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Commons Conservators

8th December, 1921.

Commons Conserbators.

December, 1921.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Councillor Parsonage), *Chairman*.

Messrs. L. Andrews, S. A. Cheale, T. Edwards, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, Hallett Reed, Wm. Taylor, S. V. Thorpe and H. J. Willmot.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at their meeting on the 9th November last, appointed the following members as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November, 1922 :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Parsonage).

Councillors T. Edwards, Brig.-Gen. Suart, C.M.G., and Willmot.

A letter was received from Mr. A. L. Rush, the Secretary to the Freeholders, Manor of Rusthall, stating that at a meeting of the Committee of the Freehold Tenants held on the 5th instant, Mr. William Taylor, of "Windybraes," Speldhurst, was elected to represent them on the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Trees, St. Helena.—The Clerk reported the correspondence which he had received from the Secretary to the Freeholders, Manor of Rusthall, with reference to certain trees which had been planted on the Common on the south-east side of "St. Helena," and stating that the Committee of the Freehold Tenants are of opinion that the matter is one to be dealt with by the Commons Conservators and did not come under their jurisdiction.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee.

Committee's Report.—The Committee held a meeting on the 19th November, 1921, at which meeting the following were present :—Messrs. C. Berry, T. Edwards, Hallett Reed, and Brig.-Gen. Suart, C.M.G., and report as follows :—

- (1) The Committee inspected the trees in front of No. 24, Eridge Road, and recommend that no action be taken in the matter.
- (a) RESOLVED—That this recommendation be adopted.
- (2) Provision of a sheltered seat—Happy Valley.—The Committee considered the question of the provision of a sheltered seat at the Happy Valley and recommend that no action be taken in the matter.
- (b) RESOLVED—That this recommendation be adopted.

Appointment of Committee.—RESOLVED—That Mr. C. Berry, Mr. T. Edwards, Mr. Hallett Reed, Brig.-Gen. Suart, C.M.G., and Mr. H. J. Willmot be appointed a Committee until the 9th day of November next.

Trees.—A letter was received from Brig.-Gen. W. H. Suart, C.M.G., enclosing a letter from Messrs. Arthur Charlton & Sons, with a specification and estimate for supplying and planting trees on Rusthall Common near the entrance to the High Street, Rusthall.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee.

It was reported to the Committee that Brig.-Gen. Suart, C.M.G., had also raised the question of planting Scotch firs on the Common above the Sanitary Convenience near the Upper Cricket Ground.

- (b) RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee.

Commons Conservators

Footpaths.—Brig.-Gen. Stuart, C.M.G., also raised the question of making up and eventually asphaltting the path leading from the Spa Hotel by the sheltered seat to the Upper Cricket Ground.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee.

Gorse Cutting.—The Surveyor reported on the work of gorse cutting on the Commons and the expenditure on this account to date.

RESOLVED—That a further sum of £50 be expended on gorse cutting.

Scenic Railway, etc., on Common.—Questions relating to a scenic railway, etc., remaining on the Common on a Sunday were deferred to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Pond, Langton Road.—RESOLVED—That questions relating to the cleansing of the pond near the Langton Road end of Rusthall Common be referred to the Committee.

Accounts—Year ended 25th March, 1921.—The Auditor's report on the accounts for the year ended the 25th March, 1921, was received and considered.


(a) RESOLVED—That a vote of thanks be given to Mr. S. A. Cheale for his services as Auditor.

(b) RESOLVED—That Messrs. S. A. Cheale and H. Elwig be appointed Auditors for the current year.

Financial Statement.—The Clerk laid before the Conservators a statement of the estimated income and expenditure of the Conservators for the year ending 25th March, 1922.

Estimates.—RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include the sum of £597 in their estimates for the next financial year, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—*Accounts amounting to £144 14s. 4d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.*



31st January, 1922.

(Special) Commons Conservators.

31st January, 1922.—At a special meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Mr. Councillor Willmot, *in the Chair*.

Messrs. C. Berry, T. Edwards, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, Hallett Reed, Wm. Taylor, and Brig.-Gen Stuart, C.M.G.

Work for Unemployed.—The following resolution of the Unemployment Committee of the Town Council was considered:—

“That, subject to the consent of the Commons Conservators (and that the Commons Conservators be asked to give such consent at as early a date as possible in view of the prevailing distress), unemployed men in the Borough be engaged in re-surfacing the gravel paths and other works on the Commons, two gangs of men to be engaged for two days each gang (eight-and-a-half hours per day), the wages to be at the rate of 1s. per hour for such work, provided that unemployed men in the Borough not in receipt of Unemployment pay are to be engaged on the same terms for four days, instead of two days.”

The Committee reported that at their meeting this morning they considered questions relating to work for unemployed, and they recommend the Conservators to provide work by making up foot-paths on the Commons, and, subject to the Unemployment Committee of the Town Council providing the necessary labour, to supply the materials for such work.

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That the Conservators consent to the repairing of foot-paths on the Common, and authorise the Surveyor to supply the necessary materials for the work, subject to the labour being provided by the Unemployment Committee of the Town Council.
- (b) **RESOLVED**—That the footpath leading from the Spa Hotel to the Upper Cricket Ground and thence to the Post Office be repaired under the scheme of work for unemployed.

War Memorial, Rusthall.—An application was received from the Vicar of Rusthall for permission to erect a War Memorial, standing partly on the Common and partly on Rusthall Churchyard.

A plan shewing the design of the proposed Memorial was laid before the Committee.

The Committee reported that they had inspected the site of the proposed Memorial, and recommended that no objection be offered to the proposal.

RESOLVED—That the Vicar of Rusthall be informed that the Commons Conservators offer no objection to the proposal if carried out in accordance with the design submitted.

Trees.—The Committee reported that they had considered the question of planting trees on Rusthall Common near the entrance to the High Street, Rusthall, and recommended that the scheme submitted by Messrs. Charlton & Son be not adopted, but that the Conservators do instruct the Surveyor to plant three clumps of gorse and trees on Rusthall Common, near the entrance to Rusthall High Street, at a cost not exceeding £25.

RESOLVED—That the recommendation of the Committee be adopted.



Commons Conservators

2nd March, 1922.

Commons Conservators.

2nd March, 1922.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Councillor Parsonage), *Chairman*.

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, S. A. Cheale, T. Edwards, H. Elwig,
Hallett Reed, Brig.-Gen. W. H. Stuart, C.M.G., W. Taylor,
S. V. Thorpe and H. J. Willmot.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last ordinary meeting and of a special meeting held on the 31st January, 1922, were read and confirmed.

Work for Unemployed.—A letter was received from the Royal Tunbridge Wells Tradesmen's Association and Chamber of Commerce, stating that at a general meeting of this Association held on the 14th February, the following resolution was unanimously carried :—

“ That the following improvements to the Tunbridge Wells Commons meet with the cordial support of this Association and it is hoped that they may be brought about at an early date, if not with the assistance of the Unemployed Fund, then as soon as funds are available.

1. Cleaning and improvement of pond in Eridge Road.
2. Cleaning and re-making of pond in Major Yorke's Road.
3. Making of pond under the rocks situated opposite Bredbury, Mount Ephraim.
4. Making of a terrace to extend from “ Gibraltar ” to “ St. Helena.”
5. Cleaning up and depositing of more sand around the Wellington Rocks.

The Clerk reported that he had had the following correspondence with the Tunbridge Board of Guardians with reference to the letter received from the Tunbridge Wells Tradesmen's Association and Chamber of Commerce :—

Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators,
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.
22nd February, 1922.

WORK FOR UNEMPLOYED.

Dear Sir,—I enclose you copy of a letter I have received from the Tunbridge Wells Tradesmen's Association and Chamber of Commerce which will be laid before the Commons Conservators at their meeting on Thursday, the 2nd prox.

In view of the fact that the funds at the disposal of the Conservators are limited and are only sufficient for the normal expenditure throughout the year, I shall be glad to know if the Guardians will be prepared to make a grant in respect of the work set out in the letter, in the event of the Conservators, on considering the matter, deciding to put in hand all or any of the works for the purpose of providing work for the Unemployed.

I shall be glad of a reply prior to the 2nd prox.

Yours faithfully,
(*Sd.*) W. C. CRIPPS;

Clerk, Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators.
Neville R. Stone, Esq., Clerk,
Tonbridge Board of Guardians,
23, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Tonbridge Union,
23, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells,
25th February, 1922.

WORK FOR UNEMPLOYED.

Dear Sir,—I read to the Guardians yesterday your letter of the 22nd inst., which enclosed copy of a letter of the 15th inst., from the Tradesmen's

Commons Conservators

Association, on the subject of finding work for the unemployed on the Tunbridge Wells Common.

The Guardians recently had a somewhat similar application from the Tonbridge Urban District Council asking them to make a grant to be spent in wages to those of the unemployed who would otherwise have to be supported by Poor Relief, and the Guardians decided, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health, to contribute, by way of wages towards the unemployment of as many men as possible by the Urban District Council; each family being relieved according to necessity, and the payment by the Guardians to be at the rate of 1s. per hour. I send you copy of the reply of the Ministry of Health of the 18th inst., stating that they will be prepared to sanction contributions by the Guardians towards the works at Tonbridge, provided that the contribution covering the given period does not exceed the amount of Relief estimated to have been saved to the Guardians' fund during that period by the prosecution of the work.

The Guardians at their meeting yesterday decided to instruct their Relieving Officer to send to the Conservators a certain number of men to be employed on the works mentioned in the Tradesmen's Association letter, and to repay to the Conservators in lump sums the wages paid to the men at the rate of 1s. per hour. The Relieving Officer will, as in the case of the work at Tonbridge, select those men suitable for the work, whose circumstances appear to render them most in need of the assistance. I would suggest that the Conservators Surveyor, or other officer, should place himself in communication with Mr. H. C. Gilliam, the Relieving Officer, as to the number of men to be employed. It is intended that each man should have two days work per week.

If you will be good enough to keep an account of the wages on this special work vouched by time sheets, I will obtain a cheque on account from the Guardians from time to time.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) NEVILLE R. STONE.

W. C. CRIPPS, Esq.

Clerk to the Tunbridge Wells Conservators,
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That, in view of the fact that the suggested works would involve the Conservators in considerable expense other than the cost of manual labour, the Conservators cannot see their way to undertake such works and that the Clerk be instructed to inform the Tunbridge Wells Tradesmen's Association and Chamber of Commerce and the Tonbridge Board of Guardians accordingly.

A letter was received from the Rev. T. G. Gilling-Lax enquiring if any labour could be employed in improving the approach to Common View for foot passengers and vehicles from the road leading to New Town, Rusthall, and also in improving some of the footpaths on Rusthall Common on the lower side of the same road towards Lower Green.

- (b) **RESOLVED**—That the Rev. T. G. Gilling-Lax be informed that the Conservators are unable to take any action with regard to improving the approach to Common View, but that the repair of certain other footpaths on the Commons is now being carried out.

Removable Lodge.—An application was received from the Linden Park Cricket Club for consent to the erection of a removable lodge on the Upper Cricket Ground to be used as a cricket pavilion.

Mr. G. Morris and Mr. B. Spencer (representing the Linden Park Cricket Club) attended the meeting to explain the proposals of the Club, and stated that the Club will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the pavilion in question.

It was moved by Mr. H. J. Willmot and seconded by Mr. S. A. Cheale—

1. That the Conservators hereby consent to the erection on the Upper Cricket Ground forming part of the Commons, on a site to be approved by the

Commons Conservators

Conservators, of a removable lodge for purposes ancillary to the recreation of the public, *i.e.*, cricket and other games, such lodge to be constructed in accordance with the plan lodged with the Conservators and signed by their Clerk.

2. This consent is given on the express condition that such lodge be removable by the Conservators at any time without notice.

It was moved as an Amendment by Mr. C. Berry, seconded by Mr. S. V. Thorpe—subject to the substitution of the words “offer no objection” for the word “consent” in the first paragraph of the motion, and to the substitution of the word “approval” for the word “consent” in the second paragraph of the motion.

On a vote being taken there voted—

For the Amendment (Messrs. Berry, Elwig and Thorpe) ...	3
Against (The Mayor, Messrs. L. Andrews, S. A. Cheale, T. Edwards, Hallett Reed, Brig.-Gen. Suart, C.M.G., W. Taylor and H. J. Willmot) ...	8

The Amendment was accordingly lost.

The original Resolution, on being put as the substantive motion, was carried *nem. con.*

Chairman.—The Mayor intimated that owing to another appointment he would now have to vacate the chair.

RESOLVED—That the Deputy Mayor (Mr. H. J. Willmot) do take the chair for the remaining business.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. S. Richardson with reference to the condition of certain trees in the neighbourhood of Harmony Street, Rusthall.

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to forward a copy of the letter to the owner of Rusthall Grange on whose premises one of the trees in question is situated.

It was reported to the Conservators that two clumps of gorse and trees on Rusthall Common had been planted, but that the planting of the three clumps would entail an expenditure in excess of the £25 authorised by the Conservators at their last meeting.

- (b) **RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to plant the third clump of gorse and trees at an estimated additional cost of £5.

St. Helena—Drainage.—A letter was received from Mr. O. Dan with reference to an obstruction in the drain under the Common on the western side of the above premises.

The Clerk reported to the Conservators that he was informed that the drain is being opened for the purpose of discovering the nature of the obstruction.

Committee's Report.—The Committee held a meeting on the 31st January, 1922, at which meeting the following were present:—

Messrs. C. Berry, T. Edwards, Hallett Reed, Brig.-Gen. W. H. Suart,
C.M.G., and H. J. Willmot.

and report as follows:—

TREES—ST. HELENA.—The Committee recommend that no action be taken with regard to the trees, at “St. Helena.”

TREES—NEAR SANITARY CONVENIENCE, UPPER CRICKET GROUND.—The Committee recommend that no additional trees be planted on the Common above the Sanitary Convenience near the Upper Cricket Ground.

POND—LANGTON ROAD.—The Committee recommend that no action be taken with regard to the cleansing of the pond at the Langton Road entrance to Rusthall Common.

RESOLVED—That the recommendations of the Committee be adopted.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £206 10s. 9d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

S. Spence

4

Commons Conservators

8th June, 1922.

Commons Conserbators.

8th June, 1922.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Councillor Parsonage), *Chairman*.

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, T. Edwards, H. Elwig, W. Maynard,
Brig.-Gen. W. H. Suart, C.M.G., W. Taylor and S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Sale of Refreshments on Common.—The following application from Mr. E. C. Joscelyne was read :—

34 & 36, MOUNT EPHRAIM, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
23rd May, 1922.

W. C. CRIPPS, Esq.,
Calverley Road.

Dear Sir,—As Clerk to the Commons Conservators we write to ask if you will give us permission (if necessary) for us to serve refreshments on the Common at the Linden Park Cricket Pavilion, to the Club, its supporters and friends, during the season.

Thanking you in anticipation of your consent,

We are, dear Sir, yours obediently,

p.p. E. C. JOSCELYNE.

(Sd.) M. G. JOSCELYNE, *Secretary*.

The Clerk read Bye-law No. 2, which is as follows :—

“No person shall on any part of the Common sell or offer or expose for sale or hire, any commodity or article without the authority of the Conservators.”

RESOLVED—That, under the above Bye-law, the consent of the Conservators be given to Mr. Joscelyne's application.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. Charles Berry stating that he is instructed by his Client, the Lord of the Manor, to inform the Conservators that he is advised that the trunk of a birch tree situate on the Common near the boundary fence of Onslow House being hollow and rotten, the tree is in a dangerous condition and if it falls would seriously damage the house, and that, under the circumstances, it is desired that the Conservators take steps to have the tree removed.

The Surveyor reported that, on the 13th March last, he inspected the tree, and advised its removal forthwith, and that the tree was removed.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor's action be approved.

Kiosk.—An application was received from the Borough Electrical Engineer for permission to erect an iron Transformer Kiosk, and cable connections thereto, on the Common, opposite No. 52, London Road.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators (so far as they are empowered by law so to do) do consent to the erection of the Kiosk in question.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £231 1s. 9d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.



Commons Conservators

5th October, 1922.

Commons Conserbators.

5th October, 1922.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, Hallett Reed, W. Maynard, S. V. Thorpe and H. J. Willmot.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Willmot (the Deputy Mayor) be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Fairs on Common.—A letter was received from Mr. Swales Forrest, stating he was extremely sorry to have remained with his Scenic Railway on the Tunbridge Wells Common on Sunday, the 31st May last.

It was reported that Mr. Studt, on Sunday, October 1st, permitted to remain on the Common, a scenic railway, cocoanut stall, shooting saloon, two sets of large swings, a roundabout, an aerial railway, and other apparatus for games, which he had previously placed on the Common by license of the Lord of the Manor.

RESOLVED—That the attention of Mr. Studt be called to the provisions of Section 166 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act : that he be informed the Conservators are advised that he has committed a breach of the provisions of such Section, and affording him any opportunity of placing before the Conservators any explanation which he may desire.

Damage by Gale.—A letter was received from Mr. Walter Mobbs, stating that during the gale, on the night of July 5th, a tree on the Common was blown down, falling into his garden and damaging the iron fence, and requesting that the matter of repairing the fence may be placed before the proper authorities.

RESOLVED—That Mr. Walter Mobbs be informed that the Conservators regret they cannot admit any liability in the matter.

Roadways.—A letter was received from Mr. F. A. Spencer, the Honorary Secretary of the Tunbridge Wells and Counties Club, requesting that the roadway, in front of the Club gate, which has been washed away, may be attended to.

RESOLVED—That Mr. F. A. Spencer be informed that his application should be addressed to the Manorial Authorities.

Notice Boards.—It was reported to the Conservators that an application had been made for a notice board to be erected at the end of the road leading from Langton Road to Rusthall Church.

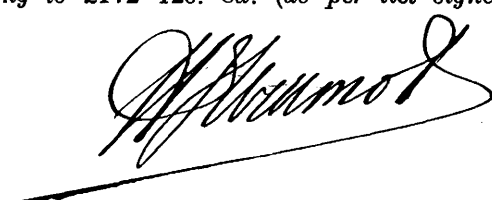
RESOLVED—That the following Notice be erected at the end of the road abutting on Langton Road :—

“Carriage Road to Rusthall Church only.”

Fences.—It was reported to the Conservators that a fence on Mount Ephraim had been damaged by a motorist and that the cost of repairing the damage had been recovered from him.

Trees.—RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to purchase 12 trees to replace those recently planted on the Common, near Rusthall High Street, which have not survived.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £172 12s. 8d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.



Commons Conservators

7th December, 1922.

Commons Conservators.

7th December, 1922.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. L. Andrews, S. A. Cheale, H. Elwig, Hallett Reed, W. Maynard, E. Merritt, W. Taylor, S. V. Thorpe and H. J. Willmot, and Brig.-Gen. W. H. Suart, C.M.G.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at their meeting on the 9th November last appointed the following members as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November, 1923 :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Parsonage).
Mr. Alderman Willmot.
Mr. Councillor Merritt.
Councillor Brig.-Gen. Suart, C.M.G.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Willmot (the Deputy Mayor) be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Fairs on Common.—Letters were received from Mr. Charles Berry with reference to the erections placed on the Common by Mr. Studt and permitted to remain on Sunday, October 1st last.

A further letter was received from Mr. Charles Berry stating that he is prevented from attending the meeting to-day, and requesting that the Conservators will postpone dealing with matters particularly affecting the position of the Lord of the Manor.

RESOLVED—That, in deference to the wish expressed by Mr. Berry, the consideration of his letters be adjourned to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Road near Rusthall Park.—A letter was received from Dr. G. Abbott calling attention (a) to the condition of the roadway between the rocks and near Rusthall Park ; (b) to the condition of the footpath which runs behind and above the Toad Rock in a N.W. direction ; and (c) to the excavations made by children on the Common on the North side of Bull's Hollow Cottages and nearer the road between the rocks.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to inform Dr. G. Abbott—

- (a) That the Commons Conservators did not receive £200 nor any other sum in respect of the road referred to by him, and that they have no power to take any action with regard thereto ;
- (b) That they do not recognise as a footpath the "footpath" referred to in the second paragraph of his letter, and that it is not of sufficient public importance for the Conservators to take any action with respect thereto ;
- (c) That the matter referred to in the last paragraph of his letter is too trivial to warrant consideration.

Road leading to Rusthall Churchyard.—A letter was received from the Rev. T. G. Gilling-Lax with reference to the approach road to Rusthall Churchyard, and other matters affecting Rusthall Common.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee, to inspect and report to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Commons Conservators

Trees.—A letter was received from Miss J. Guthrie requesting that the horse chestnut tree in front of "Jordan House" may be cut down.

A report was received that the tree is not in an unsafe condition.

RESOLVED—That Miss Guthrie be informed that the Conservators have received a report that the tree is not in an unsafe condition and they are reluctant to have it removed.

Riding Course.—Letters were received from Mr. H. K. McCausland, together with a Memorial bearing 32 signatures, requesting that permission be given for horses to be ridden on a defined portion of the Common between the months of November and March, and suggesting that the Old Race Course might be found suitable by the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That Mr. H. K. McCausland and the Memorialists be informed that the Conservators do not think it desirable in the general public interest to alter Bye-law 31, which prohibits riding on the Common between November and March.

Rusthall Cricket Ground.—An application was received from the Hon. Secretary of the Rusthall Cricket Ground for permission temporarily to fence off an approximate area of 30 yards square in the centre of the cricket ground on Rusthall Common for the protection of the turf.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do sanction the enclosure of the cricket pitch on Rusthall Common by a temporary fence during the present winter, such fence to be removed on receipt of notice by the Conservators so to do.

Work for Unemployed.—A letter was received from Miss R. M. Ard, suggesting road repair work for Unemployed on Rusthall Common.

The Clerk reported that the funds of the Conservators, after allowing for necessary expenditure to March 31st next, would not exceed £60.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be requested to interview Miss Ard with reference to the suggestions contained in her letter.

It was reported to the Conservators that the Tonbridge Board of Guardians are prepared to send men, and pay their wages, if the Conservators can find work on the Commons.

The Surveyor reported that the only suitable work would be gorse-cutting.

The question of the necessity of further gorse-cutting was referred to the Committee.

Rusthall Bowling Green.—A request was received from the Hon. Secretary of the Rusthall Bowls Club that the fence surrounding the Bowling Green on Rusthall Common may be repaired.

(a) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to repair the fence in question.

A further letter was received from the Hon. Secretary of the Rusthall Bowls Club, requesting that assistance might be granted from the unemployed in re-levelling and re-laying the turf of the Bowling Green on Rusthall Common.

(b) RESOLVED—That the Hon. Secretary of the Rusthall Bowls Club be informed that the work referred to is not suitable for unemployed.

Lower Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Mount Pleasant Football Club requesting that something may be done to improve the surface of the Lower Cricket Ground, which is at present quite bare in the centre and dangerous for football.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee for consideration.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from Mr. W. F. Gibbons, suggesting that a hand-rail should be erected at the side of the steep path leading off the Common, opposite the General Post Office.

Commons Conservators

RESOLVED—That Mr. W. F. Gibbons be informed that, in the opinion of the Conservators, the erection of a hand-rail, as suggested by him, would be a source of danger to pedestrians using the Commons.

Appointment of Committee.—RESOLVED—That Messrs. C. Berry, E. Merritt, Hallett Reed, H. J. Willmot, and Brig.-Gen. Suart, C.M.G., be appointed a Committee until the 9th day of November next.

Accounts—Year ended 25th March, 1922.—The Auditors' Report on the accounts for the year ended the 25th March, 1922, was received and considered.

(a) RESOLVED—That a vote of thanks be given to Messrs. S. A. Cheale and H. Elwig for their services as Auditors.

(b) RESOLVED—That Messrs. S. A. Cheale and H. Elwig be appointed Auditors for the current year.

Financial Statement.—The Clerk laid before the Conservators a statement of the estimated income and expenditure of the Conservators for the year ending 25th March, 1923.

Estimates.—RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include the sum of £600 in their Estimates for the next Financial Year for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Meetings.—RESOLVED—That the meetings of the Commons Conservators during the year 1923 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m. :—

Tuesday—March 6th, June 5th, October 2nd, and December 4th.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £43 17s. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'H. J. Willmot', is written over a horizontal line.

Commons Conservators

3rd January, 1923.

Commons Conservators.

3rd January, 1923.—At a special meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Councillor Parsonage), *Chairman*.
Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, S. A. Cheale, H. Elwig, Hallett Reed,
W. Maynard, E. Merritt, W. Taylor, S. V. Thorpe and H. J. Willmot.

The Notice convening the meeting was read as follows :—

URGENT.

TOWN HALL, TUNBRIDGE WELLS,
30th December, 1922.

WORK FOR UNEMPLOYED.

Dear Sir,—By the instructions of the Mayor I beg to inform you that a meeting of the Commons Conservators will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday next, the 3rd January, 1923, at 3 p.m., to receive a deputation from the Works Sub-Committee of the Mayor's Unemployment Committee to discuss the question of providing work for the Unemployed on the Tunbridge Wells Commons (the cost of which will be borne by the Mayor's Unemployment Fund).

The Mayor regrets the comparative short notice for this meeting, but the Works Committee of the Mayor's Unemployment Fund are anxious that any work will be proceeded with at the earliest possible moment.

Yours faithfully,
W. C. CRIPPS,
Clerk to the Conservators.

The following letter from Mr. H. Elwig was read :—

(COPY.)

ST. PIERRE, MT. EPHRAIM ROAD,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
December 30th, 1922.

W. C. CRIPPS, Esq., J.P.,
Clerk to the Commons Conservators.

Dear MR. CRIPPS,—I have been asked by the Works Sub-Committee of the Mayor's Unemployment Committee to see if a meeting of the Commons Conservators could be called this week to receive a Deputation from the Works Committee to discuss the question of finding work on the Commons for the Unemployed.

The Mayor also wishes the meeting to be arranged, if possible.
Will you kindly see what can be done.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) HENRY ELWIG.

A telegram from Brig.-Gen. Suart, C.M.G., on the subject of the tracks in front of "Common View" and "Buller's Terrace," Rusthall, was read.

A letter from Miss E. Cumming on the subject of the Eridge Road Lake was read.

A Deputation from the Committee of the Mayor's Unemployment Fund (consisting of Sir Robert Gower, O.B.E., Messrs. Henry T. Berwick, Henry Elwig and F. Organ) attended the meeting.

Commons Conservators

Mr. Elwig having introduced the Deputation, Mr. Berwick made the following suggestions as to work which could be carried out on the Commons and which, in the opinion of the Mayor's Unemployment Committee would give employment to some of those who are now out of work :—

- (a) A Toy Yacht Lake opposite " St. Helena " ;
- (b) Improvement of the open area on the West side of the Queen's Grove, with possibly a defined place for cricket or other games ;
- (c) The repair and improvement of the paths surrounding the Lower Cricket Ground ;
- (d) Clearing the Eridge Road Lake, and a possible extension thereof ;
- (e) Improvement of the approaches to Hungershall Park from Major Yorke's Road and Fir Tree Road ;
- (f) Gorse and bracken cutting.

After a lengthy discussion with the Deputation the Conservators considered that the following suggestions involved so many practical and financial difficulties that they would afford no relief in the present situation :—

- (a) Toy Yacht Lake opposite " St. Helena " ;
- (b) Improvement of the open area on the West side of Queen's Grove.

The Conservators also considered that the question of gorse and bracken cutting should be dealt with by the Mayor's Unemployment Committee in conjunction with the Guardians.

RESOLVED—That the sanction of the Conservators be given to the following works to be carried out at the expense of the Mayor's Unemployment Fund, under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor :—

- (c) The clearing out of the Eridge Road Lake ;
- (d) The repair and improvement of the paths surrounding the Lower Cricket Ground, the Conservators contributing £50 towards the cost of haulage and of the necessary materials.
- (e) The improvement of the approaches to Hungershall Park and Fir Tree Road, from Major York's Road, provided all necessary consents thereto be obtained by the Committee of the Mayor's Unemployment Fund.



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Commons Conservators

6th March, 1923.

Commons Conserbators.

6th March, 1923.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, S. A. Cheale, H. Elwig, Hallett Reed, W. Maynard, E. Merritt, W. Taylor, S. V. Thorpe, H. J. Willmot, and Brig.-Gen. W. H. Suart, C.M.G.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Willmot, the Deputy Mayor, be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last ordinary meeting and of a special meeting held on the 3rd January, 1923, were read and confirmed.

Rusthall Bowling Club.—An application was received from the Secretary of Rusthall Bowling Club for permission to cut a small quantity of turf near the Bowling Green on Rusthall Common to replace damaged turf on the Bowling Green, and also for permission to affix a Notice Board with the following words to one of the posts on the Bowling Green :—

“RUSTHALL BOWLING GREEN.”

“The public are asked not to walk over the Green or damage the turf.”

RESOLVED—That a revocable license be granted to the Rusthall Bowling Club to cut a small quantity of turf near the Rusthall Bowling Green for the purpose of repairing the Bowling Green at Rusthall and to affix the proposed Notice Board to one of the posts on the Bowling Green.

Fair on Common.—The letters from Mr. Berry, referred to in the minutes of December 7th, 1922, were placed before the Conservators.

Mr. Berry intimated that he had no observations to make upon the subject of such letters.

Gorse Cutting.—The Surveyor reported that the work of gorse cutting on the Commons has been completed.

Approaches from Major Yorke's Road to Hungershall Park and Fir Tree Road.—Mr. Thorpe reported that the Lord of the Manor had been applied to for his sanction to the removal of the banks at the Cross roads, but he considered that such removal was undesirable.

Tracks on Common.—Questions relating to the cutting of a track through the gorse, giving access to an existing hollow on the Rusthall Common, opposite Rusthall Vicarage, were considered.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee for inspection and report.

Committee's Report.—The Committee held a meeting on the 29th January, 1923, at which meeting the following were present :—

Messrs. C. Berry, Hallett Reed, E. Merritt, Brig.-Gen. Suart, C.M.G., and Willmot.

and submit the following Report :—

Approach to Rusthall Churchyard.—Letter from the Rev. T. G. Gilling-Lax.

RUSTHALL VICARAGE,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

October 27th, 1922.

Dear Sir,—

APPROACH TO RUSTHALL CHURCHYARD.

I shall be obliged if you will bring the following matters before the notice of the Commons Conservators. I have already pointed them out to the Highways Inspector.

15.

Commons Conservators

1. It would help to keep people from driving their cars right on to the Common overlooking the Happy Valley if 2 or 3 upright posts could be fixed immediately beyond the stone pitching, so that no vehicle could then go beyond the entrance to the School gates.

2. There is a big flow of water from the Common which overflows the gully by the entrance to the Churchyard in rainy weather. I asked the Inspector whether the Commons men could not keep this drainpipe clear, so that the water could run away freely; also whether some of the water could not be diverted on the surface.

3. The ground round the War Memorial gets into a very muddy state when there is any rain. It would be a great convenience to all who visit the Memorial, and an improvement to the appearance of the Common, if some stone chippings could be thrown over this part, similar to the materials used for the paths on the Common.

4. We wish to ask for the sanction of the Conservators for the removal of the tree near the War Memorial, and for replanting it to fill a gap in the avenue. It is very much in the way where it now stands, and will presently discolour the Memorial.

5. We wish to ask whether the Commons men cannot sweep the road leading to the Church when they sweep the adjoining footpath, and whether the rain water which gathers on the road cannot be diverted. This road is now much more used by the ordinary public than by people going to the Church, so that it has virtually become a public road, both for people on foot and for bicycles and cars. As such, we think it ought to receive some attention.

6. We should be obliged if the trees could be cut back along the road, and the lower branches removed to prevent boys from climbing.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) T. G. GILLING-LAX.

(a) RESOLVED—That the Conservators be recommended—

- (1) Not to agree to the suggestion that upright posts be placed in the road leading to the Happy Valley.
- (2) That the Churchwardens of Rusthall Church be granted permission to place posts and chains, or rails and posts, on the Common opposite the entrance to Rusthall Church.
- (3) That the Churchwardens of Rusthall Church be granted permission to make up a part of the Common adjoining the Churchyard wall.
- (4) That the Conservators provide the necessary gravel, on the Churchwardens agreeing to pay the cost of making up the ground near the War Memorial.
- (5) That sanction be given to the removal of the tree near the War Memorial and the replanting of it at the end of the avenue of trees abutting upon the road leading to Rusthall Church.
- (6) That the Conservators be recommended not to undertake the sweeping of the private road, but that the Churchwardens be allowed to repair the channel of the road.

Lower Cricket Ground.—Letter from the Mount Pleasant Football Club.

MOUNT PLEASANT FOOTBALL CLUB.

11, Calverley Street, Tunbridge Wells.

30th November, 1923.

To the COMMONS CONSERVATORS,
Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells.

GENTLEMEN,—I am instructed by the Committee of the above to respectfully enquire whether or not you could in some way improve the state of the Lower Cricket Ground next year.

Commons Conservators

I believe that ever since the ground was used by the heavy Military Transport it has been quite bare of grass in the centre, and at the present time it is very rough on the sides, thus making football rather dangerous, not only for my Club, but also for the Schoolboys who use the ground on Thursdays.

My Committee are of opinion that the havoc is caused during the summer months when the ground is used daily by a great number of persons, many games being in progress at the same time.

If any improvement to the surface could be made during the summer of 1923, and games discontinued while the work is in progress, the ground would get the rest it needs to recover its 1914 appearance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) FRANK MALCOLM,

Hon. Secretary.

- (b) RESOLVED—That the consideration of the steps to be taken for the repair of the Lower Cricket Ground be deferred.

Notice Boards.—Letter from Miss Jull.

ARDMORE SCHOOL,

Bishops Down Park, Tunbridge Wells.

January 10th, 1923.

W. C. CRIPPS, Esq.,

The Clerk to Commons Conservators.

Dear Sir,—My School, situated in Bishops Down Park, suffers from the fact that people inquiring the way to Bishops Down do not think of going down Hurst Wood Lane to find it.

Would you allow me to put a little finger board up on the finger post at the corner of the Common near Chancellor House—To Ardmore School?

I enclose a letter typical of some I have had from time to time, the underlined part showing the cause of my request.

I also want a caution to motorists, who drive down the hill and round the corner dangerously fast. The footpath ends suddenly just after the corner is turned, and footpassengers straggle all over the road in consequence.

To whom should I apply for this latter protection, which being off the Common hardly comes into your province.

I enclose stamped envelope for your kind reply.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.)

- (c) RESOLVED—That Miss Jull's request to place a notice board at the corner of the Common near "Chancellor House," directing people to "Ardmore School," be not complied with.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's Report bearing on the recommendations therein contained be adopted.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £100 0 0 list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

Commons Conservators

5th June, 1923.

Commons Conserbators.

5th June, 1923.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Deputy Mayor (Mr. Alderman Willmot) *in the Chair*.

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, S. A. Cheale, H. Elwig, Hallett Reed, W. Maynard, E. Merritt, W. Taylor and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—**RESOLVED**—That Mr. Alderman Willmot (the Deputy Mayor) be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Fairs on Common.—A letter was received from Mr. George Murton-Neale stating that, in the opinion of the residents in the neighbourhood of Hungershall Park, the "fair, etc.," which was on the Common for some weeks became a considerable nuisance, especially from a sanitary point of view, and expressing the hope that in future such encampment will only be able to obtain permission to remain for a few days at a time.

RESOLVED—That Mr. G. Murton-Neale be informed that the Sanitary Inspector has been requested to keep observation on Shows which are held on the Common and that they have the assurance of the representatives of the Lord of the Manor that he will co-operate with the Commons Conservators in any steps to obviate a nuisance and that the Shows are regulated by Statutory provisions and byelaws.

Rusthall Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Hon. Secretary of the Rusthall Cricket Club asking permission for a few light removable stakes and wire or cord to be put around the pitches after matches on the Rusthall Cricket Ground during the summer months, to protect the same.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do consent to the placing of a few light removable stakes and wire or cord around the pitches after matches on the Rusthall Cricket Ground during the cricket season to protect the pitches, and that Messrs. E. Merritt and Hallett Reed be requested to inspect such temporary protection from time to time and report thereon to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Trees.—Letters were received from Mr. J. Heber Lant and from Dr. Claude Wilson with reference to the tree on the Common in front of Jordan House in London Road.

It was reported to the Conservators that the Surveyor had thoroughly examined this tree since the last meeting of the Conservators and reported that the tree is dying, and he was of opinion that it should be removed.

The Clerk reported that he had submitted this report to the Committee of the Conservators, who were unanimously in favour of the removal of the tree and that the Surveyor had accordingly removed it.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's action be approved.

RESOLVED—That the question of replacing the tree by a tree or trees in the vicinity be referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Sheltered Seats.—**RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to have the reed-thatching on the sheltered seats on the Common repaired at a cost of £4 15s per seat.

Meetings.—Questions relating to the dates of future meetings of the Commons Conservators were considered.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do meet on Wednesday, October 3rd, and Wednesday, December 5th, at 3 p.m.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £144 3s 10d (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

Commons Conservators

3rd October, 1923.

Commons Conserbators.

3rd October, 1923.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Deputy Mayor (Mr. Alderman Willmot) *in the Chair*.

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, Hallett Reed, W. Maynard,
E. Merritt and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Willmot (the Deputy Mayor) be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Committee's Report.—The Committee held a meeting on the 24th September, 1923, and submit the following report:—

SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER NEAR GIBRALTAR COTTAGE.—A letter was received from Mr. J. B. Snell forwarding a letter from Miss Fothergill, of Gibraltar Cottage, suggesting that there should be a tap where children can obtain drinking water on the Common somewhere near her house.

RESOLVED—That the Committee do not recommend the provision of a tap on the Common as suggested.

TREE AT REAR OF GIBRALTAR COTTAGE AND SURFACE WATER DOWN DRIVE.—A letter was received from Miss N. C. Fothergill stating that she had applied to the Lord of the Manor for the removal of a seedling growing on top of the rock at the back of her house, Gibraltar Cottage, which is causing one of her rooms to be dark and dreary, and is also doing damage to the masonry, and had been advised to lay the matter before the Conservators, and also asking if they can do something to prevent all the water from running off Mount Ephraim asphalt path down the drive to the Cottage.

RESOLVED—That the Committee are unable to recommend the removal of the seedling tree on top of the rock at the rear of Gibraltar Cottage, and that it is impracticable to prevent rain water running down the private drive leading to Gibraltar Cottage.

TREES ON COMMON.—(c) RESOLVED—That the following recommendations be made to the Conservators:—

- (1) That one dead silver birch tree be removed from the Common opposite Manor House, and that the dead trees on Rusthall Common, near Common View, be replaced.
- (2) That a tree be planted on the Common, opposite Jordan House.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's report be approved, and the recommendations therein contained be adopted.

Fairs on Common.—Letters were received from Miss D. James, Mr. A. J. Pelton and the Hon. Secretary of the Eye and Ear Hospital with reference to the fairs on the Common.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be directed to notify Miss James, Mr. A. J. Pelton and the Hon. Sec. of the Eye and Ear Hospital of the steps taken with reference to fairs on the Common.

Rusthall Common, adjoining "Rusthall Beacon."—Questions relating to the desirability of cutting the undergrowth in the Happy Valley adjoining the boundary fence of Rusthall Beacon were considered.

RESOLVED—That, in the opinion of the Conservators, it is undesirable to remove any of the undergrowth in the Happy Valley adjoining the boundary fence of Rusthall Beacon.

1.

Commons Conservators

Rusthall Cricket Ground.—An application was received from the Hon. Secretary of the Rusthall Cricket Club for permission temporarily to fence off the centre portion of the cricket ground on Rusthall Common on the same conditions as granted to them last winter.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do sanction the enclosure of the cricket pitch on Rusthall Common by a temporary fence during the present winter, such fence to be removed on receipt of notice by the Conservators so to do.

Notice Boards.—RESOLVED—That the Committee be requested to consider questions relating to the notice boards on the Commons and report to the Conservators.

Work for Unemployed.—RESOLVED—That a sum not exceeding £75 be expended in repairing footpaths and cutting burnt gorse on the Commons.

Trees.—RESOLVED—That a Cornish elm tree be planted on the Common opposite Jordan House.

Accounts for Payment.—*Accounts amounting to £115 8s. 8d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.*

Commons Conservators

5th December, 1923.

Commons Conserbators.

5th December, 1923.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Parsonage), *Chairman*.

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, S. A. Cheale, H. Elwig, Hallett Reed,
W. Maynard, E. Merritt, J. G. Silcock, W. Taylor, S. V. Thorpe
and H. J. Willmot.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at their meeting on the 9th November last appointed the following Members as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November, 1924 :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Parsonage).
Mr. Alderman Silcock.
Mr. Alderman Willmot.
Mr. Councillor Merritt.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Rusthall Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Hon. Secretary of the Rusthall Cricket Club requesting that the Conservators will have a clump of gorse by the cricket ground, on the Langton Road side, removed, as it is a hindrance to the play when matches are in progress, or for the Conservator's permission to cut the clump of gorse in question.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee for consideration.

Committee's Report.—The Committee reported that they have considered questions relating to the notice boards on the Commons and recommend :—

- (1) That the Surveyor be instructed to renew three sets of bye-laws on the Commons, as originally erected, and for this purpose to have the bye-laws printed, placed on boards, and covered with glass.
- (2) That the Surveyor be instructed to repair and re-write any existing defective notice boards on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's recommendations be adopted.

Appointment of Committee.—(a) **RESOLVED**—That Messrs. C. Berry, E. Merritt, Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and H. J. Willmot be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year.

- (b) **RESOLVED**—That a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their services during the past year.

Accounts—Year ended 25th March, 1923.—The Auditors' Report on the accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1923, was received and considered.

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That a vote of thanks be given to Messrs. S. A. Cheale and H. Elwig for their services as auditors.
- (b) **RESOLVED**—That Messrs. S. A. Cheale and H. Elwig be appointed auditors for the current year.

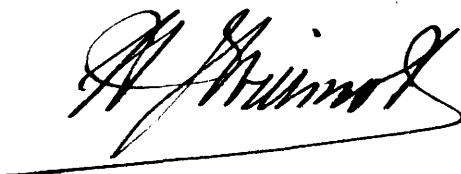
Financial Statement.—The Clerk laid before the Conservators a statement of the estimated income and expenditure of the Conservators for the year ending the 25th March, 1924.

Estimates.—**RESOLVED**—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include the sum of £600 in their estimates for the next financial year for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Meetings.—**RESOLVED**—That the meetings of the Commons Conservators during the year 1924 be held on the following dates, at 2.30 p.m. :—

Tuesday—March 4th, June 3rd, September 30th and December 2nd.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £99 4s. 11d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.



Commons Conservators

4th March, 1924.

Commons Conserbators.

4th March, 1924.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Deputy Mayor (Mr. Alderman Willmot) *in the Chair*.

Messrs. L. Andrews, H. Elwig, Hallett Reed, W. Maynard, E. Merritt and J. G. Silcock.

The late Mr. S. A. Cheale.—RESOLVED—That a sincere vote of sympathy and condolence be passed with Mrs. Cheale and Colonel Cheale, on the death of Mr. S. A. Cheale, and that an expression of the regret of the Conservators at the loss of the services of so valued and esteemed a colleague be recorded on the Minutes.

Minutes.—The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Rusthall Cricket Ground.—The letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Rusthall Cricket Club requesting that the Conservators will have a clump of gorse by the cricket ground on the Langton Road side removed, as it is a hindrance to the play when matches are in progress, or for the Conservators' permission to cut the clump of gorse in question, was further considered.

The Committee reported that they recommend the removal of the clump of gorse referred to.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's recommendation be adopted and that the Surveyor be instructed to remove the clump of gorse in question.

Plan of Commons.—RESOLVED—That the fee of 10s. be fixed for the inspection of the deposited plan of the Tunbridge Wells Commons under the provisions of Sec. 151 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890.

Notice Boards.—The following letter was read :—

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF DAY NURSERIES
HOLIDAY CONVALESCENT HOME AND NURSERY TRAINING SCHOOL.

HURSTLEIGH, HURSTWOOD LANE,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

March 3rd, 1924.

The SECRETARY,
THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS,
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

DEAR SIR,

"HURSTLEIGH" HOME.

As Chairman of the above, I am writing to ask your Committee if they would be good enough to sanction the erection of a board at the junction of the Bishop's Down Road with Mount Ephraim. (Rough plan attached hereto).

The dimensions of the board would be about 4ft. long by 2ft. wide, and the wording something in the nature of the following :—

TO THE NATIONAL DAY NURSERIES HOLIDAY AND
CONVALESCENT HOME.

Visitors are welcomed between the hours of 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The object of the board is, of course, to bring this very deserving and, at present, little known Home to the notice of the public and visitors to the Town, and, by showing them the good it is doing, to obtain their interest and support, of which it stands at present so badly in need.

A separate board would be most desirable, but even should your Committee approve of this, I believe the sanction of the Lord of the Manor must be obtained.

22.

Commons Conservators

Failing this, could your Committee grant permission for use to be made of the existing direction post? Naturally, we should expect to pay a small rent for the privilege.

I may say that I have not yet brought this matter before my own Committee, but I do not doubt their concurrence. The discovery that your Quarterly Meeting was fixed for Tuesday next left me no time.

I trust your Committee will endeavour to help me in this matter, as I feel it must make an appreciable difference to the Home, which is not a private one, but a part of a great national organisation on behalf of Child Welfare.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) M. B. KELSEY, Chairman,
"Clutha," Culverden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

RESOLVED—

- (a) That the Conservators, having regard to their previous decisions refusing to sanction the erection of additional direction posts on the Common, feel unable to sanction the erection of a board at the junction of the Bishop's Down Road with Mount Ephraim ;
- (b) That it be referred to the Committee to consider whether any and, if so, what notice should be affixed to the existing direction post with power to sanction any notice they may approve—but upon the condition that it is to be removed at any time upon request from the Conservators.

Upper Cricket Ground.—The following letter was received from the Linden Park Cricket Club :—

LINDEN PARK CRICKET CLUB

Bridgewater House, St. John's Road,
Tunbridge Wells.

February 5th, 1924.

The Clerk to the Commons Conservators,
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

DEAR SIR,—At a recent Committee of the above Club I was instructed to bring to the notice of the Conservators the dilapidated condition of the posts and railings, also the condition of the seats which surround the Higher Cricket Ground on the Common.

It is many years since any attention has been given to the posts and railings, and the paintwork especially, if it could be renewed, would do much to improve the appearance of the ground.

The seats are in a very bad state of repair, many having sunk almost to the level of the ground, and are most uncomfortable to sit on.

In view of the great interest which visitors and residents evince in the cricket played on the ground during the summer months, my Committee would be most grateful if the Conservators could give attention to these matters before the pending cricket season commences.

Awaiting your reply, Yours faithfully,

(Sg.) E. T. MORRIS,
Hon. Secretary.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee with authority to expend a sum not exceeding £30 for repairing seats and painting posts.

Appointment of Auditor.—RESOLVED—That the question of the appointment of an Auditor in the place of the late Mr. S. A. Cheale be deferred to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £206 9s. 7d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.



Commons Conservators

3rd June, 1924.

Commons Conserbators.

3rd June, 1924.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Mr. J. G. Silcock. *In the Chair.*

The Deputy Mayor (Mr. Alderman Willmot), Lt.-Colonel A. R. Cheale. Messrs. L. Andrews, H. Elwig, Hallett Reed, W. Maynard, E. Merritt, H. Taylor, and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—**RESOLVED**—That Mr. J. G. Silcock do take the Chair for this meeting.

Minutes.—The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Appointment of Conservator.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants stating that at a meeting of the Committee of the Freehold Tenants held on the 2nd instant, Lt.-Colonel A. R. Cheale was appointed as their representative on the Commons Conservators, in the place of the late Mr. S. A. Cheale.

Trees.—A letter was received from Sir Robert Gower stating that Mrs. Sladen has seen him with regard to the trees growing on the Common adjoining "Rusthall Beacon," which she regards as unsightly and also a great inconvenience owing to boys climbing them, and enquiring whether the Conservators would consent to the trees in question being cut down.

RESOLVED—That, in the opinion of the Conservators, it is undesirable to remove any of the trees growing on the Common adjoining "Rusthall Beacon," but that instructions will be given to stop boys climbing the trees in question.

Supply of Drinking Water near "Gibraltar Cottage."—A letter received by Mr. Snell from Miss Fothergill, of "Gibraltar," with reference to the provision of a tap for drinking water purposes near the Lower Cricket Ground, in order to avoid the inconvenience of children calling for water at "Gibraltar," was considered.

RESOLVED—That Miss Fothergill be informed that the Conservators must adhere to their previous decision not to provide a tap on the Common as suggested by her.

Committee's Report.—The Committee held a meeting on the 5th April, 1924, and submitted the following Report :—

1. **NOTICE BOARDS.**—Letter from Mr. Alderman Elwig with reference to suggested sign on behalf of the National Day Nurseries Holiday Home.

The Committee inspected the site and decided to recommend the Conservators that the application be not entertained.

2. **HIGHER CRICKET GROUND.**—**RESOLVED**—That no further work be undertaken at present beyond the painting of posts and repair and renewal of seats already in hand.

3. **TREES.**—**RESOLVED.**—That two dead trees near the Public Convenience on the Common be removed, and that a dead branch be removed from an adjoining fir tree.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's Report be approved and the recommendation therein contained be adopted.

Rusthall Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from Mr. R. T. Lade, the Honorary Secretary of the Rusthall Cricket Club, thanking the Conservators for having had the clump of gorse removed from the south side of the Cricket Ground.

Questions relating to the provision of additional seats on the Rusthall Cricket Ground were considered.

Commons Conservators

RESOLVED—That no additional seats be provided, but that the existing seat be raised and repaired.

Roads.—A letter was received from Mr. H. T. Weeks with reference to the road leading down from the road to Rusthall, past the Toad Rock to Denny Bottom.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Clerk and Surveyor to report thereon.

Mount Ephraim Promenade.—Questions relating to the maintenance of the Mount Ephraim Promenade were discussed and referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Staff.—**RESOLVED**—That one extra man be engaged on the Commons for a period of three months—from the middle of June to the middle of September.

Appointment of Auditor.—**RESOLVED**—That Lt.-Colonel A. R. Cheale be appointed Auditor for the current year, in the place of the late Mr. S. A. Cheale.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £130 7s. 9d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.



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Commons Conservators

30th September, 1924.

Commons Conservators.

30th September, 1924.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Deputy Mayor (Mr. Alderman Willmot) *in the Chair*.
Lieut.-Col. A. R. Cheale.
Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, W. Maynard, E. Merritt,
Hallett Reed and J. G. Silcock.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Gorse.—A letter was received from Miss Hancock enquiring if it is possible to clear the overgrown gorse on the Common adjoining the Spa Hotel as their visitors, owing, no doubt, to the wet summer, complain of being shut in.

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That the letter be referred to the Committee with instructions to clear the gorse where necessary.

A letter was received from Mr. A. Adams enquiring if the Conservators could do something to abate the nuisance which exists at the large clump of gorse opposite South View Terrace, Rusthall.

- (b) **RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to clear the clump of gorse referred to by Mr. A. Adams.

Lower Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Mount Pleasant Football Club enquiring whether the Commons Conservators would have the Lower Cricket Ground rolled with the Corporation 6-ton roller, as it is thought that the surface of the Lower Cricket Ground would be improved thereby.

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to roll the Lower Cricket Ground when the climatic conditions are favourable for such work.

Questions relating to a foot track across the Lower Cricket Ground from Castle Road to Church Road were considered.

- (b) **RESOLVED**—That the matter be referred to the Surveyor.

Seats.—A letter was received from Mr. E. Charles Frend stating that he has been requested by a client, who wishes to remain anonymous, to suggest that seats for the use of the public should be provided at the following places:—

- (1) The bottom of Major Yorke's Road.
- (2) Near the Spa Hotel.
- (3) Near the path leading to the Toad Rock.
- (4) Near Bretland Road.
- (5) And, perhaps, in High Street, Rusthall.

and intimating that if the Conservators are prepared to provide seats at these points, his client will be happy to defray the cost of two of them.

RESOLVED—That Mr. E. C. Frend be informed that, in the opinion of the Conservators, there are already sufficient seats on the Commons.

Toad Rock.—The Clerk reported that Mr. Ragau Martin had called attention to the fact that the present fence round the Toad Rock is inefficient and that children climb over it and on to the top of the rock, and enquiring if some further protection could be provided at the Toad Rock.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

Committees Report.—The Committee held a meeting on the 26th September, 1924, and submitted the following recommendation:—

“**MOUNT EPHRAIM PROMENADE.**—That the Surveyor be instructed to present an estimate of the cost of the provision of bull-nosed brick edged kerbing along Mount Ephraim Promenade from its junction with Church Road to opposite Mount Ephraim House.”

Commons Conservators

The Surveyor estimated the cost of the provision of the kerbing referred to in the Committee's resolution at £225.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's recommendation be adopted and that the Surveyor be instructed to carry out the work at an estimated cost of £225.

Upper Cricket Ground.—Messrs. G. and E. T. Morris attended the Meeting (on behalf of the Linden Park Cricket Club) on the subject of the correspondence which had passed between the Lord of the Manor and the Linden Park Cricket Club with reference to the use of a portion of the Upper Cricket Ground for the purpose of playing hockey thereon by the Tunbridge Wells Hockey Club (a copy of which correspondence has been forwarded to each Conservator).

RESOLVED—That, in the opinion of the Conservators, it would be detrimental to the playing of cricket on the Upper Cricket Ground if hockey was played on the ground.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £140 10s. 2d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.



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Commons Conservators

2nd December, 1924.

Commons Conservators.

2nd December, 1924.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Deputy Mayor (Mr. Alderman Willmot), *in the Chair*.

Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, E. Merritt, and W. Taylor.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at their meeting on the 10th November last appointed the following members as Commons Conservators until the 9th November, 1925 :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Parsonage).

Mr. Alderman Silcock.

Mr. Alderman Willmot.

Mr. Councillor Merritt.

A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants stating that at the annual meeting of the Freehold Tenants of the Manor of Rusthall, held on the 12th November last, the following gentlemen were re-elected as the Freeholders Representatives on the Board of Conservators :—

Mr. Lawford Andrews.

Mr. William Taylor.

Mr. Hallett Reed.

Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mount Ephraim Promenade.—Letters were received from Mr. C. Berry with reference to certain suggested improvements of the Mount Ephraim Promenade.

A report was received from the Committee on the matter.

It was reported that the Mount Ephraim Promenade required certain improvements including the fixing of a kerb to the roadway.

RESOLVED—That the Lord of the Manor be requested to give his sanction to the following improvement to the Mount Ephraim Promenade.

“That the strip of land which is delineated and coloured red on the plan annexed to this minute and which forms part of the waste of the Manor of Rusthall and was formerly turfed be levelled and asphalted or tar paved up to the proposed kerb so as to form part of the level footway of the promenade.”

Trees.—A letter was received from Mrs. Sydney Sladen requesting that the grass, brambles, ferns and trees on Rusthall Common adjoining “Rusthall Beacon,” be cut.

A report was received from the Committee recommending that the undergrowth of bracken, brambles, etc., on the slope of the Common adjoining “Rusthall Beacon” be cleared.

RESOLVED—That the recommendation of the Committee be adopted and that the Surveyor be instructed to carry out the work.

Seats.—A request was received from the Rusthall Cricket Club that two additional seats be provided at the West end of the Cricket Ground on Rusthall Common.

