red diesel]. There was a cost implication of around 30p per litre.</p> <p>OB commented that while it was interesting to see the list of work that had taken place, he thought that the Board should use this time for a more strategic discussion about conservation/land management and how to move forward. Whilst he was aware that the Conservation and Engagement Officer usually provided a report on current and future works, the Board did not get involved in discussions about conservation objectives. The CE commented that this would be covered more in the discussions around the Land Management Plan, particularly where there were more strategic or possibly contentious issues. Once this stage of the Land Management Plan was reached, there would be on site visits to provide the Conservators with an opportunity to better understand the issues and discuss the specific objectives underpinning the Land Management Plan.</p> <p>Bookfest - The CE confirmed that although Natural England were aware of the Bookfest event they had not had any concerns about holding the event on the Commons. However, as WPCC had now</p>	

	<p>asked them the question about whether consent from them was required, it would be necessary to apply in future years.</p>	
<p><b>07.22.7</b></p>	<p><b>Chief Executive's Public Report</b></p> <p>The Board received and noted the Chief Executive's report.</p> <p><b>Telegraph Car Park Gate</b> – A new height restriction gate had been fitted at the Telegraph car park earlier this year after it was damaged from being hit by a car. The new gate had been damaged again by a minibus. Fortunately, the company who owned the minibus had admitted liability and a claim would be made through their insurers.</p> <p>Also in regard to the Telegraph Car Park, following the introduction of parking restrictions on local roads, the car park was now being used by commuters. Officers were giving some thought on how best to deal with this.</p> <p><b>Auction Prizes</b> – One of the prizes auctioned at the AELTC Afternoon Tea was a visit to the stables, a tractor tour around the Commons and a picnic lunch. This event took place on Sunday 3 July 2022 and had been a great success. The recipients had been effusive in their praise of the afternoon.</p> <p><b>REMPF</b> – The Playing Fields had been busy over the previous few weeks. Along with the regular school activities, on 6 June 2022 they hosted the DOKO Challenge 2022 organised by the Gurkha Welfare Trust. Based on the traditional Gurkha Recruitment Doko race, this challenge sees participants undertaking a 5km run carrying a traditional Doko basket filled with sandbags weighing either 5kg, 10kg or 15kg. This year there were Gurkhas actually taking part as well. On 2 July 2022 there were a series of American football matches and on 3 July 2022, they served as the venue for the Mongolian Day of Culture which included running events for children, music and singing and Mongolian Wrestling.</p> <p>In relation to REMPF, OB asked if there had been any discussion about the mowing regime. The CE reported that the Conservation and Engagement Officer had met with the Head Groundsman to discuss the matter. Some of the areas OB had in mind were regularly used for sports and activities through the summer but the CE considered there was some scope for change to the current mowing practices. The CE would provide an outline plan for consideration.</p> <p>OB also noted the proposal for the renewal of drainage on the Playing Fields. The CE commented that there was a problem with water levels making the pitches unusable in the winter and games had to be regularly cancelled. There was concern if the situation was not remedied, contracted teams could look elsewhere. OB asked that any proposal for drainage take into account proposed changes to the mowing regime. It was noted that the Playing Fields were included in the Land Management Plan, the drainage was in the Business Plan for 2023/24 and 2024/25 and any new mowing regime would begin in 2023.</p>	

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

**Wimbledon Tennis** – A large number of e-mails had been received into WPCC's Complaints inbox with varied complaints in respect of the tennis. Several e-mails are usually received in error each year but some 300 e-mails have been received. A standard response, with the correct contact details, had been sent to each one.

#### **Fundraising Update**

MM reported on recent fundraising activities.

**Jubilee Celebration Event** – It was estimated that around 1,000 people attended and donations made at the event totalled £2,881.55.

**Putney Lower Common Footbridge Appeal** – The target of £15,000 had been reached in May. In June 2022, we were notified that we were successful in our application to the Wandsworth Grant Fund and have been awarded £5,000 towards the project. Any funds remaining once the bridge work had been completed would be used to enhance and improve Putney Lower Common. Work should begin in mid-August 2022.

**Grant Application to Natural England's 'Nature for Climate: Peatland Grant Scheme'** – An application had been submitted to Natural England's 'Nature for Climate: Peatland Grant Scheme' which provides funding to restore peatlands in England in the hope of securing a grant to fund a feasibility study for restoring Farm Bog and three other locations where peat has either been identified or historic maps suggest the habitat was previously a bog.

**Tap to Donate Machine** – In response to a question, MM advised that thought was being given to hiring a Tap to Donate machine for the Open Day. The Board agreed that this should proceed.

#### **Events:**

**Weekend of Nature** – The annual Weekend of Nature event took place on the weekend of 17-19 June 2022 and, although quiet in comparison to previous years, was very successful.

**Annual Open Meeting** – The Annual Open Meeting was held on 29 June 2022, with 35 members of the public in attendance. The main focus of the questions from members of the public was the Conservators' recent decision to withdraw the commercial dog walkers authorisations.

**Summer Evening Walk with the Management Team** – A total of 27 people attended the Management Walk on 5 July 2022. Led by Peter Haldane, Conservation and Engagement Officer, these walks continue

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	<p>to be an excellent opportunity for staff to show the conservation projects that are underway or completed and explain more about the management of the Commons.</p> <p>The Conservators congratulated MM on raising the additional funds.</p> <p>It was also noted that there had been very positive feedback in respect of the Platinum Jubilee event.</p>	
<b>07.22.8</b>	<p><b>Update on the Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons</b></p> <p><b>Art on the Commons</b> – SB reported that the Art on the Commons competition would run for one more month. Once completed, she hoped to set up a small exhibition of the winning entries to allow the public to choose their favourite. Another 40 or so “runner-up” images would be included in the exhibition.</p> <p>It was also hoped to find a sponsor to allow WPCC to print a calendar in time for Christmas.</p> <p>MJ asked if thought had been given to displaying the image in the Wimbledon Village Gallery and/or in the local libraries. SB advised that it would not be possible to use the Gallery as it was currently being renovated, however, she would look into using the libraries.</p>	
<b>07.22.9</b>	<p><b>Public Questions on Matters Considered in Part A(1) of this Meeting</b></p> <p>There were no questions.</p>	



Signed by the  
Chairman  
Diane Neil Mills