RESOLVED—That two additional seats be provided as requested by the Rusthall Cricket Club.

Unemployment.—The letter from the Local Employment Committee (Ministry of Labour) asking the Town Council to put as much work as possible in hand during the coming winter, with a view to relieving unemployment, was considered.

Commons Conservators

3rd March, 1925.

Commons Conserbators.

3rd March, 1925.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Alderman Willmot, *in the Chair*.

Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard,
E. Merritt and S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mount Ephraim Promenade.—A letter was received from Mr. C. Berry stating that the Lord of the Manor consents to the carrying out by the Conservators of works of improvement at Mount Ephraim Promenade.

Unemployment.—The Borough Surveyor reported the works which had been carried out on the Commons by the Unemployed since the last meeting of the Conservators.

Roads.—Letters were received from Mr. H. T. Weeks, Lt.-Col. C. G. Nurse and Col. A. Beale with reference to the road leading from the road past the Toad Rock to Denny Bottom to Rusthall Park.

The Clerk laid before the Committee a copy of an Agreement dated the 19th October, 1900, and made between Miss Stuart as Lady of the Manor, the Freehold Tenants and Mr. W. B. Dick, with reference to the road in question.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of the Agreement to Mr. H. T. Weeks, Lt.-Col. C. G. Nurse and Col. A. Beale, with a suggestion that they should communicate with the representatives of the Lord of the Manor and the Freehold Tenants on the matter.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £117 11s. 10d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

Next Meeting.—RESOLVED—That the next meeting of the Conservators be held on Tuesday, the 26th May, 1925, at 2.30 p.m.



Commons Conservators

26th May, 1925.

Commons Conservators.

May, 1925.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Mr. J. G. Silcock, *in the Chair*.

Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, W. Maynard, E. Merritt,
Hallett Reed, S. V. Thorpe and H. J. Willmot.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants, stating that at a meeting of the Committee of the Freehold Tenants held on the 25th instant he was directed to notify the Commons Conservators that two posts are missing at the approach to the Morning Star Public House, Rusthall Common, and they recommend that two new posts should be fixed and that these, with the remaining ones, should be again painted white. He was also directed to call attention to cart ways which have been made across the Rusthall Common in front of the Southview Boarding House, and suggesting that the Commons Conservators might inspect the site with a view to fixing posts there.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee to inspect the sites and to report thereon.

on Common.—A letter was received from Mr. James F. Brown, for permission to erect a small cycling tent on Rusthall Common during the Easter Holidays.

The Clerk's reply thereto was read and approved.

Boards.—A letter was received from Messrs. Douglas Young & Co., for permission to place a small notice board directing persons to a Sale at Nevill Court.

The Clerk's reply thereto was read and approved.

—The Clerk reported the further correspondence with Mr. H. T. Weeks with reference to the road leading from the road past the Toad Rock to Denny Bottom, and to Rusthall Park, and his action was approved.

—The Clerk laid before the Conservators a report of the Rusthall Cricket Club, in which the Club expresses its appreciation and thanks for the extra seating accommodation around the Rusthall Cricket Club's ground which has been provided by the Commons Conservators.

—Questions relating to the condition of the tree on the Common opposite Tweeddale Terrace, London Road, were considered.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee to inspect and with power to act if necessary.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to fix notices on May trees warning persons against damage to or picking blossom off the trees.

ing on Common—London Road opposite King Charles' Church.—It was reported to the Conservators that the Works Committee of the Corporation desire to renew the kerbing on the Common in London Road opposite King Charles' Church, and to form a refuge for the use of persons waiting for omnibuses.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Commons Conservators

2

Litter on Commons.—The following letters were received from Mrs. Stone, President of the Women Citizens' Association :—

TUNBRIDGE WELLS WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

To the Commons Conservators.

Gentlemen,

Our Association is much concerned at the great increase of litter which disfigures our town streets and open spaces.

We are endeavouring to bring the matter to the notice of individuals whose heedless scattering of papers, empty cigarette and chocolate boxes, orange peel, etc., play so large a part in the general result.

Would it be possible for your Committee to erect a few forcible notices on the Commons?—we would supply these if you could see your way to place them.

It seems to us also that more receptacles for picnic papers, etc., would be a real help, and, if these could be of a much finer mesh than the wire usually supplied, we would submit that the orange peel and so on, now liable to fall *through*, would be more satisfactorily retained.

These would seem especially desirable near the Shelters—and perhaps a small notice calling attention to them might be placed in the Shelters.

We would also like to suggest that when clearing the gorse it should be part of the duty of the Contractor to remove the very unsightly collection of tins, bottles and other debris which are now left as an eyesore to every passer-by.

Yours truly,
(Signed) HANNAH R. STONE,
President.

South Lawn, 21st March, 1925.

South Lawn, Tunbridge Wells,
1st May, 1925;

Re Commons Conservators.

Dear Mr. Cripps,

Since my letter through you to the Commons Conservators of 21st March, the original Sub-Committee of our Women's Citizens Association has been joined by representatives of the Tradesmen's Association and Chamber of Commerce, the Advertising Association, and, we hope, the Rotary Club.

At a Joint Meeting held here to-day it was resolved that much time would be saved and our efforts forwarded if instead of the letter you kindly promised to lay before the Conservators on 26th May they would receive our Joint Committee for "A Tidier Tunbridge Wells" as a Deputation.

We should be grateful if this could be done as the Conservators do not meet often, and the summer is upon us.

Yours truly,
(Signed) HANNAH R. STONE.

The following Deputation from the Joint Committee for "A Tidier Tunbridge Wells," attended the meeting :—

Mrs. Stone	}	Representing Women's Citizens Association.
Mrs. Adeney		
Miss Skipwith		
Miss Weld		
Mr. Harrison ...		Representing Tradesmen's Association and Chamber of Commerce.
Mr. W. H. Kent		Representing Advertising Association.

Mr. W. H. Kent acted as spokesman, and requested the consideration of the Conservators to the following matters :—

1. The exhibition of notices on the Commons to persons to assist in keeping the Commons tidier.

Commons Conservators

3

2. The provision of receptacles for litter, waste paper, banana skins, etc., in suitable places where the public mostly congregate.
3. The clearance of rubbish, bottles, etc., where the gorse has been cleared, with as little delay as possible.

The Surveyor reported to the Conservators the previous experience gained by the Conservators in providing receptacles on the Commons, the number of receptacles which would now be required effectually to deal with the litter, etc., on the Commons, the present cost of the provision of receptacles, and the additional cost of labour for clearing such receptacles.

- (1) RESOLVED—That the Joint Committee for "A Tidier Tunbridge Wells" be informed that the Conservators are not prepared to adopt the suggestions of the Deputation, but they have decided to engage an additional man on the Commons during the Summer Season, which, in their opinion, is the most effective way of dealing with the clearance of litter, etc., deposited on the Commons.
- (2) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to employ an additional man during the summer months for clearing litter, etc., on the Commons.

Accounts for Payment.—*Accounts amounting to £262 12s. 4d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.*



Commons Conservators

20th October, 1925.

Commons Conserbators.

20th October, 1925.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Mr. J. G. Silcock, *in the Chair*.

Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, W. Maynard, Hallett Reed,
W. Taylor and S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Seats.—A letter was received from Mr. M. A. Evans with reference to the provision of seats near the Mount Ephraim Road end of the Common.

RESOLVED—That Mr. M. A. Evans be informed that, in the opinion of the Conservators, the portion of the Common to which he refers is not a suitable place for seats.

Posts.—A letter was received from Mrs. H. Jeffery with reference to the posts recently erected on the Common outside her house, and asking for their removal.

- (a) RESOLVED—That Mrs. H. Jeffery be informed that the matter was carefully considered before the posts were erected and the Conservators are not prepared to remove them.

The question of the erection of posts in the track leading to the Rusthall Mission Room was considered.

- (b) RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee to inspect and to report thereon.

Litter on Commons.—A letter was received from the “Tidier Tunbridge Wells Committee” calling attention to the collection of street litter at the Eridge Road end of the Common opposite Montacute Gardens partly due to pieces of posters blown from the Station hoarding, and asking that the attention of the man employed in the collection of litter on the Commons may be called to this spot.

RESOLVED—That the “Tidier Tunbridge Wells Committee” be informed that the Billposters’ attention has been called to the matter, and they have promised to do all they can to prevent what is complained of.

A letter was received from Mr. J. S. Phillpotts with reference to litter on the Commons.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from the “Tidier Tunbridge Wells Committee” calling attention to the condition of the piece of unpaved footpath at Vale Road from the Wesleyan Church to the Castle Hotel and requesting that it may be dressed with chips and tarred.

RESOLVED—That the “Tidier Tunbridge Wells Committee” be informed that the Conservators are unable to accede to the request.

Mount Ephraim Promenade.—A letter was received from Mr. Chas. Berry enquiring by whose authority the grass has been cut on each side of Mount Ephraim Promenade.

The Clerk’s reply as follows was read and approved.

[COPY.]

Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells,
8th July, 1925.

DEAR Sir,—Referring to your letter of June 16th, Mr. Maxwell informs me that he has cut the grass referred to as Surveyor to the Commons Conservators and that the cost of the labour involved will be charged to the Conservators in the next quarterly account.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) W. C. CRIPPS, Clerk,
Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators.

C. Berry, Esq., 15, Church Road,
Tunbridge Wells.

Commons Conservators

Fairs on Common.—Letters were received from the Tunbridge Wells Branch of the National Council of Women with reference to sanitary conveniences for the Fairs on the Common.

Notices.—A letter was received from Mrs. Sladen requesting that a notice may be fixed at the end of Tea Garden Lane prohibiting cars from parking down the Lane, and complaining that cars use the private piece of ground in front of her house.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee with power to take such action (if any) as they may think necessary.

Committee's Report.—The Committee held a meeting on the 11th June, 1925, and submitted the following Report:—

“**POSTS ON COMMON.**—The Committee inspected the site of existing posts near ‘Morning Star’ public house, Rusthall Common.

(a) **RESOLVED**—That four new posts be provided and fixed and the whole of the posts be painted white.

The Committee inspected the Common adjoining South View Boarding House.

(b) **RESOLVED**—That two new posts be fixed between the existing posts and the forecourt wall of South View Boarding House.

“**REFUGE ON COMMON, OPPOSITE KING CHARLES’ CHURCH, LONDON ROAD.**—The Committee inspected this site.

RESOLVED—That an application be made to the Lord of the Manor and to the Committee of the Freehold Tenants in respect of the provision of a ‘Refuge’ on the Common, in accordance with a plan produced to the Committee.

“**OAK TREE OPPOSITE TWEEDDALE TERRACE, LONDON ROAD.**—**RESOLVED**—That no action be taken in regard to the Oak Tree at present, but that it be inspected by the Committee again in the Autumn.

“**GORSE.**—It was reported to the Committee that various portions of gorse had recently been damaged by fire.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to have the burnt portions cleared.”

RESOLVED—That the Committee's Report be approved with the exception of the paragraph “Refuge on Common, opposite King Charles’ Church, London Road,” and that this matter be left to the Works Committee of the Corporation.

Trees.—(a) **RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to lop the trees in Eridge Road during the ensuing winter.

(b) **RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to remove a dead tree on the Common opposite Mount Ephraim House, and to plant two Scotch fir trees in its place.

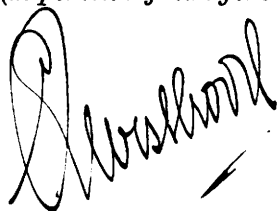
(c) **RESOLVED**—That the question of thinning out the birch seedlings opposite the entrance to Hungershall Park be referred to the Committee for inspection and report.

Carriage Track.—It was reported to the Conservators that the Tenant of Gibraltar Cottage complained that the surface water from Mount Ephraim damaged the carriage track to his house.

RESOLVED—That the Committee do inspect the carriage track in question.

Staff.—**RESOLVED**—That the services of the additional man employed during the summer months for clearing litter on the Commons, etc., be now dispensed with.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £349 10s. 3d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.


Dec 1. 1925

Commons Conservators

1st December, 1925.

Commons Conserbators.

1st December, 1925.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Messrs. Lawford Andrews, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, E. Merritt,
Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and H. J. Willmot.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at their meeting on the 9th ultimo appointed the following Members as Commons Conservators until the 9th November, 1926 :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook).
Mr. Alderman Silcock, J.P.
Mr. Alderman Willmot, J.P.
Mr. Councillor Merritt, J.P.

Minutes—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Unemployment.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Local Employment Committee asking for particulars of any work proposed to be put in hand during the coming winter with a view of relieving the unemployment situation.

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to carry out repairs to various gravel paths on the Commons at an estimated cost of £72.
- (b) **RESOLVED**—That the consideration of repairing the paths leading from Castle Road to the White Bear Hotel and from Castle Road to Stevenson's Garage be deferred until it is known what labour is available in connection with the Mayor's Unemployment Fund.

Damage on Commons.—Questions relating to damage to seats, posts, etc., on the Commons were considered.

RESOLVED—That the matter be brought to the notice of the Watch Committee of the Town Council.

Steps near "Belleville."—Questions relating to the condition of the steps near "Belleville" were considered.

RESOLVED—That, subject to an arrangement being made with the Lord of the Manor and the present tenant of "Belleville," the Surveyor be instructed to repair the steps in question at an estimated cost of £20.

Committee's Report.—The Committee held a meeting on the 18th November, 1925, and submitted the following Report :—

LETTER FROM MRS. SLADEN, RUSTHALL BEACON.

The Committee inspected the site and recommend that no action be taken in the matter.

MISSION ROOM, RUSTHALL.

The Committee find that three posts are at present placed on the western side of the entrance gates to the Mission Room, and on the eastern side of the entrance gates there is a notice board prohibiting the passage of vehicles over that portion of the Common.

The Committee therefore recommend that no further action be taken in the matter.

EDGE OF COMMON ON BEND OF ROAD OPPOSITE BRETLAND ROAD.

The Committee inspected damage to edge of Common, by traffic cutting the same, and recommend for the consideration of the Conservators that kerbing, or guardstones be placed around the edge of the Common on the bend of the road to prevent further damage.

Commons Conservators

OAK TREE OPPOSITE TWEEDDALE TERRACE, LONDON ROAD.

The Committee recommend that no further action be taken with regard to the Oak Tree on the Common opposite Tweeddale Terrace, London Road.

BIRCH SEEDLINGS, HUNGERSHALL PARK.

The Committee recommend that in the event of any work being required for unemployed during the winter months, that some of such labour be utilised in thinning out the thick growth of birch seedlings and other growth on the Common near Hungershall Park.

ENTRANCE DRIVE, GIBALTAR COTTAGE.

The Committee recommend that the owner or occupier of Gibraltar Cottage be recommended to make up the upper end of the approach drive in concrete, as, after inspection of the site, it is found impracticable to prevent rainwater running over the drive.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's Report be approved, and that the recommendations therein contained be adopted and acted upon.

Appointment of Committee.—(a) RESOLVED—That Messrs. C. Berry, E. Merritt, Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and H. J. Willmot, be appointed the Committee for the ensuing year.

(b) RESOLVED—That a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their services during the past year.

Financial Statement.—The Clerk laid before the Conservators a statement of the estimated expenditure for the year ending 25th March, 1926.

Estimates.—RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include the sum of £700 in their Estimates for the next financial year for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Dates of Future Meetings.—RESOLVED—That the meetings of the Commons Conservators during the year 1926 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m. :—

Tuesday, 2nd March, 1st June, 5th October and 20th November.

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2/3/26.

9th February, 1926.

Commons Conservators.

February, 1926.—At a special meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard,
E. Merritt, J. G. Silcock, W. Taylor, S. V. Thorpe, Hallett
Reed and H. J. Willmot.

Lower Cricket Ground.—The following letter was read :—

[Copy.]

MOUNT PLEASANT FOOTBALL CLUB.

11, Calverley Street,
Tunbridge Wells,

20th January, 1926.

To W. C. CRIPPS, Esq.,

Clerk to the Commons Conservators.

Sir,

Lower Cricket Ground.

On behalf of the above Club, I beg to make application to the Commons Conservators for permission to carry out some improvements to the surface of the above-mentioned ground. The work proposed to be done would involve no cost to the Conservators and would consist chiefly of re-turfing.

May I respectfully ask that this application be laid before the Conservators as soon as possible, as we are anxious to take advantage of the kind offer of the Mayor's Unemployment Committee to supply the labour needed.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) F. MALCOLM,

Hon. Sec.

It was moved by Mr. J. G. Silcock, and seconded by Mr. Lawford Andrews—
That consent be given to the following works being executed by the Mount Pleasant Football Club, viz. :—

(a) The levelling of the surface of the Lower Cricket Ground,

(b) The re-turfing of a portion of the Lower Cricket Ground,

such consent being given upon condition that the work shall entail no expense upon the Conservators and shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

Messrs. Thorpe and Berry contended that the consent of the Conservators to the proposed works was not required, such works having been sanctioned by the Lord of the Manor.

On a vote being taken, by a show of hands, there voted :—

For the resolution 6

(Messrs. Andrews, Merritt, Silcock, Taylor, Hallett Reed and Willmot.)

Against 3

(Messrs. Thorpe, Berry and Maynard.)

The resolution was accordingly carried.

Notice of Meetings.—**It was moved** by the Mayor, and **RESOLVED** *nem. con.* :—

“That 10 days’ notice of meetings be given to each Conservator, such notice to specify the business proposed to be transacted at such meeting. Provided that the Chairman may direct the Clerk to summon a Special Meeting by three clear days’ notice if the Chairman shall deem the matter to be considered at such meeting to be urgent.”

Rusthall Bowls Club.—An application was received from the Rusthall Bowls Club for consent to the erection of a removable lodge on Rusthall Common to be used as a Bowls Pavilion.

It was moved by Mr. E. Merritt, and seconded by Mr. H. Elwig—

- (1) That the Conservators hereby consent to the erection on Rusthall Common, adjoining the Bowling Green, of a removable lodge for purposes ancillary to the recreation of the public, i.e. bowls, such lodge to be constructed in accordance with the plans lodged with the Conservators and signed by their Clerk.
- (2) This consent is given on the express condition that such lodge is removable by the Conservators at any time without notice.

It was moved, as an Amendment, by Mr. C. Berry, and seconded by Mr. S. V. Thorpe—Subject to the substitution of the words “offer no objection” for the word “consent” in the first paragraph of the motion and to the substitution of the word “approval” for the word “consent” in the second paragraph of the motion.

On a vote being taken by a show of hands there voted—

For the Amendment 3

(Messrs. Berry, Thorpe and Maynard.)

Against 6

(Messrs. Andrews, Elwig, Merritt, Silcock, Taylor and Willmot.)

The Amendment was accordingly lost.

The original resolution, on being put as the substantive motion, was carried *nem. con.*

Footpath between Church Hill and Castle Road.—A letter was received from Mr. William Raiswell as to complaints received by him from his visitors and staff of the conduct of persons frequenting the footpath between Church Hill and Castle Road, and requesting that a lamp may be provided in this pathway.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Corporation.

Silcock
2/3/26

2nd March, 1926.

Commons Conservators.

2nd March, 1926.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard,
E. Merritt, J. G. Silcock and W. Taylor.

Minutes.—The Minutes of the last ordinary meeting and of a special meeting held on the 9th February, 1926, were read and confirmed.

Damage on Commons.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk stating that the Watch Committee had received a report from the Chief Constable as to the measures he is taking with regard to the damage to seats, posts, etc., on the Commons which the Watch Committee hope will have the effect of preventing further damage to property on the Commons.

Lower Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Mount Pleasant Football Club stating that the work of levelling and re-turfing a portion of the Lower Cricket Ground was commenced on the 15th February.

Steps Near "Belleville."—The Clerk reported that he had not as yet been able to make any definite arrangement with the Lord of the Manor and the Tenant of "Belleville" with regard to the repair of these steps, but that the matter would be again reported to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Rusthall Mission Room.—It was reported to the Conservators that the Rev. Gilling-Lax had applied to the Freehold Tenants for a license to form a carriageway giving access to the Rusthall Mission Room, and that, subject to all other necessary consents, the Freehold Tenants were prepared to grant a license to be revocable at any time subject to an annual acknowledgement of 5s., and that the Rev. Gilling-Lax formally applied for the consent of the Commons Conservators.

The Clerk advised the Conservators that having regard to the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, the question of making this particular entrance does not come within the jurisdiction of the Conservators, but is one in which it is requisite for the applicants to obtain the sanction of the Lord of the Manor, of the Freehold Tenants, and (so far as the public roadway and footpath may be affected) of the Tunbridge Wells Corporation.

Unemployment.—RESOLVED—That a sum of £21 16s. 9d. be voted to the Mayor's Unemployment Fund in repayment of sums disbursed for labour provided in carrying out repairs to various paths on the Commons.

Accounts.—The Auditors' Report on the accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1925, was received and considered.

(a) RESOLVED—That a vote of thanks be given to Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale and Mr. H. Elwig for their services as Auditors.

(b) RESOLVED—That Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale and Mr. H. Elwig be appointed Auditors for the current year.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £135 18s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

Westbrook

June 1. 26

Commons Conservators

1st June, 1926.

Commons Conserbators.

1st June, 1926.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Messrs. C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, E. Merritt, Hallett
Reed, J. G. Silcock and H. J. Willmot.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. Walter Mobbs, requesting that the trees in front of "Onslow House" may be thinned out.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to remove one small tree in front of Onslow House.

Gorse.—A letter was received from Mr. William Raiswell, requesting that two gorse bushes in front of the Mount Edgumbe Hotel may be removed.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to remove the two gorse bushes referred to.

Seats.—A letter was received from Mrs. M. A. Evans with reference to the provision of seats at the Mount Ephraim Road end of the Common.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee with power to act.

Drainage.—A request was received from Major C. Moreland, of "Gorse Cottage," that the pond on the Common near his house may be drained.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to take the necessary steps to drain the pond in question.

Footpaths.—The Surveyor reported that the Works Committee of the Corporation had received a communication from the "Tidier Tunbridge Wells Committee" calling attention to the need for the repair of a strip of land adjoining the public footpath between the Castle Hotel, London Road, and the Wesleyan Chapel, and that he had been requested by the Committee to bring the matter to the notice of the Commons Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred back to the Works Committee of the Corporation with a suggestion that they should obtain the consent of the Lord of the Manor to carry out any repairs to the surface of the strip of land in question which may appear to them to be desirable.

Steps Near Belleville.—The Clerk reported the letters which had been received from Mr. Wm. Maynard, Mr. Charles Berry, Mr. J. G. Silcock, Mr. H. J. Willmot and Mr. E. Merritt with reference to the suggested repair of the steps near "Belleville."

RESOLVED—That no further action be taken in the matter.

Sign Posts.—Questions relating to the desirability of placing an additional inscription on the sign post at the junction of Langton Road and Rusthall Road, and making an alteration of the direction sign on the post at the junction of Langton Road and Lower Green Road were referred to the Committee with power to act.

The question of the erection of an additional post and board with a copy of the Bye-Laws of the Commons at the junction of the upper part of Lower Green Road with Langton Road was referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £140 8s. 9d. (as per list signed by the *Chairman*) were passed.

Westbrook

— 26/26.

26th October, 1926.

Commons Conserbators.

26th October, 1926.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Lieut.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

Messrs. L. Andrews, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, E. Merritt, Hallett Reed, W. Taylor and H. J. Willmot.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Drainage.—A letter was received from Major C. Moreland thanking the Conservators for acceding to his request to have the pond near his house drained.

Cricket on Commons.—A letter was received from Mr. E. R. Beecroft with reference to the playing of Cricket by boys on all parts of the Common, and suggesting that certain parts should be set aside for that purpose and only those used.

RESOLVED—That instructions be issued to the Commons Ranger to use all possible means to prevent the playing of Cricket where this might be dangerous to persons using the seats, paths, or roads, and that the Clerk be instructed to see Mr. Beecroft on the matter.

Holes on Common.—A letter was received from Mrs. Edith Boreham suggesting that some action should be taken to prevent the making of holes on the Commons which might cause injury to persons resorting to the seats or walking along the grass paths, after dark, and requesting that existing holes may be filled up.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Surveyor.

Trees.—A report was received from the Chief Constable relative to the action taken by him with regard to damage occasioned by two boys to a tree on Rusthall Common.

RESOLVED—That the Chief Constable's action be approved.

Mile Stones.—A letter was received from Mr. H. Thorpe calling attention to the fact that the old boundary or mile stone at the foot of Major Yorke Road has been broken off and is lying in the grass.

The Surveyor reported that the stone in question was broken off as the result of a motor accident.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to refix the stone.

Seats.—A letter was received from Miss E. F. Mackinnon requesting that more seats may be provided at the Lime Hill Road end of the Common and complaining that the seat recently provided there is uncomfortable owing to the slope on which it has been placed.

The Clerk reported that the letter had been considered by the Works Committee of the Town Council which Committee had referred it to the Conservators with an intimation of their hope that it may receive favourable consideration.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Banners on Common.—The Clerk reported that, as a result of his communication with the individual Conservators, he had granted the application by the Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., for the placing of two banners on the Common near the Brighton Lake during the two days of the Agricultural Show on which appeared an advertisement of Motor Spirit, and his action was approved.

Committee's Report.—The Committee held a meeting on the 9th July, 1926, and submitted the following report :—

122.

Commons Conservators

Seats.—Resolved—That one oak seat be placed adjoining the pitched pathway leading from London Road to Mount Ephraim, opposite "Belleville."

Bye Laws.—Resolved—That a copy of the printed Bye Laws relating to the Commons be placed on the existing sign-post at the junction of Tea Garden Lane and Langton Road.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's report be approved and acted upon.

Fences.—RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to provide a short length of fencing, and to support the path with concrete on Mount Ephraim opposite the Mount Ephraim Hotel, at an estimated cost of £10.

Strip of Land between Castle Hotel and Wesleyan Chapel, London Road.—The Clerk reported that the Works Committee of the Town Council had again referred back to the Conservators the consideration of the question of the repair of the surface of the strip of land between the Castle Hotel and the Wesleyan Chapel, London Road.

RESOLVED—That the Works Committee be informed that if they are prepared to find the materials the Conservators are prepared to find the labour for the necessary repairs to be carried out, and that in the event of the Works Committee assenting to this proposal, the Clerk be instructed to make the requisite application to the Lord of the Manor for his consent.

Transformer Kiosk.—An application was received from the Borough Electrical Engineer for permission to place a Transformer Kiosk on the Common at the junction of London Road and York Road.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators (so far as they are empowered by law so to do) do consent to the erection of the Kiosk in question.

Gorse.—Questions relating to Gorse cutting were considered and deferred to the winter months.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £204 3s. 11d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

J. G. Clerk

Commons Conservators

30th November, 1926.

Commons Conserbators.

30th November, 1926.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, E. Merritt, W. Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and W. Taylor.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at their meeting on the 9th ultimo appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November, 1927 :—

- His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook).
- Mr. Alderman Silcock, J.P.
- Mr. Alderman Willmot, J.P.
- Mr. Councillor Merritt, J.P.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Silcock do take the Chair for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Strip of Land between Castle Hotel and Wesleyan Chapel, London Road.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk intimating that the Town Council are prepared to provide the necessary materials required in connection with the repair of the strip of land between Castle Hotel and the Wesleyan Chapel, London Road.

The Clerk was instructed to make the requisite application to the Lord of the Manor for his consent to the repairs being carried out.

Grass Plots adjoining G.P.O.—A letter was received from Mr. G. A. Percy suggesting that the two triangular pieces of grass between the roads adjoining the General Post Office should be made into and kept as lawns.

RESOLVED—That Mr. G. A. Percy be informed that his suggestion would involve the fencing in of the grass plots in question, which the Conservators have no power to do, but they have given instructions to their Surveyor to keep the grass cut.

Grass Cutting.—A letter was received from the Rev. Canon Grane of "Westering," Bishops Down, enquiring if he cuts the long grass on the Common in front of his house whether the Conservators would cart it away.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee with power to act.

Committee.—RESOLVED—That the following matters be referred to the Committee with power to act :—

- (1) The thinning out of the clump of saplings and seedling, trees near Hungershall Park.
- (2) Gorse cutting on the Commons.

The Committee were also directed to consider the desirability of lowering the banks of the road leading from Mt. Ephraim to Nevill Park at its junction with Major York's Road with power to instruct the Clerk, if they think fit so to do, to communicate with the Lord of the Manor on the subject.

Ponds.—A letter was received from Mr. J. Scrace calling attention to the condition of the pond on Rusthall Common at the junction of Langton Road and the road leading to Rusthall.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee to inspect the pond and report thereon to the next meeting.
- (b) RESOLVED—That the Committee be requested to inspect the Fir Tree Pond and report thereon to the next meeting.

Commons Conservators

Appointment of Committee.—(a) RESOLVED—That Messrs. C. Berry, E. Merritt, Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and H. J. Willmot be appointed the Committee for the ensuing year.

(b) RESOLVED—That a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their services during the past year.

Financial Statement.—The Clerk laid before the Conservators a statement of the estimated expenditure for the year ending 25th March, 1927.

Estimates.—RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include the sum of £700 in their Estimates for the next financial year for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Dates of Future Meetings.—RESOLVED—That the meetings of the Commons Conservators during the year 1927 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m.

Tuesday—March 1st, May 31st, October 18th and December 6th.

Shurlock

March 1. 1927.

Commons Conservators

1st March, 1927.

Commons Conservators.

1st March, 1927.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Messrs. C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, E. Merritt, J. G. Silcock and H. J. Willmot.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Grass Plots adjoining G.P.O.—A letter was received from Mr. G. A. Percy expressing his satisfaction with the action of the Conservators.

Strip of Land between Castle Hotel and Wesleyan Chapel, London Road.—A letter was received from the "Tidier Tunbridge Wells" Committee expressing their satisfaction with and appreciation of the arrangement.

A letter was received from Mr. C. Berry intimating that the Lord of the Manor has no objection to the Conservators repairing the surface of the strip of waste adjoining the public footpath between the Castle Hotel and the Wesleyan Chapel, London Road, provided an acknowledgment of 1s. per annum be paid.

A letter from the Town Clerk stating that the Corporation are prepared to pay an acknowledgment of one shilling per annum in respect of the repair of the strip of waste referred to and that he had so informed Mr. Berry, was read.

Approach to Common, London Road.—A letter was received from Brig.-Gen. F. Lambarde, complaining of the blocking, by motor cars, of the approach to the Common opposite the Kentish Mansions and suggesting the provision of a short length of iron rail similar to that on the other side of the footpath.

RESOLVED—That Brig.-Gen. Lambarde be informed that the Conservators regret it is impossible to adopt his suggestion.

Committee's Report.—The Committee held meetings on the 10th December, 1926, and the 25th February, 1927, and submitted the following report:—

GORSE.—*Recommended*—That the gorse be trimmed on the bank of the Common at the junction of Fir Tree Road with Bishops Down.

That the gorse, bracken and grass be trimmed on the banks of the Common adjoining Fir Tree Road and Major Yorks Road, and that no action be taken with regard to lowering these banks.

That the gorse be cleared away at the junction of Lower Green Road and Rusthall Road opposite drinking fountain.

GRASS CUTTING.—A letter was received from the Rev. Canon Grane in reference to the trimming of the grass on the Common in front of his house "Westering" Bishops Down, Tunbridge Wells.

Recommended—That the Rev. Canon Grane be referred to the Freehold Tenants of the Manor of Rusthall in reference to the matter.

A letter was received from Sir Robert Gower, on behalf of Mrs. Sladen, requesting that the bracken and undergrowth on the Common adjoining Rusthall Beacon be cut down.

Recommended—That the bracken be trimmed as previously.

SAPLINGS, HUNGERSHALL PARK.—The Committee viewed the saplings in question.

Recommended—That no action be taken in the matter at present.

PONDS (JUNCTION OF RUSTHALL ROAD AND LANGTON ROAD)—A letter was received from Mr. J. Scrace in reference to the condition of this pond on Rusthall Common.

Recommended—That the pond be cleared out.

The Committee inspected the Fir Tree Pond.

Commons Conservators

Recommended—That no action be taken with reference thereto at present.

TEA GARDEN LANE—The Committee inspected Tea Garden Lane on 25th February, 1927, with reference to the parking of motor cars in that Lane and on the adjoining portions of the Commons.

Recommended—That the Conservators do take the necessary steps under Bye-Law No. 32 to prevent vehicles being driven or used on the Common in the vicinity of Tea Garden Lane.

Mr. Berry pointed out that in his view the resolution of the Committee under the paragraph "Grass Cutting" should also have included a reference to the Lord of the Manor as well as to the Freehold Tenants of the Manor of Rusthall.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's Report, be approved and acted upon.

Tea Garden Lane.—**RESOLVED**—That permission be given to the Watch Committee of the Town Council to affix a notice to the post at the entrance from Langton Road to Tea Garden Lane "Parking on the roadway prohibited."

Commons near Tea Garden Lane.—**RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to erect a notice at the entrance of Tea Garden Lane from Langton Road in the following terms :—

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS. NOTICE.

The driving or use of vehicles (including motor cars) on such part of the Commons as is within a distance of 70 yards from Tea Garden Lane is hereby prohibited. Penalty, 40s.

By Order,
W. C. CRIPPS,
Clerk to the Conservators.

March 1st, 1927.

Accounts.—The Auditors' Report on the accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1926, was received and considered.

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That a vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale for their services as Auditors.
- (b) **RESOLVED**—That Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale be appointed Auditors for the current year.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £193 6s. 10d. (as per list signed by the Chairman were passed.

[Handwritten Signature]

31. May 1927.

Commons Conservators

31st May, 1927.

Commons Conserbators.

31st May, 1927.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.
Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, E. Merritt,
Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock, W. Taylor, S. V. Thorpe and H. J.
Willmot.

Minutes.—The Chairman moved—That the minutes of the meeting held on the 1st March, 1927, be and the same are hereby confirmed.

It was moved, as an amendment, by Mr. C. Berry, and seconded by Mr. S. V. Thorpe —“ subject to the deletion of the following words in the Committee's Report under the sub-heading Tea Garden Lane :

“ and on the adjoining portions of the Common.

“ RECOMMENDED—That the Conservators do take the necessary steps under Bye-law No. 32 to prevent vehicles being driven or used on the Common in the vicinity of Tea Garden Lane.”

On a vote being taken, there voted—

For the Amendment	...	...	...	...	...	4
(Messrs. Berry, Elwig, Maynard and Thorpe)						
Against	...	...	...	...	...	4
(Messrs. Andrews, Merritt, Taylor and Willmot)						

The Chairman gave his casting vote against the Amendment.

The Amendment was accordingly lost.

It was moved as a further amendment by Mr. C. Berry and seconded by Mr. S. V. Thorpe—“ subject to the following words being added to the Committee's Report under sub-heading ‘ Tea Garden Lane ’ third paragraph—

“ and that application had now been made to the Lord of the Manor by Canon Grane.”

On a vote being taken, there voted.

For the Amendment	...	...	...	...	...	4
Against	...	...	...	...	...	6

The Amendment was accordingly lost.

It was moved, as a further amendment by Mr. C. Berry, and seconded by Mr. S. V. Thorpe—That the following words be inserted after the heading “ Commons near Tea Garden Lane ”—

“ The parking of cars on the Commons near Tea Garden Lane was discussed, and it was suggested by the Clerk that a notice should be erected prohibiting parking on the Commons in the vicinity of Tea Garden Lane. Mr. Berry pointed out that the parking of cars on the Commons was a source of revenue to the Lord and Freehold Tenants, and that his instructions would not permit of his agreeing to a notice such as suggested by the Clerk, which objection was dealt with by the Clerk to the Conservators by stating that the revenue received was not sufficient to merit consideration, and that the parking of cars on the Common was prohibited by Bye-law 32 of the Conservators' Bye-laws.”

“ After further discussion it was,”

On a vote being taken, there voted :—

For the Amendment	...	...	...	...	...	4
Against	...	...	...	...	...	6

The Amendment was accordingly lost and the original motion by the Chairman for the confirmation of the minutes was thereupon carried by 6 votes against 4.

Commons near Tea Garden Lane.—A letter was received from Messrs. Berry & Hewlett calling attention to a notice board having been erected prohibiting driving or use of vehicles (including motor cars) on a portion of the Common near Tea Garden Lane, pointing out that the Lord of the Manor and Freehold Tenants

Commons Conservators

of the Manor having been in the habit of permitting cars to stand on this and other portions of the Commons on payment of a fee, the exercise of such right having been reserved to them under the Saving Clauses of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, the erection of the said notice is *ultra vires* of that Act, and requesting that the notice board be removed, and the resolution of the Conservators rescinded.

Mr. Berry stated that the Saving Clauses referred to in the letter were contained in sections 180 and 186 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee in order to afford the Clerk an opportunity of considering the matter and reporting thereon to the Conservators.

Lower Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from Mr. J. S. Phillpotts calling attention to the condition of the turf on the Lower Cricket Ground.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Surveyor.

Gorse.—A letter was received from the Hon. Secretary of the Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade with regard to the recent gorse fires on the Common.

The Clerk's reply as follows was read and approved :—

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

84, Calverley Road,
Tunbridge Wells.

6th May, 1927.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 5th instant which I will lay before the Commons Conservators at their next meeting.

I may add, however, that the matter to which you refer has already been receiving special attention.

Yours faithfully,
W. C. CRIPPS,
Clerk.

Mr. B. T. Stevenson, *Hon. Secretary*,
Royal Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade,
1 & 2, The Broadway, Tunbridge Wells.

A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants enclosing copy of a letter from Col. Handley with reference to the cutting of bracken and gorse near his residence.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee, with power to take action if they think necessary.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from Mr. Councillor Hempson enclosing letter from Mr. George A. Percy with regard to the repair of an existing track which crosses a small portion of the Common adjacent to Church Road.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to inform Mr. Councillor Hempson that the Conservators are not prepared to adopt Mr. Percy's suggestion.

Seats.—RESOLVED—That the Borough Surveyor be instructed to provide six new oak seats around the Upper Cricket Ground at an estimated cost of £24.

Rusthall Cricket Ground.—Questions relating to the area enclosed by the Rusthall Cricket Club on Rusthall Common were considered and referred to Messrs. Hallett Reed and Merritt and the Surveyor, with authority to the Clerk to give notice to the Rusthall Cricket Club if the area authorised by the Conservators to be enclosed has been extended.

Trees.—A letter was received from Miss E. Cumming requesting that a dead May tree outside her house, "The Cottage," should be cut down to a height of about two feet, to form a convenient seat, that a second May tree should be topped and that two long arms of the adjacent oak tree might be cut off.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee, with power to act.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £254 7s. 1d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

18th October, 1927.

Commons Conservators.

18th October, 1927.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at No. 84, Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells.

PRESENT—Mr. Alderman Willmot (*in the Chair*).

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, Hallett Reed, W. Taylor and S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Footpaths.—(a) **RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to tar-paint the paths on the north-west and south-east sides of the Lower Cricket Ground at an estimated cost of £17.

A letter was received from the Honorary Secretary of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade suggesting that unsuitable materials are used in repairing the paths on the Commons, the stones being rather too large and uncomfortable for pedestrians.

(b) **RESOLVED**—That the Clerk be instructed to inform the Chamber of Trade that the materials are those which are usually used in the repair of paths, but that the Conservators have given instructions to the Surveyor to tar-paint the paths on the north-west and south-east sides of the Lower Cricket Ground.

Refuse on Commons.—The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants requesting that a certain amount of refuse remaining on the Commons from the eviction which took place from the cottage in Bulls Hollow may be cleared away, that he had made the necessary arrangements for the clearance of the refuse in question and his action was approved.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants thanking the Conservators for their action in the matter.

Rusthall Cricket Ground.—A report was received from Messrs. Hallett Reed and Merritt that the Rusthall Cricket Club had enclosed an area 13 yards by 42 yards on the Langton Road side of the Cricket Ground which had not been sanctioned by the Conservators, that they had given the necessary instructions for the removal of the stakes and wire by which it was enclosed and intimated to the Club that if they desire to enclose an additional area beyond that originally sanctioned formal application should be made to the Conservators.

The following letter was received from the Rusthall Cricket Club :—
(COPY.)

RUSTHALL CRICKET CLUB.
29, Hill View Road,
Rusthall.

21st June, 1927.

W. C. Cripps, Esq.,
Clerk to the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 9th instant (received on the 14th instant) was read at a meeting of my Committee held last night and they regret the wrong step taken in extending the wire and stakes enclosure on the Cricket Ground without first obtaining proper permission. The extended wire and stakes shall be put back to the former position by our groundsman who has already been instructed to do so. Needless to say the extension was made after a special treatment and mowing of the grass for the purpose of protecting the turf and preserving the appearance of the site on the Common and the cost of the upkeep of the ground is considerable, whilst at the same time we may add that the care and appearance of the ground has been appreciated and admired by many residents and visitors alike.

We now beg to make the formal application to the Conservators for permission to widen the enclosure to the extent stated in your letter of the 9th instant, and apologise for the mistake and trouble given in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) RUFUS T. LADE,
Hon. Sec. Rusthall Cricket Club.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to inform the Rusthall Cricket Club that the Conservators regret they are unable to accede to their application.

Commons Conservators

as any extension of the area authorised to be enclosed would be an encroachment on the limited space available for the public.

Trees.—A further letter was received from Miss E. Cumming with reference to the trees in the vicinity of her house, "The Cottage,"

The Committee reported that they had interviewed Miss Cumming and inspected the dead ivy covered stump, May Tree and Oak Tree to which she referred, and *Recommended* that no action be taken in the matter.

(a) **RESOLVED**—That the recommendation of the Committee be approved.

A letter was received from Mr. A. E. Young requesting that a Lime Tree adjoining his house, "Gibraltar Cottage," may be lopped.

(b) **RESOLVED**—That Mr. A. E. Young be informed that the Conservators have no power to take any action in the matter and that his request is one for the consideration of the Lord of the Manor.

Gorse and Bracken.—The Committee reported that they had inspected the Common lying between the main Langton Road and the road leading to Rusthall Elms and the gorse and trees growing thereon and *Recommended* that the question of cutting the gorse on this site be deferred to next winter, and, in the event of unemployed labour being available, the gorse on a portion of the area in question be cut, the trees being allowed to remain as at present.

RESOLVED—That the recommendation of the Committee be adopted, and that such recommendation be referred back to the Committee with authority to communicate with the Mayor's Unemployment Committee thereon.

Commons near Tea Garden Lane.—The Clerk advised the Conservators that the erection of the notice directed by the resolution of March 1st, 1927, was not *ultra vires*.

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Charles Berry and seconded by Mr. S. V. Thorpe—That the following resolution passed by the meeting of the Conservators held on the 1st day of March last be and the same is hereby rescinded :—

" **Commons near Tea Garden Lane**—**RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to erect a notice at the entrance of Tea Garden Lane from Langton Road in the following terms :—

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS.

NOTICE.

" The driving or use of vehicles (including motor cars) on such part of the Commons as is within a distance of 70 yards from Tea Garden Lane is hereby prohibited.—Penalty, 40s.

By order,

W. C. CRIPPS,

Clerk to the Conservators."

March 1st, 1927.

On a vote being taken by show of hands, there voted :—

For the resolution ... 4

Against ... 4

The Chairman gave his casting vote against the resolution.

Approaches from Major Yorke's Road to Hungershall Park.—A letter was received from Mr. Councillor Hume Mather enclosing a letter he had received from General Sir A. W. Money, K.C.B., drawing attention to the dangerous blindness of the junction of Hungershall Park Road and Major Yorke's Road on the Common, and requesting that the matter may be brought to the notice of the Conservators with a view to some action being taken in the matter.

RESOLVED—That a copy of the correspondence be forwarded to Mr. C. Berry with a request that he will bring the matter to the notice of the Lord of the Manor.

Litter on Commons.—A letter was received from Mrs. Burroughs complaining of broken glass being littered on the Commons.

The Surveyor's reply thereto was read and approved.

Parking of Cars.—Questions relating to the parking of cars on the Commons in the vicinity of the Wesleyan Chapel were considered and the Surveyor was instructed to communicate with the Chief Constable on the matter.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £415 17s. 8d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

J. G. Sileach

Commons Conservators

6th December, 1927.

Commons Conserbators.

6th December, 1927.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. Lawford Andrews, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, E. Merritt,
W. Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and H. J. Willmot.
Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at their meeting on the 9th ultimo appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November, 1928 :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Parsonage).
Mr. Alderman Silcock.
Mr. Alderman Willmot.
Mr. Councillor Merritt.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Silcock do take the Chair for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from the Royal Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade conveying the thanks of the Committee of the Chamber to the Conservators for the response made to their request for attention to be given to the paths on the Common.

Appointment of Committee.—(a) RESOLVED—That Messrs. C. Berry, E. Merritt, Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and H. J. Willmot be appointed the Committee for the ensuing year.

(b) RESOLVED—That a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their services during the past year.

Financial Statement.—The Clerk laid before the Conservators a statement of the estimated expenditure for the year ending 25th March, 1928.

Estimates.—RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include the sum of £700 in their Estimates for the next financial year for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Dates of Future Meetings.—RESOLVED—That the meetings of the Commons Conservators during the year 1928 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m.

Tuesday—March 6th, June 5th, October 23rd and December 4th.

Accounts.—Year ended 25th March, 1927.—The Auditors' Report on the accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1927, was received and considered.

(a) RESOLVED—That the Accounts for the year ending 25th March, 1927, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.

(b) RESOLVED—That a vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale for their services as Auditors.

(c) RESOLVED—That Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale be appointed Auditors for the current year.

Gorse Cutting.—Questions relating to Gorse cutting were considered and referred to the Committee with power, if necessary, to act.

J. G. Silcock

Commons Conservators

6th March, 1928.

Commons Conservators.

6th March, 1928.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Mr. Alderman Silcock, *in the Chair*.

Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, E. Merritt, Hallett Reed, W. Taylor and H. J. Willmot.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that at the Annual Meeting of the Committee of the Freehold Tenants of the Manor of Rusthall, held on the 16th November last, the following were appointed as Commons Conservators :—

Mr. Lawford Andrews.
Mr. William Taylor.
Mr. Hallett Reed.
Col. A. R. Cheale.

The Clerk also reported that Mr. F. O. Baird, the Lord of the Manor, had appointed the following as Commons Conservators :—

Mr. C. Berry.
Mr. H. Elwig.
Mr. W. Maynard.
Mr. S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Silcock do take the Chair for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. S. V. Thorpe.—It was reported to the Conservators that Mr. Thorpe's absence from the meeting was due to ill health.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to convey to Mr. Thorpe an expression of the Conservators' regret and sympathy and their hope that he may speedily recover good health.

Subsidence of Surface of Common.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants calling attention to a subsidence of a small triangular piece of the Common outside the Tunbridge Wells & Counties' Club, which appeared to be dangerous to the public.

The Surveyor reported that the subsidence is receiving the attention of the Works Committee of the Corporation.

Drainage.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants intimating that a portion of the Common near the entrance to "The Elms," Rusthall Common, is flooded, this apparently being caused by a stoppage of a drain and that the occupiers of the allotments and houses at the top of Common View had complained that the water is causing serious obstruction to them.

The Surveyor reported that he had cleared the outlet pipe from a pond at the site in question.

Rusthall Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Rusthall Cricket Club requesting the Conservators to re-consider the question of allowing the Club to extend the area enclosed by wires at the playing pitch on Rusthall Common for the following reasons :—(a) that the Club spends an average of £30 each year on the upkeep of the ground, a great deal of which is wasted, as the cows grazing on the Common damage the turf, especially in wet weather, and holes are made which render fielding on some parts of the ground extremely dangerous ; and (b) that they have done a great deal to encourage cricket among the boys and youths of the village ; and asking for permission to extend the area enclosed by wires so as to prevent damage by cows and to keep the ground in a fit state for matches.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee with power to act, that a meeting of the Committee be held on Monday next, the 12th instant,

Commons Conservators

at the Rusthall Cricket Ground at 3 p.m., and that the Captain of the Rusthall Cricket Club be invited to attend the meeting.

Trees.—Mr. E. Merritt reported to the Conservators on the condition of a tree on Rusthall Common, and the Surveyor was instructed to lop, or, if found necessary, to cut down the tree in question.

Fence, Mount Ephraim.—Mr. E. Merritt called attention to the condition of the fence adjoining the Common on Mount Ephraim, and the Surveyor was instructed to repair and make good such fence.

Deposits of Refuse.—A question relating to the deposit of rubbish on the Commons near Common View was considered.

A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants requesting that instructions be given for the clearance of a deposit of rubbish on the Common at Still Green.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to clear the rubbish referred to and to erect Notices under Bye-Law 16 warning persons against the deposit of rubbish on the Commons at the places in question.

Map of Commons.—**RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to prepare a copy of the signed map of the Tunbridge Wells Commons for office use.

Encroachments.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants calling attention to the fact that tradesmen and others cross over part of Rusthall Common situate opposite the Fountain and facing Southview Road, and are making a track running parallel with the existing accommodation road, and suggesting that two or three posts should be erected to stop this encroachment.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee with power to act.

Accounts for Payment.—*Accounts amounting to £142 5s. 11d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.*

J. G. Silcock

Commons Conservators

5th June, 1928.

Commons Conserbators.

5th June, 1928.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Mr. Alderman Silcock, *in the Chair*.

Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, E. Merritt and H. J. Willmot.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Silcock do take the chair for this meeting.

Mr. S. V. Thorpe.—A letter was received from Mr. S. V. Thorpe conveying his thanks for the kind expression of sympathy and good wishes passed by the Conservators at their last meeting.

A further letter was received from Mr. Thorpe regretting that owing to continued ill-health he would be unable to attend this meeting.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to convey to Mr. Thorpe the regret of the Conservators to learn of his continued ill-health and to express the hope that he will soon be well enough to take his customary place at their meetings.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Seats.—A letter was received from Mrs. A. M. Thompson calling attention to the condition of a seat on the Common between the Lower Cricket Ground and "Romanoff."

The Surveyor reported that he had carried out the necessary repairs to the seat in question and his action was approved.

Lower Cricket Ground.—An application was received from the Mount Pleasant Football Club for permission to enclose temporarily the centre portion of the Lower Cricket Ground for the purpose of carrying out necessary repairs needed to preserve the turf, and to exhibit a notice with regard to such enclosure.

The Clerk reported that he had obtained the consent of the Committee to the application of the Mount Pleasant Football Club being granted, and had so advised the Hon. Secretary of the Club, and his action was approved.

"Belle Vue" Steps.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants intimating that he had had an interview with Mr. Ravenscroft, the Occupier of "Belle Vue," The Common, with regard to the present condition of the steps outside his house, that he contends the public make considerably more use of the steps than he does, but in order to improve their appearance he would be willing to pay half the cost of repairing the same, provided the cost did not exceed £5.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the matter be deferred and that the question of the liability for the repair of the steps in question be further investigated.

The Commons.—Questions relating to the general appearance of portions of the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons were considered and referred to the Committee to inspect and report thereon to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Committee's Report.—The Committee held a meeting on the 26th March, 1928, and submitted the following Report:—

RUSTHALL CRICKET GROUND.—The letter from the Rusthall Cricket Club (referred by the Conservators to this Committee) was considered.

Mr. F. Whitmore, the Captain of the Rusthall C.C. attended the meeting.

Recommended—That the Conservators do sanction the temporary enclosure of an additional area, 99 feet by 15 feet, on the southern side of the present area enclosed for the purposes of cricket on the Rusthall Common.

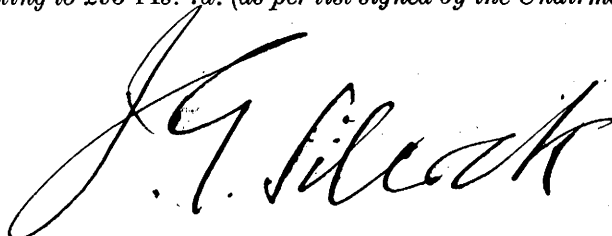
Commons Conservators

ENCROACHMENTS.—The Committee inspected the portion of Rusthall Common situate opposite the Fountain and facing Southview Road over which a track running parallel with the existing accommodation road was being made by tradesmen and others who cross over it.

Recommended—That the Surveyor be instructed to provide and erect three posts in positions indicated by the Committee to prevent persons using the track in question.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's Report be approved and the recommendations contained therein be acted upon.

Accounts for Payment.—*Accounts amounting to £95 14s. 7d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.*

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. G. Silcock'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Commons Conservators

23rd October, 1928.

Commons Conservators.

23rd October, 1928.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Alderman Silcock, *in the Chair*.

Messrs. Lawford Andrews, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, E. Merritt,
Hallett Reed and H. J. Willmot.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Silcock do take the Chair for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Seats.—The Clerk reported that he had settled the claim made by Mrs. Bicket, in respect of damage to her coat by the collapse of a seat on the Common, for the sum of £2 15s. 0d., and his action was approved.

A letter was received from Mr. J. S. Phillpotts requesting the Conservators to provide two seats on the side of the pathway on the Common leading from the Lower Cricket Ground to York Road.

(a) RESOLVED—That the request be acceded to, and that the Surveyor be instructed to carry out the work.

The Clerk reported that he had received a request, from Mr. Councillor Hargreaves, that the Conservators will consider the erection of a seat on the Common, opposite King Charles' Church, where the omnibuses stop to pick up passengers.

(b) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to provide two seats at or about the position suggested.

(c) RESOLVED—That the Borough Surveyor be instructed to provide two seats on Rusthall Common near the Bowling Green.

Notice Boards.—A letter was received from Mrs. L. S. Fripp requesting that the notice board recently erected opposite her house, 19, Common View, Rusthall, may be removed to a slightly different position.

The Surveyor reported that he had complied with Mrs. Fripp's request and his action was approved.

Excavations.—A letter was received from Mr. C. Berry calling attention to excavations of sand by children near St. Helena, and suggesting an inspection of the site by the Surveyor.

The Surveyor reported that he had filled up the excavations referred to and his action was approved.

Steps at "Belle Vue."—The Clerk reported that notice boards "No thoroughfare private entrance to 'Belle Vue' only" had been erected at the top and bottom of the steps leading to "Belle Vue."

A letter was received from Mr. Arthur L. Rush, the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants with regard to the steps in question.

RESOLVED—That no further action be taken in the matter.

Riding on Commons.—A letter was received from Mr. Arthur L. Rush, Secretary of the Freehold Tenants, transmitting a letter from Mrs. I. D. Yeomans requesting the Conservators to re-consider the Bye-law forbidding persons to ride on the Commons during the six winter months.

A further letter was received from Mrs. Yeomans on the same subject.

(a) RESOLVED—That Mrs. I. D. Yeomans be informed that the Conservators are not prepared to alter the Bye-law in question.

Letters were received from Miss A. E. Worthington complaining of horses being ridden in the Queen's Grove.

Commons Conservators

- (b) RESOLVED—That the following order be and the same is hereby made under the Bye-law No. 31 :—

ORDER.

“ No person shall at any time ride any horse or other animal on that part
“ of the Commons which is known as ‘ The Queen’s Grove.’ ”

and that the Surveyor be instructed to erect notice of such Order at each end
of “ The Queen’s Grove.”

Tracks.—A letter was received from Col. G. H. C. Hamilton requesting that a track at the east end of the Common may be made good.

The Surveyor reported that the track in question is an earthen track not previously repaired by the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That Col. Hamilton be informed that the Conservators regret they are unable to accede to his request.

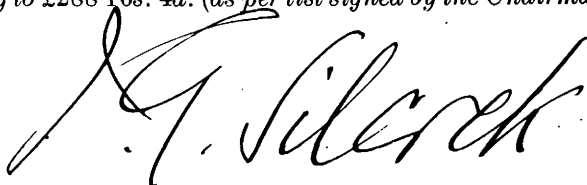
Approaches from Major Yorke’s Road to Hungershall Park.—A letter (referred by the Works Committee of the Corporation to the Conservators) was received from General Sir A. W. Money, K.C.B., calling attention to the cross roads at the junction of Major Yorke’s Road and Hungershall Park Road, and to the fact that there have been several accidents at these cross roads.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to forward a copy of the letter to the Solicitor to the Lord of the Manor and to repeat the Conservators’ request to the Lord of the Manor to permit the Conservators to remove the banks which cause the difficulty.

Trees.—RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to top the trees in front of No. 64, London Road.

Committee Meeting.—RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to arrange with the Surveyor for a meeting of the Committee at a convenient date for the purpose of inspecting the general appearance of portions of the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons.

Accounts for Payment.—*Accounts amounting to £288 16s. 4d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.*



Commons Conservators

4th December, 1928.

Commons Conservators.

4th December, 1928.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, Hallett Reed, W. Maynard, E. Merritt, W. Taylor, J. G. Silcock, H. Willmot, Lt. Col. A. R. Cheale.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at their meeting on the 9th ultimo appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Snell, O.B.E.).
Aldermen Silcock and Willmot.
Councillor Merritt.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Silcock do take the Chair for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Approaches from Major Yorke's Road to Hungershall Park.—The following letter was received from Messrs. Berry & Hewlett together with the letter enclosed therewith :—

15, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells.
29th November, 1928.

DEAR SIR,

MANOR OF RUSTHALL.

With reference to your letter of the 26th instant to our Mr. Berry and the copy letter from General Sir A. W. Money, K.C.B., enclosed by you, we have been in communication with our Client, the Lord of the Manor, and do not think we can do better than to enclose a copy of his letter.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) BERRY & HEWLETT.

The Clerk to
The Commons Conservators,
Town Hall,
Tunbridge Wells.

[ENCLOSURE]

39, Church Road, Hove,
Brighton.
Nov. 28th, 1928.

Messrs. Berry & Hewlett,
15, Church Road,
Tunbridge Wells.

Dear Sirs,

LOWERING OF COMMON AT JUNCTION OF MAJOR YORKE'S ROAD AND HUNGERSHALL PARK ROAD.

With reference to the recent applications which you have received with regard to this matter, I have, as you are aware, always objected to the proposal as I do not think that the Commons should be mutilated for the benefit of motorists. The plea is that this corner is a danger to the public, but the danger arises from the motorist and not from the corner, as is obvious when you consider that no such danger existed when horse drawn vehicles were used. Is there any greater danger at this corner than at the corner of any public street? If not, what is there to complain of, seeing that in each case accidents can be avoided by using ordinary care. The lowering of the bank would simply enable motorists to drive at a faster rate than in the circumstances is safe for the public.

I think it is scandalous the way in which motorists are permitted to monopolise the roads to the practical exclusion of the public. In Brighton there are some roads which cannot be crossed except at the risk of one's life, and apparently matters are just as bad at Tunbridge Wells; for only a short time ago, my permission was asked to fix an Ambulance Emergency Box on the Common near the junction of London Road and Nevill Street, owing to the number of serious

Commons Conservators

accidents in that locality. Think what the condition of the roads must be when it is necessary to keep surgical dressings in constant readiness.

As the present is one of the many questions which are constantly cropping up in relation to the Commons between the Corporation and myself surely the time has arrived when they should seriously consider the advisability of acquiring the Commons for the Town. This acquisition was clearly contemplated at the time of the passing of the 1890 Act as express power is thereby conferred upon the Corporation to purchase the Commons, for which purpose the increase entailed in the rates would be merely the fraction of a penny for a few years.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) FRANK O. BAIRD.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to intimate to Messrs. Berry & Hewlett the Conservators' regret that consent to this much needed improvement is refused by the Lord of the Manor and, as the greater part of Mr. Baird's letter relates to matters which are not within the purview of the Conservators, to forward a copy thereof to the Town Clerk.

Seats.—A letter was received from Mr. Councillor Hargreaves expressing thanks to the Conservators for their decision to place two seats on the Common opposite King Charles' Church and intimating that this decision will be much appreciated by the citizens of the town by whom the suggestion was first mooted.

A letter was received from Mr. J. S. Phillpotts expressing thanks for the provision of two additional seats on the Common.

Riding on Commons.—A letter was received from Miss A. E. Worthington expressing her pleasure that the Queen's Grove will not in future be used for the riding of horses.

Appointment of Committee.—(a) **RESOLVED**—That Messrs. C. Berry, E. Merritt, Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and H. J. Willmot be appointed the Committee for the ensuing year.

(b) **RESOLVED**—That a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their services during the past year.

Committee Meeting.—**RESOLVED**—That a meeting of the Committee be held on Friday next, the 7th instant, at Rusthall Church at 10.30 a.m. for the purpose of inspecting the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons.

Financial Statement.—The Clerk laid before the Conservators a statement of the estimated expenditure for the year ending 25th March, 1929.

Estimates.—**RESOLVED**—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in their estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Dates of Future Meetings.—**RESOLVED**—That meetings of the Commons Conservators during the year 1929 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m. :—

Tuesday, March 5th ; June 4th, October 22nd and December 3rd.

Accounts for Payment.—*Accounts amounting to £182 6s. 11d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.*

Lawford Andrews.

5th March, 1929.

Commons Conserbators.

5th March, 1929.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. L. Andrews, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, Hallett Reed,
W. Taylor, S. V. Thorpe, H. J. Willmot, Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

Chairman.—**RESOLVED**—That Mr. L. Andrews do take the Chair for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Approaches from Major Yorke's Road to Hungershall Park.—A letter was received from Gen. Sir A. W. Money, K.C.B., intimating that he shared the regret of the Conservators that the Lord of the Manor had not taken a more reasonable view of the matter under reference, that the danger—which is chiefly one to cyclists—was to a great extent minimised so long as the gorse and bracken are kept short for some distance back from the road junctions, and no doubt the Conservators have already given instructions on this point.

Turf.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants enclosing copy of a report from the Commons Ranger calling attention to the condition of the turf at the junction of Tea Garden Lane and Langton Road which is being badly damaged by motor vehicles backing on to the Common and suggesting the provision of at least three posts on the side nearest to the Happy Valley.

RESOLVED—That the suggestion be adopted, and that the Surveyor be instructed to erect the necessary posts.

Parking of Motor Cars.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants enclosing copy of a report from the Commons Ranger calling attention to the placing of motor cars on the Common adjacent to Messrs. Rawsons' premises in London Road whereby they obstruct the footpath, and suggesting that the railing which was originally at the site in question should be re-erected.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to re-erect the railing in question.

Trees.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants intimating that it has been reported to the Committee of the Freehold Tenants that certain trees and shrubs had been planted on the Common near Bishop's Down, and the Clerk and Surveyor were instructed with regard thereto.

Footpaths.—**RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to make a slight alteration in the asphalt footpath on the Common adjoining Messrs. Rawson's Garage, London Road.

Seats.—It was reported to the Conservators that Mr. Alderman Caley had called attention to the present condition of seats along the Walk adjoining Mount Ephraim House.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to do any necessary work.

Mount Ephraim Promenade.—The Surveyor reported that considerable damage had been caused by the recent frosts to the surface of the Mount Ephraim Promenade and estimated the cost of repairing the same at £120.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to carry out the necessary repairs.

The Committee's Report.—The Committee submitted the following report of a meeting held on the 7th December, 1928 :—

“The Committee inspected the gorse and trees at various parts of the Rusthall and Tunbridge Wells Commons and recommend the clearing and thinning of undergrowth, etc., and overgrown gorse from time to time as funds become available.”

Commons Conservators

RESOLVED—That the report be approved and that the recommendation therein contained be adopted and acted upon.

Accounts.—Year ended 25th March, 1928.—The Auditors' Report on the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1928, was received and considered.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1928, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.
- (b) RESOLVED—That a vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale for their services as Auditors.
- (c) RESOLVED—That Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale be appointed Auditors for the current year.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £188 4s. 8d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. G. Slack'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Commons Conservators

4th June, 1929.

Commons Conservators.

4th June, 1929.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. C. Berry, W. Maynard, E. Merritt, J. G. Silcock, and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Silcock do take the chair for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. W. Leighton Grane requesting that the Conservators will allow the *Berberis Knightii*, *Ilex Crenata* and a double Lilac (*Lemoine*) planted by him on The Common opposite his house, "Westering," Bishops Down, to remain.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to inform Mr. W. Leighton Grane that no person, without the consent of the Conservators, has the right to plant trees or shrubs upon the Common or to cut the grass, bushes or anything growing thereon, that the Conservators have had under consideration whether the shrubs which he has planted without their authority, should not at once be removed, but, under the circumstances, they have decided to permit them to remain for the present, but he must clearly understand that the Conservators reserve the right to remove them at any time and that no fresh trees or shrubs must be planted nor must any grass be cut without the Conservators' express consent in writing.

Riding on Commons.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Institute of the Horse, Ltd., intimating that a representation has been received from one of their members that they should approach the Conservators with regard to Bye Law 35 forbidding persons to ride on the Commons during the six winter months, being rescinded.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants with regard to the communication received from the Secretary of the Institute of the Horse, Ltd.

RESOLVED—That the Secretary of the Institute of the Horse, Ltd., be informed that the Conservators are not disposed to depart from the resolution which they passed on the 23rd October last, *i.e.*, that they are not prepared to alter the Bye Law in question.

Letters were received from Mrs. I. M. Yeomans with regard to the Bye Law forbidding persons to ride on the Commons during the six winter months and requesting that the Conservators will re-consider their decision.

(b) RESOLVED—That Mrs. I. M. Yeomans be informed that the Conservators are not disposed to depart from the resolution passed by them on the 23rd October last.

Seats.—A letter was received from Messrs. Stone, Simpson & Hanson intimating that their Client, Miss E. E. Miller, requests permission to erect a seat on the Common adjoining the wall between the entrance to Nevill Park and Messrs. Stoakes' premises and enquiring if the Conservators will accept this offer.

The Clerk reported that the Committee of the Conservators had accepted Miss Miller's offer to erect a seat at the site suggested, that they had conveyed to her the thanks of the Conservators for her gift, and their action was approved.

A letter was received from Mr. Ben White calling attention to the urgent need for a seat on Rusthall Common where the footpath leaves the lamp post marked "Toad Rock," suggesting that it be placed on the South side of the path and that if it had no back it would serve the double purpose of resting waiting omnibus passengers and affording enjoyment to wayfarers of the fine view towards Sevenoaks and the rocks close at hand.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to provide a seat in the position suggested by Mr. Ben White.

Commons Conservators

Rusthall Bowling Green.—A letter was received from the Hon. Secretary of the Rusthall Bowling Club requesting the Conservators to fix a notice board adjoining the Rusthall Bowling Green intimating the purpose for which the Ground is laid out and asking the public to refrain from using it for other games which damage the turf.

The Clerk reported that, after communicating with the Committee of the Conservators, he had given instructions for the erection of the following notice :—

“ RUSTHALL BOWLING GREEN.”

“ The public are requested not to damage the turf.”

“ By order,

“ W. C. CRIPPS,

“ Clerk to the Conservators.”

“ Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.”

and his action was approved.

Nevill Court proposed Development.—The following letter was received from Mr. H. E. Bennett with reference to the proposed development of the Nevill Court Estate :—

(COPY.)

WALMER HOUSE,

BORDYKE, TONBRIDGE.

30th May, 1929.

Dear Sir,

APPROACH TO NEVILL COURT LAND.

It is desired to construct a road from the western side of the entrance to Rusthall Church in a westerly and then southerly direction, round the School wall to the northern boundary of Nevill Court Lands as shown in the accompanying Plans marked D.E.

I should be glad if you would please put this proposal before the Council of the Conservators at the meeting next week.

It is suggested that the road should be about 20 feet wide and, to make it, would entail the removal of some bushes and scrub, also, at its lower end, some rock.

The traffic to and from Nevill Court Lands would, perforce, have to pass over the private road now leading to the Church and it is quite understood that the cost of the upkeep and repair of this Church road would have to be borne in some shares, to be apportioned.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) H. E. BENNETT.

Wm. Charles Cripps, Esq.

Clerk to the Conservators of the Commons,
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

The Clerk reported on the provisions of Section 168 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890.

The Surveyor reported that the proposed road which is referred to in the first three paragraphs of Mr. Bennett's letter would apparently pass solely over that portion of the Commons which is coloured red on the deposited plan.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to inform Mr. H. E. Bennett that as the proposed road referred to in the first three paragraphs of his letter would apparently pass solely over that portion of the Commons which is coloured red on the deposited plan the Conservators have no power to object to the making of such road, and that with regard to the road referred to in the last paragraph of his letter, such road is a private road which was made prior to the passing of the Act and is not repaired by the Conservators.

Accounts for Payment—Accounts amounting to £160 5s. 5d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

Wm. C. Cripps

22nd October, 1929.

Commons Conservators.

22nd October, 1929.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Snell, O.B.E.), *Chairman*.

Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

Messrs. Lawford Andrews, W. Maynard, E. Merritt and J. G. Silcock.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. W. Leighton Grane acknowledging the consent given by the Conservators, with regard to the trees and shrubs planted by him on the Common, and accepting the conditions attached to such consent.

A letter was received from Autocar Services, Ltd., with regard to the trimming of certain trees on the Commons adjacent to the routes of their new double deck omnibuses.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the letter be adjourned, that the Clerk be instructed to confer with the Town Clerk on the matter and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Riding on Commons.—A letter was received from Mr. Councillor St. Croix suggesting that the Conservators should consider the question of allowing horse riders to use the old race track and also the track which leads from above the Fair Ground to the lane running behind Hungershall Park during the winter months.

The Clerk reported that the suggestion could not be acceded to so long as the existing bye-law remained in force.

RESOLVED—That Mr. Councillor St. Croix be informed that the Conservators must adhere to their previous decision.

Seats.—A letter was received from Mr. Ben White expressing thanks to the Conservators for complying with his suggestion with regard to the placing of a seat at the summit of the Toad Rock path.

A letter was received from Mr. Lionel Pomfret suggesting that a sheltered seat be provided on Rusthall Common similar to those on the Tunbridge Wells Commons.

RESOLVED—That Mr. Lionel Pomfret be informed that, owing to the somewhat heavy expense involved in the provision of sheltered seats and the limited funds at the disposal of the Conservators for the current year, they are unable to adopt his suggestion.

A letter was received from Mr. J. S. Phillpotts thanking the Conservators for the provision of two seats on the Common near the Lower Cricket Ground and also for two seats where the omnibuses stop opposite the Pantiles.

Nevill Court proposed development.—A letter was received from Mr. H. E. Bennett acknowledging the receipt of the Clerk's letter of the 5th June last with regard to the approach to Nevill Court land.

Gorse Cutting.—A letter was received from the Rev. M. Black requesting that the overgrown gorse bushes near "Ephraim Lodge" may be cut as they are a source of danger from fire in the dry weather, and insanitary, owing to their use as a receptacle for rubbish, etc.

The Surveyor reported that he had cut the gorse in question and his action was approved.

Nuisances.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk with regard to a nuisance committed on the Common by an employee of one of the Fair Proprietors.

The Clerk reported the action taken by him in the matter which was approved.

Commons Conservators

Brighton Lake.—A letter was received from Mr. Councillor St. Croix calling attention to the present condition of the Brighton Lake and suggesting that it should be thoroughly cleaned out during the coming Winter.

RESOLVED—That Mr. Councillor St. Croix be informed that the Conservators have no funds available during the current year for the purpose suggested in his letter.

Surface Water Drainage from Footpaths.—Letters were received from Mrs. C. S. Higham claiming compensation in respect of an accident which occurred to her on the Common and involved damage to a new pair of shoes and loss of an appointment.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. Higham be informed that, whilst the Conservators regret the accident to which she refers, they cannot recognise any liability on their part to compensate her therefor.

Damage to Gorse.—The Clerk reported the receipt of a Police Report concerning damage by boys to gorse bushes on the Tunbridge Wells Commons, and the action he had taken in the matter.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk's action be approved.

Accounts—Year ended 25th March, 1929.—The Auditor's Report on the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1929, was received and considered.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1929, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.
- (b) RESOLVED—That a vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale for their services as Auditors.
- (c) RESOLVED—That Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale be appointed Auditors for the current year.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £578 16s. 5d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

Henry Elwig
Mar 30. 1929

3rd December, 1929.

Commons Conservators.

3rd December, 1929.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and S. V. Thorpe.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at their meeting on the 9th ult., appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next:—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman J. B. Snell, O.B.E.).
Aldermen Silcock and Willmot.
Councillor Merritt.

Appointment of Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. H. Elwig do take the Chair for this meeting.

The late Mr. W. Taylor.—RESOLVED—That a sincere vote of sympathy and condolence be passed with Mrs. Taylor and her family on the death of Mr. W. Taylor, and that an expression of the Conservators' regret at the loss of the services of so valued and esteemed a colleague be recorded on the minutes.

Mr. Alderman Willmot.—RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to convey to Mr. Alderman Willmot an assurance of the Conservators' sympathy with him in his illness and their sincere hope for a speedy and complete recovery.

Mr. W. C. Cripps.—RESOLVED—That the congratulations of the Conservators be tendered to Mr. W. C. Cripps on his election as a Member of the Kent County Council.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Storm Water.—South View Terrace.—A letter was received from Mr. Arthur Tribe complaining of the flood water flowing along the front of South View Terrace on heavy downpours of rain.

RESOLVED—That Mr. Arthur Tribe be informed that the matter of which he complains does not fall within the purview of the Conservators.

Surface Water Drainage from Footpaths.—A further letter was received from Mrs. C. S. Higham with reference to compensation in respect of the accident which occurred to her on the Common.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. C. S. Higham be informed that the Conservators adhere to the decision passed by them at their last meeting.

Gorse.—A letter was received from the Rusthall Cricket Club requesting that the Conservators will cut the gorse bushes on the north side of the Rusthall Cricket Ground as they are source of annoyance and expense by balls being driven into and lost in the bushes during cricket matches.

The Surveyor reported that he had cut the bushes in question and his action was approved.

Trees, etc.—A letter was received from Autocar Services, Ltd., submitting a list of trees on the Commons which the Company suggested it would be necessary to lop or clip to enable them to operate double deck omnibuses on certain of their routes passing over the roads on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Conservators.

It was reported to the Conservators that Mr. W. Leighton Grane was not complying with the terms of the license granted to him by the Conservators with regard to shrubs, etc., on the Commons, and the Clerk was instructed to ask for an explanation.

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Commons Conservators

Wires crossing Common.—An application was received from the Post Office Engineering Department for permission to the placing of two wires across the Common from Rusthall Park to Bulls Cottage, Bulls Hollow, Rusthall, such permission to be revocable by three months' notice.

It was moved by Mr. C. Berry and seconded by Mr. S. V. Thorpe :—

That the Post Office Engineering Department be informed that their application should be directed to the Bailiff of the Manor.

On a vote being taken by a show of hands, there voted :—

For the resolution :—

Messrs. Berry, Maynard and Thorpe 3

Against :—

Messrs. Andrews, Hallett Reed and Silcock 3

Military Drill on Commons.—An application was received on behalf of the O.C. "D." Co. 4th Batt. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment for permission to train men on the Tunbridge Wells Common in man-handling machine guns about six times a year on Sunday mornings.

The provisions of Bye-Law 26 were considered.

RESOLVED—That under the provisions of Bye-Law 26, the Conservators hereby fix the following area for drill, encampment and reviews of His Majesty's troops and auxiliary forces, that is to say :—

"The whole of the Commons with the exception of the Upper, Lower, and Rusthall Cricket, Football and Bowling Grounds respectively."

(b) **RESOLVED**—That the Clerk be instructed to forward a copy of the foregoing resolution to the O.C. "D." Co. 4th Batt. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment together with a copy of Bye-Law 26.

Appointment of Committee.—**RESOLVED**—That Messrs. C. Berry, E. Merritt, Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and H. J. Willmot be appointed the Committee for the ensuing year, and that a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their services during the past year.

Financial Statement.—The Clerk laid before the Conservators a statement of the estimated expenditure for the year ending 25th March, 1930.

Estimates.—**RESOLVED**—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in their Estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Dates of Future Meetings.—**RESOLVED**—That meetings of the Conservators during 1930 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m. :—

Tuesday, March 4th, June 10th, October 21st, and December 2nd.

Accounts for Payment.—*Accounts amounting to £98 1s. 7d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.*

Wm. B. Cull
4 March 1930

Commons Conservators

4th March, 1930.

Commons Conservators.

4th March, 1930.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Snell, O.B.E.), *Chairman*.

Messrs. Lawford Andrews, Charles Berry, Wm. Maynard, J. G.

Silcock, N. R. Stone and Sydney V. Thorpe.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Committee of the Freehold Tenants of the Manor of Rusthall, at their meeting on the 3rd instant, appointed Mr. Neville R. Stone as a Commons Conservator in the place of the late Mr. W. Taylor.

The Chairman formally welcomed Mr. Neville R. Stone as a Commons Conservator.

Mr. W. C. Cripps.—**RESOLVED**—That the Conservators learn with gratification of the progress towards recovery which Mr. W. C. Cripps has made after his recent severe accident and express the hope of an early resumption to his usual activities.

The late Mr. W. Taylor.—An intimation was received from Mrs. W. Taylor and family gratefully acknowledging the kind thoughts and expression of sympathy received from the Commons Conservators.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Storm Water—South View Terrace.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants forwarding a copy of the Common Ranger's Report with regard to flood water flowing along the front of South View Terrace on heavy downpours of rain.

It was reported that this matter was dealt with by the Conservators at their last meeting.

Wires Crossing Common.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants forwarding copy of the Common Ranger's Report with regard to two telephone wires which were fixed on the 3rd October last to property at Bull's Hollow and carried over the Common to a tree situate in the grounds of No. 2, Rusthall Park.

The application from the Post Office Engineering Department for permission to the placing of two wires across the Common from Rusthall Park to Bull's Cottage, Bull's Hollow, Rusthall, such permission to be revocable by three months' notice, was further considered.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators in so far as they have power to give such consent, do consent to the placing of the two wires in question across the Common, subject to all other necessary consents being obtained.

Trees, etc.—A letter was received from Canon W. Leighton Grane with regard to his cutting gorse on the Common and planting an additional tree on the Common contrary to the terms of the Licence granted to him by the Conservators.

(a) **RESOLVED**—That Canon W. Leighton Grane be informed that unless he complies strictly with the conditions imposed by the Conservators with regard to planting trees or shrubs and cutting gorse and grass on the Commons, they will have no alternative but to revoke the Licence granted to him on the 4th June last.

The letter from Autocar Services, Ltd., submitting a list of trees on the Commons which the Company suggested it would be necessary to lop or clip to enable them to operate double-deck omnibuses on certain of their routes passing over the roads on the Commons was again considered.

It was reported to the Conservators that licenses had not been granted for double-deck omnibuses to run on the route in question.

(b) **RESOLVED**—That, under the circumstances, the consideration of the matter be deferred.

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Commons Conservators

The following minutes of the proceedings of the Committee at meetings held on the 14th and 21st days of January, 1930, were submitted :—

14th January, 1930.—At a meeting of the Committee of the Commons Conservators held on The Common, near Fonthill, Tunbridge Wells.

PRESENT—Messrs. C. Berry, E. Merritt, Hallett Reed and J. G. Silcock.

In attendance—The Chief Constable and Surveyor.

Trees.—It was reported to the Committee that a large elm tree on the Western side of " Fonthill " was blown down by the gale on the evening of Sunday, January 12th.

The Committee inspected three remaining elm trees on the Western side of " Fonthill," one elm tree on the Northern side of " Fonthill " and the row of eight trees on the border of The Common opposite the Pump Room.

The Surveyor reported that he was prepared to certify that the three elm trees on the Western side of " Fonthill," one elm tree on the Northern side of " Fonthill," two elm trees one each side of the footpath leading from the roadway opposite to the Pump Room on to the Common were in a dangerous condition.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to make the necessary arrangements, in conjunction with the Bailiffs of the Lord of the Manor, for the cutting down of the six trees above referred to.

RESOLVED—That the broken stump of a tree on the Northern side of " Fonthill " be cut down.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to obtain quotations for the supply of suitable trees to be planted in place of those cut down and that a further meeting of the Committee be held to consider the quotations.

21st January, 1930.—At a meeting of the Committee of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

PRESENT—Messrs. C. Berry, Hallett Reed and J. G. Silcock.

Trees.—The Surveyor submitted the tenders he had received for cutting down the six elm trees near " Fonthill " authorised to be cut down at the last meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED—That the Baltic Saw Mills Co., Ltd., be engaged to cut down the trees in question on the terms of their letter of the 17th January, 1930, *i.e.*, to fell the six elm trees charging cost of the work, but not accepting responsibility for any damage which might occur during the felling operations.

RESOLVED—That the roots be not grubbed.

RESOLVED—That the Commons Conservators be informed that the Committee have arrived at this decision on account of the urgency of the matter and in anticipation that the Conservators will, at their next meeting, affirm the action taken by them.

(c) RESOLVED—That the minutes be confirmed.

The Committee also reported that they had sanctioned the felling of two additional trees on the Common opposite to the Pump Room and had accepted the offer of Messrs. A. Charlton & Sons for planting three trees (sycamore, lime and plane) at a cost of £3 3s. on the Common, near " Fonthill," and their action was approved.

Commons Conservators

The Committee also reported that the cost of felling the nine trees above-mentioned amounted to £37 10s.

Questions relating to the removal of the trees which had been felled were considered.

A letter was received from Messrs. E. J. Carter, Banks & Bennett intimating that they had been requested by their Client, the Lord of the Manor, to say that he had been unable to find a purchaser for the timber and as he does not intend to make any use of it himself the Conservators are at liberty to remove the trees if they think it necessary to do so.

The Clerk's opinion with regard to the matter was reported to the Conservators.

The Surveyor reported that the cost of the removal of the trees would be £10.

- (d) **RESOLVED**—That, without prejudice to the rights of the Conservators to maintain the Commons free from all encroachments under the provisions of section 168 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, the Surveyor be instructed to make the necessary arrangements for the removal of the trees in question at a cost of £10.

Notice Boards.—A letter was received from Miss L. Clayton with regard to the notice board directing the public to The Iron Mission Room, fixed by her, with the consent of the Lord of the Manor on Rusthall Common adjoining the main road leading to High Street, Rusthall, near the Southern end of the Lower Green Road and with regard to the condition of the footpaths across the Common.

RESOLVED—That Miss Clayton be informed that, in addition to the consent of the Lord of the Manor, it is necessary also to obtain the consent of the Commons Conservators to the erection of any notice board on the Commons, and that on her submitting an application for consent, the matter will be considered by the Conservators.

Military Drill on Commons.—A letter was received from 2nd Lieut. Sir Derrick W. I. Watson expressing thanks to the Conservators for granting permission for "D" Coy. of the 4th Q.O. Royal West Kent Regiment to train on any part of the Common other than the recognised recreation grounds thereon.

Accounts for Payment.—*Accounts amounting to £152 3s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.*

The Clerk was instructed to see the Treasurer with regard to the settlement of the above-mentioned accounts prior to the 25th March instant.

Edm. Merritt

Commons Conservators

10th June, 1930.

Commons Conserbators.

10th June, 1930.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. Lawford Andrews, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, E. Merritt, W. Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and S. V. Thorpe.

Appointment of Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. E. Merritt do take the Chair for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Hawking on Commons.—An application was received from Mr. E. Huggins for permission to take photographs, for sale, on the Tunbridge Wells Commons.

RESOLVED—That the application be refused.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from Mr. H. Thorpe calling attention to the condition of certain footpaths on the Common, and the Clerk was instructed to reply thereto.

Questions relating to the footpaths leading from the Spa Hotel to the Upper Cricket Ground and also near St. Helena were considered.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

St. John Ambulance Brigade—Review of Kentish Units.—An application was received from the Superintendent of the Tunbridge Wells Division—St. John Amulance Brigade, for permission to erect a temporary platform on the small piece of Common at the end of York Road in London Road as a stand for the march past and to muster the Companies on the Lower Cricket Ground in order to prevent congestion in the public roadway.

The Committee reported that they had consented, so far as the Conservators were concerned, to the erection of the temporary platform and to the muster, and their action was approved.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £128 6s. 10d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

S. V. Thorpe
Chairman

21st October 1930

Commons Conservators

21st October, 1930.

Commons Conserbators.

21st October, 1930.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Snell, O.B.E.), *Chairman*.
Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard,
Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock, Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.
Lieut.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

The late Mr. Alderman Willmot, J.P.—RESOLVED—That a sincere vote of sympathy and condolence be passed with Mrs. Willmot and her family on the death of Mr. Alderman Willmot and that an expression of the Conservators' regret at the loss of the services of so valued and esteemed a colleague be recorded on the minutes.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read.

IT WAS MOVED from the Chair :—

“ That the minutes be confirmed.”

IT WAS MOVED as an amendment by Mr. S. V. Thorpe and seconded by Mr. W. Maynard—That the following words be added to the resolution :—

“ subject to the omission of the words ‘ the application be refused ’ and the substitution therefor of the words ‘ no action be taken ’ in the resolution under the paragraph ‘ Hawking on Commons. ’ ”

On a vote being taken by a show of hands, there voted :—

For the amendment	...	...	4
Against	...	...	4

The Chairman gave his casting vote against the amendment which was accordingly lost.

The original resolution was thereupon carried *nem. con.*

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. F. W. Climenson calling attention to the overgrown state of the trees adjoining “ St. Helena ” and to the need for cutting the grass from each side of the path in front of those premises.

(a) RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee.

The Clerk reported that he had received a request from Mr. J. E. Shaw that the thorn bush overhanging his fence at “ Heathgate,” Rusthall, might be trimmed.

The Surveyor reported that he had trimmed the bush in question and his action was approved.

(b) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorised to make the necessary arrangements for the planting of eight trees (larch, Scotch fir and sycamore) near Fonthill, at a cost of £6, exclusive of fencing.

Hawking on Common.—An application was received from Mr. J. Ward for a permit to sell ices on the Tunbridge Wells Common.

The Clerk read the reply which he had sent to Mr. Ward.

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Neville R. Stone and seconded by Mr. J. G. Silcock :—

“ That the application be refused.”

IT WAS MOVED as an amendment by Mr. S. V. Thorpe and seconded by Mr. C. Berry—That all words after “ That ” be omitted from the resolution and that the following words be inserted in lieu thereof :—

“ the Clerk be instructed to refer all such applications in future to the *Satiff* Agent of the Lord of the Manor.”

On a vote being taken by a show of hands there voted :—

For the Amendment	...	...	4
Against	...	...	5

The Amendment was accordingly lost.

Commons Conservators

On the original resolution being put to the meeting, there voted :—

For the resolution	...	...	5
Against	...	...	4

The original resolution was accordingly carried.

Seats.—A letter was received from the Rev. J. Mountain with regard to the provision of a seat on Mount Ephraim somewhere opposite "The Chase."

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee with power to act.

Eridge Road Lake.—A letter was received from Mr. Hugh McCalman complaining of the barking of dogs in and around the Eridge Road Lake and suggesting the provision of a notice board requesting those in charge of dogs to keep them under proper control.

RESOLVED—That Mr. Hugh McCalman be informed that the Conservators are not aware of any action they can usefully take in the matter.

Heather.—A letter was received from the Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade intimating that their attention had been called to the fact that heather was being pulled up by the roots on the Common and suggesting that notices warning the public against this practice should be displayed.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Surveyor with instructions to do what he can to prevent such an objectionable practice.

Ponds.—A letter was received from Mr. H. A. Beeching calling attention to the condition of the small pond at the junction of Langton Road with Rusthall Common Road.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to fill up the pond in question.

Notice Boards.—It was reported to the Conservators that a notice board had been erected by the Bailiffs of the Manor on the Tunbridge Wells Common, Mount Ephraim, near the Wellington Hotel, as follows :—

" MANOR OF RUSTHALL."

NOTICE.

No Thoroughfare.

Private entrance to Mount Edgumbe House and Cottage
only.

NO PARKING allowed.

By Order,

CARTER, BANKS AND BENNETT,
Bailiffs of the Manor.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from Mr. Harold Thorpe expressing thanks for the action taken by the Conservators with regard to the repair of certain paths on the Common, and suggesting that further paths should be repaired.

The Surveyor reported on the paths which had been repaired.

RESOLVED—That Mr. H. Thorpe be informed that the Surveyor has been instructed by the Conservators, as funds permit, to do such repairs as may be necessary.

Turf.—RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to level and returf portions of the surface of the Common in the vicinity of the "Tank."

Accounts — Year ended 25th March, 1930.—The Auditors' report on the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1930, was received and considered.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1930, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.
- (b) RESOLVED—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale for their services as Auditors.
- (c) RESOLVED—That Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale be appointed Auditors for the current year.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £228 4s. 7d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

A. Dennis
Chairman
2nd Dec 1930.

Commons Conservators

2nd December, 1930.

Commons Conservators.

2nd December, 1930.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Dennis), *Chairman*.

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, C. E. Hillman, W. Maynard, W. Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock, Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council, at their meeting on the 10th ultimo, appointed the following Members of the Town Council, as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Dennis).

Aldermen Merritt and Silcock.

Councillor Hillman.

The Clerk also reported that the Committee of the Freehold Tenants of the Manor of Rusthall, at their meeting on the 18th November last, appointed the following as Commons Conservators :—

Mr. Lawford Andrews.

Mr. Neville R. Stone.

Mr. Hallett Reed.

Col. A. R. Cheale.

The late Mr. Alderman Willmot.—A letter was received from Mr. H. C. Willmot conveying the thanks of his mother and her family for the kind vote of sympathy and condolence passed by the Conservators at their last meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were submitted for confirmation.

RESOLVED—That, subject to the substitution of the word " Bailiff " for the word " Agent " in the amendment under paragraph " Hawking on Common," the minutes be confirmed.

Trees.—Questions relating to gifts of trees for the Commons were considered.

Wires Crossing Common.—The Committee submitted the following Report of their proceedings at a meeting held on the 4th ultimo :—

" An application was received from the Post Office Engineering Department for " permission to erect two wires from a pole in London Road to Gibraltar Cottage, The Common, Tunbridge Wells, and transmitting usual form of " consent.

" **RESOLVED**—That the Committee recommend the Commons Conservators, " in so far as they have power to give such consent, to consent to the erection " of the two wires from a pole in London Road to Gibraltar Cottage, The " Common, subject to the Post Office Engineering Department also obtaining " the consent of the Lord of the Manor, and that the Clerk be authorised " to sign the form of consent."

The Clerk reported that, as a matter of urgency, he had submitted the recommendation of the Committee to each Conservator, that he had received their approval, and had accordingly transmitted the formal consent to the Post Office Engineering Department, and his action was approved.

A letter was received from the Post Office Engineering Department intimating that it is observed that consent is given in so far as the Conservators have power to give it, that the Postmaster General is advised that under the combined operation of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and the Telegraph (Construction) Act, 1908, the only consent which the Postmaster General requires is that of the Conservators, and this being so, and the telephone service being urgently required, the work of erecting the two wires had been put in hand.

RESOLVED—That a copy of this letter be sent to the Solicitors of the Lord of the Manor.

Commons Conservators

A letter was received from Mrs. Griffith (on behalf of her mother, Mrs. Irvine) thanking the Conservators for granting their consent to the erection of the wires in question.

Ponds.—A letter was received from Mr. H. A. Beeching expressing thanks to the Conservators for filling up the pond at the junction of Langton Road with Rusthall Common Road and for effecting a considerable public improvement.

Stormwater—South View Terrace.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants enclosing copy of a letter they had received from Messrs. Hunt, Nicholson, Adams & Co., together with their reply thereto, with regard to the flooding of South View Terrace, Rusthall, in wet weather, expressing the opinion that the construction of a soakaway on the Common would greatly improve the condition of the property and also the common land and enquiring if the Conservators would grant a licence and contribute towards the cost of carrying out the work.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Tunbridge Wells Commons.—A letter was received from the Royal Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade submitting copy of a Report on the Tunbridge Wells Commons which was unanimously adopted at a meeting of their Committee held on the 4th ultimo.

RESOLVED—That the Report be referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Appointment of Committee.—RESOLVED—That Messrs. C. Berry, C. E. Hillman, E. Merritt, Hallett Reed, and J. G. Silcock be appointed the Committee for the ensuing year and that a vote of thanks be given to them for their services during the past year.

Committee's Report.—The following minutes of the proceedings of the Committee at a meeting held on the 4th ultimo were submitted :—

4th November, 1930.—At a meeting of the Committee of the Commons Conservators held at Mount Ephraim, The Common, Tunbridge Wells.

Present—Messrs. C. Berry and J. G. Silcock.

Seats.—The Committee considered the letter received from the Rev. J. Mountain with regard to the provision of a seat on Mount Ephraim somewhere opposite "The Chase."

RESOLVED—That the Committee recommend the Commons Conservators to instruct their Surveyor to remove one length of the low wooden fence near "St. Helena" and to provide in the Spring of next year a seat on the fringe of The Common near the boundary fence of this property.

Trees.—The letter from Mr. F. W. Climenson was considered.

The Surveyor reported that he had trimmed the grass from the edges of the footpath referred to by Mr. Climenson.

(a) RESOLVED—That the Committee recommend the Commons Conservators to instruct the Surveyor to trim the lower branches of two trees on the Common on the Western side of Mr. Climenson's House as requested by him.

(b) RESOLVED—That the Committee recommend the Commons Conservators to authorise the Surveyor to trim three trees on The Common adjoining Mount Edgcumbe.

RESOLVED—That the minutes be confirmed, except the minute under the paragraph "Seats" and that such minute be further considered at the next meeting of the Conservators.

A letter was received from Mr. F. W. Climenson expressing thanks to the Conservators for cutting the trees on the Western side of his house and for the improvement effected.

Commons Conservators

Estimates.—The Surveyor reported on the expenditure of the Commons Conservators during the current year.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in their Estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Dates of Future Meetings.—**RESOLVED**—That meetings of the Commons Conservators during 1931 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m. :—

Tuesday, March 3rd, June 3rd, October 20th and December 1st.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £123 0s. 7d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

A. Dennis

Chairman

3rd March 1931.

Commons Conservators

3rd March, 1931.

Commons Conservators.

3rd March, 1931.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Dennis), *Chairman*.

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, C. E. Hillman, W. Maynard,
E. Merritt, W. Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Ashley Gardens.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk of Tunbridge Wells intimating that the Town Council have had under consideration the question of making up Ashley Gardens, which runs from Meadow Road to a point in Lower Green Road, Rusthall, near the Red Lion Inn, under the Private Street Works Act, 1892, and that as it would appear the northern portion of this street near its junction with Lower Green Road crosses a detached part of the Rusthall Common, coloured blue on the deposited map, he was instructed to ask for the consent of the Conservators, so far as such consent may be necessary, to the Town Council's proposals.

RESOLVED—That, subject to the settlement of questions pending between the Lord of the Manor and the Corporation as to the exact course of the road in question and to the submission to the Conservators of a plan shewing the line of the road which may be agreed between the parties interested, the Clerk be authorised to sign a consent to the Town Council's proposals under the provisions of section 168 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mrs. Black calling attention to the destruction of trees by youths on the Common in front of her house and to the annoyance to which she has been subjected by such youths.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Chief Constable and that instructions be given to the Commons Rangers to do all they can to prevent a recurrence of what Mrs. Black complains.

Seats.—The question of the provision of a seat on the fringe of the Common on Mount Ephraim near "St. Helena" was again considered.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred back to the Committee for further report.

Questions relating to seats on Rusthall Common were considered and Mr. Hallett Reed intimated that he would furnish the Surveyor with a list of those seats which require attention.

Committee's Report.—The Committee submitted the following Report of their proceedings at a meeting held on the 2nd instant.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS.—The following Report on the Tunbridge Wells Commons adopted at a meeting of the Committee of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade on the 4th November, 1930, referred by the Commons Conservators to their Committee, was considered by such Committee at a meeting held on March 2nd, 1931.

REPORT ON THE CONDITION OF THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS.

*Adopted by the Royal Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade Committee—
4th November, 1930.*

1. Two notice boards by "Belle Vue" need removing as the path referred to—Mount Ephraim to London Road—is not private as suggested, but is a public right of way.

Commons Conservators

2. The corner at the junction of Church Road and Mount Ephraim (on the right hand side going up Church Road) is dangerous, the channel being unnecessarily deep and the slope begins too far in the promenade.
3. Some of the roads and paths from the Common to the Mount Ephraim Promenade cutting through the promenade, need to be brought to the level when crossing the promenade. As it is at present it is very awkward for invalids in bath chairs and others.
4. Many of the footpaths on the Common are made up with wrong material, being covered with loose and sharp stones, making it impossible to walk on them, viz. :—(1) From Church Road *via* Lower Cricket Ground across Hungershall Park—very bad in places. (2) From the Upper Cricket Ground through the Queen's Grove towards London Road and the other way to the Spa Hotel; and others. The footpath on the left from the Spa Hotel to Rusthall needs attention.
5. The trees and furze damaged by fire need attention—the dead wood to be cut out and the dead trees removed (this is now in hand).

The instruction of the Conservators that the bracken and furze should be cut back at least six yards round the trees is not being carried out—it should be, being a great protection to the trees from fire. It is suggested that the area of the furze needs dividing into smaller patches to prevent fire spreading over such a large area.

Some of the birch trees need thinning out, too many are growing up—a specially bad place is between Hungershall Park and the junction of the Race Course with Hungershall Park Road on the left side, and some yards down the Race Course.

6. Suitable trees should be replanted to replace some of the ten taken or blown down, but 100 feet back from the road; others might be planted near the edge of the Common above London Road, commencing opposite the General Post Office, and planted 100 feet back and about 200 feet apart and extending to the Pump Room.
7. The “cultivated” corner in Bishops Down needs watching, that nothing more is done there by way of cultivation, and the public not prevented from walking thereon.
8. Notices as to the destruction of trees and flowers should be kept posted up—the heather and ling specially need protecting, these have steadily decreased each year for some years past.
9. The seats on the Commons should be kept in better repair. Two collapsed near the Race Course in August—when most needed—and others require attention.
10. The Rangers should be more in evidence and some at least be in uniform, or wear a cap that they feel can be identified.
11. Motorists need direction as to where they may take their cars—specially on Sundays—the Race Course has been obstructed by them.
12. The Fir Tree Pond needs cleaning out and the Scotch fire trees which were at the top of the Hill above it need replacing. The dead trees on the slope need removing.

RESOLVED—That the following Report (dealing with each paragraph of the Report received from the Chamber of Trade) be submitted to the Commons Conservators at their meeting to be held on the 3rd March instant.

Paragraph 1.

The question of the two notice boards by “Belle Vue” is under the consideration of the Conservators.

Paragraph 2.

The matter referred to in this paragraph is one to be dealt with by the Works Committee of the Town Council—a copy of the paragraph has been placed before that Committee.

Paragraph 3.

Any alteration to the levels of the roads and footpaths would be impracticable. If practicable, it would be inadvisable.

Commons Conservators

Paragraph 4.

The footpaths are gradually receiving attention with the object of rendering them as convenient for foot-passengers as possible.

Paragraph 5.

The trees and furze damaged by fire have been attended to. All the other matters referred to are receiving the attention of the Conservators.

Paragraph 6.

Attention is given to the planting of trees as funds permit. The trees which were blown down or removed for public safety have been replaced by others.

Paragraphs 7.

The matter referred to in this paragraph receives constant attention.

Paragraph 8.

Notices are periodically exhibited upon the Commons and renewed when destroyed or damaged.

Paragraph 9.

Repairs to seats are systematically carried out. The seats to which this paragraph refers were wilfully broken and were removed to prevent injury to any person who might sit on them unaware of their condition.

Paragraph 10.

The Committee recommend that official caps be provided for the Conservators employees on the Commons.

Paragraph 11.

The Police call the attention of motorists to the parking places prescribed by the Corporation as the local authority.

Paragraph 12.

This matter is under the consideration of the Commons Conservators.

The Committee think the attention of the Chamber of Trade should be called to the fact that the Conservators' funds available for the maintenance and improvement of the Commons are limited by statute to a half-yearly sum equivalent to a rate of a farthing in the pound calculated upon the rateable value of the Borough. For the last three years their expenditure has been as follows :—

	Year ending 25th March.								
	1928.			1929.			1930.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries (Clerk and Surveyor)	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0
Wages of Workmen	239	6	9	242	7	0	199	2	0
Trees	11	17	11	—	—	—	83	13	4
Seats	76	18	9	176	11	11	100	2	7
Clearing litter	106	17	0	160	12	5	159	7	5
Roads and footpaths	197	17	5	5	11	3	17	12	3
Ponds	23	8	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tools and implements	0	18	0	0	18	5	3	6	11
Notice boards	5	2	4	2	16	1	0	13	8
Lower Cricket Ground	13	17	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fences	7	1	1	41	14	1	27	15	11
Gorse cutting	71	10	0	—	—	—	250	7	11
Posts and rails	2	0	1	13	11	1	2	11	5
Mount Ephraim Promenade	—	—	—	—	—	—	69	12	9
Grass cutting	2	13	2	22	6	8	8	7	11
Eridge Road Lake	—	—	—	24	13	0	1	4	9
Insurance	1	16	11	1	11	7	1	14	4
Drainage	—	—	—	11	0	0	12	3	9
Postages	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	0
Miscellaneous	1	4	5	4	4	0	—	—	—
	£812	9	10	£757	17	6	£989	6	11

For the year ending 25th March, 1930, the Conservators had overspent £116 3s. 8d.

Commons Conservators

STORMWATER—SOUTH VIEW TERRACE.—A letter from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants enclosing copy of a letter he had received from Messrs. Hunt, Nicholson, Adams & Co., together with his reply thereto with regard to the flooding of South View Terrace, Rusthall, were considered and deferred.

LOWER CRICKET GROUND.—A letter was received from the Mount Pleasant Football Club complaining of the conduct of some rough characters who interfered with and obstructed one of their employees engaged in erecting goal posts for a football match on the Lower Cricket Ground on the 14th instant.

RESOLVED—That the attention of the Chief Constable be called to the matter.

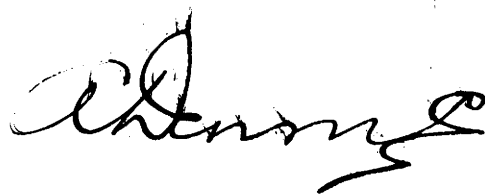
PONDS.—It was reported that Mr. A. E. Hobbs had called attention to the condition of the pond on the Langton side of Rusthall Common adjacent to the main Road.

The Surveyor reported that the pond in question received surface water from the Common and that it would be a very expensive matter to arrange for the diversion of such water or to fill up the pond.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

RESOLVED—That the Report be adopted and acted upon, and that a copy so far as it relates to the "Tunbridge Wells Commons" be sent to the Chamber of Trade.

Accounts for Payment—Accounts amounting to £379 15s. 5d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.



Chairman

2nd June 1931.

Commons Conservators

2nd June, 1931.

Commons Conserbators.

2nd June, 1931.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Dennis), *Chairman*.

Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, C. E. Hillman,
W. Maynard, W. Hallett Reed and S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Tunbridge Wells Commons.—A letter was received expressing thanks to the Conservators for manner in which the Commons are cared for.

A letter was received from the Royal Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade expressing thanks for the careful consideration and attention given by the Conservators to the points raised in their report on the Commons submitted in November last.

Hawking on Common.—An application was received from Eldorado Ice Cream Company, Ltd., for permission to sell ice cream on The Common.

It was moved by Mr. S. V. Thorpe and seconded by Mr. C. Berry :—

“ That the application be referred to the Bailiffs of the Manor of Rusthall.”

On a vote being taken, by a show of hands, there voted :—

For the resolution—

Messrs. Berry, Elwig, Maynard
and Thorpe 4

Against—

Messrs. Andrews and Hillman ... 2

The resolution was accordingly carried.

“ Belle Ville ” Fencing.—The Surveyor reported that a light type of fencing had been erected on the Common near “ Belle Ville,” apparently with the object of preventing persons passing up the steps from London Road.

A letter was received from Messrs. Berry & Berry intimating that they knew nothing of the light fencing in question.

The Clerk reported that the light fencing referred to had now been removed.

Questions relating to the notice boards on the Common near “ Belle Ville ” were considered.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

Attention was called to the fact that this property should be called “ Belle Ville ” and not “ Belle Vue.”

Trees, etc.—A letter was received with regard to certain gardening operations being carried out on the Common opposite “ Westering,” Bishops Down.

Questions relating to the license granted to the Rev. Canon W. L. Grane on the 4th June, 1929, with regard to the planting of trees on the Common were considered.

RESOLVED—That the License granted to the Rev. Canon W. L. Grane on the 4th June, 1929, and expressed in the Clerk’s letter to Canon Grane dated June 5th, 1929, be and the same is hereby revoked and that the Clerk be directed—

- (a) to communicate the fact of such revocation to Canon Grane ;
- (b) to require the removal of all trees, shrubs, bushes, plants, etc., which have been planted upon the Common by Canon Grane on or before the 15th July next and that failing compliance with such requirement, the Surveyor be instructed to remove the same accordingly, and
- (c) to inform Canon Grane that no grass or herbage on the Commons must be cut by him.

Commons Conservators

The following letter was received from The Spa Property Co., Ltd. :—

(COPY.)

THE SPA HOTEL,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
3rd March, 1931.

W. C. CRIPPS, Esq.,
Clerk to the Commons Conservators,
The Town Hall,
Tunbridge Wells.

Dear Sir,—On the 19th of February we communicated with Mr. Rush for permission to trim the surrounds of the various trees on the strip of land immediately in front of the Hotel, which was granted and Mr. Rush also requested us to write you to obtain permission from the Commons Conservators.

The above matter of trees we had decided to stand down for the time being, but it appears the Common Ranger informed our gardener while he was working on the Hotel front hedges that he could carry out the necessary work on the trees which we find was done last Friday and Saturday.

No doubt an error has occurred and we trust that the trimming has been carried out to your satisfaction.

Yours faithfully,

For THE SPA PROPERTY CO., LTD.,
(Sd.) C. FULLER.

Stormwater—Southview Terrace.—A letter was received from Messrs. Hunt & Co. enclosing plan shewing the works their Clients now desire to carry out in front of Southview Terrace, Rusthall.

A Report was received from the Surveyor to the Conservators on the proposed works.

The Representatives of the Lord of the Manor reported that they had received no communication from Messrs. Hunt & Co. on the subject.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to inform Messrs. Hunt & Co. that the Conservators are not prepared to consider the matter until plans and specifications of the proposed works have been approved by the Lord of the Manor and the Committee of the Freehold Tenants.

Paths, etc.—A letter was received from Mr. H. Thorpe with regard to the repair of paths on the Commons and the cutting of grass on the Lower Cricket Ground.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee and that the Surveyor be instructed to mow the grass on the Lower Cricket Ground prior to the midsummer holidays of the schools.

Path leading from Castle Road to Ephraim Lodge.—A letter was received from the Rev. C. M. Black with regard to the responsibility for the upkeep and repair of the path leading from Ephraim Lodge to Castle Road.

RESOLVED—That the Rev. C. M. Black be informed that the Conservators have never undertaken to repair or maintain the path in question.

Track across Commons.—It was reported to the Conservators that motor lorries were conveying materials across the Common near "The Morning Star," Rusthall, and had damaged a land water drain.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee with power to act.

Seats.—A letter was received from Mrs. Foster requesting that a seat on the Common near "Ayot" (Nevill Park) might be removed.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. Foster be informed that the Conservators are unable to accede to her request.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £126 2s. 5d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

Albert Denny
Chairman
20th Oct 1931

Commons Conservators

20th October, 1931.

Commons Conservators.

20th October, 1931.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Dennis), *Chairman*.

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, Hallett Reed, C. E. Hillman,
W. Maynard, E. Merritt, J. G. Silcock, Neville R. Stone and
S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Trees, etc.—A letter was received from the Rev. Canon W. L. Grane with regard to the revocation of the Licence granted to him by the Commons Conservators on the 4th June, 1929, and requesting that the Licence be continued.

It was reported that, at a meeting of the Committee held on the 15th instant, it was resolved to recommend the Conservators to adhere to the resolutions passed by them at their meeting on the 2nd June last.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to suspend any action under the Conservators' resolution which was passed on the 2nd June last.

A letter was received from the Rev. H. H. Lucas suggesting the improvement of the Bishops Down part of the Common by cutting the grass which would enable some use to be made of it.

- (b) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to cut the grass on such portions of the area in question as adjoin the public road.

Mr. C. E. Hillman intimated that he had been requested by the Executive Committee of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade to offer a gift of trees to the Commons Conservators.

- (c) RESOLVED—That the Conservators do express their appreciation of the offer and that the matter be referred to the Committee to consider the desirability of planting additional trees on the Commons, and, if so, where such trees should be planted and of what description they should be.

The Surveyor reported that he had received a request from Miss Ravenscroft for the trimming of a tree adjoining "Belle Ville" The Common.

- (d) RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Surveyor with power to act.

A letter was received from Miss E. A. Cumming requesting that branches of trees and undergrowth near "The Cottage" may be cut to save the trees and to afford more light to her residence.

- (e) RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Surveyor with instructions to inspect and report thereon to the next meeting of the Conservators.

The Surveyor reported with regard to the condition of an elm tree in Eridge Road.

- (f) RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee with power to act.

A letter was received from Miss Jones with regard to the condition of the trees on the north-east side of her house, No. 86, Woodside Road.

A report was received from the Committee on the matter.

- (g) RESOLVED—That the Borough Surveyor be instructed to trim the yew tree adjoining No. 86, Woodside Road.

Roads and Footpaths.—A letter was received from the Rev. T. G. Gilling-Lax with regard to the condition of the asphalt path outside the Vicarage gate and in the direction of Rusthall New Town.

A report was received from the Committee thereon.

- (a) RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

A letter was received from the Rev. T. G. Gilling-Lax with regard to the road on Rusthall Common leading from Langton Road to Rusthall Church.

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Commons Conservators

A report was received from the Committee on the matter.

(b) **RESOLVED—**

- (1) That the following words be added to the notice board—"No parking allowed."
- (2) That the trees adjoining the road be trimmed.
- (3) That no further action be taken in the matter of the road, it being pointed out that the road in question is not repairable by the Conservators, nor, as they understand, by the Corporation.

A further letter was received from the Rev. T. G. Gilling-Lax with regard to the condition of the paving at the end of the road leading to Rusthall Church by the entrance to the School yard and requesting that it may be relaid.

- (c) **RESOLVED—**That the letter be referred to the Works Committee of the Corporation for consideration.

The Committee reported that they had inspected the road near "The Morning Star," Rusthall, leading to "Common View," and recommended that the Conservators should re-lay the pipe taking water from the drain on the Common.

- (d) **RESOLVED—**That the Surveyor be instructed to act in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee.

The letter from Mr. H. Thorpe with regard to the repair of certain paths on the Common was again considered.

A report was received from the Committee on the matter.

- (e) **RESOLVED—**That Mr. H. Thorpe be informed that the funds of the Conservators do not admit of their undertaking during the current year any work upon the path leading across the Common in the direction of the Upper Cricket Ground from the corner near the Spa Hotel.

Ashley Gardens.—The Clerk reported that the questions pending between the Lord of the Manor and the Corporation as to the exact course of the road at Ashley Gardens proposed to be made up under the Private Street Works Act, 1892, had been settled, that a plan shewing the exact line of the road had been submitted to him, that he had, as authorised, given the consent of the Conservators to the Town Council's proposals under the provisions of section 168 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and his action was approved.

Notice Board, "Belle Ville."—A letter was received from Miss Ravenscroft with regard to the replacement of one of the notice boards, "Private path," in its original position.

The Surveyor reported that he had replaced the notice board in its original position as requested by Miss Ravenscroft and his action was approved.

Water Main.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk transmitting copy notice which he had recently served upon the Lord of the Manor with reference to the laying of a water main across Rusthall Common.

Military Display.—Upper Cricket Ground.—The Clerk reported that Sir Derrick Watson, the Officer Commanding the "D" Company of the 4th Batt. Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, had applied for permission to hold a Military Display on the Linden Park Cricket Club Ground on August 19th last for the purpose of recruiting for the Battalion, that he communicated with each Conservator from whom he had received no dissent to the application being granted, and that he had accordingly given consent for the display to be held, and his action was approved.

Accounts for Payment.—*Accounts amounting to £220 16s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.*

Next Meeting.—**RESOLVED—**That the next meeting of the Conservators be held on Tuesday, the 15th December, 1931, at 3 p.m., instead of on Tuesday, the 1st December, 1931.

Albert Dennis
Chairman
15th Decr 1931

Commons Conservators

15th December, 1931.

Commons Conservators.

15th December, 1931.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Dennis, J.P.), *Chairman*.

Sir Maurice Simpson.

Messrs. C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, E. Merritt, Hallett Reed,

J. G. Silcock, N. R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council, at their meeting on the 9th ultimo, appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Dennis, J.P.).

Mr. Alderman Merritt, J.P.

Mr. Alderman Silcock, J.P.

Councillor Sir Maurice G. Simpson, C.S.I.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Seats.—A letter was received from Messrs. Stone, Simpson & Hanson intimating that the present tenant of "Ayot Cottage," Nevill Park, informs them that the seat (which was provided at the expense of a former Client of theirs) exactly opposite the entrance to her house, is somewhat objectionable and she would like the Conservators to move it to a site on another part of the Common.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee, with power to act, and that, in the meantime, the Clerk be instructed to enquire of Messrs. Stone, Simpson & Hanson whether their Client would be prepared to bear the expense of the removal of the seat should it be decided that this could be done.

Trees.—A letter was received from the Hon. Secretary of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade enclosing (at the request of Mr. C. E. Hillman) a copy of the list of those who planted the three rows of trees (elm, lime and sycamore) in the Royal Victoria Grove on the Common in February, 1835, intimating that it was recently suggested that members of the Chamber of Trade should similarly offer to plant trees on the Common in positions selected by the Commons Conservators to replace others which had been blown down and that at the present time he had offers of 20 trees and could no doubt obtain a larger number if the idea met with the approval of the Commons Conservators.

The Committee submitted the following Report :—

- (1) The Committee consider that an elm tree on the bank of the Common nearly opposite the Pump Room should be removed and the Surveyor was instructed accordingly.
- (2) The following minute of the Conservators at a meeting held on October 20th was considered :—

Mr. C. E. Hillman intimated that he had been requested by the Executive Committee of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade to offer a gift of trees to the Commons Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do express their appreciation of the offer and that the matter be referred to the Committee to consider the desirability of planting additional trees on the Commons, and, if so, where such trees should be planted and of what description they should be.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators be recommended to inform the Chamber of Trade that in their opinion it would not conduce to the beauty of the Commons if additional trees were planted at the present time.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the Committee's Report be adopted and acted upon.

Commons Conservators

A complaint was received from three residents in Eridge Road that the trees in that road shut out the light and cause dampness and requesting that the Conservators would give instructions for them to be cut well back.

(b) **RESOLVED**—That the letter be referred to the Committee for consideration.

The Surveyor reported that he had inspected the trees and undergrowth near "The Cottage" and he was instructed with regard thereto.

A letter was received from the Rev. Canon W. L. Grane acknowledging the receipt of the Clerk's letter of the 22nd October, 1931.

Appointment of Committee.—**RESOLVED**—That Messrs. C. Berry, E. Merritt, Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and Sir Maurice G. Simpson be appointed the Committee for the ensuing year and that a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their services during the past year.

Rats.—A letter was received from the Chief Sanitary Inspector intimating that he had received complaints of rats on a certain portion of the Common and requesting that the Conservators will deal effectively with the infestation.

RESOLVED—That the Chief Sanitary Inspector be informed that the Conservators are under no responsibility with respect to the matter.

Unemployment.—His Worship the Mayor reported that the Winter Distress Fund Committee were prepared to make a contribution not exceeding £50 if suitable work could be found on the Commons on the understanding that the work provided by the Conservators should be under proper supervision.

(a) **RESOLVED**—That the Conservators do accept the offer and that the provision of work be referred to the Surveyor.

(b) **RESOLVED**—That authority be given for the acceptance of any further contribution, if available, from the Winter Distress Fund for the provision of work on the Commons.

Accounts—Year ended 25th March, 1931.—The Auditors' Report on the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1931, was received and considered.

(a) **RESOLVED**—That the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1931, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted, and that a summary thereof be sent to each Conservator.

(b) **RESOLVED**—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale for their services as Auditors, and that they be re-appointed Auditors for the current year.

Estimates.—**RESOLVED**—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in their Estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Dates of Meetings, 1932.—**RESOLVED**—That meetings of the Commons Conservators during 1932 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m.—

Tuesday, March 1st; May 31st, October 18th and December 6th.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £145 16s. 9d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

Robert Dennis

Chairman

1st Mch 1932.

Commons Conservators

1st March, 1932.

Commons Conservators.

1st March, 1932.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Dennis, J.P.), *Chairman*.
Sir Maurice Simpson, C.S.I.

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, W. Maynard, J. G. Silcock and
Neville R. Stone.

Mr. E. Merritt.—A letter was received from Miss A. H. Duke regretting that illness would prevent the attendance of Mr. E. Merritt at this meeting.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to convey to Mr. Merritt the Conservators' regret and hope for his speedy recovery.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Seats.—A letter was received from Messrs. Stone, Simpson & Hanson intimating that their Client, Mrs. Foster, was willing to pay for the removal of the seat from opposite the entrance to her house to a more suitable spot.

The Committee reported that the Surveyor has removed the seat into store pending instructions as to a new site for the same.

RESOLVED—That the seat be kept in store until required.

Rats.—A letter was received from Messrs. Berry & Berry intimating that they were instructed by the Lord of the Manor to inform the Conservators that he is of opinion that the extermination of rats on the Common is a matter for the Conservators to deal with.

Estimates.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk of Tunbridge Wells with regard to the recommendation of the Finance Committee to make provision in next year's Estimates for the payment to the Conservators of the full amount provided for by the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, which had been referred back by the Council to the Committee in order that it might be suggested to the Conservators, in the present financial condition of the country, they should endeavour to carry out their duties at a cost less than the amount provided for under the Act, and attention was called to the fact that the Finance Committee had not received a copy of the last balance sheet nor been supplied with any estimate of their expenditure for the current year.

The Clerk's reply thereto was submitted to the Conservators and approved.

Two letters were received from Mr. Charles Berry on the subject.

A further letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, intimating that the Town Council had decided to include in its Estimates for the ensuing financial year the full amount provided for in the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890.

Trees.—The Committee reported that the Surveyor was carrying out the usual annual trimming of trees on the Commons and was paying special attention to the trees in Eridge Road in respect of which a complaint had been received by the Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £200 10s. 4d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

J. G. Silcock
Chairman

31st May 1932.

Commons Conservators

31st May, 1932.

Commons Conserbators.

31st May, 1932.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Sir Maurice Simpson, C.S.I., Messrs. Lawford Andrews, Charles Berry, W. Maynard, Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. J. G. Silcock do take the Chair for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Expenditure—RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to present to the next meeting of the Conservators a statement shewing the expenditure for the current half-year as compared with the expenditure for the corresponding period of last year.

Furze Cutting, etc.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants enclosing copy of a letter from the Rev. T. G. Gilling-Lax with regard to the cutting of bracken and brambles on Rusthall Common in proximity to Rusthall Vicarage and also requesting that the notice board outside the entrance to the Mission Church might be moved a few yards eastward as it rather spoils the appearance of the frontage.

The Surveyor reported that the cutting of the bracken and brambles had been done and the notice board removed to another site and his action was approved.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. C. H. Strange calling attention to the trees recently planted at the back of the Pantiles and making suggestions as to how they should be treated.

The Surveyor reported that the matter had been attended to and his action was approved.

Greyhounds on Common.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk of Tunbridge Wells transmitting copy of a letter received by the Council from the "Tailwaggers Club," with regard to the control of greyhounds in parks, gardens or open spaces.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

Committee.—RESOLVED—That the Committee be requested to keep in mind the clearance of brambles and thickets on the Commons when funds are available for that purpose.

Sheltered Seats.—RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorised to repair the ridges of the reed thatching on the sheltered seats on the Common.

Rocks.—The Surveyor called attention to a rock in the Happy Valley.

RESOLVED—That the Committee do inspect the rock in question.

Toad Rock.—RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorised to paint the fencing surrounding the Toad Rock.

Unemployment.—The Surveyor reported that he was utilizing the services of four unemployed men from the Pembury Institution, free of cost to the Conservators, for the purpose of clearing brambles, bracken, burnt gorse, etc., on the Commons.

Committee.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Lawford Andrews be appointed a member of the Committee for the ensuing year in the place of the late Mr. E. Merritt.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £108 4s. 5d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

Albert Dennis

Chairman
18th Oct 1932

Commons Conservators

18th October, 1932.

Commons Conservators.

18th October, 1932.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Dennis, J.P.), *Chairman*.

Messrs. L. Andrews, W. Hallett Reed, W. Maynard, G. De St. Croix,
J. G. Silcock, N. R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Cheale and Sir Maurice Simpson.

Appointment of Conservators.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk intimating that the Town Council had appointed Mr. Councillor St. Croix, a Commons Conservator representing the Town Council, until the 9th November, 1932, in the place of the late Mr. Edmund Merritt.

Mr. H. Elwig, J.P.—RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to convey to Mr. H. Elwig, J.P., the Conservators' best wishes for his speedy recovery to good health.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Games on Common.—A letter was received from Mr. G. Browne Young drawing attention to the nuisance caused by the playing of cricket during the evening in front of the steps at the Happy Valley.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

Fires on Common.—Letters were received from Mr. J. E. Shaw and Lt.-Col. A. Gilmore with regard to fires on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the question of the attendance of the Borough Fire Brigade at fires on the Common be brought to the notice of the Watch Committee of the Town Council.

Bicycles on Footpaths.—A letter was received from Mr. J. Macleod complaining of the riding of bicycles on footpaths on the Common, and the Clerk was instructed to reply thereto and to bring the complaint to the notice of the Police and the Common Ranger.

Obstruction of View.—A letter was received from Mr. W. J. Goodwin calling attention to the growth of shrubs on the Common at the junction of Montacute Road and Eridge Road obscuring the view of drivers and requesting that the shrubs in question may be cleared.

The Surveyor reported that he had carried out the necessary clearance and his action was approved.

Open-Air Service.—An application was received from Mr. C. T. Tyler, the Hon. Secretary of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour, for permission to hold an open-air service on the Common near the Lower Cricket Ground on August 24th.

The Clerk's reply was read and approved.

Street Improvements.—A letter was received from the Borough Surveyor transmitting plan shewing a proposed improvement at the junction of Church Road and Mount Ephraim, and asking for the consent of the Commons Conservators thereto.

RESOLVED—That the Borough Surveyor be informed that, so far as the Commons Conservators are concerned, they offer no objection to the proposed improvement but at the same time they desire to point out that it is necessary to obtain the consent of the Lord of the Manor and the Freehold Tenants thereto.

Accounts—Year ended 25th March, 1932.—The Auditors' Report on the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1932, was received and considered.

Commons Conservators

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1932, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted and that a summary thereof be sent to each Conservator.
- (b) **RESOLVED**—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale for their services as Auditors and that they be re-appointed Auditors for the current year.

Expenditure.—The Clerk submitted the following statement shewing the expenditure for the current half year as compared with the expenditure for the corresponding period of last year :—

					<i>For the half year ending 29th September.</i>					
					1931.			1932.		
					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance due to Treasurer	...	...	...	...	165	11	1	41	7	4
Wages	...	...	...	...	141	5	7	151	9	4
Roads and footpaths	...	...	...	...	12	16	5	2	1	3
Drainage	...	...	...	...	17	18	10	—		
Turf	...	...	...	...	4	8	8	—		
Seats	...	...	...	...	23	16	4	39	8	7
Trees	...	...	...	...	9	0	0	37	7	7
Fences	...	...	...	...	10	19	7	4	8	7
Posts and Rails	...	...	...	...	4	17	7	0	2	9
Uniforms, etc.	...	...	...	...	2	5	3	—		
Tools and Implements	...	...	...	...	0	8	9	0	3	2
Clearing Commons	...	...	...	...	77	17	11	84	0	10
Notice Boards	...	...	...	...	1	10	5	2	12	7
Gorse Cutting	...	...	...	...	11	11	9	34	18	5
Ponds	...	...	...	...	3	1	10	—		
Clerk's Salary	...	...	...	...	12	10	0	12	10	0
Surveyor's Salary	...	...	...	...	12	10	0	12	10	0
Wreath	...	...	...	...	—			1	1	0
Insurance Premium	...	...	...	...	—			0	17	9
					£512 10 0			£424 19 2		

Committee's Report.—The Committee submitted the following Report of their proceedings at a meeting held on the 13th instant—

Present—Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, W. Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and Sir Maurice Simpson.

- (1) **Rocks on Common.**—The Committee proceeded to and inspected the rocks in the Happy Valley and at Denny Bottom.

RESOLVED—That this Committee recommend that necessary work should be carried out to the base of the rock at Happy Valley and that the Surveyor be instructed to submit details and estimate of cost to the next meeting of the Commons Conservators.

RESOLVED—That this Committee recommend that a cavity under one of the rocks at Denny Bottom should be filled in with concrete and that the Surveyor be instructed to submit estimate of cost to the next meeting of the Commons Conservators.

- (2) **Steps to Footpath, London Road.**—It was reported that the steps at the lower end of the footpath leading from Molyneux Park across the Common to London Road had been damaged by a motor lorry.

RESOLVED—That this Committee recommend the Commons Conservators to instruct their Surveyor to carry out the necessary repairs and that the Clerk be instructed to ascertain, if possible, who was responsible for the damage in question and to make the necessary claim.

Commons Conservators

- (3) **Games on Common.**—It was reported to the Committee that games of cricket and football are played on a level portion of Rusthall Common near Rusthall Church overlooking the Happy Valley to the inconvenience of persons desiring to use the seats in the vicinity.

RESOLVED—That this Committee recommend the Conservators, subject to their having power to do so, to erect notices prohibiting the playing of games of football and cricket on the area of the Common in question.

- (4) **Gorse.**—RESOLVED—That this Committee recommend the Commons Conservators to instruct the Surveyor to clear the burnt bracken and gorse on Rusthall Common near "Rusthall Elms."

The Surveyor submitted the following details of works and estimates.

- (1) With respect to the Rock at Happy Valley—

To prevent further disintegration of the base of the rock, it is suggested that a sandstone and concrete facing be provided to the base on its southern side, at an estimated cost of £20 assuming unemployed labour is available.

- (2) With respect to the rock at Denny Bottom—

It is suggested that cavities at the base of the rock be made good with concrete at an estimated cost of £6 assuming unemployed labour is available.

RESOLVED—That the Report and the Surveyor's details of works and estimates be approved and that the recommendations in the Report be acted upon.

The Clerk advised that the Conservators have no power to prohibit the playing of games of cricket and football on the area of the Common referred to in paragraph 3 of the Committee's Report.

Accounts for Payment.—*Accounts amounting to £268 0s. 8d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.*

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to the Chairman for his able and courteous conduct in the Chair during the past two years.

R. H. Burdett

Chairman

6th Decr 1932

Commons Conservators

6th December, 1932.

Commons Conservators.

6th December, 1932.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Burslem), *Chairman*.

Sir Maurice Simpson.

Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, A. Dennis, W. Maynard,
J. G. Silcock, Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at their meeting on the 9th ult. appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Burslem).

Mr. Alderman Dennis.

Mr. Alderman Silcock.

Councillor Sir Maurice Simpson.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Bicycles on Footpaths.—A letter was received from Mr. J. Macleod expressing satisfaction with the prompt action taken by the Conservators regarding cyclists using footpaths on the Common.

Fires on Common.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk intimating that the question of dealing with fires which occur in the undergrowth of the Tunbridge Wells Common had been under the consideration of the Watch Committee, that in the past such fires have not been dealt with by the Fire Brigade unless property was actually in danger, and it had been decided that in future, the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade should use his discretion as to whether or not he should deal with fires which occur on the Common whether property is in danger or not.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to enquire of the Town Clerk whether it was suggested that the Corporation, in respect of the Fire Brigade, had or claimed some rights which they had not hitherto claimed or exercised and also what is meant by the last paragraph of his letter, which states :—

“ At the same time the Watch Committee instructed me to notify you of this change of policy.”

Mr. H. Elwig, J.P.—A letter was received from Mrs. Elwig (on behalf of Mr. H. Elwig, J.P.), expressing thanks for the expression of sympathy in his illness and for their thanks for his services as Auditor, which he greatly appreciated.

Appointment of Committee.—RESOLVED—That Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, W. Maynard, Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and Sir Maurice Simpson be appointed the Committee for the ensuing year, and that a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their services during the past year.

Unemployment.—A letter was received from Mrs. Vernon Driver requesting that the undergrowth on the Common in front of Vale Royal may be cleared.

The Surveyor reported that he was complying with the request and his action was approved.

His Worship the Mayor reported that he had ascertained from the Surveyor that work could be obtained for from 15 to 20 men for a period of three months in connection with the cutting and clearing of old gorse, bracken, etc., and the rolling of gravel footpaths on the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons and that he offered the sum of £50 for this work from the Winter Distress Fund and a further sum of £50 after Christmas.

(a) RESOLVED—That the Conservators do accept the offer and that the provision of this work be referred to the Surveyor to arrange for proper supervision and for the insurance of the men employed.

Commons Conservators

(b) **RESOLVED**—That the Conservators do allocate a sum of £50 towards the provision of additional work on the Commons.

Estimates.—**RESOLVED**.—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in their Estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Parking on Commons.—It was reported to the Conservators that the question of the parking of vehicles on the Commons had been under the consideration of the Committee of the Freehold Tenants.

Footpaths.—It was reported to the Conservators that by the cartage of refuse damage had been occasioned to the footpath leading from Langton Road to Eridge Road along the boundary of the Tunbridge Wells Common.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Surveyor.

Dates of Meetings, 1933.—**RESOLVED**—That meetings of the Commons Conservators during 1933 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m.

Tuesday, 28th February, 30th May, 10th October and 5th December.

Accounts for Payment.—*Accounts amounting to £103 3s. 2d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.*

K. St. Burden

Chairman

28th Feb 1933.

Commons Conservators

28th February, 1933.

Commons Conservators.

28th February, 1933.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Burslem), *Chairman*.

Sir Maurice Simpson, C.S.I.

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, A. Dennis, W. Maynard, W. Hallett
Reed, J. G. Silcock and Neville R. Stone.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Fires on Common.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, intimating that he had been instructed to inform the Conservators that the Town Council was not claiming or exercising powers which they had not hitherto claimed or exercised, that for some time past it had not been the practice to deal with fires on the Common unless property were actually in danger but in future the Chief Officer of the Brigade would use his discretion as to whether or not such fires would be dealt with and this was the change of policy referred to in his letter of the 10th November, 1932.

Gorse.—A letter was received from Lt.-Col. C. G. Nurse requesting that the gorse bushes on the Common adjoining the bend of the road leading to Denny Bottom opposite the entrance to Rusthall Park might be cleared away in order to minimise the danger to traffic.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to effect a reasonable clearance of the gorse at the bend in question.

Shelter.—A letter was received from Miss M. Love suggesting the provision of a shelter on Rusthall Common on the south side of Langton Road and near to what is known as the "Coach Road" which would serve the double purpose of providing a pleasant resting place from which could be enjoyed extensive views and also cover in bad weather for those waiting for omnibuses.

The Surveyor reported that the cost of providing a sheltered seat similar to those on the Tunbridge Wells Common would be £75.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the matter be deferred until such time as the Conservators have sufficient funds available for the purpose suggested.

Work for Unemployed.—His Worship the Mayor reported that a sum of £200 had been allocated from his Winter Distress Fund during the present winter for the purpose of providing work for unemployed men on the Tunbridge Wells Commons, and that great improvements had been made in the clearance of certain portions of the Common.

It was also reported that further money may be available from voluntary sources for work on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the offer of any available funds be accepted and that the provision of work be referred to the Surveyor to arrange for proper supervision of the men employed.

Seats.—Questions relating to the provision of additional seats in the Happy Valley were considered.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators approve of the provision of two additional seats in the Happy Valley and that the matter be referred to the Committee with power to act.

Accounts—Year ending 25th March, 1933.—The Clerk submitted draft accounts for the year ending 25th March, 1933.

RESOLVED—That the accounts be, in due course, submitted for audit, and that a copy of the audited accounts be sent to each Conservator.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £174 16s. 4d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

Albert Dennis
Chairman
30th May 1933

Commons Conservators

30th May, 1933.

Commons Conserbators.

30th May, 1933.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, A. Dennis, W. Maynard, W. Hallett
Reed, N. R. Stone and H. Thorpe.

Chairman.—**RESOLVED**—That Mr. Albert Dennis do take the Chair for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Shelter.—A further letter was received from Miss M. Love urging the provision of a shelter on Rusthall Common.

RESOLVED—That Miss Love be informed that the Conservators cannot see their way to place on Rusthall Common the shelter for which she asks.

Deposits on Common.—A letter was received from Mrs. M. Messer calling attention to the condition of the Mt. Ephraim end of the Common and the Clerk was instructed to reply thereto.

Brambles.—**RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to clear the brambles on the Common in the vicinity of "Gibraltar" in the autumn.

Parking on Common.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants enquiring what action, if any, could be taken against car owners who refuse to pay parking fees when demanded by the Commons Ranger.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to inform the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants that the Conservators have nothing to do with the collection of the parking fees which are presumably charged by the Lord and Freehold Tenants and they suggest that he should communicate with the Solicitors of the Lord and Freehold Tenants on the subject.

Committee's Report.—The Committee submitted the following Report of their proceedings at a meeting held on the 26th May :—

SEATS, HAPPY VALLEY.

The Committee inspected positions of existing seats at the Happy Valley and selected sites for two additional seats as sanctioned by the Conservators at their last meeting.

POND, LANGTON ROAD.

The Committee inspected the pond by the side of the Langton main road near the Borough boundary, Rusthall Common, and recommended that no action be taken with regard to the filling in and draining of this pond.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's Report be approved.

Accounts—Year ended 25th March, 1933.—The Clerk submitted the audited Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1933.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £210 11s. 0d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

Albert Dennis
Chairman
10th October 1933

Commons Conservators

10th October, 1933.

Commons Conserbators.

10th October, 1933.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, A. Dennis, H. Elwig, W. Maynard,
J. G. Silcock, N. R. Stone and Hallett Reed.
Sir Maurice Simpson, C.S.I., and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

Chairman.—**RESOLVED**—That Mr. Albert Dennis do take the Chair for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Seats.—A letter was received from Miss Mabel Roberts suggesting the provision of additional seats on the Common near the old forge at the Pantiles end of the Common and also along the path from opposite Castle Street to London Road opposite the Rose Bank Hotel.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee to inspect the localities and report thereon to the Conservators.

Drinking Tap.—A letter was received from Mr. Alderman Caley calling attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the ground under the drinking tap at the Upper Cricket Ground.

The Surveyor reported that the trouble arose from children stopping up the grating and drain, but he had done what he thought would remedy any existing cause of complaint, and his action was approved.

Major Yorke's Road—Cross Roads.—A letter was received from Major-Gen. Sir Arthur Money requesting that the grass on the Common might be cut for 30 or 40 yards on either side of the cross roads leading from Major Yorke's Road to Hungershall Park.

The Surveyor reported that he had cut the grass in question and his action was approved.

Grass Cutting.—A letter was received from Miss A. Allistone requesting that the grass on the plot in front of her residence, No. 27, Eridge Road, which she understood belonged to the Town might be cut.

The Surveyor reported that the grass in question had been cut and his action was approved.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to inform Miss Allistone that the grass plot to which she refers does not belong to the Corporation and that the Surveyor of the Conservators had cut the grass in question.

A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants intimating that it had been reported to them that the grass in front of the houses in Eridge Road had this year been cut by the Commons Conservators and the Freeholders Committee were of opinion that their permission should be obtained before the grass was cut as it formed part of the Waste of the Manor.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to reply that the Conservators fully recognise the herbage on the Common is vested in the Freehold Tenants and that the grass in question was cut by the Conservators in exercise of their general powers of management of the Common for the benefit of the inhabitants and not as, in any sense, challenging the Freehold Tenants' legal rights.

Sewer.—Tunbridge Wells Common.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, transmitting copy Notice which he had served upon the Lord of the Manor with reference to the laying of a sewer in the Tunbridge Wells Common.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from Mr. H. Thorpe with regard to the condition of certain footpaths on the Common.

Commons Conservators

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to inform Mr. H. Thorpe that the Conservators have instructed their Surveyor to do what he possibly can, consistently with the financial position, to remedy any complaint as to the condition of the paths on the Common.

Motor Traffic, etc., on Common.—Questions relating to motor cars and bicycles being used over the footpath adjoining Gordon Villa and the Torrington Nursing Home, were considered and the Clerk instructed to mention the matter to the Chief Constable.

Receptacles for Waste Paper, etc.—It was reported to the Conservators that the question of the provision of receptacles for waste paper, etc., on the Commons had been referred by the Town Council to the Conservators for consideration.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £280 13s. 5d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

R. H. Burdett
Chairman
5th December 1933

Commons Conservators

5th December, 1933.

Commons Conservators.

5th December, 1933.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Burslem), *Chairman*.

Sir Maurice Simpson, C.S.I.

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, A. Dennis, H. Elwig, W. Maynard,
Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and Neville R. Stone.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at their meeting on the 9th ultimo appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Burslem).

Mr. Alderman Dennis, J.P.

Mr. Alderman Silcock, J.P.

Councillor Sir Maurice Simpson, C.S.I.

The Clerk also reported that the Committee of the Freehold Tenants of the Manor of Rusthall at their Annual Meeting on the 22nd ult. appointed the following as Commons Conservators :—

Mr. Lawford Andrews.

Col. A. R. Cheale.

Mr. H. W. S. Reed.

Mr. Neville R. Stone.

Minutes.—Mr. C. Berry called attention to the wording of the second resolution under paragraph "Grass Cutting" passed by the Conservators at their meeting held on the 10th October last.

It was agreed that the wording of the resolution should be amended as follows :—

"RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to reply that the Conservators fully recognise that the Freehold Tenants have the right of pasturage and that the grass in question was cut by the Conservators in exercise of their general powers of management of the Common for the benefit of the inhabitants and not as, in any sense, challenging the Freehold Tenants' legal rights."

(a) RESOLVED—That the minutes of the last meeting, as amended, be confirmed.

(b) RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of the above-mentioned amended Resolution to the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants.

Belleville.—A letter was received from Miss C. Ravenscroft requesting that the grass around "Belleville" might be cut and that the limbs of two trees might be lopped which would be in no way detrimental to their appearance.

RESOLVED—That the letter so far as it relates to the trees be referred to Mr. C. Berry and the Surveyor with power to act as they might think desirable in the interests of the owner and tenant of "Belleville" and the Conservators.

Paths on Common.—The Surveyor reported that he had repaired two gravel paths on the Common and his action was approved.

A letter was received from Mr. H. Thorpe expressing thanks for the arrangements made by the Conservators for the repair of certain gravel paths on the Common.

Major Yorke's Road—Cross Roads.—A letter was received from Brig.-Gen. Sir A. W. Money expressing his indebtedness to the Conservators for the steps taken by them towards making the cross roads at Major Yorke's Road as safe as possible under the circumstances.

Seats.—A letter was received from Miss Mabel Roberts suggesting that the provision of a seat above the path on the Common leading to Vale Royal would be greatly appreciated.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Commons Conservators

Danger Signs.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk of Tunbridge Wells intimating that the Town Council were desirous of erecting four danger signs, two in Major Yorke's Road and two in Hungershall Park Road, near the junction of these thoroughfares, that the erection of the necessary posts would involve a slight interference with the Common as there was not sufficient space for them to be erected on the carriageway and applying for the consent of the Conservators to the proposal.

Letters were received from Messrs. C. Berry, S. V. Thorpe and Wm. Maynard on the subject.

RESOLVED—That the Town Clerk be informed that the Conservators raise no objection to the proposal to erect the danger signs in question.

Lower Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from Mr. A. C. Patten, Hon. Secretary of the Nevill Rovers Football Club, calling attention to the condition of the surface of the Lower Cricket Ground on the Common, enquiring if the work of improving the ground could be put in hand under the Mayor's Winter Distress Fund Scheme for finding work for the Unemployed, and stating that it was estimated £50 (excluding turf) would cover the expense, the improvement would provide a considerable amount of work, and would be an asset to the town.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Surveyor to discuss the matter with the Hon. Secretary of the Nevill Rovers Football Club and that the latter be informed the funds of the Conservators would not permit of any substantial outlay during the present Season.

Unemployed.—His Worship the Mayor reported that he was prepared to make an immediate Grant of £50, and also an additional Grant of £50 after Christmas, from the Winter Distress Fund for the provision of work for Unemployed on the Tunbridge Wells Commons.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the Conservators do accept the offer of His Worship the Mayor and that the provision of work on the Commons be referred to the Surveyor to arrange for proper supervision and for the insurance of the men employed.
- (b) RESOLVED—That the Grant made by the Mayor from the Winter Distress Fund be expended on labour required on the Commons, the Conservators authorising the expenditure of a sum, not exceeding £20, for the provision of materials required in connection with the repair of paths.

Motor Traffic, etc.—Questions relating to motor cars and bicycles using the accommodation road on the Common lying between Mt. Ephraim Road and Lime Hill Road were considered.

Appointment of Committee—RESOLVED—That Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, W. Maynard, W. Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and Sir Maurice Simpson, C.S.I., be appointed the Committee for the ensuing year and that a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their services during the past year.

Estimates.—The Clerk submitted a Statement of Expenditure of the Conservators to date and of the estimated expenditure up to the 25th March next.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in their Estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Dates of Meetings, 1934.—RESOLVED—That the meetings of the Conservators during 1934 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m. :—

Tuesday, March 6th, June 5th, October 16th, and December 4th.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £213 0s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

R. H. Burslem
Chairman
6th Mch 1934

Commons Conservators

6th March, 1934.

Commons Conserbators.

6th March, 1934.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Burslem), *Chairman*.

Sir Maurice Simpson, C.S.I., Messrs. L. Andrews, H. Elwig, W.

Maynard, Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and Neville R. Stone.

Appointment of Conservators.—A letter was received from Mr. Frank O. Baird, the Lord of the Manor, intimating that he had re-appointed Messrs. Berry, Elwig, Maynard and Thorpe to act as Conservators.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

"Belleville."—The Clerk reported that Mr. C. Berry and the Surveyor had inspected the trees at "Belleville" and the Surveyor had informed Miss Ravenscroft that it was not considered safe to trim further the chestnut tree and that as the trunk of the tree was inside her fence any further communication should be addressed to the Lord of the Manor which suggestion also applied to the tree in the back yard.

RESOLVED—That the terms of the letter addressed by the Surveyor to Miss Ravenscroft be approved.

A further letter was received from Miss Ravenscroft expressing her regret at the decision which had been arrived at with regard to the trees at "Belleville."

Committee's Report.—The Committee submitted the following Report of their proceedings at a meeting held on the 29th January, 1934.

- (1) **Trees.**—A letter was received from the Hon. Secretary of the Homoeopathic Hospital requesting that the Conservators would be good enough, as on a previous occasion, to have the trees on the Common in London Road facing the Hospital trimmed.

The Committee proceeded to London Road and inspected the trees in question.

The Surveyor reported that he was prepared to certify that the four trees in question were practically dead and in a dangerous condition.

RESOLVED—That the Committee recommend the Commons Conservators to instruct their Surveyor to make the necessary arrangements, in conjunction with the Bailiffs of the Lord of the Manor, for the cutting down of the four trees referred to.

- (2) **Seats.**—The letters from Miss Mabel Roberts with regard to the provision of additional seats on the Common were considered.

The Committee inspected the sites suggested for seats by Miss Roberts.

RESOLVED—That this Committee recommend the Conservators :—

- (1) To provide one additional seat on the Common on the slope above King Charles' Church in a position slightly above the stumps of two trees which have been cut down.
- (2) To provide one additional seat near the steps on the Common at the back of the Pantiles.
- (3) To inform Miss Roberts that the site suggested by her for an additional seat near the silver birch tree adjoining the path leading to Vale Royal is unsuitable owing to the existing growth of gorse on the site.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's Report be approved and that the recommendations therein contained be adopted and acted upon.

RESOLVED—That in the event of the Lord of the Manor not making the necessary arrangements for the removal of the trees from the Common in London Road, the Surveyor be authorised to make the necessary arrangements for their removal.

Commons Conservators

The Surveyor reported that he had erected the seats recommended by the Committee and his action was approved.

Road on Common between Mt. Ephraim Road and Lime Hill Road.—Questions relating to the widening of the road on the Common between Mt. Ephraim Road and Lime Hill Road, caused by the traffic using the same, were considered.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee to inspect the road and to report thereon at the next meeting of the Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—*Accounts amounting to £258 6s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.*

Harry Elmy
Chairman
5th June 1934

Commons Conservators

5th June, 1934

Commons Conservators.

5th June, 1934.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Mr. H. Elwig, *in the Chair*.

Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, W. Hallett Reed, W. Maynard,
Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Henry Elwig be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Clearance of Undergrowth on Common.—A letter was received from Mr. H. T. Weeks requesting that the Conservators will consider the preservation of the Rusthall Park corner of Rusthall Common as a bird sanctuary and enclosing copy of a letter which he had addressed to the local paper on the subject but which was not published by them.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to send to Mr. H. T. Weeks a copy of the Bye-law made by the Conservators for the protection of birds on the Commons.

Protection of Birds.—A letter was received from Miss Woodd suggesting the placing upon the Commons of notices prohibiting the destruction of bird life, intensified during the nesting Season, and calling attention to the provisions of the Wild Birds Protection Act.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Kent County Council transmitting copies of Orders, which operate in Kent, with respect to the protection of wild birds and their eggs and two posters containing particulars of the provisions in force.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to send to Miss Woodd a copy of the Bye-law made by the Conservators for the protection of birds on the Commons.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. T. H. Jackson calling attention to the ivy growing upon a large tree on the Common opposite No. 4 Tweeddale Terrace, which was surrounded by an iron railing and suggesting the cutting of the ivy stems for the purpose of their removal from the tree in question.

(a) RESOLVED—That Mr. T. H. Jackson be informed that the Conservators do not see their way to recommend that any action should be taken in the matter.

A letter was received from The Misses Brett & Allen on the same subject and also requesting that the seats near the four trees recently cut down in London Road might be replaced.

(b) RESOLVED—That the Misses Brett & Allen be informed that the seats to which they referred have been replaced and that with regard to the ivy on the tree the Conservators do not see their way to recommend that any action should be taken in the matter.

Seats.—A letter was received from Miss Mabel Roberts expressing thanks for the provision of two seats near the Old Forge on the Common but regretting that no seat was being provided by the silver birches near Vale Royal.

Danger Signs on Common.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, applying for permission to erect three danger signs on the Common on sites near the junction of Church Road and London Road.

RESOLVED—That the Town Clerk be informed that the Conservators raise no objection to the proposal to erect the danger signs in question.

Notice Boards.—A letter was received from the Rev. Canon T. G. Gilling-Lax suggesting that the notice board which stands outside the Mission Church and Parish Room premises at Rusthall might be placed at the entrance to the footpath on the High Street

Commons Conservators

side, adjoining the telephone kiosk, in lieu of in its present position and also requesting that the three posts outside the Mission Church entrance might be renewed or, at any rate, repainted.

RESOLVED—That the Rev. Canon T. G. Gilling-Lax be informed that the Conservators are of opinion that if they complied with his request to change the position of the notice board such removal would cause the board to be useless for the purpose for which it was erected, and that directions have been given to the Surveyor to re-paint and, if necessary, renew the three posts to which he referred in his letter.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from the Rev. Canon T. G. Gilling-Lax calling attention to the danger arising from motorists driving on the footpath which leads at right angles from Rusthall Church to the main road and suggesting the erection of posts at the entrance to the footpath on the Langton Road side.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Damage to Fencing, etc.—Mount Ephraim.—Letters were received from Mr. J. S. Brodie and The Kinloch Motor Policies, and the Clerk was instructed to take such action in the matter as he might think desirable.

Committee's Report.—The Committee submitted the following Report of their proceedings at a meeting held on the 28th day of May, 1934 :—

Danger Signs on Common.—The Committee inspected the sites of three proposed danger signs in respect of which an application had been received from the Town Council for permission to erect at the junction of Church Road and London Road.

RESOLVED—That this Committee recommend the Commons Conservators to raise no objection to the erection of the danger signs in question.

Road on Common between Mt. Ephraim Road and Lime Hill Road.—The Committee inspected the road on the Common between Mt. Ephraim Road and Lime Hill Road.

RESOLVED—That the Committee recommend the Commons Conservators to take no action in the matter.

Trees.—The Committee inspected the tree on the Common opposite No. 4 Tweeddale Terrace in respect of which a letter had been received from Mr. T. H. Jackson requesting that the ivy might be removed from the tree.


RESOLVED—That the Committee recommend the Commons Conservators not to accede to the request.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the Committee's Report be approved and adopted.
- (b) RESOLVED—That Mr. H. Elwig be requested to keep under observation the road on the Common between Mt. Ephraim Road and Lime Hill Road.

Accounts.—Year Ended 25th March, 1934.—The Auditors' Report on the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1934, was received and considered.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1934, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted and that a summary thereof be sent to each Conservator.
- (b) RESOLVED—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale for their services as Auditors and that they be re-appointed Auditors for the current year.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £195 2s. 8d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.


 Chairman
 16th Oct 1934

16th October, 1934.

Commons Conservators.

16th October, 1934.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Mr. Alderman Dennis.

Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, J. G. Silcock,
Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—**RESOLVED**—That Mr. Alderman Dennis be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. Harold Thorpe calling attention to the condition of a beech tree, perhaps the finest on the Common, opposite the nearly dry pond in Major Yorke's Road.

The Surveyor reported that he had been in communication with the Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens on the matter, who had suggested that advice should be obtained from Messrs. R. Wallace & Co., as it would be an advantage to have someone to inspect the tree, that he had ascertained Mr. R. W. Wallace would inspect and report for the fee of £1 1s. 0d., and that with the authority of the Chairman and Mr. C. Berry (on behalf of the Lord of the Manor) he had obtained such report. He also reported that Mr. Wallace stated there was a possible chance of the tree recovering if the steps indicated in his Report were taken and he was carrying out the treatment of the tree suggested by Mr. Wallace.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor's action be approved.

Track leading to Rusthall Park.—A letter was received from Mr. Ben White calling attention to an accident which occurred to a tradesmen's cyclist delivering goods to his residence caused by the condition of the track between the rocks just beyond Rusthall Park and requesting that the Conservators would do what was necessary to improve the condition of the surface of the track in question.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk do call Mr. Ben White's attention to the correspondence which had taken place between the Manorial Authorities and Mr. H. T. Weeks, one of the residents in Rusthall Park, with regard to the repair of the track in question, and that no action be taken by the Conservators in the matter.

Damage to Fencing, etc.—Mount Ephraim.—A letter was received from the Kinloch Motor Policies at Lloyds with regard to the Conservator's claim against their insured, Miss Brodie, in respect of the damage to fencing, etc., on Mount Ephraim caused by a motor car driven by her, intimating that they were prepared to share the loss, but if the offer was not accepted it must be regarded as withdrawn.

The Clerk reported that he had placed the matter in the hands of Messrs. W. C. Cripps, Harries & Hall on behalf of the Conservators.

A letter was received from Messrs. W. C. Cripps, Harries & Hall intimating that the Insurance Co. had paid them the sum of £8 1s. 1d., the full amount of the Conservators' claim and they had paid this sum to the credit of the Conservator's account at Lloyds Bank, Ltd.

Employees.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, intimating that the Finance Committee of the Town Council had considered the subject of the eligibility of two employees engaged in connection with work on the Commons for superannuation under the provisions of the Local Government and Other Officers Superannuation Act, 1922, and he had been directed to inform the Conservators that the employees in question were not eligible for superannuation under the provisions of that Act.

The Surveyor reported on the work at present being carried out by the two employees in question.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

Eridge Road Sewer.—The Clerk reported that he had called the attention of the Town Council to the serious amount of damage to the Common by the sewerage works in Eridge Road and intimating that a claim against the Council might possibly arise.

A letter was received from the Town Clerk that the matter referred to had been considered by the Town Council who were assured that no permanent damage would be done to the herbage of the Common and that on completion of the works the whole area affected would be cleared up and restored.

RESOLVED—That the further consideration of the matter do stand over until the works are completed.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from Mr. Wm. Raiswell calling attention to the condition of the footpath on the north side of the Lower Cricket Ground and requesting that necessary repairs should be carried out.

A report was received from the Surveyor on the matter.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee and Surveyor with power to act if thought desirable.

Path leading to Bull's Hollow.—The Surveyor reported that he had received a request from Mrs. L. M. Jones that the track leading to Bull's Hollow might be repaired.

RESOLVED—That the request be not acceded to.

Pathway across Common from Mt. Ephraim Road to Lime Hill Road.—It was reported to the Conservators that private motor cars were parked on the narrow pathway leading from Lime Hill Road to Mt. Ephraim Road in front of Lime Hill House, No. 81, London Road.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to Mr. H. Elwig and the Surveyor with power to erect posts at the entrance to the pathway in question, and that the attention of the Police be called to the obstruction of the pathway in question.

Accounts for Payment.—*Accounts amounting to £397 9s. 9d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.*

E. B. Wether

Chairman

4th December 1934

Commons Conservators

4th December, 1934.

Commons Conservators.

4th December, 1934.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Weekes), *Chairman*.

Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, Hallett Reed,
J. G. Silcock and Neville R. Stone.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its meeting on the 9th ultimo appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Weekes, J.P.).

Mr. Alderman Allan.

Mr. Alderman Dennis, J.P.

Mr. Alderman Silcock, J.P.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Roads.—A letter was received from Mr. G. A. Price calling attention to the dangerous corner on Rusthall Common, at the junction of the Coach Road and the road leading to Denny Bottom, and suggesting that the corner should be taken off.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Town Council.

Committee's Report.—The Committee submitted the following Report of their proceedings at a meeting held on the 16th ultimo :—

Lower Cricket Ground—Footpath.—The Committee inspected the footpath on the upper side of the Lower Cricket Ground.

RESOLVED—That, provided the Surveyor can obtain test labour for the work required, he be instructed to repair the footpath in question at a cost not exceeding £15 for material and haulage.

Trees—Mount Ephraim.—The Committee inspected the trees on Mount Ephraim opposite "Oakhurst."

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to make the necessary arrangements, in conjunction with the Bailiffs of the Lord of the Manor, for the cutting down of four trees on Mount Ephraim opposite "Oakhurst" and that in the event of the Lord of the Manor not exercising his right to the timber, the Surveyor be authorised to arrange for their removal from the site.

Footpath leading from Rusthall Church to Langton Road.—The Committee inspected the footpath leading from Rusthall Church to the Langton Road.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to erect three posts at the Langton Road end of the footpath in question.

Beech Tree—Major Yorkes Road.—The Committee inspected the beech tree adjoining the Fir Tree Pond in Major Yorkes Road.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's Report be approved.

The Surveyor reported that the four trees on Mount Ephraim opposite "Oakhurst" which are referred to in the Committee's Report, had been removed, and that the posts at the Langton Road end of the footpath leading from Rusthall Church to Langton Road had been erected.

Appointment of Committee.—**RESOLVED**—That Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, A. Dennis, W. Maynard, W. Hallett Reed and J. G. Silcock be appointed the Committee for the ensuing year and that a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their services during the past year.

Commons Conservators

Unemployed.—The Surveyor reported that His Worship the Mayor was prepared to make an immediate grant of £30 from the Winter Distress Fund for the provision of useful work on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do accept the offer of His Worship the Mayor and that the provision of work on the Commons be referred to the Surveyor to arrange for the necessary works and for proper supervision and insurance of the men employed.

Estimates.—The Clerk submitted a statement of the estimated expenditure of the Conservators to the 25th March next.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in their Estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Dates of Meetings, 1935.—**RESOLVED**—That the meetings of the Commons Conservators during 1935 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m. :—

Tuesday, 5th March, 4th June, 15th October and 3rd December.

Trees.—It was reported to the Conservators that certain Freehold Tenants, at their meeting on the 14th ult., had requested that the attention of the Conservators might be called to alleged overcutting of trees on the Commons.

Toad Rock.—It was reported to the Committee that children climb over the railings surrounding the Toad Rock, dig the sand, and play games in the enclosure.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to do what may be necessary to prevent children having access to the enclosure and the Rock.

Tank on Common.—It was reported to the Conservators that a suggestion had been made that flower beds should be around the tank on the Common near the General Post Office.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £1 10s. 0d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

J. G. Silcock
Chairman
4th March 1935.

Commons Conservators

5th March, 1935.

Commons Conservators.

5th March, 1935.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. T. C. Allan, L. Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Hallett Reed, W. Maynard, N. R. Stone and J. G. Silcock.

Chairman.—**RESOLVED**—That Mr. Alderman Silcock be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Silver Jubilee Celebrations.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, enquiring whether, in the event of it being so desired, the Conservators would sanction the construction of a bonfire on the Common, preferably at a point between the Queen's Grove and the Rocks to the North thereof, whether, in the event of a meeting being held on the Common, they would agree to the erection of a platform on or in the vicinity of the said Rocks or alternatively on the Lower Cricket Ground, and also, in the event of it being desired, they would sanction the planting of trees on the Commons by His Worship the Mayor and the President of the Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade.

RESOLVED—That general consent be given to the applications and that the applications be referred to a Committee consisting of His Worship the Mayor and Mr. Alderman Allan (representing the Commons Conservators), Mr. Charles Berry (representing the Lord of the Manor), Mr. N. C. Yates (representing the Royal Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade), in conjunction with the Surveyor to the Conservators with power to take such action as they may think desirable in relation to the whole subject, it being a condition of such consent that the Town Council undertake to make good any damage which may be done in or about the execution of any works, including such reparations of the turf as may be needful.

Riding on Commons.—It was reported to the Conservators that the Freehold Tenants had received complaints of riding on the Commons contrary to the Bye Law.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to ascertain the names of the offenders and, in the first instance, to issue warnings in each case.

Vehicles on Common.—It was reported to the Conservators that motor cars were being driven across that part of the Common which lies between Dudley and York Roads.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to make a report thereon to the Clerk, who was instructed in the matter.

Trees.—Questions relating to the beech tree in Major Yorke's Road and to two lime trees on the Common opposite Mount Ephraim House were considered.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee to inspect the trees in question and with power to act.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £206 8s. 4d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

J. G. Silcock
Chairman
14th June 1935

Commons Conservators

4th June, 1935.

Commons Conservators.

4th June, 1935.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. T. C. Allan, L. Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Silcock be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Riding on Commons.—A letter was received from Mr. R. O. Peate repudiating the complaint made against him of riding on the Commons contrary to the Bye Laws.

Silver Jubilee Celebrations.—The following proceedings of the Sub-Committee at a meeting held on the 13th March last were submitted:—

13th March, 1935.—At a meeting of the Sub-Committee held at No. 11, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Weekes, J.P.),
Chairman.

Mr. Alderman Allan.

Mr. Charles Berry and Mr. Norman C. Yates.

Arrangements for Silver Jubilee Celebrations on Common.—The Sub-Committee proceeded to the Common and inspected the site between the Upper Cricket Ground, the Wellington Rocks and The Queen's Grove and agreed to the following:—

- (1) That the bonfire be constructed on the bare space approximately 50 yards South of the Wellington Rocks.
- (2) That a platform be erected on the South side of the Wellington Rocks.
- (3) That two oak trees be planted on the Common near "Fonthill."
- (4) That the apparatus required for the wire-walker be erected on a site above The Queen's Grove about midway between the footpaths, one leading to The Pantiles and the other to the Central Post Office.
- (5) That the refreshments be served to the school children on the area lying between the Upper Cricket Ground and the Wellington Rocks, above the bonfire site.

Mr. Berry intimated that he would communicate with the Lord of the Manor on various matters which arise in connection with the above arrangements with a view of obtaining his consent.

The following letter was received from Messrs. Berry & Berry:—

COPY.

11, CHURCH ROAD,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
15th March, 1935.

DEAR SIR,

MANOR OF RUSTHALL.

We are instructed by the Lord of the Manor to express his approval of the arrangements in respect of a bonfire, the erection of a platform, catering arrangements, Wire walker's apparatus and the planting of two trees as proposed by the Committee appointed for consideration of the Celebration of the King's Jubilee.

If there are any modifications of the proposed arrangements we should be obliged if you would notify us.

Yours faithfully,

(sd.) BERRY & BERRY.

The Clerk,
The Commons Conservators,
Town Hall,
Tunbridge Wells.

Commons Conservators

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That the thanks of the Commons Conservators be given to Mr. F. O. Baird, the Lord of the Manor, for his gracious reception of the application for permission to carry out the Silver Jubilee Celebration arrangements on the Tunbridge Wells Common and for his sanction thereof.

The attention of the Conservators was called to paragraph (3) of the Sub-Committee's report, and to the fact that chestnut trees had been substituted for oak trees.

- (b) **RESOLVED**—That the consideration of the matter be adjourned to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Questions relating to the cost of providing a tree guard for one of the trees planted on the Common in connection with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations were considered and adjourned to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Trees.—The Surveyor reported to the Conservators that the beech tree adjoining the Fir Tree Pond in Major Yorke's Road was dead.

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to make the necessary arrangements, in conjunction with the Bailiffs of the Lord of the Manor, for the cutting down of the tree in question, and that in the event of the Lord of the Manor not exercising his right to the timber, the Surveyor be authorised to arrange for its removal from the site.

Questions relating to two lime trees on Mount Ephraim adjoining Mount Ephraim House were considered.

- (b) **RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to make the necessary arrangements, in conjunction with the Bailiffs of the Lord of the Manor, for the cutting down of one of the lime trees, and that in the event of the Lord of the Manor not exercising his right to the timber, the Surveyor be authorised to arrange for its removal from the site.

- (c) **RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed to lop the second lime tree.

- (d) **RESOLVED**—That the question of planting other trees to replace the two lime trees referred to in the above resolution be considered by the Conservators at their next meeting.

Litter on Commons.—Questions relating to litter on the Common near "The Elms," Rusthall, were considered and referred to the Surveyor for his attention.

Games.—Questions relating to the playing of football on Rusthall Common on Sundays were considered.

Cycling on Commons.—Questions relating to an alleged prevalent practice of cycling on the footpaths on the Common were considered.

RESOLVED—That the attention of the Police be called to the matter.

Vehicles on Commons.—It was reported to the Conservators that observation was being kept on that portion of the Common, which lies between the entrances to Dudley and York Roads with a view to ascertaining if motor vehicles were being driven across the turf and the Clerk was instructed.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £313 15s. 9d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

Albert Denning
Chairman
15th Dec 1935

15th October, 1935.

Commons Conservators.

15th October, 1935.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. T. C. Allan, L. Andrews, C. Berry, A. Dennis, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, W. Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock, Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Dennis be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Agendas of Meetings.—RESOLVED—That in future the Clerk be instructed to send out with the Agendas for the meetings of the Conservators a copy of all correspondence which has transpired since the last meeting of the Conservators.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from Canon T. G. Gilling Lax with regard to the condition of two footpaths in the north east corner of Rusthall Common.

The Clerk's reply thereto was read.

The Surveyor reported that he estimated the cost of putting the paths into full repair at £45.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to do what, in his opinion, was absolutely necessary for the repair of the two footpaths in question.

Notice Boards.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, forwarding an extract from a letter received by him from Col. Behrens, of "Rusthall Elms," complaining that the notice board and direction post at the entrance road to his house had been destroyed five times in the last four and a half years, suggesting that the notice boards which had the authority of the Commons Conservators appear to escape damage, and if the Conservators would put up such a notice board for him at his expense it might escape damage.

RESOLVED—That the Town Clerk be informed that the Conservators have no power to agree to the suggestion made by Col. Behrens.

Grass Cutting.—A letter was received from Major General Sir A. W. Money requesting that the grass on the Common at the junction of Hungershall Park and Major Yorke's Road might be cut.

The Clerk reported that he had forwarded a copy of the letter to the Surveyor to the Conservators.

The Surveyor reported that the grass had been cut in accordance with the request received from Major General Sir A. W. Money.

The Commons.—A letter was received from Mrs. Messer drawing attention to the present condition of the Common.

The Surveyor reported that eight men had been employed in clearing litter from the Common during August and every possible precaution had been taken to keep the Common free from litter, and the Clerk was instructed to reply to Mrs. Messer's letter.

Games, etc.—A letter was received from Mr. William H. Syrus enquiring if he had to obtain permission to use the Commons for games, etc., for children from the Wesleyan Sunday School, St. Leonards-on-Sea, who proposed to visit Tunbridge Wells on the 17th July.

The Clerk's reply was read and approved.

Approach Road to New House.—Bishops Down.—A letter was received from Mr. Cecil Burns intimating that it was proposed to construct an approach road 100 feet south

of the private drive to Chancellor House, across the grass margin of Bishops Down Road and the asphalt path, which necessitated the removal of two seats facing the Common and that the work would shortly be put in hand.

It was reported to the Conservators that the Lord of the Manor and the Freehold Tenants had granted the necessary right for the construction of the road in question.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to replace in a suitable site in the vicinity, one of the seats which had been removed, and to fix the other on the site of the lime tree opposite Mt. Ephraim House, Mount Ephraim, which it is proposed to cut down.

Seats.—A letter was received from Miss M. Field calling attention to the position of the two seats at the bottom of the Common, near the bus stop—intimating that in her opinion it would be much safer if the seats could be placed further back.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee, with power to act.

Silver Jubilee Celebrations.—Questions relating to the trees on the Common near “Fonthill” and to the provision of a tree guard were considered and deferred to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mrs. Black calling attention to the three large trees in front of Ephraim Lodge, The Common, the boughs of which were overgrown and needed attention and enquiring if the Conservators would attend to them.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to do what was necessary to the trees in question.

The Clerk reported to the Committee the complaint which the Surveyor had received from the tenant of “Dingley Dell” that a large sycamore tree adjoining the cottage was dangerously situated with relation to the cottage in the event of damage to the tree by gales.

Letters and a report were received from Mr. C. Berry on the subject.

Mr. C. Berry reported that the Lord of the Manor did not require the timber of the tree in question.

- (b) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to cut down and remove the tree.
- (c) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to make the necessary arrangements in conjunction with the Bailiffs of the Lord of the Manor for the cutting down of the remaining lime tree on Mount Ephraim, opposite Mt. Ephraim House, and that in the event of the Lord of the Manor not exercising his right to the timber, the Surveyor be authorised to arrange for its removal from the site.

Mr. Berry reported that the Lord of the Manor did not require the timber of this tree.

Damage to Fence, Mount Ephraim.—The Clerk reported that a fence on Mount Ephraim was damaged on the 4th July last and that he had made the necessary claim for the amount of the damage, *viz.*, £1 8s. 10d., which had been paid.

Drilling on Common.—The Clerk reported that as a result of the letter which he addressed to each member of the Conservators to which no member had dissented, with regard to the application of the Skinners' School Officers' Training Corps for permission to exercise on the Tunbridge Wells Common on the 1st, 8th and 22nd July last, he had given the consent asked for and his action was approved.

Sewer—Eridge Road.—The Surveyor reported that the main sewerage work crossing parts of the Common adjoining Eridge Road had now been completed.

RESOLVED—That the Works Committee of the Tunbridge Wells Corporation be requested to make good the surfaces of the Common where disturbed by such sewer works and to plant the same with grass seed.

Commons Conservators

3

Cycling and Driving on Common.—The attention of the Conservators was called to cycles, handcarts and cars being either ridden or driven on footpaths on the Common.

RESOLVED—That the attention of the Chief Constable be called to the matter.

Games.—Questions relating to the language used by persons playing football on the Commons on Sundays were considered.

RESOLVED—That the attention of the Chief Constable be called to the matter.

Treasurer.—A letter was received from Mr. L. H. Beeching intimating that in consequence of continued ill health and absence from Tunbridge Wells, his father, Mr. Harold A. Beeching, had requested him to place his resignation as Treasurer before the Conservators.

- (a) RESOLVED—That Mr. Harold A. Beeching's resignation be accepted with regret and that an expression of the Conservators' thanks be given to Mr. Beeching for his services as Treasurer during the past thirty-three years.
- (b) RESOLVED—That Mr. Ernest Benjamin Stokes, of Lloyds Bank, Tunbridge Wells, be appointed Treasurer to the Commons Conservators, in the place of Mr. Harold A. Beeching resigned.

Riding on Commons.—It was reported to the Committee that complaints had been received by the Freehold Tenants of the riding of horses on the Common contrary to the Bye-laws.

RESOLVED—That in the event of names and addresses of the offenders being furnished to the Conservators the Clerk be instructed to write to them calling attention to the terms of the Bye-laws relative to riding on the Commons.

Questions relating to the prohibition of riding on the Commons in the vicinity of Tea Garden Lane were considered and deferred to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £439 5s. 10d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

E. B. Stokes

Chairman

3rd Decr 1935

Commons Conservators

3rd December, 1935.

Commons Conservators.

3rd December, 1935.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Weekes), *Chairman*.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, L. Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard,
W. S. Hallett Reed, J. G. Silcock, Neville R. Stone and S. V.
Thorpe.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its meeting on the 9th ult., appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Weekes, J.P.).
Mr. Alderman Allan.
Mr. Alderman Dennis, J.P.
Mr. Alderman Silcock, J.P.

Minutes.—The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Representatives of the Lord of the Manor called attention to the Minutes of October 15th, 1935, under the heading of "Games, etc.," and to the Clerk's reply of the 12th July, 1935, which was as follows :—

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

TOWN HALL,

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

12th July, 1935.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 10th instant, I beg to inform you that under the Bye Laws relating to the Tunbridge Wells Commons no person is allowed except with the consent of the Conservators, to play any game upon any portion of the Commons specially reserved for cricket matches.

No consent is, however, required to play on other parts of the Common.

Yours faithfully,

(sd.) W. C. CRIPPS,

Clerk.

Mr. WILLIAM H. SYRUS,
Wilwyn,
Strood Road,
St. Leonards-on-Sea.

They desired to place on record that at the meeting of the Conservators on the 15th October, 1935, they had contended that under section 167 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, it is only the inhabitants of Tunbridge Wells and the neighbourhood who are privileged to use the Commons for the purpose of playing or attending at games.

Steps on Common.—A letter was received from Mr. F. Cartwright, calling attention to the condition of the steps leading from the Common near the Pump Room.

Sewer—Eridge Road.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, intimating that the work of levelling and seeding the Common at the site of the sewerage works crossing parts of the Common was now in hand.

Treasurer.—A letter was received from Mr. E. B. Stokes, the Manager of Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Old Bank, Tunbridge Wells, intimating that he had pleasure in accepting the appointment of Treasurer to the Commons Conservators in the place of Mr. Harold A. Beeching resigned.

The Commons.—A letter was received from Mrs. Messer expressing her regret that the man she employed did not carry out her instructions to remove the hedge cuttings from the Common while she was away from home and that she would have this work carried out.

Telephone Poles.—A letter was received from the Post Office Engineering Department intimating that the Department was extending the telephone service to "Bracken Glen," The Common, Tunbridge Wells, and it was necessary to erect four poles on the edge of The Common west of the footpath leading from Langton Road to Hungershall Park, enquiring if the Conservators would agree to the proposal and transmitting the Department's usual form of consent.

The Surveyor submitted a letter he had received from the Department on the same subject.

It was reported to the Conservators that the Lord of the Manor and Freehold Tenants had given their consent.

RESOLVED—That the Commons Conservators do consent to the proposal and that the Clerk be authorised to sign the Form of Consent submitted by the Post Office Engineering Department.

Damage to Fence—London Road.—The Clerk reported that the fence in London Road, opposite to the General Post Office, was damaged by a Post Office Departmental van on the 4th inst., that he had made a claim for the cost of repairing the damage, amounting to £1 0s. 0d., which had been paid.

Damage to Stone Wall on The Spa Estate.—A letter was received from Messrs. Brackett and Sons intimating that they had been requested by the Trustees of the Estate of the late W. B. Dick, Esq., who were the Freeholders of the property, to approach the Commons Conservators with respect to the damage caused by a tree which fell on the wall during the recent gales, that they estimated the cost of making good the damage at £2 15s. 0d. and enquiring what the Conservators proposed to do in the matter.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to enquire of Messrs. Brackett & Sons on what grounds they suggest that the Conservators had any liability in the matter.

Riding on Commons.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants intimating that the Common Ranger had reported the names of persons using the Common for the purpose of riding on horses and that the portion of the Common most damaged was that piece opposite the Coach Road from the Rusthall Cricket Ground to The Fountain at the top of Lower Green Road.

The Clerk reported the names and addresses of the persons to whom he had written calling attention to the terms of Bye Law No. 31 with regard to riding on the Commons.

It was reported to the Conservators that the Surveyor was preparing a plan which would shew a suggested area over which the Conservators might consider the desirability of making an order prohibiting riding and that the plan would be presented to the Conservators at their next meeting.

Silver Jubilee Celebrations.—Questions relating to the trees on the Common near "Fonthill" were considered and referred to the Committee, with power to act, and His Worship the Mayor was added to the Committee for this purpose.

Tree Guards.—Questions relating to the provision of a tree guard around one of the trees on the Common, opposite "Tweeddale Terrace," were considered and referred to the Sub-Committee with power to act, and His Worship the Mayor was added to the Committee for this purpose.

Surveyor.—**RESOLVED**—That, as from the 29th September, 1935, the salary of the Surveyor be increased from £25 to £40 per annum.

Clerk.—**RESOLVED**—That, as from the 29th September, 1935, an allowance be made to the Clerk of £5 per annum for clerical assistance in connection with the duties of his office.

Footpaths.—It was reported to the Conservators that motor lorries used the footpath leading from "The Morning Star" across Rusthall Common in the direction of "Rusthall Elms."

RESOLVED—That observation be kept on the footpath in question and that enquiries be made upon the subject.

Appointment of Committee.—RESOLVED—That Messrs. Lawford Andrews, C. Berry, A. Dennis, W. Maynard, W. S. Hallett Reed and J. G. Silcock be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year and that a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their services during the past year.

Estimates.—The Clerk submitted a Statement of the estimated expenditure of the Conservators to the 25th March next.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in their Estimates for the next Financial Year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Dates of Meetings, 1936.—RESOLVED—That the meetings of the Commons Conservators during 1936 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m. :—

Tuesday, March 3rd ; July 7th, October 13th and December 1st.

Henry King
Chairman
3rd March 1936.

3rd March, 1936.

Commons Conservators.

3rd March, 1936.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. T. C. Allan, L. Andrews, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, W. S. Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Henry Elwig be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from Miss E. A. Cumming with regard to the material used in the repair of the footpath leading from the Pantiles to the High Rocks Lane.

The Surveyor reported that some deep channels and holes, which had been washed out by recent heavy rains in the footpath in question, had been made good with road siftings which material was used on all similar paths on the Common.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to forward to Miss Cumming an extract from the Surveyor's Report and to inform her that in view thereof they do not propose to take any further action.

Footway leading to "Rusthall Elms."—A letter was received from Messrs. Berry & Berry on the subject of the user of the road and footway leading to "Rusthall Elms" and "Dornden" for the purpose of carting building material, calling attention to the fact that the accommodation road from Langton Road to "Dornden" farm, though on the Waste of the Manor does not form part of the Commons as defined by the 1890 Act, and that the pathway, from the termination of the accommodation road was, they understood, formerly an occupation road leading to a farm but had now become simply a pathway and it was only the user of a portion of this pathway which was under the jurisdiction of the Commons.

The Committee reported that it had inspected the footway in question and had passed the following resolution:—

"That the Surveyor be instructed to communicate with the builder concerned and point out to him that the user of the footway leading from "Langton Road to 'Rusthall Elms' for the purposes of carting building materials must be discontinued."

RESOLVED—That the Committee's resolution be confirmed.

Riding on Commons.—Questions relating to riding on the Commons contrary to the terms of Bye-Law No. 31 were again considered.

The Surveyor submitted a plan showing a suggested area over which the Conservators might consider the desirability of making an Order prohibiting riding.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Committee's Report.—The Committee submitted the following Report of their proceedings at a meeting held on the 27th ultimo:—

(1) **Trees.**—The Committee inspected various trees on the Common.

1. RESOLVED—That the Commons Conservators be recommended:—

- (a) to instruct the Surveyor to remove a portion of a tree adjoining "Belleville" which is considered to be dangerous.
- (b) to instruct the Surveyor to trim a tree adjoining "Belleville"
- (c) to instruct the Surveyor lightly to trim some branches of an elm tree adjoining "St. Helena"

(d) to instruct the Surveyor either (1) subject to the consent of the Lord of the Manor to remove a chestnut tree adjoining " St. Helena " or (2) to trim the limbs of the tree in question which overhang the " St. Helena " property

(e) to instruct the Surveyor to trim the outer branches of four lime trees on the Common in front of Montacute Gardens.

2. **RESOLVED**—That the Surveyor be instructed forthwith to remove the two dead chestnut trees near " Fonthill," The Common, and to plant two oak trees in their place.

(2) **Tree Guards.**—The Committee inspected the condition of a tree guard around a tree on the Common adjoining the footpath leading from The Pantiles to Vale Royal.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

(3) **Driving on Common.**—The Committee considered a letter from Miss Foot requesting that a licence might be granted to her to drive her car over the cobbled stone way on the Common in front of " Rockview," 78, London Road.

RESOLVED—That the Commons Conservators be recommended to inform Miss Foot that they are unable to give their consent to her proposal and to suggest that she should make provision for an entrance in the side wall of her premises which would give access to Dudley Road.

(4) **Seats.**—The Committee considered the setting back of the two seats at the bottom of the Common opposite King Charles' Church near the omnibus stop.

RESOLVED—That the Commons Conservators be recommended to set back, by 10 inches, the two seats in question, subject to the consideration of a Report by the Surveyor as to the work which would be required and an estimate of the cost thereof.

RESOLVED—

(1) That the recommendations contained in the Committee's Report be adopted and acted upon with the exception of Recommendation 1 (d) and Recommendation (4).

(2) That inasmuch as Recommendation (4) would involve an interference with the soil of the Commons an application be made to the Lord of the Manor for his consent to the execution of the necessary works and that if such consent be obtained Recommendation (4) of the Committee's Report be adopted and acted upon.

It was reported to the Conservators that the adoption of the Recommendation under resolution (1) 2 would comply with the terms of the minute passed by the Conservators at their meeting on the 4th June, 1935, as to the planting of two oak trees on the Common near " Fonthill."

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. F. B. Jackson with regard to two trees near " St. Helena " on the Common.

It was reported to the Conservators that the matter to which Mr. Jackson referred was dealt with in the Committee's Report.

Damage to Edges of Common.—The Surveyor reported to the Conservators on the damage caused by vehicular traffic to the edge of the Common at the junction of Tea Garden Lane and Langton Road.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to erect three posts on the edge of the Common at this junction to protect it from damage by vehicular traffic.

Questions relating to trespass by vehicular traffic at corner edges on various other parts of the Common were considered and referred to the Committee, with power to act.

Mount Ephraim Promenade.—The Surveyor reported on the present condition of the surface of Mount Ephraim Promenade.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to tar paint the surface of the Mount Ephraim Promenade.

Sheltered Seats.—The Surveyor reported that he had received a request from Mr. S. H. Dowsett for the provision of an additional sheltered seat on the Common opposite Mount Ephraim House.

- (a) RESOLVED—That Mr. S. H. Dowsett be informed that, in view of the expense which would be incurred, the Conservators are not at the present time prepared to comply with his request.
- (b) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to carry out necessary repairs to the existing sheltered seats on the Common.

The question of substituting wood panels for the existing glass panels in sheltered seats was considered.

- (c) RESOLVED—That the glass panels be retained.

Accounts—Year ended 25th March, 1935.—The Auditors' Report on the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1935, was received and considered.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1935, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.
- (b) RESOLVED—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale for their services as Auditors and that they be re-appointed Auditors for the current year.

Vacancy on Committee.—It was reported to the Conservators that Mr. Alderman Dennis desired to resign his appointment as a Member of the Committee of the Conservators.

- (a) RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Allan be appointed a Member of the Committee in his place.

It was also reported to the Conservators that Mr. Alderman Silcock had resigned as a Member of the Town Council and ceased to be a Conservator.

- (b) RESOLVED—That the question of filling the additional vacancy on the Committee be deferred to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £241 5s. 1d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

Wm. Elwig
Chairman
7th July 1936

Commons Conservators

7th July, 1936.

Commons Conservators.

7th July, 1936.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. L. Andrews, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, N. R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Henry Elwig be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Appointment of Conservator.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk of Tunbridge Wells intimating that the Town Council at its meeting held on the 1st April, 1936, appointed, until the 9th day of November, 1936, Mr. Councillor Draper as a Conservator of the Commons in the place of Mr. J. G. Silcock resigned.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from Miss E. A. Cumming with regard to the footpath leading from The Pantiles to the High Rocks Lane.

Seats.—A letter was received from Messrs. Berry & Berry intimating that they had been instructed by the Lord of the Manor to inform the Conservators that he consented to the work proposed in connection with the setting back of the two seats at the bottom of the Common opposite King Charles' Church near the bus stop.

Wild Birds.—A letter was received from Miss Ethel G. Woodd with regard to the protection of wild birds and their nests on the Commons and suggesting that the clearing and burning of gorse and undergrowth should be completed before the end of February.

A letter was received from the Local Secretary of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals requesting permission to erect notices in suitable places on the Commons warning persons against the robbing or destruction of birds, nests, and eggs.

RESOLVED—That the writer be informed that as a bye-law dealing with this matter is posted on notice boards in various parts of the Common the Conservators are unable to see their way to accede to the request.

Driving on Common.—A letter was received from Miss Foot expressing regret that the Commons Conservators were unable to give their consent to her car being driven on the public cobble stones, which she had always taken to be a continuance of the public road up to her gate and she was not prepared to consider the suggestion of an entrance from her premises into Dudley Road.

Damage, etc., on Common.—A letter was received from Mr. George Wilson complaining of the conduct of youths on the Common, whose attention had been called to damage done by them to broom growing on the Common.

The Clerk reported that a copy of the letter had been sent to the Chief Constable.

A letter was received from Messrs. E. J. Carter Banks & Bennett transmitting copy of a letter which they had sent to the Lord of the Manor in which it was stated that the Commons Ranger had reported that builders employed on the Dornden Estate (Messrs. Durrant of Uckfield) had pointed the brickwork of the boundary walls and in doing so several small trees on the Common had been cut down and bushes burnt to enable the employees to accomplish their work, that the Commons Ranger had remonstrated with them and they had replied they were entitled to cut away 3 feet from the wall if it obstructed their work, that they had been instructed by the Lord of the Mayor to communicate with the Conservators in order that the Conservators might take such action as might be considered necessary as, in the opinion of the Lord of the Manor, the matter complained of constituted an infringement of the bye-laws.

Commons Conservators.

A Report was received from the Surveyor on the matter.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to furnish Messrs. Durrant with a copy of the letter sent by Messrs. E. J. Carter Banks & Bennett to the Lord of the Manor, to call their attention to the Bye-Law No. 10, to point out the inaccuracy of their contention with regard to the three feet clearance from the wall and to request that they would give an undertaking not to repeat the unlawful acts which they appear to have committed on the Common.

Footway leading to "Rusthall Elms."—A letter was received from Messrs. Durrant Bros. intimating that they had not used the footway leading from Langton Road to "Rusthall Elms" for the purposes of carting building materials since the receipt of the instructions received by them from the Surveyor to the Commons Conservators last year.

Ponds.—A letter was received from Mrs. L. Evelyn Leeder with regard to the pond on the Common near the back entrance of "Rust Hall," complaining of mosquitoes and suggesting that the water in the pond should be treated with paraffin.

(a) **RESOLVED**—That the letter be referred to the Committee for consideration.

A letter was received from Mrs. L. M. Jones with regard to pools of water in Bulls Hollow which were alleged to be breeding grounds for various poisonous insects and which, although spread with potash, etc., continued to be a danger and requesting that the pools might be sprayed.

(b) **RESOLVED**—That the letter be referred to the Committee for consideration.

Roadways on Common.—A letter was received from Messrs. Snell & Co. (on behalf of their Clients, Mr. and Mrs. Dan) intimating that they had received the approval of the Town Planning Committee to the erection of a garage at St. Helena, The Common, which would involve the construction of an approach drive over a small portion of the Common from Mt. Ephraim and applying for the consent of the Conservators to the construction of the drive in question.

Mr. Berry reported that the approval of the Lord of the Manor had been given to the construction of the roadway and contended that the approval of the Commons Conservators was not necessary.

The Clerk advised the Conservators that, in his view the Conservators had full power to refuse the application if they thought fit to do so.

No resolution was passed in response to Messrs. Snell & Co.'s application.

Damage to Fence.—A letter was received from the Head Postmaster transmitting cheque for £3 3s. 1d., the cost of making good the damage to a fence on Mount Ephraim caused by one of the Departmental vans on the 24th April last.

Drilling on Common.—An application was received from the Skinners' School O.T.C. for permission to exercise on the Common on June 15th, 22nd and 29th last.

The Clerk reported that the application had been granted and his action was approved.

Vacancy on Committee.—**RESOLVED**—That Mr. Councillor Draper be appointed a Member of the Committee in the place of Mr. J. G. Silcock resigned.

Grass Cutting.—Mr. S. V. Thorpe reported to the Conservators that an application had been received from the Tunbridge Wells and South Eastern Counties Agricultural Society for permission to cut the grass on the Common adjoining Eridge Road on the site used for a car park in connection with the Annual Show.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators offer no objection to the cutting of the grass by the Society on the site in question.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £191 11s. 10d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

E. B. Weeks

Chapman

13th October 1933

Commons Conservators

13th October, 1936.

Commons Conserbators.

13th October, 1936.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Councillor Weekes, J.P.), *Chairman*.

Messrs. L. Andrews, T. C. Allan, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard,
W. S. Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Trees on Common near boundary of Montacute Gardens, Eridge Road.—A letter was received from Mr. Bertram S. Beale with regard to the trimming of four lime trees near the boundary of Montacute Gardens, Eridge Road.

The Clerk's reply thereto was read and approved.

A letter was received from Mr. J. E. Pownall requesting that the large sycamore tree, the branches of which overhang "Romanoff Lodge," The Common, might be lopped as the tenant complained that the drippings from this tree make the room on that side of the house damp.

The Surveyor reported that he had trimmed back an overhanging branch and his action was approved.

Roadways on Common.—The letter from Messrs. Snell & Co. enquiring whether the proposed approach across the Common to "St. Helena" was approved by the Conservators and the Clerk's reply thereto transmitting an extract from the minutes of the proceedings of the Conservators at their meeting held on the 7th July last were considered.

RESOLVED—

- (a) That the Conservators do consent to the proposal on the understanding that the fencing on either side of the proposed approach be made good to the satisfaction of the Surveyor to the Conservators.
- (b) That the attention of the Works Committee of the Corporation be called to the need for the provision of a properly constructed crossing over the public pavement at the approach in question.

Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Commons Conservators Bye-Laws.—RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to have such portions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, as relate to the Commons and also a copy of the Bye-Laws made by the Commons Conservators printed in booklet form and to furnish each Conservator with a copy.

Damage, etc., on Common.—A letter was received from Messrs. Durrant Bros. intimating that from enquiries they had made with regard to the work carried out by them at "Dornden" they had ascertained that certain small growth on the Common was cut away to enable their work to be carried out, that they regretted the damage which might have been caused and would see that it was not repeated at any future time.

Sewers under portion of the Common.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, transmitting copy of a notice which had been served on the Lord of the Manor with reference to the laying of a sewer through a portion of the Tunbridge Wells Common.

The Clerk reported the letter which he had circulated to the Members of the Committee of the Conservators on the subject and the replies which he had received thereto.

Telephones.—A letter was received from the Sectional Engineer of the Post Office Engineering Department intimating that in connection with the extension of the Department's telephonic service at Tunbridge Wells it was necessary to lay an underground telephone line as shown on the blue prints which accompanied their letter, asking for the consent of the Commons Conservators and enclosing the Department's usual consent forms for that purpose.

Commons Conservators

RESOLVED—That the Commons Conservators do consent to the proposed works, that the Clerk be authorised to sign the consent forms and that the attention of the Department be called to the fact that it should also obtain the consent of the Lord of the Manor and Freehold Tenants.

Pedestrian Crossing, Langton Road.—A letter was received from the Borough Surveyor intimating that he had obtained from the Lord of the Manor permission to erect a pedestrian crossing in Langton Road adjoining the footpath leading from Rusthall Church and Boys' School across Rusthall Common, the beacons being erected on the Common, and applying for the consent of the Commons Conservators thereto.

The Clerk reported that he had communicated with each Commons Conservator and none of them having dissented from the application being granted, he had accordingly informed the Borough Surveyor that consent was given to the proposal and his action was approved.

Surveyor of Commons.—A letter was received from the Ordnance Survey Office intimating that the revision of the Ordnance Survey was now in progress in this part of the County of Kent and requesting that such facilities as might be required to carry on the work, without unnecessary delay and with as little annoyance as possible, might be extended to their Surveyors.

The Clerk reported that he had requested the Surveyor to the Conservators to give the necessary instructions for compliance with the request contained in the letter from the Ordnance Survey Office, and his action was approved.

XX **Notices on Common.**—Questions relating to the numerous notices exhibited on Rusthall Common at the entrance to Tea Garden Lane were considered.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Rusthall Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Honorary Secretary to the Rusthall Cricket Club intimating that the Committee of the Club had under consideration the enlargement of the cricket ground, extending if possible the North and West boundaries, and also the erection of a Pavilion and requesting the sanction of the Conservators to the proposal.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the Committee be authorised (if they think fit) to sanction on behalf of the Conservators such extension of the ground as they may consider desirable.
- (b) RESOLVED—That the consideration of the question of the erection of a pavilion be deferred and that the Surveyor be instructed to obtain from the Rusthall Cricket Club a plan of the proposed pavilion, with particulars of its design, materials to be used and suggested site, for consideration by the Conservators at their next meeting.

Grass.—A letter was received from Mr. Bertram S. Beale calling attention to the very untidy condition of the small portion of the Common facing Eridge Road between the Pump Room and Montacute Road.

The Surveyor reported that he had cleared the long rough grass on the portion of the Common referred to and his action was approved.

XX **Bonfires.**—Questions relating to bonfires on Rusthall Common were considered.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Riding Bicycles on the Common.—Questions relating to the riding of bicycles on the Common were considered.

RESOLVED—That the attention of the Chief Constable be called to the matter with a view to the necessary action being taken.

Commons Conservators

Committee's Report.—The following Report of the proceedings of the Committee of the Conservators at a meeting held on the 13th October, 1936, was submitted to the Conservators :—

1—Riding on Commons.—The Committee considered the plan submitted by the Surveyor showing an area on Rusthall Common lying to the West of the Coach Road over which it was suggested an Order might be made by the Commons Conservators prohibiting riding thereon.

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That the matter be referred back to the Commons Conservators without any recommendation thereon from this Committee.

2—Ponds.—The letter from Mrs. L. Evelyn Leeder with regard to the pond on the Common near the back entrance to " Rust Hall " was considered.

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That this Committee recommend that the Commons Conservators do instruct their Clerk to enquire of Mrs. Leeder whether, in the event of the Conservators being prepared further to consider the filling in of the pond in question, she would be willing to pay the cost of the necessary drainage and other works estimated at £60.

The letter from Mrs. L. M. Jones with regard to small pools of water in Bulls Hollow was considered.

- (b) **RESOLVED**—That this Committee recommend the Commons Conservators to take no action in the matter.

3—Steps on Common opposite Castle Street.—A letter was received from the Chief Constable intimating that at the Inquest held on the 21st August last on a child who died from injuries received by being knocked down by a motor vehicle whilst crossing London Road from the steps on the Common to Castle Street, the Jury called attention to the danger to which children were exposed at this point and expressed the opinion that a guard rail placed at the foot of the steps would tend to create greater caution being taken by children before crossing the road, that the matter had been placed before the Watch Committee of the Town Council, which Committee had requested that the views of the Commons Conservators should be obtained on the proposal.

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That this Committee recommend the Commons Conservators to inform the Watch Committee that no objection would be offered by them to the proposal to set back the steps and provide a level area at the foot thereof with guard rails but the question of the disturbance of the soil was one for the consideration of the Lord of the Manor.

4—Damage to Edges of Common.—The Surveyor reported the steps he had taken either by raising the kerbs or the provision of posts for repairing the damage caused by the encroachment of traffic on the edges of three corners on the Common, and his action was approved.

RESOLVED—

- (1) That no further action be taken with regard to paragraph 1 (a) and that the Clerk be instructed to request the Chief Constable to give instructions that all cases of riding on the Commons, contrary to the Bye-Laws, should be reported with a view to proceedings being taken against the offenders.
- (2) That resolutions 2 (a) and (b) and resolution 3 (a) be approved.
- (3) That the minute under paragraph 4 be approved.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £314 18s. 5d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

Strange
Chairman
10 Decr 1936

Commons Conservators

1st December, 1936.

Commons Conserbators.

1st December, 1936.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Strange, J.P.).

Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed, J. Scrace, Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its meeting on the 9th ultimo appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Strange, J.P.).

Mr. Alderman Allan.

Mr. Councillor Raiswell.

Mr. Councillor Weekes, J.P.

A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants intimating that, at the Annual Meeting of the Freehold Tenants, the following were elected to serve as Commons Conservators, representing the Freehold Tenants, for the ensuing three years :—

Mr. Neville R. Stone.

Col. A. R. Cheale.

Mr. Hallett Reed.

Mr. J. Scrace.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from Mr. F. Cartwright calling attention to the path from Hungershall Park to the Eridge Road Railway Bridge which, in his opinion, was steep and dangerous.

The Surveyor reported and it was RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

A letter was received from Captain Newton calling attention to the soiling by cows and horses of the path leading from Rusthall Common through the "Midway," Nevill Court to the High Rocks Lane.

RESOLVED—That as the footpath, in question, is not within the jurisdiction of the Conservators, the letter be referred to the Works Committee of the Corporation.

Eridge Road Lake.—A letter was received from Mr. H. T. Smith suggesting that an addition to the many amenities of this beautiful district would be to clean out the Eridge Road lake, to make it attractive, especially for model yacht enthusiasts, widen the footpaths around the lake provide more seats and some flower beds.

RESOLVED—That Mr. H. T. Smith be informed that his suggestion shall receive consideration if and when funds are available for the purpose indicated.

Clearance of Undergrowth on Commons.—A letter was received from Canon T. G. Gilling-Lax requesting that, as the work of clearing the Common has commenced, the side of the Common which faces Rusthall Road might be cleared this winter ; that apart from the question of improvement of the appearance of the Commons, it was desirable that the part referred to should be completely cleared in connection with the danger arising to the houses in case of fire and also to prevent nuisances being committed in view of the houses ; also calling attention to the condition of several of the footpaths leading to the Church, some of which in their present condition were dangerous to those walking there at night.

Commons Conservators

The Surveyor reported that the work of clearing that part of the Commons to which Canon Gilling-Lax referred was now being carried out and that the repair of the paths mentioned was undertaken by the Works Committee of the Corporation.

RESOLVED—That the letter, in so far as it relates to the paths on the Common, be referred to the Works Committee of the Corporation.

Roadways on Commons.—The Clerk reported his correspondence with Messrs. Snell & Co. and the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, with regard to the proposed approach across the Common to "St. Helena".

Rusthall Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Rusthall Cricket Club intimating that the question of an extension of the Cricket Ground and the proposed erection of a pavilion was to be considered at a meeting of his Committee.

The Clerk reported that he had at present received no further communication from the Rusthall Cricket Club on the matter.

Ponds.—A letter was received from Messrs. Creasey, Son & Wickenden (on behalf of Mrs. Leeder) intimating that Mrs. Leeder did not feel that she should be called upon to bear the cost of abating the nuisance which she alleged to be caused by a pool of stagnant water near her residence on Rusthall Common and would like to be assured that some definite steps would be taken without further delay which would effectively deal with the trouble.

RESOLVED—That Messrs. Creasey, Son & Wickenden be informed that the Commons Conservators do not consider it incumbent upon them to take any action in the matter of which Mrs. Leeder complained.

A letter was received from Mrs. L. M. Jones in which she noted the decision arrived at by the Conservators with regard to the destruction of the mosquitoes on the pools of water in Bulls Hollow, Rusthall.

Riding on Commons.—A letter was received from the Chief Constable, Tunbridge Wells, intimating that the matter of riding on the Commons would receive his attention.

Grass.—A letter was received from Mr. Bertram S. Beale expressing thanks for the action taken by the Conservators in clearing the long rough grass on the portion of the Common facing Eridge Road between the Pump Room and Montacute Road.

Paths and Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. J. Scrace calling attention to the much frequented tarred surface path on Rusthall Common leading from Rusthall Road through the rocks to the road leading to Denny Bottom the surface of which had been damaged by recent continuous heavy rains which constituted a danger to pedestrians also calling attention to the cluster of holly trees adjoining the path in question which obstructed the light from the public lamp to the inconvenience of passengers alighting from motor omnibuses at this point.

RESOLVED—That the question of the condition of the footpath be referred to the Works Committee of the Corporation and that the question of the holly trees be referred to the Surveyor to do what was necessary.

Town Planning Scheme.—The Clerk reported that, on behalf of the Conservators, he had given notice of objection to the Scheme prepared by the Town Council in so far as it related to the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the action of the Clerk be approved and that the matter be referred to the Committee with power to take such course as might seem to them advisable in the interests of the Conservators for the protection of the Commons.

Damage to Fence.—The Clerk reported that damage had been occasioned to the fence, post and rail at the junction of Mount Ephraim and London Road by a motor lorry, and he was instructed to make the necessary claim for recovery of the cost of repairing the damage in question.

Commons Conservators

Appointment of Committee.—RESOLVED—That Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, W. Maynard, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed, and Neville R. Stone be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year and that a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their services during the past year.

Estimates.—The Clerk submitted a statement of the estimated expenditure of the Conservators to the 25th March next.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in their Estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Dates of Meetings, 1937.—RESOLVED—That the meetings of the Commons Conservators during 1937 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m. :—

Tuesday, 2nd March. 1st June. 5th October. 30th November.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £164 14s. 9d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

T. C. Allan

Chairman

2nd March 1937

Commons Conservators

2nd February, 1937.

(Special) Commons Conservators.

2nd February, 1937.—At a special meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor, *Chairman*.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, W. Maynard, W. C. Raiswell, J. Scrace and
Neville R. Stone.

Coronation of H.M. King George VI.—Questions relating to the desirability of planting trees on the Commons in commemoration of the Coronation of H.M. King George VI. were considered.

The following letter was received from His Worship the Mayor :—

TOWN HALL,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

22nd January, 1937.

DEAR SIR,

SPECIAL CONSERVATORS MEETING, FEBRUARY 2ND, 1937,
re CORONATION CELEBRATIONS.

A suggestion has been made that suitable trees should be planted on the Tunbridge Wells Common as a permanent Memorial of the Coronation of King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth.

It occurs to me that the Conservators may appreciate a letter from me giving some particulars of the proposals I have in mind to submit for their consideration.

First of all may I point out I have been in communication with Mr. Charles Berry, who has approached the Lord of the Manor on my behalf, and the Lord of the Manor has been good enough to consent in principle to the proposal.

Various positions have been suggested and considered with the intention of proposing a form of Planting which would not detract from the natural beauty of the Common nor hinder the present distant views which are a source of pleasure.

The latest ideas are :—

1. A circular grove between Mount Edgumbe and the Queens Grove ;
2. And in addition, an avenue of trees on the north and south sides of the " Donkey Road," *i.e.*, the road connecting London Road from a point facing Vale Royal to Castle Road.

These could be named the King's Grove and the King's Avenue respectively or some other names which the Conservators may prefer.

A plan showing the suggested positions will be provided for the Conservators' consideration.

About 40 trees appear to be necessary, *viz.* :—

King's Grove ... 12 trees in a circle 90 ft. across, placed 25 ft. apart.

King's Avenue ... 14 trees each side of roadway spaced about 30 ft. apart and transversely from 32 ft. to 40 ft. as may be decided.

The kind of tree for each position must be considered after examination of the sub-soil, but beautiful flowering trees, with autumnal richness of tint, is favoured, each tree being a specimen one.

Commons Conservators

I shall be pleased to further explain these notes, which I am hoping will assist the Conservators in their prior consideration.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) E. J. STRANGE,
Mayor.

W. C. Cripps, Esq., J.P., C.C.,
Clerk, Commons Conservators,
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

The Mayor explained in detail the proposals contained in his letter and submitted a plan showing suggested sites for the trees in question, and stated that he would be willing to present them.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do approve of the proposal to plant trees on the Common in commemoration of the Accession and Coronation of H.M. King George VI. and do record their appreciation of and thanks to His Worship the Mayor for his proposed gift of the trees, which they gratefully accept.

Mr. G. I. Adams attended the meeting and discussed with the Conservators types of tree suitable for planting on the two sites in question.

RESOLVED—That the types and position of the trees and the provision of tree guards be referred to a Sub-Committee consisting of the Mayor, Messrs. Allan, Scrace and Raiswell, with power to co-opt a Representative of the Lord of the Manor, and also with power to act.

The Mayor reported to the Conservators that he proposed to arrange for an Official Ceremony of the planting of the trees on Wednesday, the 3rd March next, at 3 p.m.

A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, intimating that the Coronation Celebrations Committee had been considering the form the celebrations of this event should take in the Borough and had instructed him to enquire whether, in the event of it being so desired, the Commons Conservators would be prepared to give their sanction to the following :—

1. The construction of a bonfire on the Common approximately 50 yards south of the Wellington Rocks
2. The erection of a platform on the south side of the Wellington Rocks.
3. The erection of any platform or apparatus required by the entertainers on a site above the Queen's Grove
4. The erection of the necessary tabling, etc., for the service of refreshments to the school children on the area of the Common lying between the Upper Cricket Ground and the Wellington Rocks
5. To the holding of sports on the Upper and Lower Cricket Grounds.

RESOLVED—That general consent be given to the application, it being a condition of such consent that the Town Council undertake to make good any damage which may be done in or about the execution of any works, including such reparations of the turf as may be needful.

J. L. Allan
Chairman
2nd Mch 1939

Commons Conservators

2nd March, 1937.

Commons Conservators.

2nd March, 1937.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Strange).

Messrs. T. C. Allan, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, W. C. Raiswell, J. Scrace and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Alderman Allan do take the Chair.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last ordinary meeting and of a special meeting held on the 2nd day of February, 1937, were read and confirmed.

Eridge Road Lane.—A letter was received from Mr. H. D. Smith intimating that he was pleased to learn that the matter of improvement of the Brighton Lake was still under consideration.

Coronation of H.M. King George VI.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, intimating that the Town Council accepted the consent given by the Commons Conservators to the Coronation Celebrations on the Common on the conditions indicated.

Questions relating to the erection of the bonfire were considered.

RESOLVED—That the Coronation Celebrations Committee be informed that the Commons Conservators in giving their consent to the erection of a bonfire on the Common request that the work of the construction of the bonfire should not be commenced until three weeks before the 12th May next and that it should be constructed under the supervision of the Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

Water Mains.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, transmitting copy of a Notice which had been served on the Lord of the Manor with regard to the laying of a water main in London Road.

Damage to Fence.—A letter received from the Motor Union Insurance Co., Ltd., with regard to a claim made by the Commons Conservators against their Insured for damage to a fence post and rail at the junction of Mt. Ephraim and London Road, Tunbridge Wells, on the 28th November last, and requesting to be furnished with an estimate of the cost of repairs.

The Clerk reported that he had furnished the information asked for and that the amount of the claim had been paid.

Guard Rails.—A letter was received from the Borough Surveyor intimating that the Town Council desired to erect guard rails for the protection of pedestrians at the top of the steps on the footpath leading from the Common to the General Post Office, London Road, in the position indicated on the plan enclosed with his letter and enquiring if the Conservators had any objection to the proposal.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Chairman.—At this juncture the Chair was vacated by Mr. Alderman Allan and His Worship the Mayor then took the Chair.

Commemorative Tree Planting.—The Sub-Committee (consisting of His Worship the Mayor, Messrs. T. C. Allan, W. Maynard and W. C. Raiswell) submitted the following proceedings at its meeting held on the 2nd February last :—

The Sub-Committee considered the types and position of the trees to be presented by His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Strange) and also the provision of tree guards.

Commons Conservators

Mr. G. I. Adams attended the meeting and discussed with the Sub-Committee the various types of trees suitable for planting on the Common.

RESOLVED—That the Sub-Committee approve of the planting of the following trees on the two sites suggested :—

12 " Rubiainda Chestnut " trees in a circular grove between Mount Edgcumbe and The Queen's Grove.

14 " Cherry Hisakura " trees on each side of the road commonly known as " The Donkey Road ".

The Sub-Committee also considered the suggested name for the grove of trees, " The King's Grove " and the re-naming of " The Donkey Road " as " The King's Avenue ".

RESOLVED—That the name to be given to the grove of trees be deferred to the next meeting of the Common Conservators for consideration and that application be made to the Watch Committee of the Town Council for approval to the re-naming of " The Donkey Road " as " The King's Avenue ".

RESOLVED—That this Sub-Committee recommend the Commons Conservators to provide the necessary tree guards for the trees to be planted in the grove and avenue.

RESOLVED—That the proceedings of the Sub-Committee be approved and that the recommendations therein contained be adopted and acted upon.

Building on Common.—A letter was received from Lt.-Col. W. M. Power enquiring if a space on the Common opposite the Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery could be surrendered or leased for a building to be used for the reception of the painting " King of Kings " such building to be known as " The Sanctuary ".

RESOLVED—That Lt.-Col. W. M. Power be informed that the Commons Conservators have no power to assent to such a proposal.

Trees.—A letter was received from Miss Elizabeth Mann calling attention to the condition of the trees outside her house in Eridge Road and requesting that they should be cut and lopped this spring.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee with power to act.

Shelter Seats.—A letter was received from Mr. S. H. Dowsett suggesting the provision of an additional sheltered seat on the Common in lieu of the proposed planting of trees on the Common.

RESOLVED—That Mr. S. H. Dowsett be informed that as the question of planting trees had been decided it was not possible to adopt his suggestion.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £181 9s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Strange
Chairman
1st June 1934

Commons Conservators

16th April, 1937.

Commons Conservators.

16th April, 1937.—At a special meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor E. J. Strange), *Chairman*.
Messrs. T. C. Allan, Charles Berry, W. Maynard, W. C. Raiswell,
J. Scrace and S. V. Thorpe.

Car Park—Carlton (or Lord Cornwallis) Hotel.—The Clerk reported a telephonic message he had received from Col. Seymer (Architect to Fredk. Leney & Sons, Ltd.) with regard to the proposal of his Clients to construct a Car Park adjoining the Carlton (or Lord Cornwallis) Hotel on a portion of the Common adjoining their premises in Eridge Road.

It was reported to the Conservators that the Lord of the Manor and Freehold Tenants had given their consent to the proposal.

Plans and specification of the works in connection with the proposed car park were laid before the Committee.

Mr. John Marchant, the Managing Director of Fredk. Leney & Sons, Ltd., attended the meeting in support of an application for the consent of the Commons Conservators and intimated that the car park was to be used as a public park for private cars only, that no charge would be made for its use, and that it would be open to the public at all times.

The Surveyor reported on the plan and specification.

RESOLVED—That, subject to certain minor alterations in the plan and specification to be agreed between the Surveyor to the Commons Conservators and the Architect to Fredk. Leney & Sons, Ltd., the plan and specification be approved.

It was moved that—

“ Under the provisions of section 168 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, the Conservators of the Commons hereby consent to the making by Messrs. Leney & Sons, Ltd., of the inclosure of part of the Commons near the Carlton (or Lord Cornwallis) Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, and the erection of certain fences, posts, rails and tarpaving thereon which said inclosure fences posts rails and tarpaving are described in the plan and specification hereto annexed and which has been signed by the Clerk to the Conservators and the Managing Director of Messrs. Leney & Sons, such consent being given on the following condition, *viz.*, that the public shall have free access with or without vehicles to the said inclosure.”

On a vote being taken, by a show of hands, there voted :—

For the Motion ... 2 (Messrs. W. C. Raiswell and J. Scrace).

Against ... 1 (Mr. T. C. Allan).

The motion was accordingly carried.

(NOTE.—The Lord of the Manor's representatives refrained from voting.)

Tunbridge Wells Town Planning Scheme.—A Report was received from the Surveyor on the Tunbridge Wells Town Planning Scheme and he was instructed to see the Town Clerk with regard to the correction of certain discrepancies which appear in the Town Planning Map affecting roads and footpaths on the Common as defined by the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890.

RESOLVED—That application be made to the Town Council to amend paragraph 3 of the Town Planning Scheme by the addition of the following words :—

“ save and except such parts of the Borough and District as form part of the Commons as defined by section 151 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890.”

RESOLVED—That Messrs. Cripps, Harries, Hall & Co., be instructed to represent the Conservators in reference to any legal question which may arise.

Chairman
10th June 1937

Commons Conservators

1st June, 1937.

Commons Conserbators.

1st June, 1937.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Strange), *Chairman*.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, W. C. Raiswell,
J. Scrace, Neville R. Stone, S. V. Thorpe and E. B. Weekes.

Minutes.—The minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd March, 1937, were read, confirmed and signed.

The Clerk presented for confirmation the minutes which he had prepared of the Special Meeting held on the 16th April, 1937.

The following letter from Mr. Charles Berry, dated May 27th, 1937, was read :—

(COPY.)

11, Church Road,
Tunbridge Wells.
27th May, 1937.

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of the 26th instant with draft minutes of the Special Meeting of the Conservators held on the 16th ult. which I return herewith.

I propose at the meeting of the Conservators to be held on the 1st prox. to move an amendment to the minutes on the ground that they are not an accurate record of the proceedings. Will you therefore kindly accept this letter as notice that I shall at the meeting move that the draft minutes be amended by inserting after the words " Note—The Lord of the Manor's Representatives refrained from voting " the following words :—

" it having been contended that the consent of the Lord and Freehold
" Tenants having been given, the consent of the Conservators was
" unnecessary seeing that the beneficial rights of the Lord and Freehold
" Tenants were reserved to them by the Tunbridge Wells Improvement
" Act, 1890, and the permission to construct a car park on the Waste
" of the Manor is a beneficial right) "

You will, I think, agree that the above is necessary to explain why " the Lord of the Manor's representatives refrained from voting " and further that it is a true record of what actually took place at the Meeting ; in view of this you will perhaps be disposed to amend the draft Minutes before they are circulated and so obviate the necessity for my proposed resolution.

I am of course aware that on your advice Mr. Thorpe consented to the omission from the minutes of a record of the contention, but on further consideration he desires that the contention should be recorded and in my view the minutes would be inaccurate if they contained no such record.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) CHARLES BERRY.

W. C. Cripps, Esq.,
Clerk to the Commons Conservators,
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

The following reply to the above letter was read :—

(COPY.)

Town Hall,
Tunbridge Wells.
28th May, 1937.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of the 27th instant. I enclose you a print of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the 16th April, 1937.

You will see that they stand as I originally prepared them.

It is neither customary or appropriate that minutes should contain anything more than a statement of the matters submitted to the meeting and of the decision (if any) taken thereon. Statements by a member or members of his or their reasons for voting or not voting for or against resolutions are never entered upon minutes any more than are the speeches of members.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) W. C. CRIPPS,
Clerk.

Charles Berry, Esq.,
11, Church Road,
Tunbridge Wells.

It was moved by Mr. Neville R. Stone and seconded by Mr. T. C. Allan that the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th April, 1937, as prepared by the Clerk be confirmed.

It was moved as an Amendment, by Mr. Charles Berry and seconded by Mr. S. V. Thorpe—"Subject to the insertion after the words 'The Lord of the Manor's representatives refrained from voting' of the following words:—

"it having been contended that the consent of the Lord and Freehold Tenants having been given, the consent of the Conservators was unnecessary seeing that the beneficial rights of the Lord and Freehold Tenants were reserved to them by the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and the permission to construct a car park on the Waste of the Manor is a beneficial right."

Upon a vote being taken, there voted:—

For the Amendment	...	4
Against	... ..	3

(The Chairman, Mr. Raiswell and Mr. Scrace did not vote.)

The Chairman declared the Amendment to be carried and upon the motion, as amended, being put as a substantive resolution, it was declared to be carried.

Tunbridge Wells Town Planning Scheme.—A letter was received from Mr. Neville R. Stone intimating that owing to his absence in Scotland he was unable to be present at the last meeting that, in his opinion, the Town Planning Scheme required further consideration and giving notice of a resolution he proposed to move at this meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Neville R. Stone, seconded by Mr. T. C. Allan and
RESOLVED *nem. con.*—

"That the following resolution passed at a meeting of the Conservators held on April 16th, 1937, be and the same is hereby rescinded—

"That application be made to the Town Council to amend paragraph 3 of the Town Planning Scheme by the addition of the following words—
"Save and except such parts of the Borough and District as form part of the Commons as defined by section 151 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890."

RESOLVED—That the Tunbridge Wells Town Planning Scheme be referred back to the Committee for further consideration, and that the Clerk be instructed to invite the Town Clerk of Tunbridge Wells to attend meetings of the Committee when the matter is under consideration.

Committee.—RESOLVED—That the name of His Worship the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells (Mr. Councillor Strange) be added to the Committee for the current year.

Seats.—The Clerk reported that the Works Committee of the Town Council had requested that the Commons Conservators would consider the question of the provision of a seat on the Common near the entrance to Boyne Park.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to report to the Committee thereon and that the Committee be empowered to act in the matter as they may deem advisable.

Commemorative Tree Planting.—Questions relating to the name to be given to the grove of trees which had been planted between Mt. Edgcumbe and The Queen's Grove in connection with the Coronation Celebrations were further considered.

RESOLVED—That the name of "The King's Grove" be approved.

Toad Rock Bus Stop.—A letter was received from Mr. J. Scrace with regard to the Toad Rock Bus Stop, calling attention to the fact that the Corporation had recently fixed a permanent granite kerb which was a great improvement, and pointing out that the remainder of the surface of the bus stop was on the Common and required levelling.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee with power to act and that the name of Mr. J. Scrace be added to the Committee for the purpose of dealing with this matter.

Heather.—Mr. E. B. Weekes requested that the Committee would consider the best means of preserving the heather on the Common, which was rapidly disappearing.

RESOLVED—That the Committee do report thereon and that Mr. Weekes be added to the Committee in connection with the matter.

Riding and Driving on Commons.—Mr. H. Elwig again called the attention of the Conservators to the riding of bicycles and the driving of vans on a path on the Common near the top of London Road, and he was requested to supply the Clerk with particulars of any alleged offenders.

Re-naming of "The Donkey Road."—A letter was received from the Town Clerk with reference to the application for the approval of the Watch Committee to the re-naming of "The Donkey Road" as "The King's Avenue" and intimating that the Watch Committee had come to the conclusion that it was preferable that the road in question should retain its existing name.

Coronation Celebrations.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk applying for consent to a Fireworks Display on the Lower Cricket Ground in connection with the Coronation Celebrations on the evening of Saturday, May 15th.

The Clerk reported that he had sent a copy of the application to each Conservator with an intimation that unless he heard to the contrary he proposed to give the consent asked for, and in view of the fact that no Conservator had dissented he had given the necessary consent on behalf of the Conservators.

A letter was received from His Worship the Mayor Mr. Councillor E. J. Strange, expressing thanks to the Conservators for the facilities which were so kindly afforded for the portion of the Celebrations of Their Majesties Coronation which took place on the Common.

Tobogganing on Common.—A letter was received from Mrs. L. J. E. Campbell calling attention to an alleged danger to those who toboggan on the slopes of the Donkey Road, more especially since the trees have been planted along the foot of the slope, and suggesting that precautions should be taken to prevent accidents.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the matter be deferred.

Use of Loud Speakers on Common.—A letter was received from Mr. M. C. Hughes requesting information concerning the use of Loud Speakers at meetings on the Common, to which objection had been raised, and enquiring if the Conservators could suggest a suitable position for meetings at which amplifiers would possibly be used, and the Clerk was instructed to reply that the ground lying to the S.W. of Major Yorke's Road where fairs and other entertainments are now held would in the opinion of the Conservators be a reasonably suitable position for meetings at which amplifiers could be used, but

Commons Conservators

that care must be taken (a) that no vehicles are driven or placed on the Common and (b) that the dates and times selected do not clash with those appointed for holding fairs or entertainments on the site, particulars of which could be obtained from Messrs. Carter, Banks & Bennett, the Bailiffs of the Manor of Rusthall.

Pond, Rusthall Common.—The correspondence which had passed between the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Clerk and Surveyor to the Conservators on the question of the spraying of the pond on Rusthall Common with a special oil for the prevention of the breeding of mosquitoes was considered.

RESOLVED—That the Chief Sanitary Inspector be informed that the Conservators are not prepared to adopt his suggestion.

Drilling on Common.—An application was received from the Skinners' School O.T.C. for permission to exercise on the Common on Monday, May 3rd, 10th and 24th, June 8th and 22nd and July 5th.

The Clerk reported that the application had been granted and his action was approved.

Riding on Common.—A letter was received from Miss C. Mahony Jones applying for permission to use the grass verges on the Common for the riding of horses.

RESOLVED—That the application be not acceded to.

Meetings.—The correspondence which had passed between Mr. Charles Berry and the Clerk to the Conservators on the subject of a Fascists' Meeting held on the Common on the 21st March last was submitted to the Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £278 12s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

*E. H. H. H.
Chairman
8th Oct 1934*

Commons Conservators

8th October, 1937.

Commons Conservators.

8th October, 1937.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Strange), *Chairman*.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, W. Maynard, W. C. Raiswell, W. S.

Hallett Reed, J. Scrace, S. V. Thorpe and E. B. Weekes.

Mr. Neville R. Stone.—RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to convey to Mr. Neville R. Stone an expression of the Conservators' regret in hearing of his illness and their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Sewers.—A letter was received from the Borough Surveyor intimating that owing to various obstructions in the line of the new 24in. surface water sewer, it was proposed to alter the line, which necessitated passing under the grass island situated at the corner of Lower Green Road and Ashley Gardens, Rusthall, that the necessary statutory notices would be served in due course and enquiring if there were any objections to the work proceeding as it was of a somewhat urgent character.

The Clerk's reply was read and approved.

A letter was received from the Town Clerk transmitting copy of a Notice served on the Lord of the Manor with reference to the laying of the sewer in question through a portion of the Commons.

War Tank.—A letter was received from Mr. H. Thorpe suggesting that as the Town Council had decided to remove the War Tank from the site opposite the General Post Office it occurred to him that the piece of Common in question could be planted with flowers, in the form of a rock garden, and surrounded with a low neat iron fence.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to inform Mr. H. Thorpe that the Conservators are unable to adopt his suggestion as, under the terms of the Licence under which the War Tank was placed on the Common, the piece of land in question has to be restored to its original condition if at any time the Tank is removed from its present site on the Common.

Cycling and Riding on the Commons.—A letter was received from Capt. R. G. M. Newton complaining of the riding of bicycles and horses on the Commons and urging the rigid enforcement of the Bye Laws dealing with the matter.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Chief Constable.

Gorse.—A letter was received from Capt. R. G. M. Newton calling attention to the gorse bushes on the Common on the Tunbridge Wells side of the entrance to Nevill Park, Langton Road, which obstructed the view of traffic approaching from the direction of The Spa Hotel when emerging from Nevill Park and turning to the right.

The Surveyor reported that he had trimmed the gorse bushes referred to and his action was approved.

Commemorative Tree Planting—Donkey Road.—A letter was received from the Honorary Secretary of the Coronation Planting Committee submitting a quotation for the supply of bronze Coronation plaques at a cost of 10s. 6d. each.

RESOLVED—That the quotation be not accepted.

It was reported to the Conservators that two of the trees planted in the land adjoining the Donkey Road had died.

The Mayor reported that he had arranged with G. I. Adams, Ltd., who supplied the trees, for the replacement of the two dead trees.

Damage to Fence.—The Clerk reported that he had made a claim for damage to a fence on Mount Ephraim caused by a motor car on the 5th July last, which had been paid.

Bracken on the Common.—A letter was received from Mr. Fredk. G. Cooke calling attention to the amount of bracken growing on the Commons and suggesting the desirability of its clearance.

RESOLVED—That Mr. Frederick G. Cooke be informed that the Conservators endeavour, so far as their finances permit, to clear any excessive growth of bracken.

Committee's Report.—The following minutes of the proceedings of the Committee at its meeting on the 7th October, 1937, were submitted to the Conservators for approval:—

7th October, 1937.—At a meeting of the Committee of the Commons Conservators.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Strange), *Chairman*.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, W. Maynard and W. C. Raiswell.

In attendance:—

Messrs. J. Scrace and E. B. Weekes.

1—Notices—Tea Garden Lane.—The Committee inspected the numerous Notices exhibited on Rusthall Common at the entrance to Tea Garden Lane.

RESOLVED—

- (a) That the Conservators be recommended to request the Watch Committee of the Town Council to consider the removal of the speed limit notices to a point near "Rusthall Beacon."
- (b) That the Conservators be recommended to remove the notice, prohibiting the parking of cars on the Common, at the corner of Langton Road and Tea Garden Lane and to erect a revised form of notice on the existing post on the West side of the entrance to Tea Garden Lane.

2—Bonfires on Common.—The Committee considered questions relating to Bonfires on Rusthall Common.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators be recommended to prohibit the building of bonfires on the Commons except during a period of ten days preceding the 5th day of November in any year.

3—Toad Rock Omnibus Stop.—The Committee inspected the site of the Toad Rock Omnibus Stop.

RESOLVED—That the Committee recommend the Conservators to make application to the Lord of the Manor for permission to form a tar macadam surface 10 yards long and 4 feet wide on the Common adjoining the Toad Rock Omnibus Stop near Bull's Hollow, Rusthall Road.

4—Seats.—The Committee considered the request of the Works Committee of the Town Council with regard to the provision of a seat on the Common near the entrance to Boyne Park.

It was reported to the Committee that a seat had recently been erected at Boyne Park close to the site in question.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators be recommended to take further action in the matter.

5—Tobogganning on Common.—Questions relating to tobogganning on the Common adjoining the Donkey Road were discussed.

6—Guard Rails.—The letter from the Borough Surveyor, with accompanying shewing suggested guard rails on the footpath on the Common leading to the General Post Office, was considered.

J. Millman
Chayman
30th Nov 1937

30th November, 1937.

Commons Conservators.

30th November, 1937.—At a Meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Hillman), *Chairman*.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, W. C. Raiswell, J. Scrace, Neville R. Stone, E. J. Strange and S. V. Thorpe.

Mr. Neville R. Stone.—Mr. Neville R. Stone expressed his thanks to the Conservators for their good wishes in his illness passed by resolution at their last meeting.

Clerk to Conservators.—An intimation was received from Mr. W. C. Cripps regretting his absence from the meeting owing to a chill which compelled him to keep to his room.

RESOLVED—That the best wishes of the Conservators be conveyed to Mr. Cripps for his speedy recovery to good health.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its meeting on the 9th instant appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Hillman).
Mr. Alderman Allan.
Mr. Councillor Raiswell.
Mr. Councillor Strange.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Town Planning Scheme.—RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to summon a meeting of the Special Committee appointed to consider questions relating to the Tunbridge Wells Town Planning Scheme and to invite the Town Clerk to be present at such meeting.

Commemorative Tree Planting, Donkey Road.—A letter was received from George I. Adams, Ltd., intimating that, so soon as the proper time arrived, they would replace the two Cherry Trees which had died in the Donkey Road.

Bonfires on Common.—A letter was received from Mr. F. Whitmore with regard to the purport of his previous letter on the subject of bonfires on the Common.

Rusthall Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Rusthall Cricket Club intimating that part of the playing area of the Cricket Ground had become badly worn through constant use and it was proposed to have it re-turfed, where necessary, that the consent of the Freehold Tenants and the Bailiffs of the Lord of the Manor had been obtained and it was assumed that the Conservators would raise no objection.

The Clerk's reply intimating that the Conservators offered no objection to the proposed re-turfing was read.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk's action be confirmed.

Lower Cricket Ground.—Questions relating to the condition of the turf on portions of the Lower Cricket Ground and to the drainage on the western side of the Ground were considered and the Surveyor was instructed to keep the matter in mind for attention.

Notices—Tea Garden Lane.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, with regard to the removal of the Speed Limit notices in Tea Garden Lane to a point near "Rusthall Beacon," intimating that the Town Council were taking the necessary steps to obtain the approval of the Minister of Transport to an Order directing that Tea Garden Lane and a portion of High Rocks Lane

should be deemed to be roads in "built-up" areas and that, in the event of the Order being approved, the notices to which the Conservators referred would be removed from their present position.

Omnibus Stop and Traffic Notice.—A letter was received from Messrs. Berry and Berry intimating that their Client, the Lord of the Manor, saw no objection to the formation of a tarmacadam surface on the Common adjoining the Toad Rock Omnibus stop and to the erection of a guard post at the corner of the road leading to Denny Bottom at its junction with the road to "Rustwick," subject to the payment of acknowledgment rentals of 1/- per annum in respect of each of the matters referred to and to the condition that the tarmacadam and guard post should be removed if and when required by him.

The Clerk reported that no power was contained in the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act for the payment of rentals by the Conservators and he suggested that the rentals should be paid by the Town Council.

RESOLVED—That the correspondence with Messrs. Berry and Berry be referred to the Town Clerk with a view of ascertaining if the Town Council would be prepared to pay the acknowledgment rentals asked for by the Lord of the Manor.

Damage to Fence.—The Clerk reported damage to a fence on Mount Ephraim and that he had made a claim for the cost of making good the damage, but that this had not been paid.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be authorised to instruct Messrs. Cripps, Harries and Hall, Solicitors, to take the necessary steps for the recovery of the amount of the claim.

War Tank Site.—Mr. Alderman Allan, the Chairman of the Parks Committee, intimated that he had been requested by his Committee to ask if the Conservators would consent to the development as a garden of the triangular piece of Common, from which the War Tank had recently been removed.

RESOLVED—That the Parks Committee of the Town Council be informed that there is no power contained in the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act under which the Conservators could consent to such a proposal.

Guard Rails—Footpath on Common leading to the General Post Office.—The Surveyor reported that he had seen the Borough Surveyor with regard to an alternative scheme for the provision of guard rails on the footpath on the Common leading to the General Post Office on the lines suggested by the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the matter be deferred pending the submission of an alternative scheme to be prepared by the Borough Surveyor and approved by the appropriate Committee of the Town Council.

Ditches.—The Clerk reported that he had received a request from Mr. Pomery, of Heathgate, Rusthall, that the ditch on Rusthall Common adjoining his property might be cleared.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to carry out the work.

Footpaths.—The Clerk reported that he had received a complaint from Capt. Cator that pools of water collect on the footpath on the Common leading from the Pantiles in the direction of Hungershall Park.

The Surveyor reported on his inspection of the footpath in question.

RESOLVED—That no further action be taken in the matter.

Road to "Rustwick."—Mr. C. Berry reported to the Conservators that a quantity of hard-core had been deposited on this roadway on the Common, but it had not been ascertained who was responsible and therefore no action could, at present, be taken in the matter.

Appointment of Committee.—RESOLVED—That Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, W. Maynard, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone and E. J. Strange be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year and that a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their services during the past year.

Accounts—Years ending 25th March, 1936 and 1937.—The Auditors' Report on the Accounts for the years ended 25th March, 1936 and 1937, was received.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to circulate to each Conservator a copy of the Accounts in question and that the approval thereof be deferred to the next meeting.

Appointment of Auditors.—RESOLVED—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt. Col. A. R. Cheale for their services as Auditors and that they be re-appointed Auditors for the current year.

Dates of Meetings, 1938.—RESOLVED—That the Meetings of the Commons Conservators during 1938 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m. :—

Tuesdays, 1st March, 31st May, 4th October and 6th December.

Estimates.—The Clerk submitted a Statement of the Estimated Expenditure of the Conservators to the 25th March next.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in their Estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £104 14s. 1d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

E. Hillman

Chairman

1st March 1938

Commons Conservators

1st March, 1938.

Commons Conservators.

1st March, 1938.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Hillman), *Chairman*.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, J. I. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed, J. Scrace, E. J. Strange and S. V. Thorpe.

Commons Conservators.—A letter was received from the Lord of the Manor transmitting copy of a letter he had received from Mr. Charles Berry resigning his position as a Conservator, and intimating that he had nominated and appointed Mr. James Ivor Berry of No. 11, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells, to act in his stead.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. R. H. Martin suggesting the cutting away of the overgrown holly bush surrounding the stunted tree at the junction of Nevill Park Road and Major Yorke's Road which makes a blind spot for motorists coming from Nevill Park into Major Yorke's Road and also that two small May trees could easily now be moved before they grow big enough to obscure the view at this corner.

The Surveyor reported that he had trimmed the holly bush and May trees in question and his action was approved.

Omnibus Stop and Traffic Notice.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk of Tunbridge Wells, intimating that the Town Council was prepared to pay an acknowledgment rent of 1s. 0d. per annum in respect of the formation of the tar macadam surface on the Common adjoining the Toad Rock Omnibus Stop near Bull's Hollow, Rusthall Road, but was unable to accept any liability in respect of the guard post proposed to be erected at the corner of the road leading to Denny Bottom at its junction with the road leading to "Rustwick".

RESOLVED—That, subject to completion of any necessary agreement between the Lord of the Manor and the Town Council with regard to the payment of an acknowledgment rental of 1s. 0d. in respect of the Toad Rock Omnibus Stop, the Surveyor be instructed to carry out the work.

RESOLVED—That no further action be taken with regard to the proposed guard post at the corner of the road leading to Denny Bottom at its junction with the road leading to "Rustwick".

Traffic Signs.—A letter was received from the Borough Surveyor requesting the permission of the Conservators to the erection of a "Halt at Major Road Ahead" sign on the Common at the junction with Vale Road of the road running from London Road.

RESOLVED—That the Commons Conservators offer no objection to the erection of the traffic sign in question.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants transmitting copy of a letter which the Freehold Tenants had received from the Borough Surveyor intimating that it was proposed to replace the existing traffic sign, "Tonbridge—London," at the junction of London Road and Vale Road by a new sign, in the same position, but supported by posts set in the ground, and requesting permission for this work to be proceeded with as the existing sign was in a very bad condition.

RESOLVED—That the Commons Conservators offer no objection to the erection of the sign in question.

Notice Boards.—The Clerk reported that the present stock of Bye-Laws for posting on notice boards on the Commons was exhausted.

Commons Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be authorised to obtain 100 copies of the Bye-Laws for the purpose indicated.

Guard Rails.—A letter was received from the Borough Surveyor transmitting plan shewing proposed guard rails at the bottom of the steps on the Common opposite the Castle Hotel and also on the steps near the General Post Office and requesting consent to the erection of such guard rails.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Damage to Fence.—The Clerk reported that a claim for damage to a fence on Mount Ephraim had been paid.

Accounts—Years ending 25th March, 1936-1937.—The Clerk reported that he had circulated copies of these Accounts to each Conservator.

RESOLVED—That the Accounts for the years ended 25th March, 1936-1937, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed in future to circulate the accounts, after audit, with the minutes of proceedings of the Conservators.

Appointment of Committee.—RESOLVED—That Mr. S. V. Thorpe be appointed a member of the Committee in the place of Mr. Charles Berry.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £196 3s. 1d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

C. J. Hillman
Chairman
31st May 1938

Commons Conservators

31st May, 1938.

Commons Conservators.

31st May, 1938.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Hillman) *Chairman*.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, W. C. Raiswell,
J. Scrace, Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Commons Conservators.—A letter was received from Mr. Frank O. Baird transmitting copy of a letter which he had received from Mr. James I. Berry resigning his appointment as a Conservator and intimating that he had nominated and appointed Mr. Charles Berry, of 11, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells, to act in his place.

Appointment of Committee.—Mr. S. V. Thorpe intimated his desire to resign as a member of the Committee of the Commons Conservators.

RESOLVED—That his resignation be accepted and that Mr. Charles Berry be appointed a Member of the Committee in his place.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Drilling on Common.—An application was received from the Skinners' School O.T.C. for permission to exercise on the Common on the following dates:—May 16th, 23rd and 30th, June 20th, July 4th and 11th.

The Clerk reported that the application had been granted and his action was approved.

Pedestrian Crossing Beacon.—An application was received from the Borough Surveyor for permission to erect a pedestrian crossing beacon on the south-west side of the steps on the Common opposite to Castle Street.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators raise no objection to the application.

Guard Rails on Steps on the Common.—A letter was received from the Borough Surveyor intimating that the Town Council proposed to take no further action in regard to the placing of guard rails at the foot of the steps on the Common opposite the Castle Hotel and the General Post Office.

Water Main, Rusthall Common.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, transmitting copy of a Notice which had been served on the Lord of the Manor with respect to the laying of a water main on Rusthall Common.

Horse Riding on Commons.—A letter was received from the Honorary Secretary of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Association, intimating that his Committee had been requested to bring to the notice of the Commons Conservators the question of riding on the Common during the Winter months, and asking that the Conservators would give this permission not over the whole of the Common, as in the Summer, but on a track to be defined and suggesting that a suitable "Ride" would be as shewn on a plan which accompanied the letter.

RESOLVED—That the Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Association be informed that the Conservators are not prepared to consider an amendment of the Bye-law with respect to riding on the Commons and that the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of the Bye-law in question to the Association.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from Mr. William Raiswell calling attention to the condition of the footpath on the North side of the Lower Cricket Ground and requesting that it might be asphalted in conformity with other paths on the Common.

A report was received from the Surveyor on the matter.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to carry out any necessary repairs and that Mr. Raiswell be informed that the Conservators are not prepared to asphalt the footpath in question.

Commons Conservators

Omnibus Stop, near Toad Rock, Rusthall Common.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants transmitting copy of a letter which he had addressed to the Town Clerk and of the reply thereto intimating that the construction of the concrete platform on the Common, at the site in question, was being carried out by the Conservators and not by the Tunbridge Wells Corporation.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to forward to the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants copies of the minutes of the Conservators passed at meetings held on the 30th November, 1937, and 1st March, 1938, and to apply for the sanction of the Freehold Tenants to the formation of the concrete platform in question.

Accounts—Year ended 25th March, 1938.—The Auditors' Report on the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1938, was received.

The Clerk reported that he had circulated a copy of the Accounts to each Conservator.

RESOLVED—That the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1938, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.

Appointment of Auditors.—RESOLVED—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale for their services as Auditors and that they be re-appointed Auditors for the current year.

Trees.—RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to cut down and remove a dead tree on the Common near Onslow House.

Grass Cutting.—Questions relating to the cutting of grass on the Lower Cricket Ground were considered.

The Surveyor reported that this work was at present being undertaken with scythes.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to make enquiries as to the use of a gang mower for this work and to report thereon to the Conservators.

Excavations on Common.—Questions relating to the excavations by boys on the Common in the bank adjoining "Gibraltar" were considered.

Football.—Questions relating to the playing of football on the Common by youths on Sunday mornings were considered.

Contribution from Rates.—RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to confer with the Town Clerk on the possibility of a grant from the Corporation for the purposes of the Commons in addition to the grant provided for by Section 178 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £214 19s. 7d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

C. G. Hillman

Chapman

12th October 1938

~~CORRECTED COPY (Please cancel previous issue)~~

Commons Conservators

12th October, 1938.

Commons Conservators.

12th October, 1938.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Hillman), *Chairman*.
Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, A. J. Pelton,
W. C. Raiswell, W. H. Hallett Reed, and Neville R. Stone.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Appointment of Conservator.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants of the Manor of Rusthall intimating that, at a meeting of the Committee of the Freehold Tenants, Mr. Aubrey J. Pelton, of No. 9, London Road, Tunbridge Wells, was appointed a Conservator in the place of the late Mr. James Scrace.

The late Mr. J. Scrace, J.P.—RESOLVED—That the Clerk be directed to express to Mrs. J. Scrace and her family the Conservators' sincere regret at the death of Mr. J. Scrace, J.P., and their condolence with her and her family in their bereavement.

Employees.—The Surveyor reported that two of the employees of the Conservators had been called up for military service during the recent Emergency.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do make up to their usual rate the wages of the two employees in question for the period during which they were called up for military service.

Horse Riding on the Common.—A Deputation from the Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Association consisting of Capt. H. S. Eeles, M.C., and Mr. C. Burns attended the meeting.

The Deputation discussed with the Conservators whether it would be advisable to amend the Bye-Law relating to riding on the Common during the winter months by permitting such riding on a defined track.

RESOLVED—(confirming the decision of the Conservators at a meeting held on the 31st May, 1938)—That, having heard the arguments urged by the Deputation, and carefully considering the matter, the Conservators feel that, in the interests of the public using the Common and of the preservation of the turf, it is not desirable that the Bye-Law with respect to riding on the Common during the winter months should be altered.

Town Planning Act.—The Clerk reported that, with the concurrence of each individual Conservator, he had, on behalf of the Conservators, lodged with the Ministry of Health the following Objection to the Town Planning Scheme for the Borough of Tunbridge Wells under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932 :—

(COPY)

BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

TOWN PLANNING SCHEME.

Town and Country Planning Act, 1932.

The Conservators of the Tunbridge Wells Commons hereby object to the making of any Scheme under the above Act which may in any way diminish prejudicially affect or be inconsistent with (a) the rights of the public and/or the inhabitants of Tunbridge Wells and the neighbourhood in respect of the said Commons under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 (53 & 54 Vict. Ch. ccxxxv) and particularly sections 1, 2 and 4, and 151 to 186 both inclusive, or (b) the rights powers duties and obligations conferred or imposed upon the said Conservators by the said Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act.—Extracts from the said Tunbridge Wells

Improvement Act 1890 (comprising the material sections) and a copy of the Bye-Laws made by the said Conservators under the said Act are hereto annexed.

Dated this 3rd day of August, 1938.

(sd.) W. C. CRIPPS,

Clerk to the Tunbridge Wells
Commons Conservators.

Town Hall,
Tunbridge Wells.

RESOLVED—That the above Objection set out be confirmed and that the action of the Clerk be and the same is hereby approved.

Trenches on the Common.—The Clerk reported that he had received an application from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, for sanction to the digging of trenches on the Common for Air Raid Protection, that, after consulting with the Mayor, as Chairman of the Conservators, and understanding from the Town Clerk that the Lord of the Manor and the Stewards of the Freehold Tenants had given their sanction, he had informed the Town Clerk that, so far as the Conservators were concerned, they would have no objection to the proposal of the Town Council.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the Clerk's action be approved.
- (b) RESOLVED—That the question of what steps are to be taken with regard to the trenches in question be considered by the Conservators at their next meeting.

Charter Celebrations—24th May, 1939.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, enquiring whether, in the event of it being so desired, the Commons Conservators would be prepared to give their sanction to the following :—

- (1) The erection of the necessary tabling, etc., for the service of refreshments to the school children on the area of the Common lying between the Upper Cricket Ground and the Wellington Rocks ;
- (2) To the holding of Sports for the Public Elementary School Children on the Higher Cricket Ground on the Common ;
- (3) To the holding of a display of Fireworks on the Lower Cricket Ground on the Common ;
- (4) The erection of a tent on the Upper Cricket Ground near the Pavilion for dressing accommodation for children in connection with the Public Elementary School Children's Sports.

RESOLVED—That general consent be given to the application, it being a condition of such consent, that the Town Council undertake to make good any damage which may be done in or about the execution of any works, including such reparations to the turf as may be needful.

The Commons.—A letter was received from Mr. John Burgess eulogising the Commons, but drawing attention to the need for more comfortable seats and for gorse trimming and grass cutting.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to reply thereto.

A letter was received from Mr. Alderman Caley calling attention to the condition of the Brighton Lake, to the removal of a seat on the Common opposite the Lord Cornwallis Hotel, and to the need for the removal of an iron guard surrounding an oak tree on the Lower Cricket Ground.

- (b) RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Halt at Major Road Ahead Sign—Junction of Church Road and Inner London Road.—An application was received from the Borough Surveyor for permission to erect two " Halt at Major Road Ahead " signs at the junction of Church Road and Inner London Road.

RESOLVED—That the application be granted.

Automatic Traffic Signals.—Nevill Street and London Road.—A letter was received from the Borough Surveyor transmitting a drawing shewing the work which it was proposed to carry out at the junction of Nevill Street and London Road in connection with the installation of Automatic Traffic Signals, intimating that a traffic signal standard would replace the existing Belisha Beacon and a short length of cable would be run under the Common adjoining the North side of London Road, and that in consequence of a proposed alteration in the position of the omnibus stop, it would be necessary to lop a large branch of a sycamore tree which overhung the carriageway.

RESOLVED—That the Borough Surveyor be informed that the Commons Conservators have no objection to offer to the proposals, but the Commons Conservators had decided, subject to the consent of the Lord of the Manor, to cut down the sycamore tree referred to.

Clerical Assistance.—RESOLVED—That, as from the 29th March, 1938, the allowance made to Mr. C. R. Barten for clerical assistance be increased from £5 to £10 per annum.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £460 16s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

W. Marshall

Chairman
6th December 1938

6th December, 1938.

Commons Conservators.

6th December, 1938.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.
Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, A. J. Pelton,
W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone, E. J.
Strange and S. V. Thorpe.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its meeting on the 9th ultimo appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators to hold office until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook, O.B.E., J.P.).
Mr. Alderman Allan.
Mr. Councillor Raiswell
Mr. Councillor Strange, J.P.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The late Mr. J. Scrace, J.P.—A letter was received from Mr. W. S. Scrace expressing thanks for the resolution of sympathy passed by the Commons Conservators at their last meeting.

Commons.—A further letter was received from Mr. John Burgess on the subject of the provision of additional seats on the Common and the Clerk was instructed to reply thereto.

The Committee reported that the Surveyor had provided a new seat on the Common opposite the Lord Cornwallis Hotel in the place of an old seat which had been removed.

A further letter was received from Mr. Alderman Caley intimating that he was pleased to learn that his previous letter had been referred to the Committee of the Conservators for consideration and report, that he noticed the old seat on the Common, opposite the Lord Cornwallis Hotel, had been replaced by a new one, and also that he was heartily in agreement with the Conservators in their decision with regard to horse riding on the Common.

Trees.—The Committee reported that the Surveyor had removed the iron guard from around the tree on the Lower Cricket Ground referred to in Mr. Alderman Caley's letter of 10th October, 1938.

A letter was received from Mr. Charles Berry intimating that he had heard from the Lord of the Manor with reference to the sycamore tree opposite the Kentish Mansions, that in the opinion of Mr. Baird, the Conservators were not entitled to cut down the tree, as under the 1890 Act they were bound to preserve trees, but, in view of the arrangement which had been made with the Lord of the Manor with regard to the omnibus stop sign, he would consent to the tree being removed and would not require the timber.

Concrete Platform, Omnibus Stop near Toad Rock, Rusthall.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants intimating that the Freehold Tenants sanctioned the formation of the concrete platform at the omnibus stop near the Toad Rock, Rusthall Common.

Gibraltar Cottage.—A letter was received from Mr. J. K. Heydon asking permission to place a rail around the space of Common stated to be customarily kept mown and tidy by the tenant of Gibraltar Cottage, and complaining of children who trample on the flower beds and throw missiles through the windows of the Cottage.

The Committee reported to the Conservators on their inspection of the Common surrounding Gibraltar Cottage.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Clerk and Surveyor for enquiry and report.

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Commons Conesrvators

Langton Road.—A letter was received from the Borough Surveyor intimating that the Corporation were about to commence the work of reconstructing Langton Road between the Spa Hotel and Rusthall Road, that the work involved the laying of a kerb along the southern side where the carriageway abuts on the Waste of the Manor as shown on a plan enclosed with his letter, that he proposed to agree a suitable and equitable line on the site with the Lord of the Manor's representative and he would be glad to know that any arrangement which they might come to would be acceptable to the Commons Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the Borough Surveyor be informed that the proposal does not appear to affect the interests of the Commons Conservators.

"Fonthill."—Questions relating to two encroachments at "Fonthill" were considered and referred to the Clerk to report thereon to the next meeting of the Commons Conservators.

Treasurer.—A letter was received from Mr. E. B. Stokes intimating that as he had now retired from active service with Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Old Bank, Tunbridge Wells, he must ask the Commons Conservators to accept his resignation of the office of Treasurer.

RESOLVED—That Mr. E. B. Stokes' resignation be accepted with regret and that an expression of the Conservators' thanks be given to Mr. Stokes for his services as Treasurer during the past three years.

RESOLVED—That Mr. Walter Reeve, Lloyds Bank, Tunbridge Wells, be appointed Treasurer to the Commons Conservators in the place of Mr. E. B. Stokes, resigned.

Eridge Road Lake.—The Committee reported that they had inspected the Eridge Road Lake.

The Surveyor reported that he estimated the cost of concreting the bottom of the lake at £840.

Questions relating to the clearing of the weeds in the Lake were considered.

The Clerk reported to the Conservators that they had no funds available for this work.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators would welcome any contribution, from an outside source, to enable this work to be done under the supervision of the Surveyor and Mr. A. J. Pelton was requested to bring the matter before the next meeting of the Council of Service.

Appointment of Committee.—RESOLVED—That Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, W. Maynard, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone and E. J. Strange be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year and that a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their services during the past year.

Dates of Meeting, 1939.—RESOLVED—That the meetings of the Commons Conesrvators during 1939 be held on the following dates at 3 p.m.:—

Tuesdays, 28th February, 6th June, 3rd October and 5th December ; subject to due notice of any alteration which might be necessary in those dates during the year.

Driving of Motor Cars on Common.—Questions relating to the driving of motor cars on the Common were discussed.

Bicycle Riding on the Common.—Questions relating to the riding of bicycles on the Common were discussed.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to draw the attention of the Chief Constable to the byelaws which are exhibited on various parts of the Common, for preventing, *inter alia*, the riding of bicycles thereon.

Estimates.—The Clerk submitted a Statement of the estimated expenditure of the Conservators to the 25th March next.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in its Estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

E. J. Strange
Chairman
28th February

Commons Conservators

28th February, 1939.

Commons Conserbators.

28th February, 1939.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, W. Maynard, A. J. Pelton, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone, E. J. Strange and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. E. J. Strange be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Telegraph Pole.—A letter was received from the Post Office Engineering Department with regard to the telegraph pole recently erected on the Common near "Ayot," Nevill Park, regretting that the consent of the Conservators was overlooked and making application for such consent.

RESOLVED—(Messrs. Berry, Maynard and Thorpe voting against)—That the Commons Conservators do consent to the erection of the telegraph pole in question and authorise the Clerk to sign the form of consent submitted by the Post Office Engineering Department.

Seat near Spa Hotel Omnibus Stop.—A letter was received from the Borough Surveyor transmitting copy of a letter he had addressed to the Lord of the Manor with reference to the proposed erection of a seat by the Corporation near the Omnibus Stop by the Spa Hotel and intimating that, having regard to the high rent asked by the Lord of the Manor, he had been instructed to enquire whether the Commons Conservators would be prepared to place a seat in the position indicated.

RESOLVED—That the Borough Surveyor be informed that the question of the placing of a seat in the position indicated is not one which affects the Commons Conservators but is a matter to be settled between the Corporation and the Lord of the Manor.

Water Main.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk transmitting for the information of the Commons Conservators a copy of a notice which had been served on the Lord of the Manor with reference to an extension of the water main to Chancellor House, Tunbridge Wells.

Trees.—A letter was received from Canon W. Leighton Grane requesting that the tall trees on the Common which obstructed the view from his windows towards Crowborough and Ashdown Forest might be cut down near the ground and reduced to their former dimensions.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to accede to the application.

Treasurer.—A letter was received from Mr. W. Reeve, Manager of Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Tunbridge Wells, accepting the office of Treasurer to the Commons Conservators in succession to Mr. E. B. Stokes, resigned.

Bicycle Riding on Common.—A letter was received from the Chief Constable intimating that the question of bicycle riding on the Common would receive his attention.

Eridge Road Lake.—A letter was received from Mr. A. J. Pelton on questions relating to the cleaning out of the Eridge Road Lake which had been considered by the Council of Service Committee.

The Surveyor reported on the work which had been undertaken in clearing the weeds from the Eridge Road Lake and his action was approved.

Seats on Common.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, calling attention to the fact that the omnibus stop in London Road opposite King Charles' Church had been moved further northward owing to the installation of

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traffic signals at the junction of London Road and Nevill Street, and to the fact that seats were placed on the Common near the former bus stop for the convenience of persons waiting for omnibuses, and he had been instructed to suggest that these seats should now be moved to a point on the Common opposite the existing bus stop.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee with power to act, subject to all necessary consents being obtained.

Gibraltar Cottage.—The letter from Mr. J. K. Heydon asking permission to place a rail around the space on the Common stated to be customarily kept mown and tidy by the tenant of Gibraltar Cottage was again considered.

A report was received from the Clerk and the Surveyor that the area of land which it was suggested should be enclosed by a rail was not one of the areas excluded from the Commons on the deposited map or included in the lease of Gibraltar Cottage.

RESOLVED—That Mr. J. K. Heydon be informed that the Commons Conservators have no power to give the permission asked for by him.

Encroachments.—The Clerk reported to the Commons Conservators that two "encroachments" at "Fonthill" were no longer required by the Corporation as owners of "Fonthill," and had now been thrown into the Commons.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £248. 9s. 2d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Strang
Chairman
6th June 1939.

Commons Conservators

6th June, 1939.

Commons Conserbators.

6th June, 1939.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook).

Messrs. C. Berry, W. Maynard, A. J. Pelton, Neville R. Stone and E. J. Strange.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. E. J. Strange be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Minutes.—The meeting of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Drilling on Common.—An application was received from the Skinners' School O.T.C. for permission to exercise on the Common on the following dates :—

March 20th.

May 8th, 15th, 22nd.

June 5th, 19th.

The Clerk reported that the application had been granted and his action was approved.

Seats on Common.—The following proceedings of the Committee of the Commons Conservators at a meeting held on the 7th March, 1939 were submitted to the Committee :—

“ The Committee proceeded to and inspected the seats on the Common
“ opposite King Charles Church and also considered the question of the
“ provision of additional seats on the Common opposite the new omnibus
“ stop.

“ RESOLVED—That (subject to the consent of the Lord of the Manor) the
“ Surveyor be instructed to erect an additional seat on the Common adjoining
“ the new omnibus stop in London Road..”

RESOLVED—That the proceedings of the Committee be approved.

A letter was received from Messrs. Berry and Berry intimating that the Lord of the Manor had pleasure in consenting to the erection of a seat on the Common approximately opposite to the Kentish Mansions and adjoining the new omnibus stop in London Road.

Undergrowth.—A letter was received from Mrs. Sanderson with regard to an alleged nuisance on the Common opposite to her private residence in Bishops Down, suggesting that certain holly bushes should be cut down and burnt and requesting that something might be done with regard thereto.

The Surveyor reported that he had cleared the block of bushes and undergrowth around and under the holly tree which encouraged insanitary conditions and that Mrs. Sanderson had now requested that the tree itself might be removed to improve her view.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. Sanderson be informed that the Conservators are unable to see their way to accede to her request.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £238. 14s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Chairman
17th Oct 1939.

Commons Conservators

17th October, 1939.

Commons Conserbators.

17th October, 1939.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Lt.-Col. Alex. R. Cheale, Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, H. Elwig,
W. Maynard, A. J. Pelton, Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone,
E. J. Strange and S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Grass Cutting.—A letter was received from Mr. H. Thorpe drawing attention to the fact that at his suggestion the Conservators for the last 3 or 4 years had caused the rough grass on the Lower Cricket Ground to be cut to enable small boys to use that Ground for cricket, without spending too much time looking for lost balls, but the work had been overlooked this year.

RESOLVED—That the question of cutting the grass be deferred until next May.

A letter was received from the Rev. H. H. Lucas calling attention to the long grass on the Common adjoining the seats in Bishops Down and requesting that it might be cut.

The Surveyor reported that he had cut the grass in question and his action was approved.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed also to cut the grass between the pathway and the roadway in front of the seats in Bishops Down.

Junction of Major Yorke's and Nevill Park Roads.—A letter was received from Mr. R. H. Martin calling attention to a blind spot at the junction of Nevill Park Road and Major Yorke's Road turning right from Nevill Park Road down the hill caused by the branches of a stunted tree at the corner and also by 2 young May trees.

RESOLVED—That Mr. R. H. Martin be informed that the Conservators hope that the action which has been taken by their Surveyor will remove any cause of complaint.

Accounts for Year ended 25th March, 1939.—The Auditors' Report on the accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1939, was received.

The Clerk reported that he had circulated a copy of the Accounts to each Conservator.

RESOLVED—That the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1939, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.

Appointment of Auditors.—RESOLVED—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Colonel A. R. Cheale for their services as Auditors and that they be re-appointed Auditors for the current year.

War Emergency.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants of the Manor transmitting extract from the Common Ranger's report with respect to a car park opposite "Bredbury," Mount Ephraim, and intimating that permission was given by the Lord of the Manor for the car park to be made on the Common for the convenience of the staff at the Regional Headquarters of Civil Defence.

The Clerk reported that under Regulation 51 of the Defence Regulations, 1939, the Tunbridge Wells Town Council had received an Authority from the Kent County Council to enter into possession of part of the caves situate under "Priory Lodge" (formerly "St. Helena") London Road, Tunbridge Wells, to use the said premises for an air raid shelter and to execute, in pursuance of powers under the Air Raid Precautions Act, 1937, the works specified in the Schedule to such Authority.

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Commons Conservators

Motor Cars on Common.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants forwarding copy of a letter received from Mrs. Elsley complaining of motor cars using the racecourse on the Common between Nevill Park and Hungershall Park, calling attention to the fact that there used to be posts with rails at each end of the path in question and if they could be replaced it would stop the nuisance and ensure again safe walking for adults and children. Also complaining of the dangerous practice of boys riding bicycles on the tar footpaths and suggesting that if Bye-law notices were placed on the Common this nuisance might be avoided.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee with power to act.

Questions relating to the parking of cars, other than cars of residents and visitors, on the Common opposite Torrington Villa and Gordon Villa were considered.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

Electric Cable Trenches.—Questions relating to the present condition of the surface of an electric cable trench on Rusthall Common between "Holmfield" and Rusthall High Street were considered.

The Clerk reported that the attention of the Corporation Electricity Department had already been called to the matter.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £435. 1s. 8d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Stamps
Chairman
9th Decr 1939.

5th December, 1939.

Commons Conservators.

5th December, 1939.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Lieut. Col. A. R. Cheale.

Messrs. C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, A. J. Pelton, W. S. Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone and E. J. Strange.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. E. J. Strange be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its meeting on the 9th ultimo appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators to hold office until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook, O.B.E., J.P.).

Mr. Alderman Allan.

Mr. Alderman Strange, J.P.

Mr. Councillor Raiswell.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Private Pathway.—A letter was received from Mr. J. K. Heydon intimating that the roadway leading down to "Gibraltar Cottage" from Mount Ephraim was much worn and scoured by rainwater and requesting that it might be repaired.

The Surveyor reported that he had seen Mr. Heydon and had explained to him that the right of way to which he referred was a private one to his house and was not repairable by the Commons Conservators and his action was approved.

Grass Cutting.—A letter was received from the Rev. H. H. Lucas noting that the Conservators had acceded to his request for the cutting of the grass near the seats in Bishops Down and expressing the hope that the grass would in future be kept in good order.

Committee's Report.—The following minutes of proceedings of the Committee were submitted for approval :—

25th November, 1939.—At a meeting of the Committee of the Commons Conservators, held at No. 11, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells.

PRESENT—Messrs. C. Berry, W. Maynard, W. C. Raiswell and W. S. Hallett Reed.

(1) **Motor Cars on Common.**—The Committee considered the letter received from Mrs. Elsley complaining of motor cars using the Racecourse on the Common between Nevill Park and Hungershall Park and of the dangerous practice of boys riding bicycles on the tarred footpaths.

(a) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to erect posts where required on the Racecourse between Nevill Park and Hungershall Park.

(b) RESOLVED—That Mrs. Elsley be informed that the question of riding of bicycles on the footpaths on the Common is already receiving the attention of the Conservators.

Questions relating to the parking of cars other than cars of residents and visitors on the Common opposite Torrington Villa and Gordon Villa were considered.

(c) RESOLVED—That, in the opinion of this Committee, the only means of preventing damage to the grass adjoining the roadway in question is by the provision of posts and rails, but in view of the expenditure which would be thereby incurred the Committee recommends that the matter be deferred for the present.

Commons Conservators

- (2) **Roadway leading to Rusthall Park.**—A letter was received from Miss G. Taylor calling attention to the condition of the roadway between the Rocks above "Bulls' Hollow" leading to Rusthall Park.

The Committee proceeded to the Common and inspected the roadway.

The Surveyor reported that he had trimmed the grass adjoining the roadway and his action was approved.

The Clerk advised the Committee that the Conservators had no power to take any action with regard to the roadway in question.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators be recommended to instruct the Clerk to inform Miss Taylor that the Conservators had no power to take any action with regard to the roadway in question.

It was moved by Lt. Colonel Cheale and seconded by Mr. Neville R. Stone—That the proceedings of the Committee at a meeting held on the 25th day of November, 1939, be and the same are hereby approved and that the recommendations therein contained be adopted and acted upon.

It was moved as an Amendment, by Mr. Charles Berry—That the following words be added to the resolution :—

" subject, as promised by the Clerk, to agreement with Mr. C. Berry of the terms of the letter to be sent to Miss Taylor."

The Amendment was not seconded.

It was moved as an Amendment, by Mr. H. Elwig and seconded by Mr. Charles Berry—That the following words be added to the resolution :—

" and that the Conservators approve the draft letter submitted by the Clerk to Miss Taylor and that such letter be sent when the Lord of the Manor's reply to Mr. Berry's letter has been received."

On a vote being taken by a show of hands there voted :—

For the Amendment ... 4

Against 2

The Amendment was accordingly carried.

The original resolution, as amended, on being put as the substantive motion was thereupon carried *nem. con.*

Appointment of Committee.—**RESOLVED**—That Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, W. Maynard, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone and E. J. Strange be appointed the Committee for the ensuing year and that a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for its services during the past year.

Dates of Meetings, 1940.—**RESOLVED**—That the meetings of the Commons Conservators during 1940 be held on the following Tuesdays at 3 p.m. :—

Tuesday, 5th March, 4th June, 1st October and 3rd December ;

subject to due notice of any alteration which might be necessary in those dates during the year.

Estimates.—The Clerk submitted a statement of the estimated expenditure of the Commons Conservators to the 25th March next.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in its Estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to 13s. 0d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Chairman
5th Mch 1940

Commons Conservators

5th March, 1940.

Commons Conserbators.

5th March, 1940.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, Lt.-Colonel A. R. Cheale, Messrs.
H. Elwig, W. Maynard, A. J. Pelton, W. C. Raiswell, W. S.
Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Mr. W. C. Cripps, J.P., C.A.—RESOLVED—That the Conservators do express to Mr. W. C. Cripps, J.P., C.A., their sincere congratulations on his election as an Alderman of the Kent County Council and do record their appreciation of his services as a Member of the County Council representing the Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells.

Appointment of Conservators.—A letter was received from Messrs. Berry & Berry intimating that the Lord of the Manor had re-appointed his present representatives as Conservators of the Commons, *viz.* :—

Messrs. C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard and S. V. Thorpe.

A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants intimating that the Conservators representing the Freehold Tenants of the Manor had been re-elected to serve for a further period of 3 years, *viz.* :—Messrs. Neville R. Stone, H. W. S. Reed, A. J. Pelton and Lt.-Colonel A. R. Cheale.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Motor Cars on Common.—Questions relating to damage to the edge of the grass adjoining the roadway on the Common opposite Gordon Villa were again considered.


RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to inspect and report thereon to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Footpaths.—The Surveyor submitted a letter he had received from Miss Cummings with reference to the repair of the footpath leading from Eridge Road to Hungershall Park, and his reply thereto which was approved.

Footpaths and Sheltered Seats.—RESOLVED—That, if and when funds are available, the Surveyor be instructed to carry out the following works on the Common :—

- (1) Repainting thatched sheltered seats
- (2) Tar painting Mount Ephraim promenade
- (3) Rolling gravel paths where necessary

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £165. 2s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.


June 4. 1940.

Commons Conservators

4th June, 1940.

Commons Conserbators.

4th June, 1940.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, W. Maynard, A. J. Pelton, W. S. Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Trees.—A letter was received from the Rev. Canon T. G. Gilling-Lax with reference to the trees in the avenue leading to Rusthall Church, requesting that the lower boughs of the trees might be cut.

The Surveyor reported that the trees had been cut, as requested, and his action was approved.

Motor Cars on Common.—The Surveyor reported on the damage to the edge of the grass adjoining the roadway on the Common opposite Gordon Villa, that he estimated the cost of the provision of concrete kerbing on the edge of the Common at £25 or the provision of oak posts at £38.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £184. 16s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

[Signature]
Chairman
8th Oct 1940

Commons Conservators

8th October, 1940.

Commons Conserbators.

8th October, 1940.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Lt.-Colonel A. R. Cheale.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, W. Maynard, A. J. Pelton, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed and Neville R. Stone.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Seats on Common.—The following proceedings of the Committee were submitted to the meeting :—

5th October, 1940.—At a meeting of the Committee of the Commons Conservators held at No. 11, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells.

PRESENT—Messrs. C. Berry, W. Maynard and W. S. Hallett Reed.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Charles Berry be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Seats.—A letter was received from the Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Association intimating that, through the generosity of one of its members, who wished to remain anonymous, the Association had had made 3 seats of English oak which it was hoped the Conservators of the Common would accept as a gift, suggesting that a suitable site to be mutually agreed, preferably on the high ground in front of the Earls Court Hotel, might be selected and intimating that the whole cost of installing, fixing, paving, etc., which might be necessary would be borne by the Association, the future upkeep being undertaken by the Conservators.

The Surveyor submitted plans of seating and method of fixing which he considered necessary.

Mr. Berry reported the contents of a letter which he had received from the Lord of the Manor on the proposal.

RESOLVED—That the letter from the Civic Association be referred to the meeting of the Commons Conservators to be held on Tuesday next, without expressing any opinion by this Committee on the proposal contained therein.

RESOLVED—That the plans of the seats proposed, together with Mr. Burns' suggestions contained in his letter of 13th June, 1940, be submitted to the Lord of the Manor for his consent, such submission to be without prejudice to the Conservators' rights under their statutory powers.

A letter was received from Mrs. Orton regretting that her son had caused damage to a sheltered seat on the Common and transmitting the cost of the necessary repairs amounting to 4s. 6d.

The Clerk reported that he had given permission to the Emergency Committee to place a poster in each of the shelters on the Common with the inscription " Don't help the Enemy—Careless talk may give away vital secrets " and his action was approved.

Scrap Metal.—A letter was received from Miss E. M. D. Waddilove suggesting that the iron railings around the Cricket Grounds on the Common would be of value to the Government at the present time and that the railings should be replaced by thick rope.

RESOLVED—That Miss Waddilove be informed that the Commons Conservators are not in a position to accede to her suggestion.

Commons Conservators

Lower Cricket Ground.—The Clerk reported that he had sent the following letter to the Officer Commanding, the 12th Corps Signals :—

COPY.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

Town Hall,

Tunbridge Wells.

30th September, 1940.

Dear Sir,

Referring to Major Hiley's call upon me yesterday, I have much pleasure in informing you that the Conservators of the Tunbridge Wells Commons sanction the use by the troops under your command of the area on the Common known as the Lower Cricket Ground, *i.e.*, the space enclosed by an iron fence and lying on the left-hand side of the road leading from the end of Church Road up to Mount Ephraim. This sanction applies to the use of the Ground for football and other games and includes the use of the land by other troops who may join in competitive contests or practice with the Corps of Signals.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

The Officer Commanding,
12th Corps Signals,
Grandchester, Kingswood Road,
Tunbridge Wells.

(Sd.) W. C. CRIPPS,
Clerk.

RESOLVED—(Mr. Charles Berry voting against)—That the Clerk's action be approved.

RESOLVED—That, if required, a similar sanction be given to the Officer Commanding, Royal West Kent Regiment, permitting his men to play football and other games on the Lower Cricket Ground providing they make the necessary arrangements with the local football club which uses the Ground.

Bomb Crater on Common.—The Clerk reported the damage which had been occasioned to the surface of the Upper Cricket Ground by an enemy bomb.

The Surveyor reported that he estimated the cost of filling in the crater at from £50 to £60.

RESOLVED—That Mr. C. Berry be requested to enquire if the Lord of the Manor would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of filling in the crater in question.

RESOLVED—That the Tunbridge Wells Corporation be allowed to use the crater as a dump for the deposit of surplus materials.

RESOLVED—That the question of filling in the crater and returning the surface be referred to the Committee of the Commons Conservators with power to act.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £37. 15s. 0d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Harry B. [Signature]
Chairman.

3rd December 1940.

Commons Conservators

3rd December, 1940.

Commons Conservators.

3rd December, 1940.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

Messrs. C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. Maynard, A. J. Pelton, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. H. Elwig be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its meeting on the 9th ultimo appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators to hold office until 9th November, 1941 :—

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman C. E. Westbrook, O.B.E., J.P.).
Aldermen Allan and Weekes.
Councillor Raiswell.

Scrap Metal.—The Clerk laid before the Conservators further correspondence with Miss E. M. D. Waddilove with reference to her suggestion that the iron railings around the Cricket Grounds on the Common would be of value to the Government at the present time.

RESOLVED—That the reply of the Clerk be approved.

Seats.—A letter was received from Messrs. Berry & Berry stating that the Lord of the Manor regretted that he did not see his way to consent to the erection on the Common of three seats, which the Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Association had offered as a gift to the Conservators, on the ground that they were an innovation, involved excavation and the disturbance both of the surface and the subsoil, and also on the ground that they were unsuitable and out of keeping with the other seats now on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the matter be adjourned.

Bomb Craters.—A letter was received from Messrs. Berry & Berry stating that the Lord of the Manor had instructed them to inform the Conservators that he was not disposed to contribute to the filling in of the crater on the Upper Cricket Ground, but he would have no objection to its being filled in by the Conservators if they desired to do so.

The Surveyor reported that since the last meeting there had been bomb craters on the Commons in the following positions :—

Near Hungershall Park.
„ Brighton Lake.
„ Rusthall Church.

Questions relating to the filling in of the four craters above referred to were considered.

RESOLVED—That the matter be adjourned until the next meeting, but that if the Military Authorities desire to fill in the craters the Clerk be authorised to give the necessary consent.

Accounts—Year ended 25th March, 1940.—The Auditors' Report on the Accounts for the year ending 25th March, 1940, was received.

The Clerk reported that he had circulated copies of the Accounts to the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1940, be and the same are hereby approved.

Commons Conservators

Appointment of Auditors.—RESOLVED—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale for their services as Auditors and that they be re-appointed Auditors for the current year.

Meetings, 1941.—RESOLVED—That the meetings of the Conservators during 1941 be held on the following Tuesdays at 3 p.m. :—

March 4th ; June 3rd ; September 30th ; and December 2nd.

subject to due notice of any alteration which might be necessary in those dates during the year.

Estimates.—RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in its Estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Committee.—RESOLVED—(1) That Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, W. Maynard, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone and E. B. Weekes be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year and that a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for its services, and (2) that the Clerk be directed to convey to Mr. E. J. Strange the regret of the Conservators at the severance of his membership of this body.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £302 8s. 11d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed.

[Signature]
Chairman
4th Mch 1941.

Commons Conservators

4th March, 1941.

Commons Conserbators.

4th March, 1941.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Messrs. C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed,
Neville R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Seats.—A letter was received from the Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Association intimating that it would appear that, after so many months of inaction, the offer of three seats made by the Association could not be acceptable to the Commons Conservators owing to the suggested method of fixing being objected to by the Lord of the Manor, and that, in such circumstances, the offer was withdrawn.

Prevention of Fires on the Commons.—A letter was received from the Regional Commissioner transmitting copies of letters received by the Military Liaison Officer from Brig.-Gen. Manly-Sims regarding the prevention of possible fires on the Commons due to enemy incendiary activities, stating that the Commissioner was not aware whose responsibility it was for keeping down the undergrowth on the Commons in the Borough, that the point raised by Brig.-Gen. Manly-Sims seemed a good one and he would be glad to have the observations of the Commons Conservators thereon.

The Surveyor to the Conservators reported that all that was possible with the labour and finance at the disposal of the Conservators was done to clear the undergrowth from the vicinity of private residences on the Commons, but to clear the whole of the undergrowth on the Commons would involve a large additional amount of labour and expense to meet which no funds were available, whilst labour at the present time was practically unobtainable.

The Clerk reported that he had discussed the matter with Brig.-Gen. Manly-Sims.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Mayor to communicate with the Regional Commissioner or his representative and to report further thereon to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Bomb Craters.—The Clerk reported a letter he had received from Mr. H. S. Whiting, on behalf of the Linden Park Cricket Club, with regard to the filling up of the bomb crater on the Higher Cricket Ground.

The Surveyor reported that the Club was arranging for a builder to deposit surplus earth into the crater and other builders were being approached to adopt the same course, but the work had been delayed by recent rains and the consequent damage which would be caused to the surrounding turf by carting operations.

The Surveyor also reported that he was filling in two small craters, one near Hungershall Park, and the other near Rusthall Church, and he had partially filled in the crater above the Brighton Lake.

Seats.—The Clerk reported that he had made a claim on the parent of a school boy for damage done by the latter to the glass of a covered seat on the Common, but the claim had not yet been paid.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £409. 3s. 3d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Chairman
12th March 1941.
2nd June

Commons Conservators

12th May, 1941.

Commons Conserbators.

12th May, 1941.—At a special meeting of the Commons Conservators, summoned by direction of the Mayor as Chairman, was held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Col. A. R. Cheale.

Messrs. C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. S. Hallett Reed, A. J. Pelton,
Neville R. Stone, S. V. Thorpe and E. B. Weekes.

In attendance : Mr. John Whitehead, Town Clerk.

Mr. J. S. Forrest, Office of Regional Commissioner.

Prevention of Fires on Commons.—The following letter was read :—

TOWN HALL,

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

30th April, 1941.

Dear Sir,

Fire Prevention (Business Premises) Order, 1941.

The Regional Commissioner has recently drawn attention to the danger which may arise through undergrowth on the Common being set alight by incendiary bombs. The danger would be not only to property situated on the Common, if the fire became of serious dimensions, but would also arise from the fact that the fire would serve as a beacon to enemy aircraft.

In order to meet this situation, my Council is prepared under the Air Raid Precautions Act, 1937, to place additional funds at the disposal of the Conservators in order that the undergrowth may be cleared.

The Emergency Committee has asked if the Conservators would be good enough to prepare a scheme for this purpose and submit it to the Committee, together with an estimate of the cost involved.

I enclose herewith an additional copy of this letter for the use of the Surveyor to the Conservators.

I may add that the Regional Commissioner regards this matter as one of urgency, and I am authorised by the Mayor to say that he would be agreeable to an early meeting of the Conservators being convened to discuss the subject.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) JOHN WHITEHEAD,

Town Clerk.

W. C. Cripps, Esq., J.P., C.A.,
"The Lawn," Camden Park,
Tunbridge Wells.

The Clerk reviewed the earlier correspondence which the Mayor had had with the Regional Commissioner with regard to the prevention of fires on the Commons which might be caused by enemy action.

The Clerk also reported the following letter which the Mayor had received from the Regional Commissioner :—

CIVIL DEFENCE,

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER,

BREDBURY, MOUNT EPHRAIM,

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

12/KEN/48/18c.

12th April, 1941.

Dear Mr. Mayor,

With reference to your letter of the 14th March and earlier correspondence regarding the prevention of fires on the Commons in Tunbridge

Commons Conservators

Wells, I am now in a position to inform you that the Ministry of Home Security will be prepared to accept for purposes of grant, approved expenditure on clearing the undergrowth on the Commons or such part of them as are considered to be a potential danger in the event of their being set alight by incendiary bombs and so lighting up the town for a further enemy attack.

This grant would have to be paid to the Borough Council who would meet the expenditure in the first place and claim grant on the same basis as for any other expenditure on Air Raid (Fire) Precautions. If as is probable the total expenditure of the Borough on Air Raid Precautions met from rates now exceeds the product of a penny rate, grant would be at the rate of 75 per cent. of the approved expenditure.

The Commissioner would be glad to know as soon as possible that the Council agree to the above arrangement and to receive a formal application for grant together with an estimate of the total cost involved.

Yours faithfully

(Sgd.) J. S. FORREST.

Alderman C. E. Westbrook, O.B.E., J.P.,
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

The Surveyor reported that to clear the gorse and undergrowth on the Commons would entail the continuous employment of at least 10 men, at an estimated cost of £31 per week, but, at the present time he was unable to obtain any suitable labour for the work.

Mr. Forrest undertook to make enquiries as to whether any military labour would be available for the purpose.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators approve of the necessary steps being taken by the Corporation in consultation with Mr. Maxwell, Surveyor to the Conservators, to clear the Commons from undergrowth and gorse, the funds required being provided by the Corporation.

Treasurer.—A letter was received from Mr. W. Reeve, Manager of Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Tunbridge Wells, intimating that, in consequence of his impending departure from Tunbridge Wells, he tendered his resignation as Treasurer to the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That Mr. Reeve's resignation be accepted with regret, and that an expression of the Conservators' thanks be given to Mr. Reeve for his services as Treasurer during the past 3½ years.

RESOLVED—That Mr. William Foster Morley Hopkins, Manager, Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Tunbridge Wells, be appointed Treasurer of the Commons Conservators in the place of Mr. W. Reeve.

Shawman

Chairman
3rd June 1941

Commons Conservators

3rd June, 1941.

Commons Conservators.

3rd June, 1941.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Colonel A. R. Cheale.

Messrs. H. Elwig, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed and Neville R. Stone.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last ordinary Meeting and a special Meeting held on 12th May, 1941, were read and confirmed.

Upper Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Linden Park Cricket Club with reference to the filling in of the crater on the Upper Cricket Ground caused by enemy action, intimating that the Club had undertaken the task of repairing the ground and had issued an appeal for financial help, and expressing a hope that the Conservators would be able to make some financial contribution to the Club to assist it in the liability it had undertaken.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do make an *ex gratia* payment of £3 to the Linden Park Cricket Club towards the cost of filling in the crater in question.

Posts on the Common.—A letter was received from the O/C. 20 Bomb Disposal Company, R.E., suggesting that in order to facilitate the turning of vehicles in Hungershall Park Road three posts at the entrance to the old race course should be removed.

The Surveyor reported to the Conservators that he had been in communication with the O/C and that in view of the expense which would be involved in carrying out the suggestion, the work was not being proceeded with.

Camouflage Netting.—An application was received from the Women's Voluntary Service for sanction to erect a pipe framing on the Common near the back of the Pantiles for work on camouflage netting undertaken by them on behalf of the Military Authorities.

The Clerk reported that after the Surveyor to the Conservators had conferred with Mr. C. Berry on the matter he had granted the application.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk's action be approved.

Treasurer.—A letter was received from Mr. W. F. M. Hopkins, the Manager of Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Tunbridge Wells, accepting the appointment of Treasurer to the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators.

Seats.—The Clerk reported that Mr. W. G. Harris had paid the claim amounting to 5s. 6d. being the cost of repairing the damage to a seat on the Common caused by his son.

Storage of Coal and Coke.—The Clerk reported that the O/C. 20 Bomb Disposal Company, R.E., had withdrawn his application for permission to store coal and coke on the Common adjacent to their traffic lines in Hungershall Park Road, other arrangements having been made for this purpose.

Fencing.—The Surveyor reported that the Royal Engineers were proposing, under the powers conferred by the Defence of the Realm Act, to fence in a strip of the Common between Hungershall Park and Eridge Road with iron stakes, barbed wire entanglements and smooth wire.

Prevention of Fires on the Common.—The Surveyor reported on the progress of the work which had been undertaken by the Corporation in clearing gorse and undergrowth on the Common for the prevention of fires which might be caused by enemy action.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts for payment amounting to £6. 13s. 2d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Chapman
24th Oct 1941.

Commons Conservators

2nd December, 1941.

Commons Conservators.

2nd December, 1941.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

 Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

 Messrs. C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. S. Hallett Reed, Neville R. Stone
 and S. V. Thorpe.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its meeting on the 10th ultimo appointed the following Members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators to hold office until the 9th November, 1942 :—

 His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook).
 Aldermen Allan and Weekes.
 Councillor Raiswell.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Brigadier-General R. S. Manley Sims.—The Clerk reported that Brig.-Genl. R. S. Manley Sims would be unable to attend the meeting owing to illness.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to express to Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley Sims the regret of the Conservators at the cause of his absence from the meeting and the hope that his health would speedily be restored.

Requisitioning of Land on the Common.—A letter was received from the Sub-Area Quartering Commandant (South Kent) with regard to taking possession of land on the Common adjoining Hungershall Park Road under the provisions of Regulation 51 of the Defence Regulations, 1939, and enclosing amended plan.

The Surveyor reported that the amended plan enclosed with the letter was still incorrect ; that he had drawn the attention of the military authorities thereto, and they had undertaken to furnish a correct plan.

A further letter was received from the Sub-Area Quartering Commandant (South Kent), transmitting a corrected plan showing the area of land which had been taken together with the buildings erected thereon.

The Clerk reported that he had now received formal notice of the taking of possession of land at the following additional sites on the Tunbridge Wells Common :—

1. Hungershall Park (near western boundary of Common)
2. Castle Road (near Onslow House)
3. St. Helena, Mount Ephraim (north-east side)
4. Major Yorke's Road (opposite Nevill Park)
5. Bishop's Down (near Spa Hotel).

A letter was received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer, West Kent Area, with reference to the foregoing defence works pointing out that he thought the Conservators would agree that no diminution of annual value had occurred as a result of such works and requesting that the forms enclosed with his letter might be signed and returned in order that the matter might be filed until such time as the requisitions were cancelled, when the question of compensation for any depreciation in value of the Estate would be dealt with in accordance with the Compensation Act.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to inform the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer that the Conservators are interested in the matter only so far as the power of management of the Common is vested in them under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and that, subject to the reinstatement by the military authorities of the surface of the Commons at the end of the war to their satisfaction, no claim for dilapidations in respect of such occupation and works would be made.

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Commons Conservators

Accounts—Year ended 25th March, 1941.—The Auditors' report on the accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1941, was received.

The Clerk reported that he had circulated copies of the accounts to the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1941, be and the same are hereby approved.

Appointment of Auditors.—RESOLVED—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale for their services as auditors and that they be re-appointed auditors for the current year.

Meetings, 1942.—RESOLVED—That the meetings of the Conservators during 1942 be held on the following Tuesdays at 3 p.m., March 3rd, June 2nd, October 6th and December 1st, subject to due notice of any alteration which might be necessary in these dates during the year.

Estimates.—RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in its estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.


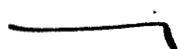
Committee.—RESOLVED—That Messrs. T. C. Allan, C. Berry, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed, N. R. Stone and S. V. Thorpe be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year and that a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for its services during the past year.

Removal of Railings on the Commons.—It was reported to the Committee that the Corporation, as agents for the Ministry of Supply, were preparing a schedule in connection with the removal of unnecessary railings in the Borough and the provisional list of railings on the Commons which had been included in such schedule.

It was also reported to the Conservators that the estimated weight of railings included in the provisional list was approximately 5 tons, and that compensation would be payable, if required by the Conservators, at the rate of 25s. 0d. per ton.

RESOLVED—That no claim for compensation be made in respect of any railings removed from the Tunbridge Wells Commons as such removal will be in the National interest.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £187. 3s. 4d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.


Chairman
3rd March 1942


3rd March, 1942.

Commons Conservators.

3rd March, 1942.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Messrs. C. Berry, H. Elwig, W. S. Hallett-Reed, S.V. Thorpe and E. B. Weekes.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Brigadier-General R.S. Manley Sims.—A letter was received from Brig.-General R.S. Manley Sims regretting his inability to attend this meeting but expressing the hope that he would be well enough to be present at the next meeting.

National Fire Service.—The following letter was read :—

COPY]

NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE.

DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS,
DUNORLAN,
PEMBURY ROAD,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
8th January 1942.

W. C. Cripps, Esq.,
Clerk to the Commons Conservators,
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

Dear Sir,

Sites for Circular Steel Dams on Tunbridge Wells Common off Mount Ephraim.

Two Circular Steel Dams 34ft. in diameter and holding 23,000 gallons have been allocated to Tunbridge Wells to be erected on the following sites :—

(1) On the Common near the road opposite Mount Edgecumbe Hotel and the Wellington Hotel.

(2) On the Common at the west end of Chancellor House drive.

I should be grateful to receive the necessary permission for the commencement of the installation of such dams.

Yours truly,

(signed) C. J. MURRANT,
Acting Divl. Officer.

The Clerk reported that he had referred the matter to the Surveyor whose report was read as follows :—

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

13th January, 1942.

Letter from "National Fire Service," dated 8th January, 1942, respecting "Sites for Circular Steel Dams" on Common.

I have been in touch with the National Fire Service, Dunorlan for information in regard to the above, and understand—one Tank or Dam, is proposed to be fixed on a fairly level part of the T.W. Common, approximately opposite the Wellington Hotel, and the second tank on the corner of the Common at the junction of Bishops Down (Inner) Road and the south end of Hurstwood Lane.

The tanks consist of steel plates bolted together in circular form and are proposed to be erected on a concrete floor. I understand no metal top, or bottom, is provided, and that the steel sides are to be embedded in the concrete to ensure watertightness at the base.

A circular tank of 34ft. diameter as mentioned in the National Fire Service letter, to hold 23,000 gallons would require a depth of 4ft. of water. I think, therefore, some strong and effective form of cover to the tanks should be provided, as small children may easily climb up the sides and fall into the tanks, involving a risk of drowning.

It would be advisable also, to have the tanks fenced around, with close chestnut spile fencing in order to reduce the risks above mentioned.

The tanks should, of course, be made and maintained, watertight at the base and at the joints of the steel sheeting and the fencing and covers kept in thorough good order.

As the Common is a public place, accessible to all at all times I think the Conservators should be absolved from all responsibility for possible damage and accidents, such, for example, as mishaps of the kind above indicated. Also, I presume, an undertaking would be given by the proper authority to remove the concrete bases and tanks, and make good and turf the surfaces of the Common at the two sites upon the termination of the War.

(signed) W. H. MAXWELL,

Surveyor to Tunbridge Wells Commons
Conservators.

The Clerk further reported that on receipt of the above report from the Surveyor he had written the following letter to the Acting Divisional Officer of the National Fire Service:—

COPY]

TOWN HALL,

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

19th January, 1942.

Dear Sir,

**Sites for Circular Steel Dams on
Tunbridge Wells Common off Mount Ephraim.**

On receipt of your letter of January 8th, I referred the matter to the Surveyor of the Conservators, Mr. W. H. Maxwell, of 36 Warwick Park, for a report and I think I cannot do better than send you herewith a copy of his report dated January 13th. It would be desirable for you to deal with the points he raises before the next meeting of the Conservators which will be held on March 3rd.

I may mention that before any interference takes place with the soil of the Common the consent of the Lord of the Manor should be obtained. In like manner any interference with the herbage cannot take place without the consent of the Freehold Tenants of the Manor.

As it may save you trouble I am sending to the Solicitor of the Lord of the Manor (Mr. Charles Berry of No. 11 Church Road) and to the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants (Mr. A. L. Rush of 49 High Street) copies of your letter of January 8th, of Mr. Maxwell's report, and of this letter and would suggest you communicate with them.

Yours truly,

(signed) W. C. Cripps,

Clerk.

The Acting Divisional Officer, National Fire Service,
Dunorlan, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells.

To this letter he had had the following reply :—

COPY]

NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE.

Area 31. Division C.

C DIVISION HEADQUARTERS.

DUNORLAN,

PEMBURY ROAD,

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

28th January, 1942.

Dear Sir,

Sites for Circular Steel Dams on
Tunbridge Wells Common off Mount Ephraim.

I am in receipt of yours of the 19th instant, and thank you for the information given on the matter.

Your letter and a copy of Mr. Maxwell's report has been forwarded to Fire Force Headquarters, who will communicate with you further on the matter at an early date.

Yours faithfully,

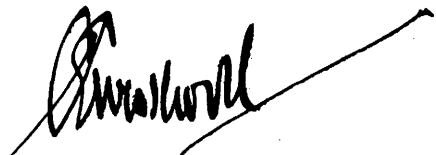
(signed) C. J. MURRANT,

Acting Divisional Officer.

W. C. Cripps, Esq.,
Clerk to Commons Conservators,
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee with power to act as they think best in the interests of the Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £213. 1s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.


Chairman
23rd June 1942

23rd June, 1942.

Commons Conserbators.

23rd June, 1942.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Brig.-General R. S. Manley-Sims.

Messrs. F. R. Kember, W. S. Hallett-Reed, W. C. Raiswell, S. V. Thorpe and E. B. Weekes.

The late Mr. Charles Berry.—RESOLVED—That the Conservators of the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons place upon record their sincere regret at the death of Mr. Charles Berry, who, as one of the representatives of the Lord of the Manor of Rusthall, has for many years occupied the position of a Conservator and desire the Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to Mrs. Berry.

Appointment of Conservator.—A letter was received from Mr. Frank O. Baird, the Lord of the Manor, intimating that in view of the death of Mr. Charles Berry he had appointed Mr. Frederick R. Kember, of No. 11, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells, to act in his place as one of his representatives on the Board of Conservators.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Rusthall Cricket Ground.—The Clerk submitted his correspondence with Mr. F. Whitmore, the Captain of the Rusthall Cricket Club with regard to certain works carried out by the Military Authorities on the Rusthall Cricket Ground.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk's action in the matter be approved.

National Fire Service.—A letter was received from the Principal Officer of the South Eastern Regional Office relative to static water supplies on the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons intimating that in addition to the request from the National Fire Service for permission to erect two circular steel dams on the Common at Tunbridge Wells, permission was also desired to erect a similar dam on the Common at Rusthall on the triangular plot of ground opposite to "The Morning Star."

The Clerk reported that, in view of the urgency of the matter, he had obtained the assent of the Committee of the Conservators to the application and had addressed the following letter to the South Eastern Regional Office :—

Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators,

Town Hall,

Ref. 3170/1.

Tunbridge Wells.

31st March, 1942.

Static Water.

Sir,—I beg to refer to your letter of the 6th instant, addressed to Mr. W. H. Maxwell, Surveyor to the Commons Conservators, and to inform you that the Commons Conservators, acting under the power of management vested in them by the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, grant permission for the erection of three circular steel dams on the following sites on the Common :—

- (1) On the west side of Hurstwood Lane near its junction with Bishops Down.
- (2) Approximately opposite to No. 81, Mount Ephraim.
- (3) On the south side of Rusthall Road near the road leading to "Common View."

This permission is granted subject to adequate steps being taken to prevent children having access to the dams, that the dams are made and maintained watertight at the base and joints, and the protective measures adopted kept in good order, that the Conservators are indemnified against liability for damage or accidents, and that the National Fire Service undertakes, at the termination of the war to remove the dams and concrete bases and to make good the surface of the Commons and returf to the satisfaction of the Surveyor of the Commons Conservators.

I shall be glad to receive your formal acceptance of these conditions.

I am, Sir,

The Principal Officer,
South Eastern Regional Office,
Bredbury, Mount Ephraim,
Tunbridge Wells.

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) W. C. CRIPPS,
Clerk.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's action be approved.

Air Raid Shelters.—The Clerk submitted an application which he had received from the Borough Surveyor for permission to erect reinforced concrete shelters on Rusthall Common opposite No. 26, Upper Street, and on Tunbridge Wells Common adjoining the Brighton Lake, Eridge Road.

The Clerk reported that, in accordance with the authority given to him by the Committee of the Commons Conservators, he had addressed the following letter to the Town Clerk.

Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators,
Town Hall,
Tunbridge Wells.

8th May, 1942.

Re-inforced Concrete Shelters on Commons.

Dear Sir,—I beg to refer to the Borough Surveyor's letter of the 29th ultimo to the Surveyor to the Commons Conservators and to inform you that the Committee of the Commons Conservators consents to the erection of the air raid shelters at Rusthall Common, opposite 26, Upper Street, and Tunbridge Wells Common, adjacent to Brighton Lake, and Eridge Road, subject to the Corporation undertaking to remove the shelters and restore the surface of the Commons to its former state and condition, to the satisfaction of the Surveyor to the Conservators, on the cessation of hostilities.

Will you please let me have the Corporation's formal undertaking in due course.

John Whitehead, Esq.,
Town Clerk,
Tunbridge Wells.

Yours truly
(Sgd.) W. C. CRIPPS,
Clerk.

RESOLVED—That the Committee's action be confirmed.

Requisitioning of Land on the Commons.—The Clerk reported the Notice he had received from the Quartering Commandant (Mid-Kent) transmitting Notice of taking of possession of two portions of land on the Tunbridge Wells Common on the North West side of Hungershall Park Road.

A letter was received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer, West Kent Area, transmitting copy of the claim forms for completion.

The Clerk also reported the notice he had received from the Quartering Commandant (Mid-Kent) transmitting copies of Notice of taking of possession of land on Rusthall Common on the north and south sides of the road leading to Langton adjoining and including the Rusthall Cricket Ground.

A letter was received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer, West Kent Area, enquiring if the Conservators were to be regarded as the occupiers in title to claim compensation or whether they desired him to take up the matter with the Committee of the Freehold Tenants of the Manor of Rusthall.

The Surveyor reported that five seats had been removed by the Military from the land in question.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to communicate with the Quartering Commandant (Mid-Kent) as to the proper procedure to be adopted for making claims in respect of damage to property belonging to the Conservators or over which they had powers of management or control by virtue of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890.

Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons.—The Surveyor submitted the following Report on matters affecting the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons:—

Twenty-nine entrenchments have been excavated by the military (or Home Guard) during recent months. These are widely scattered over the Tunbridge Wells Commons and new ones are occasionally made.

On the 11th March last I drew the attention of Capt. Jones (H.G.), Boyne House, to the need of some simple rough fencing around these excavations as I considered them dangerous to the public without a precautionary guard.

The excavations are about 5 feet deep, and in one case, the trench was nearly full of water. Rough fencings have since been provided by the Home Guard.

I think it would be advisable if some understanding, applying generally over the Commons, could be arrived at, ensuring at a later date, the filling in of these excavations and making good of the turfing by the military authorities. New material will have to be carted to the sites for filling in some cases.

A large part of Rusthall Common, near the Cricket Ground, on both the north and south sides of the main Langton Road, was occupied by anti-aircraft men and equipment at the end of April last.

Forms of requisition of the site were received on 12th May, 1942.

The greater part of the men and equipment left the site after a stay of some three or four weeks.

Two oak trees and five small thorn trees were cut down by the men in occupation of the A.A. Camp—presumably for sighting purposes.

One of the oak trees was about 8 feet in circumference at the base and the other 2 feet circumference. The largest oak was situated near the junction of Tea Garden Lane and Langton Main Road, where it now lies.

Five oak seats and some oak fencing posts (near the "Marlpits," Rusthall Common) have also been noted to be missing since the A.A. occupation of the site.

Other damage consists mainly of surface damage by Army vehicles arising mostly during wet weather.

There is a certain amount of litter, barbed wire and other material to be cleared up later on, including small branches from trees and bushes used as camouflage.

I presume the Military Authorities will undertake, when approached by "Claim," to make good damage of all kinds at a later date.

It is not definitely known, at the site, whether the Military will return to the full occupation of the area requisitioned by them.

The iron railings around the Upper and Lower Cricket Grounds, around plots of Common in London Road opposite the General Post Office and small lots at other places, have now been removed as salvage by the Ministry of Works and Buildings.

The construction of one of the three new static water tanks, for fire extinction purposes, on the Common, near Bredbury, was started during the first week in June.

(Sgd.) W. H. MAXWELL,

5th June, 1942.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

A letter was received from the O.C. 22nd (Tunbridge Wells) Battalion Kent Home Guard with regard to trenches and emplacements on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to forward a copy of the Report to the O.C. 12th Corps and to request his observations thereon and also to send a copy to the O.C. 22nd Battalion Kent Home Guard.

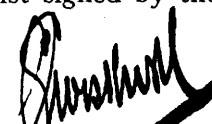
Accounts for the Year ending 25th March, 1942.—The Auditors' report on the accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1942, was received.

The Clerk reported that he had circulated copies of the accounts to the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1942, be, and the same are hereby, approved.

Appointment of Auditors.—RESOLVED—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. H. Elwig and Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale for their services as auditors and that they be re-appointed auditors for the current year.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £195. 18s. 7d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.


Chairman
12th October 1942

6th October, 1942.

Commons Conservators.

6th October, 1942.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Brig.-General R. S. Manley Sims.

Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale.

Messrs. H. Elwig, F. R. Kember, W. S. Hallett Reed, W. C. Raiswell,
S. V. Thorpe and E. B. Weekes.

Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale.—The Mayor expressed to Lt.-Col. A. R. Cheale the pleasure of the Conservators to see that he had sufficiently recovered from his recent indisposition to attend the meeting.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons.—A letter was received from the Brigadier, General Staff, 12th Corps, referring to the report of the Surveyor to the Conservators with regard to trenches and emplacements on the Commons, intimating that the entrenchments on the Tunbridge Wells Common were on ground which had been requisitioned, under an omnibus requisition, and the area on Rusthall Common was also requisitioned; any damage which arose from military occupation would be dealt with by the War Department Land Agent and Valuer.

S. V. Thorpe reported that negotiations were now proceeding between the Agents of the Lord of the Manor and the Military Authorities with regard to military works carried out on the Commons.

The Surveyor reported an interview he had had with a representative of the War Department Land Agent and Valuer with regard to defence works and the requisitioning of land on the Commons, and that the representative had undertaken shortly to address a letter to the Conservators setting out in detail the present position with regard to these defence works and requisitioned land.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of the letter, when received, to the Lord of the Manor and to the Freehold Tenants.

Entrenchments.—The Mayor reported a personal letter he had received with regard to injuries which had been sustained by a person who was walking on the Commons and accidentally fell into an unprotected gun pit and also the reply which had been sent on his behalf by the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to call the attention of the O/C. 22nd Battalion Kent Home Guard to the present unsatisfactory condition of the protective fencing erected around the trenches on the Commons and to request that it should be maintained in a safe and proper condition for the preservation of public safety, and that preference should be given to the use of wooden stakes in lieu of iron bars.

Questions relating to the erection of notices, directing the public to keep to the footpaths on the Commons, were considered.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

Trees.—The Clerk reported a letter he had received from Baltic Saw Mills Company, Limited, enquiring if the Company could remove a tree on Rusthall Common, that they had received the consent of the Agent of the Lord of the Manor to do so, and he had informed the Company that, so far as the Conservators were concerned, they could remove the tree provided they made good any damage to the surface of the Commons in its removal, to which they agreed.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk's action be approved.

Sandbins, London Road.—The Clerk reported a letter he had received from the Town Clerk requesting the permission of the Conservators to replace sand bins at present in London Road, on the Common, one at a point adjoining its present site near Church Road, and the other at a point approximately opposite to Vale Avenue, and that, after consulting the Mayor as Chairman of the Commons Conservators, he had given consent so far as the Conservators were concerned.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk's action be approved.

Tents on the Common.—The Clerk reported that he had received an application from the military authorities for permission to place tents on the Common and, after consulting the Chairman, he had authorised the placing of such tents on the Common on the dates and for the purpose indicated, on the understanding that any damage to the surface of the Commons in fixing the tents, or in their use or removal be made good.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk's action be approved.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £198. 17s. 4d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

[Signature]
Chairman
1st December 1942

1st December, 1942.

Commons Conserbators.

1st December, 1942.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Brig. Genl. R. S. Manley Sims.

Messrs. H. Elwig, F. R. Kember and S. V. Thorpe.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its meeting on the 9th ultimo appointed the following members of the Town Council as Commons Conservators to hold office until the 9th November, 1943.

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook).

Aldermen Allan and Weekes.

Councillor Raiswell.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. George F. Morrell of "Home Grange," Rusthall Common, calling attention to the present condition of the shrubs, trees and undergrowth abutting on the roadway, which completely obscured his view of the Common; that the undergrowth, in the event of incendiaries, constituted a dangerous patch very close to private residences and requesting the removal of some of the shrubs and trees and clearance of a portion of the undergrowth.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Committee with power to take such action as it may deem desirable.

Requisitioning of Land and Defence Works on the Common.—The Clerk reported correspondence with the Deputy War Department Land Agent and Valuer, the Surveyor to the Commons Conservators, the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants and the Lord of the Manor with reference to the requisitioning of land and defence works on the Commons.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the action of the Clerk as appearing from such correspondence be approved.
- (b) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to confer with the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants with regard to the de-requisitioning of land at Rusthall Common, and he be authorised to make any necessary claim for compensation in respect thereof.

Entrenchments.—The Clerk submitted correspondence with the O.C. 22nd Tunbridge Wells Battn., Kent Home Guard, with reference to the maintenance in a safe and proper condition of the entrenchments on the Common for the preservation of public safety.

Demonstration on Common.—The Clerk reported a letter he had received from the Military Authorities with reference to the use of the Common opposite to the Spa Hotel on the 17/18th October last for the purposes of a demonstration; that, after consulting the Chairman and the representative of the Lord of the Manor, consent had been given, and his action was approved.

Meetings, 1943.—RESOLVED—That the meetings of the Conservators during 1943 be held on the following Tuesdays at 3 p.m.: March 2nd; June 1st; October 5th; November 30th, subject to due notice of any alteration which might be necessary in these dates during the year.

Damage to Property.—The Clerk reported that the District Claims Officer had admitted the Commons Conservators claim of £27. 10s. for five oak seats destroyed by the military authorities on Rusthall Common.

RESOLVED—That subject to the necessary license being obtained from the Timber Controller, for the necessary materials, the Surveyor be instructed to replace the seats in question.

Estimates—RESOLVED.—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in its estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Committee—RESOLVED.—That Messrs. T. C. Allan, H. Elwig, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett-Reed, ~~N. R. Stone~~, and S. V. Thorpe be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year and that a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for its services during the past year.

Riding and Driving on Footpaths.—Questions relating to the danger to pedestrians caused by the riding and driving of vehicular traffic on the footpaths on the Commons were considered.

RESOLVED—

1. That, in pursuance of Byelaw 32, it is prohibited to drive or ride any vehicle, bicycle, tricycle or velocipede or other like machine on any footpath on the Commons.
2. That it be referred to the Committee to fix the position in which copies of the Byelaws be posted upon the Commons and that this resolution shall also apply to notices under Byelaw 32.
3. That in giving effect to resolution 2 the Committee do have regard to the provisions of any order prohibiting the disclosure of "place names" for the time being in force.

Roadway opposite Gordon Villa.—Questions relating to the vehicular traffic on the roadway opposite Gordon Villa were considered.

RESOLVED.—That the matter be referred to Mr. H. Elwig and the Surveyor to consider and report by what means the roadway in question could be restricted to its present width.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £192. 16s. 10d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Handwritten signature
Chairman
27th March 1943

2nd March, 1943.

Commons Conservators.

2nd March, 1943.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Brig.-General R. S. Manley Sims.

Messrs. H. Elwig, F. R. Kember, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett-Reed and S. V. Thorpe.

1—**The late Colonel A. R. Cheale.**—RESOLVED—That a sincere vote of sympathy and condolence be passed with Mrs. Cheale and her family on the death of Col. A. R. Cheale, and that an expression of the Conservators' regret at the loss of so valued and esteemed a colleague be recorded on the minutes.

2—**Mr. W. C. Cripps, J.P., C.A.**—The Chairman, on behalf of the Commons Conservators, expressed to Mr. W. C. Cripps the Conservators' congratulations and good wishes on the recent happy event which occurred in his daughter's family and the hope that his grandson would have as long and distinguished a career as his grandfather.

3—**Damage to Property.**—A letter was received from the Assistant Director of Claims transmitting the sum of £5. 15s. 0d. in full and final settlement of the Conservators' claim for damage to an oak seat on Rusthall Common.

The Clerk reported that he had submitted a claim to the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer for making good damage in respect of land, Rusthall Common, amounting to £12.

A letter was received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer, West Kent Area, intimating that he was arranging for the claim of £12 to be passed for payment.

The Surveyor reported that he had made an application to the Timber Controller for a licence for materials required for replacing the five seats destroyed by the military on Rusthall Common and had received a reply suggesting that the replacement of the seats should be deferred until the end of the war or that the seats should be constructed in concrete.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to renew the application to the Timber Controller for the issue of a Licence for the timber required.

4—**Static Water Supplies.**—The Clerk submitted the following letter from the Chief Regional Fire Officer :—

COPY.

CIVIL DEFENCE.

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER.

South Eastern Regional Office,

Bredbury,

Mount Ephraim,

Tunbridge Wells.

W. H. Maxwell, Esq.,

36, Warwick Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Dear Sir,

Static Water Basin, Tunbridge Wells.

It is desired to erect a static water basin having a capacity of 20,000 gallons on the triangular plot of ground adjacent to the General Post Office in Vale Road.

As you are the Surveyor to the Conservators, I trust you will be able to obtain the necessary permission for the erection of this urgently needed static supply.

I enclose a plan showing the proposed plot, and hope you will find no difficulties in giving the desired approval.

Yours faithfully

(Sd.)

for Chief Regional Fire Officer.

9th February, 1943.

"O" Section, No. 12 Regional Headquarters.

and that, after consulting the Committee of the Commons Conservators, the following reply had been sent to the application :—

COPY. TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

Town Hall,
Tunbridge Wells.
20th February, 1943.

Dear Sir,

Static Water Basin, Land adjacent to the General Post Office,
London Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Referring to your letter of the 9th instant addressed to Mr. W. H. Maxwell, the Surveyor to the Commons Conservators, I beg to inform you that the Commons Conservators, acting under the power of management vested in them by the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, grant permission for the erection of a static water basin on land in London Road adjacent to the General Post Office, Tunbridge Wells. The permission is granted subject to adequate steps being taken to prevent children having access to the basin, that the basin is made and maintained water tight at the base, and joints and the protective measures adopted kept in good order, that the Conservators are indemnified against liability for damage or accidents, and that the National Fire Service undertake at the termination of the war to remove the basin and concrete base and to make good the surface of the Commons and return to the satisfaction of the Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

Will you please let me have a formal acceptance of these conditions.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) W. C. CRIPPS,
Clerk.

The Chief Regional Fire Officer,
South Eastern Region, Bredbury, Mount Ephraim,
Tunbridge Wells.

The Clerk reported that he had received a verbal acceptance of the conditions set out in his letter of the 20th February, 1943, which would be confirmed in writing.

5—Trees.—(a) RESOLVED—That, subject to the consent of the Lord of the Manor, the Surveyor be instructed to remove an old lime tree blown down in the recent gale from the Common opposite Montacute Gardens.

The letter from Mr. George F. Morrell, of Home Grange, Rusthall Common, was further considered.

(b) RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Surveyor with authority to do what he considered desirable in clearing the bracken and undergrowth on the Common in the vicinity of Mr. Morrell's residence, but to take no action with regard to the shrubs and trees.

6—Entrenchments.—Questions relating to the entrenchments on the Common were considered.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to request the C.O. 22nd Battn. (Tunbridge Wells) Kent Home Guard to give the necessary instructions for the entrenchments on the Common to be filled in, the protective fencing removed and the surface of the Commons restored to its former condition.

7—Appointment of Auditor.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Sidney Victor Thorpe be appointed Auditor for the current year in the place of the late Colonel A. R. Cheale.

8—Roadway opposite Gordon Villa.—Mr. H. Elwig and the Surveyor reported on the means by which the roadway opposite Gordon Villa could be restricted to its present width.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the matter be deferred and that the Surveyor be instructed to submit an estimate of the cost of providing stone kerbing along the roadway in question to the next meeting of the Conservators.

9—Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £255. 5s. 0d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Chairman
1st June 1943.

Commons Conservators

1st June, 1943.

Commons Conservators.

1st June, 1943.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook) (*Chairman*).

Brig.-General R. S. Manley-Sims.

Messrs. H. Elwig, C. H. J. Evershed, F. R. Kember, W. C. Raiswell,
W. S. Hallett Reed, and S. V. Thorpe.

The late Mr. Neville R. Stone.—RESOLVED—That a sincere vote of sympathy and condolence be passed with Mrs. Stone and her family on the death of Mr. Neville R. Stone and that an expression of the Conservators' regret at the loss of so valued and esteemed a colleague be recorded on the minutes.

Appointment of Conservators.—A letter was received from Mr. A. L. Rush, Manager of the Freehold Tenants of Rusthall Manor, intimating that Mr. C. H. J. Evershed had been elected a representative of the Freehold Tenants on the Commons Conservators to fill one of the two vacancies, and that the filling of the second vacancy had been adjourned until the next meeting of the Freehold Tenants.

The Chairman formally welcomed Mr. Evershed as a member of the Commons Conservators.

Entrenchments on Common.—A letter was received from Lt.-Col. W. R. G. Bye, O/C. 22nd (Tunbridge Wells) Battn. Kent Home Guard, intimating that orders had been given for the overhaul of existing works and for any extensions which might be considered necessary.

The Surveyor reported that no renovation work had been carried out to the entrenchments on the Common.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed again to communicate with the O/C. Kent Home Guard on the matter.

Damage to Property.—A memorandum was received from the District Paymaster transmitting draft for £27. 10s. 0d. the amount due for loss of seats on Rusthall Common.

A memorandum was received from the Command Paymaster transmitting draft for £12 for dilapidations in respect of Rusthall Common Cricket Ground and adjoining land.

A memorandum was received from the Assistant Director of Claims transmitting order for £1. 9s. 6d. for damage to a wooden fence at the junction of London Road and Mount Ephraim.

A memorandum was received from the Command Paymaster transmitting draft for £2. 5s. 0d. for depreciation of property on the Common at Bishops Down caused by the construction of a Rifle Pit.

Footways on Common.—A letter was received from Mr. W. Grant Oliver with regard to the condition of a footway between Lower Green Road and the High Street, Rusthall, and requesting that the Conservators will give their attention to the matter.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Clerk and Surveyor to report thereon to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Lower Cricket Ground.—The Clerk reported that he had received an application from the Chief Regional Fire Officer for permission to hold a South Eastern Regional National Fire Service Trailer Pump Competition on the Lower Cricket Ground on an afternoon in September next and that, after consulting the Chairman and the Committee of the Conservators, he had granted the application subject to the ground being cleared the same evening to the satisfaction of the Surveyor of the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk's action be confirmed.

Demonstrations on Common.—An application was received from the 12th Corps for permission to use a portion of the Common near the Spa Hotel for a small demonstration on the 5th and 6th June intimating that no damage to the surface of the Common would be caused and it would be left in the same condition as found.

The Clerk reported that, after consultation with the Chairman and the representative of the Lord of the Manor, he had granted permission subject to an undertaking to make good any damage to the surface of the Common.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk's action be confirmed.

Static Water Supplies.—The Clerk submitted the following letter from the Principal Officer of the South Eastern Region :—

COPY.

CIVIL DEFENCE.

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER.
BREDBURY, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

12th March, 1943.

The Clerk to the Tunbridge Wells
Commons Conservators,
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

DEAR SIR,

Static Water Basin.—Land adjacent to the General Post
Office, London Road, Tunbridge Wells.

I refer to your letter of the 20th February addressed to the Chief Regional Fire Officer. The question of the conditions under which static water basins may be built on land under the Control of the Commons Conservators has been reviewed and it is thought that it would be preferable that possession of the various sites by the N.F.S. should be covered by formal requisition under the powers of Defence Regulation No. 51. The exercise of these powers would not involve the Conservators in any question of consent to the works and would therefore, dispose of any difficulties as regards indemnity against accidents or liability for damage. The N.F.S. would of course, take all reasonable steps to prevent children having access to the basins and to maintain the basins in water-tight condition so far as this is possible, and full consideration would be given at any time to representations by the Conservators on these points. I hope that the Conservators will be able to agree to this procedure, in which case I will ask the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, in exercise of statutory powers delegated to him by the Secretary of State, to serve formal notice of requisition.

I may add that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have agreed that as regards works on common land which are necessary for public safety or for the prosecution of the war, there is no objection to recourse to Defence Regulation 51 on the understanding that no building of a permanent nature is erected, and that any obstruction is removed and the land restored after the termination of the present emergency. These conditions will be complied with in respect of the static water basins in question.

Yours faithfully

(Signed) W. BELL,
for Principal Officer.

to which the following reply had been sent :—

COPY.

TOWN HALL,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
16th March, 1943.

DEAR SIR,

Static Water Basin.—Land adjacent to the General Post
Office, London Road, Tunbridge Wells.

In reply to your letter of the 12th instant the Commons Conservators offer no objection to the procedure outlined in the first paragraph of your letter.

It is assumed that you are aware of the respective interests in the Tunbridge Wells Commons of the Lord of the Manor, the Freehold Tenants, and the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators.

Your attention is also called to the fact that in addition to the above the following static water basins have already been erected upon the Commons :—

1. Hurstwood Lane.
2. Opposite 81, Mount Ephraim.
3. South side of Rusthall Road near Common View, Rusthall Common.

Yours faithfully

(Sgd.) W. C. CRIPPS,
Clerk.

The Chief Regional Fire Officer,
South Eastern Region,
Bredbury, Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells.

A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, intimating that at the request of the Principal Officer No. 12 Region he had requisitioned a triangular piece of land at the junction of Vale Road and London Road having a frontage to Vale Road of 100 feet.

A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, intimating that at the request of the Principal Officer No. 12 Region he had requisitioned a triangular piece of land at the junction of London Road and Mount Ephraim Road having a frontage to Mount Ephraim Road of 105 feet.

A letter was received from the Town Clerk intimating that on the instructions of the Regional Commissioner he had requisitioned the following sites on the Common on which there had been or would be erected static water tanks :—

1. Opposite 79, Mount Ephraim.
2. At the junction of Hurstwood Lane and Bishops Down.
3. Opposite "The Morning Star," Rusthall.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to make any necessary claims for compensation in respect of the foregoing requisitioned lands.

Air Raid Shelters.—A letter was received from the Borough Surveyor intimating that the reinforced concrete shelter on Rusthall Common opposite 26, Upper Street, would not now be constructed owing to labour shortage.

Shelter on Rusthall Common.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk intimating that he had been instructed by the Council to suggest to the Commons Conservators that they should give consideration to the provision of a shelter on the Rusthall Common near the junction of Bretland Road and Rusthall Road.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the matter be deferred and that the Surveyor be instructed to submit a plan and estimate of suggested shelter to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Roadway opposite Gordon Villa.—The Surveyor submitted an estimate of the cost of providing concrete kerbing along the roadway opposite Gordon Villa amounting to £30.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to carry out the work at a cost not exceeding £30.


Roadway adjoining the G.P.O., London Road.—The Surveyor reported on damage to the Common adjoining the G.P.O. roadway, London Road, and he estimated the cost of repairing the damage and providing the necessary concrete kerbing at £32.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Surveyor to make application to the Post Office authorities for the cost of repairing the damage and the provision of concrete kerbing amounting to £32.

Cycling on Rusthall Common.—Questions relating to cycling on Rusthall Common were considered.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to call the attention of the Police to the matter.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £254. 4s. 7d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.


Chairman
5th Oct 1943

5th October, 1943.

Commons Conservators.

5th October, 1943.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook) (*Chairman*).

Brig.-General R. S. Manley Sims.

Messrs. H. Elwig, F. R. Kember, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett-Reed,
and S. V. Thorpe.

Appointment of Conservator.—The Clerk reported that he had received a communication from Mr. A. L. Rush, Manager of the Freehold Tenants of the Manor of Rusthall, that the appointment of a Conservator, representing the Freehold Tenants, in place of the late Mr. N. R. Stone, had been adjourned until the next meeting of the Freehold Tenants.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Footways on Common.—A further letter was received from Mr. W. Grant Oliver with regard to the footway between Lower Green Road and Rusthall High Street.

The Clerk reported that he and the Surveyor had inspected the footway in question.

The Clerk also reported the wording of a notice which, by order of the Conservators, had been erected adjoining the footway.

RESOLVED—That, subject to the consent of the Lord of the Manor and the Freehold Tenants, the Surveyor be instructed to make up the surface of the footway in question.

Lower Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Chief Regional Fire Officer intimating that the Regional Trailer Pump Competition Finals would be held on the Lower Cricket Ground on September 11th.

The Clerk reported that he subsequently heard that this Competition had been indefinitely postponed but had now been arranged for Saturday, the 23rd instant.

Requisitioning of Land.—The Clerk submitted two notices he had received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer with regard to the use of small portions of land on the Tunbridge Wells Commons for urgent military reasons and intimating that the notices would be replaced by a Defence Regulation 51 notice if the sites were occupied for more than one month, and the Clerk was instructed to communicate with the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer on the matter.

Reinforced Concrete Shelter near Brighton Lake.—A letter was received from the Borough Surveyor with reference to the reinforced concrete shelter near the Brighton Lake, pointing out that the ditch, adjoining Eridge Road, was a source of danger to persons who might wish to proceed to the shelter and the most satisfactory solution would be to pipe and fill in a section of the ditch in front of the shelter and that, subject to the approval of the Conservators, this work would be carried out at the expense of the Corporation.

A report was received from the Surveyor on the application.

The Clerk reported that, after consulting the Committee of the Conservators, he had informed the Borough Surveyor that the Conservators offered no objection to the proposal provided the Corporation kept the pipes clear and free from obstruction and, if called upon by the Common Conservators at any time, removed the pipes and reinstated the ditch to its present condition, all expenses in connection therewith to be borne by the Corporation.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk's action be approved.

Roadway adjoining G.P.O., London Road.—The Surveyor submitted a letter received from the Head Postmaster, Tunbridge Wells, with reference to the damage to the Common adjoining the G.P.O. roadway, London Road, intimating that as the edge of the Common which had been damaged was used by persons, other than the Postmaster General, responsibility that damage had been caused by the Postmaster General must be disclaimed, but that, without admitting any legal liability, he would agree to make a contribution, in conjunction with other users of the road, towards the provision of the proposed kerbing.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Surveyor again to interview the Head Postmaster, Tunbridge Wells, and to report further thereon to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Road leading to "Rusthall Grange."—A letter was received from Miss Rooker calling attention to the condition of a small length of road lying between the road to Upper Street and the entrance to "Rusthall Grange" Nursing Home, and requesting that the road might be repaired.

A report was received from the Surveyor thereon.

RESOLVED—That the request be not acceded to.

Cycling on the Common.—Questions relating to persons cycling on the Common were again considered and the Clerk was instructed to confer with the Police on the matter.

Shelter on Rusthall Common.—The Surveyor submitted a design of a proposed shelter on Rusthall Common, near the junction of Bretland Road and Rusthall Road, and reported that no quotations had been received from any of the firms invited to tender for the work.

The Surveyor also reported that he had received a letter from the Timber Controller regretting that, owing to the present timber position, he was unable to grant a licence for the timber required for the suggested shelter.

RESOLVED—That no further action be taken in the matter.

Committee.—RESOLVED—That Brig.-General R. S. Manley Sims be appointed a member of the Committee in the place of the late Mr. N. R. Stone.

Accounts for the Year ending 25th March, 1943.—The Auditors' Report on the accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1943, was received.

The Clerk reported that he had circulated copies of the accounts to the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1943, be and the same are hereby approved, and that a hearty vote of thanks be given to Messrs. H. Elwig and S. V. Thorpe for their services as Auditors.

Appointment of Auditors.—Mr. S. V. Thorpe requested that the Conservators would appoint another Conservator as Auditor in his place.

RESOLVED—That Messrs. H. Elwig and W. C. Raiswell be appointed Auditors for the current financial year.

Clerical Assistance.—RESOLVED—That, as from the 29th March, 1943, the allowance made to Mr. C. R. Barten for clerical assistance be increased from £10 to £20 per annum.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £319. 19s. 4d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

The payment of an account of 8s. 0d. for taxi hire since the last meeting of the Committee was approved by the Conservators.

[Handwritten signatures and notes]
 30th Nov 1943

30th November, 1943.

Commons Conservators.

30th November, 1943.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook) (*Chairman*).

Brig. General R. S. Manley Sims.

Messrs. H. Elwig, F. F. Howarth, F. R. Kember, W. Grant Oliver,
W. S. Hallett-Reed and E. B. Weekes.

Mr. W. C. Cripps.—It was reported that Mr. W. C. Cripps had sent his apologies for absence from the meeting on account of indisposition.

RESOLVED—That the best wishes of the Conservators be conveyed to Mr. Cripps for a speedy restoration to good health.

The late Mr. C. H. J. Evershed.—RESOLVED—That a sincere vote of sympathy and condolence be passed with Mrs. Evershed on the death of her husband, Mr. C. H. J. Evershed, and that an expression of the Conservators' regret at the loss of so esteemed a colleague be recorded on the minutes.

Appointment of Conservators.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk intimating that the Town Council at its meeting on the 9th inst appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman C. E. Westbrook).
Aldermen Allan and Weekes.
Councillor Raiswell.

It was reported that the Freehold Tenants of the Manor of Rusthall, at their meeting yesterday, appointed Messrs. F. F. Howarth and W. Grant Oliver, as Commons Conservators, representing the Freehold Tenants of the Manor.

The Mayor formally welcomed Messrs. Howarth and Oliver as Members of the Commons Conservators.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Lower Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Chief Regional Fire Officer expressing thanks to the Conservators for granting permission for the National Fire Service to hold the Regional Trailer Pump Competition on the Lower Cricket Ground and regretting that weather conditions necessitated this competition being held at Linton Regional Reserve Station.

Requisitioning of Land.—A letter was received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer, West Kent Area, transmitting amended plan showing the additional land which had been requisitioned on the Common in the vicinity of Hungershall Park.

Letters were received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer, West Kent Area, with regard to the use of two small portions of land on the Tunbridge Wells Commons required for military purposes, transmitting notice under Defence Regulation 51 with regard to the payment of annual compensation, intimating that, when the sites are finally released, formal notice would be sent and the Conservators could then claim for any making good required.

RESOLVED—That no claims be made for loss of annual value.

Footways on Common.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants intimating that the question of the footway on Rusthall Common lying between Lower Green Road and Rusthall High Street would be considered by the Freeholders at their meeting on the 29th November.

It was reported to the Conservators that the Freehold Tenants, at their meeting on the 29th instant, deferred consideration of this matter until their next meeting.

A letter was received from the Lord of the Manor, Mr. Frank O. Baird, with regard to the footway in question and intimating that, in view of the close proximity of an existing path and the undesirability of increasing the number of paths on the Common, he regretted he could not see his way to give the consent asked for by the Commons Conservators for making up the surface of the footway.

A letter was received from Mr. W. Grant Oliver with regard to the footway in question.

Employees.—The Surveyor submitted an application he had received from the employees on the Commons for an increase in their wages.

RESOLVED—That the following increases in wages be granted as from and including the present pay week :—

		<i>Present pay p.wk.</i>	<i>Increase pay p.wk.</i>
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
C. A. Fayers	... ..	2 19 11	3 10 6
W. Lambkin	... ..	2 15 8	3 7 6
Casuals	... ..	2 12 6	3 5 0

such increases in wages being subject to revision at the end of the war.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. Robert E. Frost requesting that the Conservators would allow two birch trees and one sycamore tree on the Common, on the south side of Romaroff Lodge, to be cut down as they interfered with light and air and helped to make the property damp, and he would undertake to pay all costs of cutting down and carting away and any other expenses which might be involved.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Conservators to afford Mr. Thorpe, one of the representatives of the Lord of the Manor, an opportunity of considering the request, and that the Surveyor be instructed to communicate with the Timber Controller on the matter.

Roadway adjoining G.P.O., London Road.—The Surveyor submitted a letter he had received from the Solicitor to the G.P.O. with regard to the roadway adjoining the G.P.O., London Road, intimating that the Postmaster General could not agree that he should take the necessary steps to prevent unauthorised usage of the road in question nor legally be liable to reinstate the road, but he was prepared, without admitting any liability, to contribute the sum of £16 towards the estimated cost of £32 of making good the encroachment and providing the necessary kerbing, but was not prepared to carry out the work, at his own expense, as there was undoubtedly evidence that other people used the road in question.

RESOLVED—That, subject to the Clerk being satisfied that the position of the Conservators would in no way be prejudiced, the offer of the Postmaster General be accepted.

Appointment of Committee.—**RESOLVED**—That Messrs. T. C. Allan, H. Elwig, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett-Reed, S. V. Thorpe and Brig.-General R. S. Manley Sims be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year.

Dates of Meetings, 1944.—**RESOLVED**—That the meetings of the Conservators during 1944 be held on the following Tuesdays at 3 p.m. :—

February 29th. June 6th. October 3rd and December 5th ;
subject to due notice of any alteration which might be necessary in these dates during the year.

Estimates.—**RESOLVED**—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in its estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Commons Conservators.

Cycling on Commons.—It was reported to the Conservators that the Town Clerk had recently obtained four convictions against persons summoned for riding bicycles on the Commons.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £33. 15s. 7d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Chairman
29th Feb 1944

29th February, 1944.

Commons Conservators.

29th February, 1944.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook) (*Chairman*).

Brigadier-General R. S. Manley-Sims, Messrs. H. Elwig, F. F. Howarth, F. R. Kember, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett-Reed, S. V. Thorpe and E. B. Weekes.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The late Mr. C. H. J. Evershed.—A letter was received from Mrs. C. H. J. Evershed expressing thanks for the resolution of sympathy passed by the Commons Conservators at their last meeting.

Roadway adjoining G.P.O., London Road.—A letter was received from the Solicitors' Department of the General Post Office, transmitting a warrant for £16, being the agreed amount payable by the Postmaster General towards the cost of making good the encroachment and providing the necessary kerbing to the roadway adjoining the General Post Office, London Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Requisition of Land.—Letters were received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer, West Kent Area, transmitting notice to regularize the occupation of land on Rusthall Common for urgent military purposes, also notifying, that, for operational reasons, the original site had been amended, and that in the event of any damage which might have occurred on the first site, the claim for this could be deferred until the present site was ultimately given up, when any damage to the original site could be taken into account.

A letter was received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer, West Kent Area, noting the decision of the Commons Conservators to make no claim under Section 2 (1) (a) of the Compensation Defence Act, 1939, in respect of the use of certain sites of the Common, and that it was, of course, understood that the Conservators would have the right of claim for damage to the land when the sites were finally relinquished.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. Cecil Burns intimating that the Local Management Committee of the Girls' Training Corps were having a Recruiting Week, commencing Sunday, February 13th, and amongst other functions, the Corps would like to plant a tree on the Common to commemorate the occasion and the Corps, suggesting a suitable site near the Fir Tree Pond for the planting of an oak tree, requesting the permission of the Conservators, and intimating that the Lord of the Manor and Freehold Tenants had also been approached.

The Clerk's letter, intimating that Mr. Burns might assume the assent of the Commons Conservators to the proposal, provided he also obtained the consent of the Lord of the Manor and the Freehold Tenants, was read and approved.

Turf.—The Clerk reported a letter he had addressed to Lieut.-Col. R. C. Newcombe, Royal Corps of Signals, notifying him that the Military Authorities were stripping turf on a portion of the Common situate near the rocks between Mount Edgumbe Hotel and Bredbury, Mount Ephraim, of which no notice appeared to have been given, and intimating that formal notice should have been given to the Commons Conservators and their consent obtained.

A letter was received from Lieut.-Col. R. C. Newcombe explaining that the turf had been used for the repair of the surface of the Lower Cricket Ground, the use of which had been granted to the Corps by the Lord of the Manor at a rental of £10, apologizing for no formal application having been made to the Conservators, and enclosing formal notice applying for the consent of the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That, so far as the Conservators are concerned, consent to the use of the turf for the purpose indicated be granted, and that the Surveyor be authorized to plant with grass seed the area from which the turf had been removed.

Commons Conservators

Gorse.—A letter was received from Mr. W. Raiswell requesting that the gorse on the Common adjoining Mount Edgcumbe and two other houses in that vicinity, might be cut to prevent fires from incendiary bombs.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorized to cut the gorse in question.

Trees.—The Conservators further considered the letter from Mr. Robert E. Frost, requesting that the Conservators would allow two birch trees and one sycamore tree on the Common on the south side of "Romanoff Lodge" to be cut down, as they interfered with light and air, and helped to make the property damp, he undertaking to pay all costs of cutting down and carting away and any other expenses which might be involved.

The Surveyor submitted a plan showing the site of the trees referred to in Mr. Frost's letter and reported on the matter.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to inform Mr. R. E. Frost that the Conservators are unable to accede to his request, and to point out that in the opinion of the Conservators the trees in question do not interfere with light and air, nor make the property damp.

Insurance.—Questions relating to the insurance of the Commons Conservators against third party risks were considered.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

Lower Cricket Ground.—Questions relating to additional unauthorized tracks which have been used across the Lower Cricket Ground were discussed.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £458. 1s. 8d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Richard

Chairman
6th June 1944

Commons Conservators

6th June, 1944.

Commons Conserbators.

6th June, 1944.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. T. C. Allan, H. Elwig, F. F. Howarth, F. R. Kember,
W. Grant Oliver, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett-Reed and E. B.
Weekes.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The late Mr. William Maynard.—RESOLVED—That a sincere vote of sympathy and condolence be passed with Mrs. Maynard and her family on the death of Mr. William Maynard, who had been a Commons Conservator (representing the Lord of the Manor) for the past 33 years, and that an expression of the Conservators' regret at the loss of so esteemed a colleague be recorded on the minutes and communicated to Mrs. Maynard.

Requisitioning of Land.—A secret letter was received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer, West Kent Area, enclosing form of notice with regard to the occupation of certain land on Rusthall Common for urgent military reasons.

The Surveyor reported that at present no action had been taken with regard to the land in question.

Lower Cricket Ground.—An application was received from the Tunbridge Wells War Savings Committee for consent to use the Lower Cricket Ground on Saturday, 17th June next, for a mass meeting in connection with War Savings Week.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, undertook to make good any damage to the surface of the Common by such use.

RESOLVED—That the application be granted.

Questions relating to an additional track which had been made across the Lower Cricket Ground were discussed.

Accounts for the Year ended 25th March, 1944.—The Auditors' report on the accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1944, was received.

The Clerk reported that he had circulated copies of the accounts to the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1944, be and the same are hereby approved, and that a hearty vote of thanks be given to Messrs. H. Elwig and W. C. Raiswell for their services as Auditors.

Appointment of Auditors.—RESOLVED—That Messrs. H. Elwig and W. C. Raiswell be re-appointed Auditors for the current financial year.

Roadway Adjoining G.P.O., London Road.—The Clerk reported that the actual cost of the work of making good the encroachment and providing the necessary kerbing to the roadway adjoining the G.P.O., London Road, Tunbridge Wells, was £38. 9s. 0d., compared with the estimated cost of £32, half of which latter amount had been paid by the Postmaster General.

The Surveyor reported that the increase in the estimated cost was attributable to additional work required and the increase in the price of materials and labour since the estimate was made nine months before the work was executed.

RESOLVED—That no further claim be made on the Postmaster General.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £303. 12s. 7d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Shawford
Chairman
3rd Oct 1944

3rd October, 1944.

Commons Conservators.

3rd October, 1944.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook) (*Chairman*).

Brigadier-General R. S. Manley Sims.

Messrs. F. F. Howarth, F. R. Kember, S. V. Thorpe and E. B. Weekes.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Appointment of Conservator.—A letter was received from Mr. S. V. Thorpe, intimating that he had now had an opportunity of discussing with the Lord of the Manor the question of filling the vacancy in his representation on the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators caused by the death of Mr. William Maynard, and in view of the probable early cessation of hostilities and the return of his solicitors from the Army, the Lord of the Manor had decided not to appoint another Conservator in the meantime.

The late Mr. William Maynard.—A letter was received from Mrs. C. B. Law, on behalf of her mother and family, expressing thanks for the resolution of sympathy passed by the Commons Conservators at their last meeting.

Requisition of Land.—A letter was received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer intimating that a site on Rusthall Common was no longer required by the War Department, enclosing form of claim, and intimating that if the form was not returned within 14 days he would assume that the Conservators did not wish to make a claim.

The Surveyor reported that the gun-site in question had been filled in and no claim for damage was necessary.

Letters were received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer with reference to the occupation of lands adjoining the cricket ground on Rusthall Common for military purposes, and enquiring if the Commons Conservators proposed to make any claim for compensation rental for this occupation.

The Clerk's reply, intimating that no claim would be made for compensation rental, but a claim for making good damage to the original site would be submitted with any claim which may arise when the present site is given up, was read and approved.

Carriage Way to Gibraltar Cottage.—The Clerk submitted letters he had received from Mr. J. A. Heydon with reference to the repair of the carriage way leading to Gibraltar Cottage and his replies thereto, which were approved.

Trees.—A letter was received from the Divisional Officer of the National Fire Service for permission to affix a junction box, together with the necessary telephone instruments, to a tree situate on the boundary of premises known as "Westering" and intimating that the necessary consents had already been obtained from the Lord of the Manor and Freehold Tenants.

The Clerk reported that he had, on behalf of the Conservators, assented to the proposal, and his action was approved.

War Damage to Seat Shelter.—The Clerk reported that he had notified the War Damage Commission of damage caused by a flying bomb to a seat shelter on the Tunbridge Wells Common on the 6th August last, and his action was approved.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £226. 14s. 8d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Shorland
Chairman
5th Dec 1944

Commons Conservators

5th December, 1944.

Commons Conservators.

5th December, 1944.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley Sims.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, H. Elwig, F. F. Howarth, F. R. Kember, G. F. Morrell, W. S. Hallett Reed and E. B. Weekes.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its meeting on the 9th day of November last appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook).

Aldermen Allan and Weekes.

Councillor Raiswell.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants intimating that at the Annual Meeting of the Freehold Tenants of the Manor held on the 27th November last, Mr. W. G. Oliver tendered his resignation as a Conservator and Mr. G. F. Morrell, of "Holme Grange," Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, was elected in his place.

The Mayor welcomed Mr. G. F. Morrell as a member of the Commons Conservators.

Undergrowth, etc., on the Commons.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants forwarding a letter from the Misses Cummings, of "The Cottage," The Common, Tunbridge Wells, requesting that a memorandum might be made (for after the war) with regard to the clearance of the overgrown herbage and saplings in front of their house.

A report was received from the Surveyor on the matter.

RESOLVED—That the Misses Cummings be informed that the Conservators have given instructions to their Surveyor to do what is possible as and when labour is available.

Appointment of Committee.—RESOLVED—That Messrs. T. C. Allan, H. Elwig, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett Reed, S. V. Thorpe and Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley Sims be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year.

Dates of Meeting, 1945.—RESOLVED—That the meetings of the Conservators during 1945 be held on the following Tuesdays at 3 p.m. :—

March 6th.

October 2nd, and

June 5th

December 4th.

subject to due notice of any alteration which might be necessary in these dates during the year.

Estimates.—RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to include in its Estimates for the next financial year the full amount allowable under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the purposes of the Conservators.

Tracks across the Common.—Questions relating to the track across the Common from the main London Road to the entrance to Howrah House were considered.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee to inspect and report thereon to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Commons Ranger.—RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to request the Bailiff of the Lord of the Manor and the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants to be good enough to transmit to the Commons Conservators, from time to time, copies of their Commons Ranger's reports on any matters appertaining to the functions of the Commons Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £231. 16s. 4d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

[Handwritten signatures and notes]
G. F. Morrell
G. F. Morrell
6th Dec 1945

Commons Conservators

6th March, 1945.

Commons Conservators.

6th March, 1945.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, H. Elwig, F. F. Howarth, W. S. Hallett-Reed
F. R. Kember, G. F. Morrell and E. B. Weekes.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Surveyor to Conservators.—A letter was received from Mr. W. H. Maxwell tendering on the ground of ill health, his resignation as Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

- (a) **RESOLVED**—That the resignation be accepted, with much regret, as from the 29th March, 1945, and that the Conservators do place upon record their keen appreciation of the very zealous services Mr. Maxwell has always rendered as Surveyor during the many years he has occupied that post.

Questions relating to the appointment of Surveyor were considered.

Mr. H. P. Bishop attended the meeting.

- (b) **RESOLVED**—That, subject to the consent of the Town Council, Mr. H. P. Bishop, the Borough Surveyor, be appointed Surveyor to the Commons Conservators, as from the 29th March, 1945, at a salary of £40 per annum.

Undergrowth, etc., on the Commons.—A letter was received from Miss E. A. Cumming expressing thanks for the action taken by the Commons Conservators at their last meeting and requesting that the old May tree, on the South side of the approach to her house, might remain.

RESOLVED—That Miss Cumming be informed that the Commons Conservators do not propose to have the tree in question cut down, but only the dead wood removed.

Requisition of Land.—Letters were received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer, West Kent Area, and from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants with regard to the de-requisitioning notice of land adjoining the Rusthall Cricket Ground and enquiring if the Commons Conservators proposed to make a claim for compensation.

A report was received from the Surveyor on the matter.

RESOLVED—That, so far as the Commons Conservators are concerned, no claim for compensation be made.

Direction Signs on the Common.—A letter was received from the Southern Railway applying for permission to erect a direction sign post on the Common, abutting on to Eridge Road and facing Montacute Road, for the purpose of directing the public to the Tunbridge Wells West Station and intimating that the cost of the provision and erection of this sign would be borne by the Railway Company.

RESOLVED—That, subject to the approval of their Surveyor, to the design and position of the proposed direction sign, the Commons Conservators offer no objection to the proposal.

Track Across the Common.—Questions relating to the track across the Common from the main London Road to the entrance to Howrah House were further considered.

A report was received from the Committee on their inspection of the site.

RESOLVED—That, so far as the Commons Conservators are concerned, no further action be taken in the matter.

Plan of the Pantiles.—A letter was received from Councillor Major Richardson intimating that he had acquired a manuscript plan of the Pantiles dated 1739 and offering a copy of the plan as a gift to the Commons Conservators.


RESOLVED—That the offer be accepted and that the Clerk be instructed to convey to Councillor Major Richardson the best thanks of the Conservators for his gift.

Expenditure.—The Chairman presented a Statement of Expenditure of the Commons Conservators for the past four years.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to report to the Conservators at their next meeting on the estimated expenditure for the next financial year.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £310. 2s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Henry Chapin
Chairman
5th June 1945



Commons Conservators

5th June, 1945.

Commons Conserbators.

5th June, 1945.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley Sims.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, H. Elwig, F. F. Howarth, W. S. Hallett Reed, F. R. Kember, G. F. Morrell, W. C. Raiswell, S. V. Thorpe and E. B. Weekes.

Chairman.—The Clerk reported that His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook) regretted that, owing to an important engagement, he would be unable to attend this meeting.

RESOLVED—That Mr. H. Elwig be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Mr. W. C. Cripps.—The Chairman, on behalf of the Commons Conservators, extended to Mr. W. C. Cripps, hearty congratulations and good wishes on the recent anniversary of his birth.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Surveyor to Commons Conservators.—A letter was received from Mr. W. H. Maxwell expressing thanks for the resolution passed by the Commons Conservators at their last meeting.

A letter was received from the Town Clerk intimating that the Town Council at its meeting on the 4th April last consented to the appointment of Mr. H. P. Bishop (Borough Surveyor) as Surveyor to the Commons Conservators as from the 29th March, 1945, at a salary of £40 per annum.

Requisitioning of Land.—A letter was received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer, West Kent Area, giving notice of the de-requisitioning of land at Mount Ephraim used as a gun site, and transmitting form of claim for compensation.

The Surveyor reported his interview with the Claims Officer who had informed him that the Military Authorities had no labour available for the re-instatement of the site.

The Clerk reported that he had accordingly submitted a claim amounting to £12. 0s. 7d. the estimated cost of the re-instatement of the site.

A further letter was received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer agreeing the amount claimed, but intimating that before passing the claim for payment it would be necessary that he should have authority from the Lord of the Manor of Rusthall to make this payment to the Conservators, and requesting to be furnished with this authority which he suggested might be worded to include the payment of all claims made in respect of other sites on the Common which were under requisition.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to obtain the authority of the Lord of the Manor to this payment being made to the Commons Conservators, to inform the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer that other claims must be dealt with as they arise, and that the Surveyor be authorised to carry out the work of re-instatement when the claim has been paid.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to confer with Mr. W. S. Hallett Reed with regard to sites on the Common which have not yet been de-requisitioned and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Commons Conservators.

Undergrowth, etc., on the Commons.—A further letter was received from Miss E. A. Cumming with regard to the preservation of the old May tree on the south side of the approach to her house.

Accounts—Year ended 25th March, 1945.—The Auditors' Report on the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1945, was received.

The Clerk reported that he had circulated copies of the Account to each Conservator.

The Borough Treasurer (Mr. D. L. Copeman) attended the meeting and submitted his suggestions for a revision in the method of presenting the Accounts.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the Accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1945, be deferred and that the Clerk and Borough Treasurer do confer on the revision of the Accounts for presentation to the next meeting.

RESOLVED—That the financial year of the Conservators for the past year, and in future, do terminate on the 31st March, in lieu of the 25th March.

Appointment of Auditors.—RESOLVED—That a vote of thanks be given to the Auditors, Messrs. H. Elwig and W. C. Raiswell, for their services during the past year and that they be re-appointed Auditors for the current financial year.

Expenditure.—The Surveyor submitted his Estimate of Expenditure on wages and Private Works for the current financial year.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Clerk, Surveyor and Borough Treasurer, and that, in the meantime, the Surveyor be authorised to continue the present employment of one leading man and two labourers.

Covered Seat.—The Clerk submitted the Report he had received from the Police of the total destruction by fire of the covered seat near the Queen's Grove on the 8th May last.

The Clerk reported that he had submitted a claim against the Insurance Company for the sum of £150.

A letter was received from the Insurance Company calling attention to the terms of the Fire Insurance Policy and the Clerk was authorised to amend the claim to £60.

RESOLVED—That the Borough Treasurer be requested to amend the present Fire Insurance Policy covering the one remaining sheltered seat on the Common in the sum of £150.

Cricket Pavilion—Rusthall Common.—A letter was received from Mr. H. S. Whiting with regard to the suggested erection of a Pavilion by the Rusthall Cricket Club as a Memorial to the members of the Club who had given their lives in the War.

RESOLVED—That Mr. H. S. Whiting be informed that before any action is taken in the matter, it would be necessary, in the first instance, to obtain the consent of the Lord of the Manor, the Freehold Tenants and the Commons Conservators to the proposal, to request that he will furnish a specification and plan of the suggested building and site for consideration by the Commons Conservators and that on receipt of these particulars the matter be referred to the Committee for consideration and report to the next meeting of the Commons Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £323. 2s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Chairman
2nd Oct 1945

Commons Conservators

2nd October, 1945.

Commons Conservators.

2nd October, 1945.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook), *Chairman*.

Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley Sims.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, H. Elwig, F. F. Howarth, W. S. Hallett-Reed,
F. R. Kember, G. F. Morrell, W. C. Raiswell, S. V. Thorpe
and E. B. Weekes.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were submitted.

RESOLVED—That, subject to the amendment of the second resolution under paragraph "Requisition of Land" as follows:—

"That the Surveyor be instructed to confer with Mr. W. S. Hallett-Reed with regard to the barbed wire on sites on Rusthall Common which have not yet been de-requisitioned and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Commons Conservators,"

the minutes be confirmed.

Requisition of Land.—The Surveyor reported on the clearance of barbed wire on the Commons and he was instructed to take the matter up with the appropriate Military Authorities.

Letters were received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer intimating that the claims for dilapidations in respect of gun sites on the Common adjoining Mount Ephraim amounting to £12. 0s. 7d. and adjoining Castle Road amounting to £12. 11s. 1d. had been passed to the Command Paymaster for payment.

The Clerk reported that these amounts had now been received and paid to the credit of the Commons Conservators' account.

Notices were received from the Deputy W.D. Land Agent and Valuer (West Kent Area) intimating that the land on the Common adjoining Hungershall Park was no longer required by the War Department and possession would be given as from the 29th September, 1945.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to prepare an estimate of the cost of the dilapidations on the land in question, and to submit a copy thereof to the Lord of the Manor for his approval, prior to the claim being submitted to the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer.

Cricket Pavilion, Rusthall Common.—A letter was received from Mr. H. S. Whiting, with regard to the suggested erection of a pavilion by the Rusthall Cricket Club on Rusthall Common.

Covered Seats.—A letter was received from the Royal Exchange Assurance transmitting cheque for £60 in settlement of the claim for the destruction by fire of one of the covered seats on the Common.

The Clerk reported the letter he had addressed to the War Damage Commission with regard to the notification of war damage to a covered seat on the Common, and that up to the present he had received no reply thereto.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to interview the War Damage Commission on the matter and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Commons Conservators.

Seats.—A letter addressed to the Mayor received from Miss L. A. Vick calling attention to the dearth of seats on the Common and elsewhere was submitted and the Mayor reported the reply he had sent to Miss Vick.

RESOLVED—That no further action be taken in the matter.

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Commons Conservators

Grass Cutting.—A letter was received from Mr. C. A. Peckham requesting the Conservators to cut the grass on the Common opposite No. 19, Eridge Road.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to cut the grass when labour is available for the purpose.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. R. R. Needham requesting that the two holly trees adjoining Gibraltar Cottage might be thinned out.

The Surveyor reported that he had carried out the work and his action was approved.

Services on Common.—The Clerk submitted a letter received from the Jehovah Witnesses requesting permission to use a site on the Lower Cricket Ground for four open-air Bible talks on Sunday afternoons during September.

The Clerk's reply thereto was read and approved.

Expenditure.—The Surveyor reported on the expenditure on wages and private works for the current financial year.

Accounts for Year ended 31st March, 1945.—The Borough Treasurer (Mr. D. L. Copeman) submitted revised accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1945, showing a deficit at that date of £262. 3s. 0d.

RESOLVED—That the Mayor, as Chairman of the Commons Conservators, be requested to submit to the next meeting of the Finance Committee of the Town Council an application for a supplementary grant of £262. 3s. 0d. in respect of the year ended 31st March, 1945.

RESOLVED—That an estimate of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators during the next financial year be prepared and considered by the Commons Conservators at their meeting in December next, with a view to an application being made to the Town Council for the provision in its future estimates of an increased grant for the maintenance of the Commons.

Workmen's Shed, Upper Cricket Ground.—The Surveyor reported that he had received an application from the employees on the Common for the provision of some form of heating for cooking purposes in the workmen's shed adjoining the Upper Cricket Ground.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorised to provide what he considers necessary for this purpose.

Cheque Books.—The Clerk reported that the present stock of cheque books had been exhausted and that Lloyds Bank, Ltd., were obtaining a design and quotation from their cheque book printers for a supply of new cheque books required by the Commons Conservators which would comply with the Paper Control Order.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Chairman with power to act.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £191. 18s. 2d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Chairman.—The Mayor intimated that as he would be relinquishing his office as Mayor of the Borough on the 9th November next, he would cease to be Chairman of the Commons Conservators.

RESOLVED—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook) for his able and courteous conduct in the Chair of the meetings of the Commons Conservators during the past 7 years.

The Mayor expressed his sincere thanks for the terms of the resolution and for the kindness and friendship which had at all times, been extended to him by the Commons Conservators during that long period.

J. G. Allan
Chairman
14th Dec 1945

Commons Conservators

4th December, 1945.

Commons Conservators.

4th December, 1945.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Allan), *Chairman*.

Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims.

Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, F. F. Howarth, F. R. Kember, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett-Reed, E. B. Weekes and C. E. Westbrook.

Mr. H. Elwig.—It was reported to the Conservators that a message had been received from Mr. H. Elwig regretting that owing to indisposition he would be unable to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to convey to Mr. H. Elwig the sincere wishes of the Conservators for his speedy restoration to good health.

Appointment of Conservators.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk intimating that the Town Council on the 9th November appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Allan).
Aldermen Raiswell, Weekes and Westbrook.

A letter was received from Mr. Frank O. Baird intimating that he had appointed Mr. R. S. R. Berry, of 11, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells, to act as one of his representatives on the Board of Conservators, in the place of the late Mr. William Maynard.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Berry as a member of the Commons Conservators.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants intimating that at the Annual Meeting of the Freehold Tenants of the Manor held on the 26th November, the following were re-elected as Freeholders' representatives on the Commons Conservators for the ensuing three years :—

Mr. H. W. S. Read, Brig.-Gen. Manley-Sims, Mr. F. F. Howarth, Mr. G. F. Morrell.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Grass Cutting.—A further letter was received from Mr. C. E. Peckham with regard to the cutting of the grass on the Common in front of No. 19, Eridge Road.

The Surveyor reported that the grass had now been cut, and his action was approved.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. W. Harvey Gervis requesting permission to have the ash tree removed in front of his house, "Grange Cote," Bishops Down, as he alleged that it obscured his view and obstructed the sunshine.

A report was received from the Surveyor on the matter.

RESOLVED—That the application be not acceded to.

An extract from a letter received by Mr. C. E. Westbrook from Lord Monsell calling attention to a small oak tree on the Common which grows only about 10 yards from where a V.1 flying-bomb exploded on the Tunbridge Wells Common, that the tree was badly mutilated but quite alive, and if pruned and looked after, would become a fine tree, that this was rather remarkable and the tree was worth looking after.

The Surveyor reported that the tree in question had been pruned, that it was quite in order at the moment and would be looked after.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do affix a tablet with appropriate wording to the oak tree in question, recording the event, and that the selection of the tablet and the wording to be inscribed thereon be referred to the Chairman, Mr. C. E. Westbrook and the Clerk with power to act.

Requisitioning of Land.—A letter was received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer, West Kent Area, intimating that he was prepared to recommend payment of compensation under section 2 (1) (b) in respect of rough woodland, Hungershall Park Road, The Common, at the figure claimed, namely £53. 13s. 0d., and requesting to be furnished with authority from the Lord of the Manor that this compensation should be paid direct to the Commons Conservators and also a memorandum to the effect that the Freehold Tenants have no claim against the War Department.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to obtain the authority and memorandum asked for by the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer.

A further letter was received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer intimating that he was prepared to recommend the payment of £37. 8s. 2d. in respect of the military car park on the south-west side of Hungershall Park Road, but regretted he could not agree to all the figures submitted in the claim in respect of the military car park on the north side of the road, submitting amended figures which showed a total reduction on the claim from £94. 19s. 2d. to £82. 19s. 11d. and enquiring if the Conservators were prepared to accept this amended amount in full settlement of compensation, and if so, to furnish him with an authority from the Lord of the Manor for the amount to be paid to the Conservators and a memorandum from the Freehold Tenants that they have no claim against the War Department in respect thereof.

RESOLVED—That the sum of £82. 19s. 11d. be accepted in full settlement of compensation and that the Clerk be instructed to obtain the authority and memorandum asked for by the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to take the necessary steps to have the barbed wire dumps at present on Rusthall Common removed.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to communicate with the appropriate Authorities with regard to the de-requisitioning of all sites on the Commons used for military purposes.

RESOLVED—That the Borough Surveyor be instructed to arrange for the work of removal of the N.F.S. emergency water tanks on the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons to be expedited.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to report on the present condition of the sites constructed by the Home Guard on the Commons where the surface has not yet been restored to its former condition.

Footways on Common.—A letter was received from Mr. W. Grant Oliver again calling attention to the alleged footway between Lower Green Road and Rusthall High Street, that in 1943 the Lord of the Manor did not see his way to consent to the making up of the surface of the footway in question and requesting that the Conservators would consider renewing the application for consent to the Lord of the Manor.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

Straying Cattle.—A Police Report was received with regard to heifers straying on the Common on the 23rd November last, and the action taken by the Police in the matter.

Cheque Book.—The design of a new cheque book selected by the ex-Chairman was submitted and approved.

Supplementary Grant from Corporation.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its meeting on the 31st October last made a supplementary grant under the provisions of section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875, of a sum of £262. 3s. 0d. to the Commons Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the thanks of the Commons Conservators be expressed to the ex-Chairman (Mr. C. E. Westbrook) for the action he had taken in submitting the application to the Town Council on behalf of the Commons Conservators.

Appointment of Committee.—RESOLVED—That the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Allan), Messrs. H. Elwig, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett-Reed, S. V. Thorpe and Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year.

Dates of Meetings, 1946.—RESOLVED—That the meetings of the Conservators during 1946 be held on the following Tuesdays at 3 p.m. :—

5th March.
4th June

1st October
3rd December,

subject to due notice of any alteration which might be necessary in these dates during the year.

Estimates.—Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators during the next financial year amounting to £1,531. 3s. 4d. were approved.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its estimates for the next financial year for the amount of £1,531, under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

War Damage to Seat Shelter.—The Surveyor reported on an interview which he had had with a representative of the War Damage Commission with regard to the Conservators' claim for damage to a sheltered seat on the Tunbridge Wells Common on the 6th August, 1944.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £22. 15s. 2d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Thomas B. Allan
Chairman
5th March 1946.

5th March, 1946.

Commons Conservators.

5th March, 1946.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Allan) (*Chairman*).

Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley Sims.

Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, F. F. Howarth, G. F. Morrell, W. S. Hallett-Reed, E. B. Weekes and C. E. Westbrook.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. F. R. Kember, W. C. Raiswell and S. V. Thorpe.

The late Mr. H. Elwig.—RESOLVED—That a sincere vote of sympathy and condolence be passed with Mrs. Elwig and her family on the death of Mr. Henry Elwig, who has been a Commons Conservator (representing the Lord of the Manor) for the past 25 years, and that an expression of the Conservators' regret at the loss of so esteemed a colleague be recorded on the minutes and communicated to Mrs. Elwig.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Appointment of Treasurer.—A letter was received from Mr. W. F. M. Hopkins, formally resigning his appointment as Treasurer to the Commons Conservators, and intimating that, if the Commons Conservators were willing to appoint Mr. E. B. Kirby, his successor as local Manager of Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Mr. Kirby would be prepared to accept the appointment.

RESOLVED—That Mr. W. F. M. Hopkins' resignation be accepted with regret and that an expression of the Conservators' thanks be given to him for his service as Treasurer during the past 7 years.

RESOLVED—That Mr. Eric William Kirby, Manager of Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Tunbridge Wells, be appointed Treasurer to the Commons Conservators in the place of Mr. W. F. M. Hopkins.

Trees.—A letter was received from Lord Monsell noting with satisfaction the action proposed to be taken by the Commons Conservators to affix a tablet recording the incident to the oak tree on the Common which was badly damaged by a German flying bomb.

The Surveyor submitted draft wording of the tablet in question which was amended and approved.

Estimates.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk, Tunbridge Wells, intimating that the Town Council had adopted the recommendation of its Finance Committee to include in its Estimates for the next financial year, the sum of £1,531 as a grant towards the expenditure of the Commons Conservators, under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Undergrowth, etc., on the Commons.—A letter was received from Mr. A. H. Stanley requesting the clearance of the blackberry and young hawthorn bushes on the area immediately adjoining the north-east side of Romanoff Lodge.

The Surveyor reported that he had acceded to the request, and his action was approved.

Requisitioning of Land.—A letter was received from the W.D. Land Agent and Valuer intimating that he was arranging for the payment of the claims for compensation in respect of the rough woodland, Hungershall Park Road, amounting to £82. 19s. 11d. and £54. 13s. 0d. respectively.

The Clerk reported that these amounts had now been paid to the credit of the Conservators' account at Lloyds Bank.

The Surveyor reported—

- (1) That all barbed wire dumps had been removed from the Commons except the "concertina barbed wire" surrounding the searchlight site on Rusthall Common; that he had been in communication with the Headquarters of the West Kent Sub-District and informed that this wire would be removed when military labour was available.
- (2) That all military sites on the Commons have now been de-requisitioned, all outstanding claims paid, and except for the Hungershall Park site, all damage made good.
- (3) That the scheme for the removal of civil defence structures on the Commons had been submitted to the Home Office, and the work would be carried out so soon as the approval of the Home Office has been received and labour was available; and
- (4) That all the Home Guard defence works had been made good.

Workmen's Compensation—Insurance.—A letter was received from the Borough Treasurer intimating that he had endeavoured to negotiate workmen's compensation insurance on more favourable terms than those of the Conservators' present policy, but had been unable to do so, and it would appear, therefore, that the present insurance was likely to be as favourable as could be obtained at the present time.

Footway on Common between Lower Green Road and Rusthall High Street.—A Memorial was received from the residents in Rusthall requesting that further representations should be made to the Lord of the Manor for his consent to the making up of the footway on the Common between Lower Green Road and Rusthall High Street.

Mr. R. S. R. Berry intimated that he would submit the Memorial to the Lord of the Manor for consideration.

RESOLVED—That the Chairman be requested to communicate direct with the Lord of the Manor on the matter.

Omnibus Stand, London Road, opposite Castle Hotel.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk intimating that representations had been made to the Council that a stand for the convenience and safety of omnibus passengers should be provided at the stopping point on the Common opposite to the Castle Hotel, London Road, where at present they have to alight from and wait for 'buses in the roadway, and applying for the consent of the Conservators to the work being carried out.

RESOLVED—That, so far as the Commons Conservators are concerned, no objection be offered to the work being carried out.

War Damage to Seat Shelter.—A letter was received from the War Damage Commission intimating that the Commission would pay the claim for the reasonable cost of making good war damage to the sheltered seat on the Common, after the work had been carried out.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Clerk and Surveyor to proceed with the work when labour and materials are available.

Employees.—The Surveyor reported on the present wages paid to employees on the Common, and recommended that they be granted an increase of 6s. 0d. per week as from the 1st January, 1946, at an estimated increased cost of £46. 16s. 0d. per annum.

RESOLVED—That, as from the 1st January, 1946, the employees on the Tunbridge Wells Commons be each granted an increase in wages of 6s. 0d. per week.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £169. 7s. 0d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

G. I. Allan
Chairman
14th June 1946.

Commons Conservators

4th June, 1946.

Commons Conserbators.

4th June, 1946.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Allan) (*Chairman*).

Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims.

Messrs. R. Berry, F. F. Howarth, G. F. Morrell, W. C. Raiswell,
W. S. Hallett-Reed, S. V. Thorpe and E. B. Weekes.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The late Mr. H. Elwig.—A letter was received from Mrs. Elwig expressing thanks for the resolution of sympathy passed by the Commons Conservators at their last meeting.

Appointment of Treasurer.—A letter was received from Mr. Eric W. Kirby accepting the appointment of Treasurer to the Commons Conservators in the place of Mr. W. F. M. Hopkins.

A letter was received from Mr. W. F. M. Hopkins expressing thanks for the resolution passed by the Commons Conservators at their last meeting on his resignation as Treasurer.

Undergrowth, etc., on the Commons.—A letter was received from Mr. A. H. Stanley thanking the Commons Conservators for their co-operation in the matter of the clearance of the undergrowth on the area of the Common adjoining his residence.

Footway on Common between Lower Green Road and Rusthall High Street.—A letter was received from Messrs. Berry & Berry intimating that a copy of the petition submitted to the Commons Conservators with regard to this footway had been transmitted to Mr. F. O. Baird, the Lord of the Manor.

A letter was received from the Lord of the Manor, Mr. F. O. Baird (addressed to His Worship the Mayor), intimating that he had received several applications with regard to the making up of the track across the Common from Lower Green Road to Rusthall High Street. That the position with regard to this track was very simple. He was only tenant for life and his powers were strictly limited by the Settled Land Acts and, by virtue of these Acts, he could not part with any portion of the trust property which included the Commons, except *inter alia* for the best rent or price reasonably obtainable. The making up of this track was obviously of value to the shops and house property to which it leads and, therefore, he could not sanction any proposal to convert the track into a made path except on receiving the full value to those who would benefit by it but up to the present no rent representing the value of the land had been offered.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. L. Leroy with regard to the trees on the Common adjoining Priory Lodge, London Road, intimating that he had purchased the property and it had been unoccupied, except by the Military, for some considerable time; the trees which surround the property on the Common had not been cut back, and owing to the fact that these trees do not let light and air to the property he requested that it might be arranged for a representative of the Commons Conservators to meet him and discuss the matter.

The Surveyor reported that he had met Mr. Leroy on the site and on the present condition of the trees and the high holly hedge which overhangs the cobble footpath leading from London Road to Mount Ephraim which belonged to the property.

RESOLVED—That the consideration of the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Conservators in order that the liabilities of the owner or occupier of the property and the approaches thereto could be ascertained.

Insurance.—A letter was received from the Borough Treasurer intimating that he had been approached by the Branch Manager of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Ltd., with regard to the transfer of the agency through which the Commons Conservators' policy was arranged, from his predecessor, Mr. G. Porter, to himself, and enquiring if the Conservators were agreeable to this transfer.

RESOLVED—That the Commons Conservators do agree to the transfer of the agency.

Fencing, Mount Ephraim.—The Surveyor reported on the fencing adjoining the footpath on Mount Ephraim, opposite to the Mount Ephraim Hotel, and estimated the cost of reinstating the fencing at £67.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to carry out the work.

Labour.—The Surveyor reported the difficulties he had experienced in obtaining suitable labour for work on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorised to advertise in the local press for labour required on the Commons.

Damage on Commons.—Questions relating to the protection of the Commons against damage were discussed.

Emergency Water Tanks.—Questions relating to the clearance of the bases of emergency water tanks on the Common were discussed.

The Surveyor reported that the clearance of the bases of these water tanks had been provided for in a scheme for the demolition and clearance of all Civil Defence structures in the Borough which had been submitted for approval to the Home Office.

Coronation Trees on the Common.—RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to clear seeded trees from the group of chestnut trees above the Queen's Grove and to replace one dead and one broken chestnut tree, and also to replace two dead Japanese cherry trees on the Common adjoining the Donkey Drive.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £162. 9s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

J. L. Allan
Chairman
29th Oct 1946

29th October, 1946.

Commons Conservators.

29th October, 1946.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Allan) (*Chairman*).

Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims.

Messrs. R. Berry, F. F. Howarth, F. R. Kember, G. F. Morrell,
W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett-Reed and C. E. Westbrook.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

"Belleville," The Common.—A letter was received from Mrs. Elwig calling attention to the sinkage in the ground between the front path and the cobble path near her premises and to the condition of her path caused by persons using the steps instead of the cobble path.

The Surveyor reported that the sinkage in the ground was caused by a defective drain, he had carried out the necessary work, and his action was approved.

Lower Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Hungershall United Football Club intimating that the Club had come to an agreement for the use of the Lower Cricket Ground on Saturday afternoons during the season 1946/47; that the ground was in rather a rough condition and requesting that the Conservators would improve the surface of the ground to make it playable.

The Surveyor reported that he had cut the grass but had no labour available to carry out further work and his action was approved.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed, as soon as possible, to fill up the holes and re-turf the track running across the west side of the Lower Cricket Ground.

Trees.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants intimating that he had been instructed by the Lord of the Manor to inform the Conservators that he had no objection to the Conservators cutting down the dangerous tree near Montacute Gardens, Eridge Road, and he had made arrangements for the sale of this tree and also another tree which recently blew down in that road.

The Surveyor reported that the tree in question had been cut down and his action was approved.

Undergrowth on Common.—A letter was received from Dr. H. O. Butler calling attention to alleged extreme danger to motor traffic caused by the size of the bushes growing at the south-east junction of Nevill Park and Langton Road, and requesting that the matter might receive attention.

The Surveyor reported that the bushes had been cut down and the line of sight improved and Dr. Butler had requested him to convey his thanks to the Conservators for having this work carried out.

A letter was received from Mr. F. Whitmore, Headmaster of Rusthall Boys' School, making a similar request on the grounds of safety for the 200 pupils from his school who daily use the crossing near the entrance to Nevill Park, and pointing out that the cutting back of the blackthorn bushes would greatly extend the line of sight of approaching traffic from the crossing in question.

Opening of Ground on Common.—A letter was received from the Chief Sanitary Inspector giving formal notice that it had become necessary to open the ground on the Common immediately opposite to No. 8, Lower Green Road, Rusthall, for the purpose of tracing rat infestation at those premises and the work would be carried out by the Corporation.

Track on Common between Lower Green Road and Rusthall High Street.—A letter was received from Mr. W. Grant Oliver referring to the Mayor's letter to the Lord of the Manor, and his reply thereto, with reference to the track across the Common from Lower Green Road to Rusthall High Street, pointing out that the position seemed to be that the Conservators recognised the urgent need for the surface of this track to be made up and that the Lord of the Manor was prepared to give

his consent on payment of a rent ; that as explained by the Lord of the Manor his powers were limited by the Settled Land Acts and as Trustee, his consent carried with it the obligation of imposing a rent which he thought should be assessed by the benefit it would confer on those who used the track, and these comprised a large number of residents at Rusthall and Lower Green Road who desired to get to the shops, etc., who would increase in number when residents of new houses have access to Lower Green Road ; that up to the present no rent had been offered, and requesting that the Conservators endeavour to obtain from the Lord of the Manor a statement of what rent he considers his Trusteeship justified him in asking.

RESOLVED—That this is not a matter in which the Conservators have any right of action at all, but that it be referred to the Town Council to consider the desirability in the interest of the general public of paying a rental to obtain the consent of the Lord of the Manor to the track being made up as a footpath.

Chairman.—At this juncture of the proceedings His Worship the Mayor had to vacate the Chair to keep another appointment.

RESOLVED—That the Deputy Mayor (Mr. Alderman Westbrook) do take the Chair.

Vacancy in Representation of Town Council on Commons Conservators.—The Clerk reported that he had been notified by the Town Clerk that there was a vacancy in the representation of the Town Council on the Commons Conservators caused by the resignation of Mr. E. B. Weekes as an Alderman of the Borough.

Employees.—The Surveyor reported that six men were now employed on the Commons.

Emergency Water Tanks.—The Surveyor reported that the emergency water tanks on the Common had been removed and the sites would, in due course, be made good as labour was available.

Omnibus Shelter.—The Surveyor reported that the Watch Committee applied for consent of the Commons Conservators to the erection of a cantilever type of omnibus shelter on the fringe of the Common opposite to the Kentish Buildings in London Road, and submitted a plan showing the omnibus shelter in question.

RESOLVED—That, so far as the Commons Conservators are concerned, no objection be offered to the proposal.

Bonfire on Common.—The Surveyor reported that he had received an application for permission to hold a bonfire on the Common opposite Common View on the 5th November next in connection with the Rusthall Guy Fawkes' celebrations.

RESOLVED—That the application be granted.

Accounts for Year ended 31st March, 1946.—The Borough Treasurer (Mr. D. L. Copeman) submitted the accounts of the Commons Conservators for the year ended 31st March, 1946.

RESOLVED—That, as amended and subject to audit, the accounts be approved.

RESOLVED—That the following amounts be placed to a reserve fund :—

Seats sold	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
Seats—amount recovered from Insurance Company	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	0	0
War Department—Compensation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	161	4	7

Appointment of Auditor.—RESOLVED—That Mr. F. F. Howarth be appointed Auditor in respect of the current financial year, in the place of the late Mr. H. Elwig.

Trees, Priory Lodge.—Questions relating to hedges and trees at Priory Lodge and trees on the Common adjoining thereto were again considered.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to Mr. R. Berry, the Clerk and Surveyor, to meet on the site and to report further thereon to the next meeting of the Commons Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £649. 0s. 2d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

J. b. Allan
Chairman
3rd Dec 1946

Commons Conservators

3rd December, 1946.

Commons Conservators.

3rd December, 1946.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Allan) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, R. H. Burslem, F. F. Howarth, F. R. Kember, G. F. Morrell, W. S. Hallett-Reed and C. E. Westbrook.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council on the 9th November last appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next.

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Allan).

Aldermen Burslem, Raiswell and Westbrook.

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Alderman Burslem on his appointment as a Commons Conservator.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims.—It was reported to the meeting that Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims was prevented by indisposition from being present.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to convey to Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims an expression of the regret of the Conservators to learn of his indisposition and their best wishes for his speedy restoration to good health.

Carriageways on Common.—A letter was received from Mr. F. Lawson Dodd enquiring if something could be done to give the tenants of Howrah House, 76, London Road, access from London Road for cars and other vehicles, pointing out that the present access was only by the use of a small accommodation roadway across the grass which was in a bad state of repair and dangerous for cars, and that cars and other vehicles were using the pavement from the corner of York Road which was very undesirable from every point of view.

RESOLVED—That Mr. Lawson Dodd be informed that the matter to which he refers is not one for the Commons Conservators and to suggest to him that he should communicate with the Lord of the Manor and Freehold Tenants thereon.

Appointment of Committee.—**RESOLVED**—That the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Allan), Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett-Reed, S. V. Thorpe and Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year.

Dates of Meetings, 1947.—**RESOLVED**—That the meetings of the Commons Conservators during 1947 be held on the following Tuesdays at 3 p.m. :—

March 4th,
June 3rd,
September 30th and
December 2nd,

subject to due notice of any alteration which might be necessary in these dates during the year.

Trees—Priory Lodge.—Mr. Berry reported that, in conjunction with the Surveyor, they had inspected the hedges and trees at Priory Lodge, and trees on the Common adjoining thereto, and submitted their recommendation with regard thereto.

RESOLVED—That no further action be taken in the matter.

The Surveyor reported that he had received a request from Mr. L. LeRoy that a gap be left in the dwarf fence which he was repairing on Mount Ephraim to enable Mr. LeRoy to have access to Priory Lodge and he had informed him that he could not accede to his request.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor's action be approved.

Estimates, 1947/48.—Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators during the next financial year amounting to £1,646 were approved.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its estimates for the next financial year for the amount of £1,646 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Accounts for Year ended 31st March, 1946.—The Auditors reported on their audit of the accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1946.

RESOLVED—That a vote of thanks be passed to Messrs. F. F. Howarth and W. C. Raiswell for their services as Auditors.

Track on Common between Lower Green Road and Rusthall High Street.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council was taking up with the Lord of the Manor the question of the track across the Common from Lower Green Road and Rusthall High Street.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £60. 16s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

J. B. Allan
Chairman
6th May 1947.

Commons Conservators

6th May, 1947.

Commons Conservators.

6th May, 1947.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Allan) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, R. H. Burslem, F. F. Howarth, F. R. Kember, G. F. Morrell, W. C. Raiswell, W. S. Hallett-Reed, and C. E. Westbrook. *S. J. Ho*

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Brig. Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims.—A letter was received from Mrs. Manley-Sims expressing thanks for the resolution of sympathy passed by the Commons Conservators at their last meeting in the illness of her husband, Brig. Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims.

Provision for Games on Rusthall Common.—A letter was received from the Town Clerk intimating that he had been instructed by the Council to suggest that the Conservators should take into consideration the improvement of that part of Rusthall Common lying between the coach road and Common View, Rusthall, so as to make it suitable for the playing of games.

RESOLVED—That the Town Council be informed that the Commons Conservators are not prepared to take any action in the matter.

Higher Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Linden Park Cricket Club enquiring if the Commons Conservators could do anything to replace the iron railings which at one time surrounded the higher ground, and pointing out that it had become apparent of late that people coming from the Queen's Grove end of the Common walked straight across the bottom end of the cricket ground instead of using the footpath; that this tended to make a footpath on the ground and the Club felt that before long it might become like the lower ground, and it would be greatly appreciated if the Commons Conservators could see their way to do something to preserve their delightful ground, which has, on many occasions, been termed an asset to the town.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to endeavour to obtain second-hand piping for this work and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Assistant to Clerk.—A letter was received from Mr. C. R. Barten intimating that he had now retired from the service of the Corporation and tendering his resignation as Assistant to the Clerk of the Commons Conservators.

RESOLVED—

- (1) That the resignation be accepted.
- (2) That the Commons Conservators desire to place on record their sincere thanks to Mr. C. R. Barten for the excellent work he has performed as Assistant to the Clerk of the Commons Conservators during the many years he has held that appointment. In bidding him farewell, after his 48 years' service with the Corporation, the Commons Conservators trust he may enjoy many happy years of retirement.

Estimates.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council had included in its Estimates the sum of £1,646. 0s. 0d. as a grant towards the expenditure of the Commons Conservators under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875, in respect of the current financial year.

Vacancy on Commons Conservators.—The Clerk reported that there was a vacancy in the representation of the Lord of the Manor on the Commons Conservators.

Mr. S. V. Thorpe intimated that he would bring the matter to the notice of the Lord of the Manor.

Employees.—Questions relating to the wages of the employees on the Common were considered.

RESOLVED—That, as from 1st April, 1947, the wages of the following employees be increased as follows :—

			<i>Present wage per week.</i>			<i>Proposed increased wage per week.</i>		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
W. Lambkin	...	...	3	16	6	4	5	6
A. W. Smith	...	...	3	11	0	4	0	0
J. E. Young	...	...	3	11	0	4	0	0

Road Leading to Rustwick.—The Surveyor submitted a letter he had received from Mr. A. C. Nuttall calling attention to the condition of the road leading to Rustwick on Rusthall Common, and enquiring if something could be done to improve the surface for its use by motorists.

RESOLVED—That Mr. A. C. Nuttall be informed that the road in question is not under the jurisdiction of the Commons Conservators and to suggest to him that he should approach the Lord of the Manor in the matter.

Trees.—A letter was received from Miss H. C. Mann requesting that the trees in front of her residence, No. 24, Eridge Road, might be lopped ; that this work was carried out every year before the war but nothing had been done since, and the trees had grown to a considerable size and excluded light and sun and caused dampness to her residence.

A letter was received from Mr. D. G. Packham also calling attention to the trees on the strip of waste land in Eridge Road which were in urgent need of lopping ; that no pruning had been carried out for at least 5 years and during the recent bad weather many of the trees had swayed and bent alarmingly owing to their overgrown and top-heavy condition and one of them had been blown down in the recent gale, requesting that the necessary pruning and lopping might be done in order to minimise danger.

The Surveyor reported that it was now too late in the season to lop trees but the work would be carried out during the next appropriate period.

Drainage.—A letter was received from Mr. A. Allistone drawing attention to the condition of the pathway outside No. 27, Eridge Road which causes flooding over his entrance path during heavy rains ; that he had to dam his entrance path on these occasions, and requesting that the Conservators would take the necessary action to prevent the flooding of his entrance path.

RESOLVED—That Mr. A. Allistone be informed that the matter to which he refers is not one within the jurisdiction of the Commons Conservators.

Clerk.—The Clerk intimated to the Commons Conservators that he contemplated resigning his appointment as Clerk.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to a Sub-Committee consisting of the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Allan), Messrs. R. S. R. Berry and C. E. Westbrook to confer with the Town Clerk on the present position with regard to the appointment of Clerk to the Commons Conservators and his staff, and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £576. 15s. 11d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

L. b. Allan

Chairman

3rd June 1947

Commons Conservators

3rd June, 1947.

Commons Conservators.

3rd June, 1947.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Allan), *Chairman*.

Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, F. F. Howarth, G. F. Morrell, W. S. Hallett-Reed and C. E. Westbrook.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Covered Seats on Common.—The Surveyor reported that he had been unable to obtain quotations for re-thatching the roof of a covered seat on the Common, and submitted as an alternative, a quotation he had received from W. H. Colt (London), Ltd. for roofing with Canadian Cedarwood Shingles amounting to £23. 14s. 4d.

RESOLVED—That the quotation be accepted.

Clerk.—The Sub-Committee reported that Mr. W. C. Cripps had tendered his resignation as Clerk to the Commons Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the resignation be accepted, and that the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators desire to place upon record their deep appreciation of the very eminent services rendered by Mr. W. C. Cripps, as their Clerk, for a period of over 56 years, of his valued advice and guidance, at all times, in their deliberations, they much regret the severance of his long association with the functions of the Commons Conservators, and express to him their best wishes in his retirement.

Mr. R. S. R. Berry (representative of the Lord of the Manor) and Mr. C. E. Westbrook (representative of the Town Council) associated themselves with the terms of the foregoing resolution.

RESOLVED—That, subject to the approval of the Town Council, Mr. John Whitehead (Town Clerk) be appointed Clerk to the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators at a salary of £50 per annum, such appointment to date as from the 3rd June, 1947.

RESOLVED—That, subject to the approval of the Town Council and to the confirmation of the Commons Conservators, Mr. John Whitehead be authorised to appoint a member of his staff, as an Assistant Clerk, at a salary of £20 per annum, such appointment to date as from the 3rd June, 1947.

Accountant.—RESOLVED—That, subject to the approval of the Town Council, Mr. D. L. Copeman (Borough Treasurer) be appointed Accountant to the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators, at a salary of £20 per annum, such appointment to date as from the 1st April, 1947.

Accounts—Year ended 31st March, 1947.—The Borough Treasurer (Mr. D. L. Copeman) submitted the Accounts of the Commons Conservators for the year ended 31st March, 1947.

RESOLVED—That, subject to audit, the Accounts be approved.

Damage to Seats, Trees, etc.—Questions relating to the damage caused to seats, trees, etc., on the Commons were considered.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed (1) to communicate with Messrs. Carter, Banks & Bennett (Bailiffs to the Lord of the Manor) recommending that the Commons Ranger should be sworn in as a Special Constable, and (2) to call the attention of Chief Inspector Kirby of the Tunbridge Wells Division of the Kent County Constabulary to the need for more Police control on the Commons.

Provision for Games on Rusthall Common.—The Chairman reported that he anticipated that further questions would arise at the next meeting of the Town Council as to the

resolution of the Commons Conservators to take no action with regard to the provision for games on Rusthall Common and he was authorised, if necessary, to state that the resolution in question was passed by the unanimous vote of the Commons Conservators and was based on the policy adopted by them in the administration of the Commons.

Oak Tree damaged by Flying Bomb.—Questions relating to the wording of the tablet recording the damage to an oak tree on the Common by a flying bomb were considered.

RESOLVED—That Mr. R. S. R. Berry be requested to submit draft of suggested amended wording of the tablet to the next meeting of the Conservators.

Gorse.—Questions relating to the risk of damage by fire and to the clearance of gorse growing in close proximity to dwelling-houses on the Commons were considered, and deferred to the next meeting.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £8. 2s. 9d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

J. S. Allan
Chairman

30th September 1941

Commons Conservators

30th September, 1947.

Commons Conservators.

30th September, 1947.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Allan), (*Chairman*).

Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, F. F. Howarth, F. R. Kember,
G. F. Morrell, W. S. Hallett-Reed, S. V. Thorpe and C. E.
Westbrook.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Appointment of Conservator.—A letter was received from the Lord of the Manor notifying the appointment of Mr. R. W. Card as one of his representatives as a Commons Conservator in the place of the late Mr. H. Elwig.

Appointment of Clerk and Accountant.—A letter was received from Mr. John Whiteheap accepting the appointment of Clerk to the Conservators as from 3rd June last.

A similar letter was received from Mr. D. L. Copeman accepting the appointment of Accountant to the Conservators as from 1st April, 1947.

The Clerk reported that the approval of the Town Council had been given to the foregoing appointments.

Staff.—The Clerk reported that in accordance with the authority given by the Conservators at their last meeting he had appointed Mr. R. G. Puttock as an Assistant Clerk as from 3rd June, 1947.

Treasurer to the Conservators.—Questions relating to the post of Treasurer to the Conservators, at present occupied by Mr. E. W. Kirby, were considered and the Clerk was instructed with regard thereto.

Damage to Seats and Trees on the Commons.—A letter was received from the Bailiffs to the Lord of the Manor with regard to the suggestion of the Conservators that the Commons Ranger should be sworn in as a Special Constable, intimating that while no objection was raised by the Lord of the Manor to the proposal, the Commons Ranger was not prepared to undertake these duties principally on account of his age.

RESOLVED—That consideration of the matter be deferred and that, in the meantime, the Chairman be requested to obtain the views of the Police Authority as to the possibility of enrolling a suitable person as a Special Constable for the purpose of exercising supervision over the Commons.

Brighton Lake.—A letter was received from Mr. J. A. Constantine calling attention to the condition of the lake on the Tunbridge Wells Common known as "the Brighton Lake".

The Surveyor reported that this lake was cleared of weeds during the late spring but that a second growth had occurred owing to the dry summer experienced this year, and that the cost of again carrying out the work would amount to approximately £20.

RESOLVED—That no further action be taken in the matter at the present time.

Rusthall Common.—A letter was received from Mrs. L. M. Jones calling attention to the condition of that portion of the Rusthall Common known as "Bull's Hollow", pointing out that seedlings had grown into trees and that her premises at Bull's Hollow Cottage were now enclosed in a tangle of bracken, trees and weeds, further pointing out that the far path leading to Bull's Hollow had now fallen into disrepair and suggesting that repairs be carried out thereto.

The Surveyor reported that owing to shortage of labour it had not been possible to effect the clearance of the undergrowth in Bull's Hollow, but that so soon as drainage works now being effected have been completed the work would be put in hand.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed so to inform Mrs. Jones, and that with regard to the path, to point out that this is not a pathway for which the Conservators are responsible.

Omnibus Shelter.—The Clerk reported that the Tunbridge Wells Town Council had been in communication with the Lord of the Manor and the Freehold Tenants with a view to obtaining permission to erect an omnibus shelter on the fringe of the Tunbridge Wells Common opposite to the Kentish Buildings, London Road, that while the Freehold Tenants were prepared to give the necessary consent, subject to an acknowledgment rental, the Lord of the Manor was not prepared to accept the rental offered by the Council and that the Council had, therefore, requested the Conservators to consider the possibility of erecting a shelter on the Common which could be conveniently used by omnibus passengers.

RESOLVED—That the Town Council be informed that the Conservators have no power to provide such a shelter.

Electrical Transformer Pillar.—The Clerk reported on an application received from the Tunbridge Wells Corporation for permission to replace a single electrical transformer pillar sited on the Common opposite York Road by a double pillar.

RESOLVED—That the Corporation be informed that the Conservators have no objection to raise to the proposal.

Post Office Telephones.—The Surveyor reported that the Post Office Telephone Department had erected two concrete pillars on the Commons opposite No. 66, Mount Ephraim and in Rusthall Road at its junction with the road to Denny Bottom respectively.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do raise no objection to the erection of the pillars in question.

Employees.—The Chairman reported on the difficulty which had been experienced in obtaining labourers for work on the Commons owing to the fact that the prevailing rate of pay, viz. £4 per week, was less than the Joint Industrial Council rate for this class of employee, and that he had accordingly authorised the payment of the Joint Industrial Council's rates to labourers on the Commons as from 10th August last.

RESOLVED—That the Chairman's action be confirmed.

The Surveyor reported on a letter he had received from the Linden Park Cricket Club enquiring whether the Conservators desired to have made available to them the services of the Club's groundsman during the winter months for work on the Tunbridge Wells Commons.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorised to arrange with the Linden Park Cricket Club for the loan of the services of their groundsman as and when required during the winter months, payment to be made to the Club for his services on a time basis.

Footpaths.—The Surveyor reported the receipt of a letter from Mrs. Gibson of Gibraltar Cottage, requesting the Conservators to carry out repairs to a private drive across the Common adjoining her premises.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. Gibson be informed that the track in question is not a footpath for which the Conservators are responsible and that they are, therefore, unable to comply with her request.

Grazing.—Questions relating to the desirability of grazing the Commons were considered and deferred.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £216. 16s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

The Auditors report on the accounts for the year ended 25th March, 1947, was submitted to the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to Messrs. F. F. Howarth and W. C. Raiswell for their services as Auditors.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to His Worship the Mayor for his able and courteous conduct in the Chair during his term of office.

J. A. Rogers
Chairman
2nd December 1947

Commons Conservators

2nd December, 1947.

Commons Conservators.

2nd December, 1947.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Sargent), (*Chairman*).

Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. S. Hallett-Reed, F. F. Howarth, W. C. Raiswell, S. V. Thorpe and C. E. Westbrook.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council on the 10th November last appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the 9th day of November next :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Sargent).
Aldermen Allan, Raiswell and Westbrook.

Mr. S. V. Thorpe extended a welcome, on behalf of the Conservators to His Worship the Mayor.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims.—It was reported to the meeting that Brig-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims was still prevented by indisposition from being present, but hoped to attend the next meeting of the Conservators.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £320. 18s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Estimates, 1948/49.—Estimates for the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators during the next financial year amounting to £2,088 were approved.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year to the amount of £2,088 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Questions relating to the amount expended during the current year on the repair of the footpath on Mount Ephraim were considered, together with a report on the status of this path.

The Surveyor reported that the repairs in question amounting to £200 had been necessitated by frost damage sustained during the winter 1946/47.

Appointment of Committee—RESOLVED—That the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Sargent), Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, W. S. Hallett-Reed, F. F. Howarth, W. C. Raiswell and S. V. Thorpe be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year to report to the Conservators on such matters as may be referred to them from time to time.

Dates of Meetings.—RESOLVED—That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held on the following Tuesdays at 3 p.m. :—

2nd March, 1948.	5th October, 1948
1st June, 1948	4th January, 1949.

subject to due notice of any alteration which might be necessary to these dates during the ensuing year.

Treasurer to the Conservators.—A letter was received from Mr. E. W. Kirby offering his resignation as Treasurer to the Conservators in order that Mr. D. L. Copeman might combine the offices of Accountant and Treasurer in order to facilitate the work of the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the resignation of Mr. Kirby be accepted, that the Clerk be instructed to convey to him an expression of the Conservators' keen appreciation of the services he has rendered as their Treasurer during the past year and that Mr. D. L. Copeman be appointed Treasurer to the Conservators.

Steps to the Happy Valley.—Mr. W. S. Hallett-Reed called attention to the dangerous condition of the steps leading to the Happy Valley and the Surveyor reported to the Conservators thereon.

Lower Cricket Ground.—The Clerk submitted a letter received from Mr. F. S. Harries calling attention to the fact that members of the public had, as a result of the removal of the railings around the Lower Cricket Ground, formed a pathway across the ground, that as a result, the general condition of the ground was unsatisfactory and in places dangerous, and requesting the Conservators to consider the possibility of improving the condition of the ground.

The Surveyor reported that the depression in the ground caused by the track in question had now been filled in and it was hoped, at the end of the present football season, to seed this area with grass, and further, that so soon as railings were available the Lower Cricket Ground would again be enclosed.

RESOLVED—That in the meantime, the Surveyor be instructed to endeavour to arrange for the early provision of railings at both ends of the track referred to above.

Damage to Seats and Trees on the Commons.—A letter was received from the Chief Constable of Kent with reference to the suggested enrolment of a suitable employee of the Conservators as a special constable for the purpose of exercising supervision over the Commons, intimating that there were several reasons which rendered it undesirable for such an employee to be appointed under the Special Constables Order, 1923, and suggesting that the Conservators' requirements might be met by it appointing an employee as a special constable under Section 174 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890.

RESOLVED—That, in view of the fact that the Common Ranger is not prepared to undertake the duties of special constable, no further action be taken in this connection, but that the Clerk be instructed to draw the attention of the Police Authority to the need for more police control of the Commons.

Sewers.—The Clerk submitted to the Conservators copy of a Notice served by the Tunbridge Wells Corporation upon the Lord of the Manor of their intention to construct a sewer through land forming part of the Tunbridge Wells Common.

Post Office Telephones.—An application was received from the Telephone Manager, Post Office Telephones, for permission to erect three pillars and cabinets at points on the Commons in the vicinity of Lower Green Road, the road to Denny Bottom and the Thurlstane Hotel, Mount Ephraim.

The Lord of the Manor's representatives intimated that in their opinion this was a matter over which the Conservators had no jurisdiction.

RESOLVED—(Messrs. Berry, Card, and Thorpe voting against)—That the Commons Conservators do raise no objection to the erection of the cabinets and pillars in question.

Rusthall Common.—A letter was received from Mr. A. L. Rush, Secretary to the Freehold Tenants, intimating that at a meeting of the Freehold Tenants a Miss Taylor, living near Bulls Hollow, had complained that the trees and hedges in that vicinity were being mutilated by employees of the Conservators.

The Surveyor reported that the work in question was being carried out following the request received from Mrs. Ellen Jones, submitted to the last meeting of the Conservators, and consisted merely of the removal of portions of a hedge owned by Miss Taylor overhanging the Common.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

It was reported to the Conservators that a boundary wall between the Spa Hotel and the Rusthall Common was in a dilapidated condition and portions of the wall were now strewn across the Common.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to request the owners of the Spa Hotel to remove the portions of wall in question, from the Common.

Questions relating to a parking ground recently formed on the Rusthall Common adjoining "The Morning Star", Public House, were considered.

It was reported that the consent of the Lords of the Manor and Freehold Tenants had been given to the formation of this parking place.

Tunbridge Wells Common.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants enclosing copy of a letter he had received from Miss E. A. Cumming requesting the provision of a signpost indicating that the track across the Tunbridge Wells Common from Major Yorke's Road to High Rocks Lane was a footpath only, and further requesting the removal of a number of oak seedlings growing in front of her premises, "The Cottage".

RESOLVED—That the question of the removal of the seedlings be referred to the Surveyor to take such action as may be necessary, but that no action be taken with regard to the suggestion made by Miss Cumming as to the provision of a notice-board relating to the track across the Common.

J. H. Sargent.
Chairman

2nd March 1948

2nd March, 1948.

Commons Conservators.

2nd March, 1948—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Sargent) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. S. Hallett-Reed, F. F. Howarth, Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims, G. F. Morrell and C. E. Westbrook.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £755. 15s. 3d. were passed for payment, and Accounts paid since the last meeting amounting to £40. 17s. 4d. were approved (all as per list signed by the Chairman)

Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims.—The Mayor expressed to Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims, the pleasure of the Conservators on his recovery from his recent indisposition.

The late Mr. F. R. Kember.—RESOLVED—That a sincere vote of sympathy and condolence with Mrs. Kember and her family on the death of Mr. F. R. Kember, be passed and that an expression of the Conservators' regret at the loss of so valued and esteemed a colleague, be recorded on the minutes.

Committee.—RESOLVED—That three members do form a quorum of the Committee of the Conservators appointed at the last meeting.

Damage to Seats and Trees on the Commons.—A letter was received from the Chief Constable of Kent with regard to the Conservators' request for more police control of the Commons, intimating that instructions had been given for the police to pay as much attention as possible to the Commons, consistent with their other duties, but that it was not possible to augment the strength of the police in Tunbridge Wells purely for that purpose.

Emergency Water Supply Sites.—The Clerk reported that notification had been received from the Tunbridge Wells Corporation that the following emergency water supply sites on the Commons were derequisitioned on the 16th January last :—

Hurstwood Lane/Bishops Down.
Opposite No. 79 Mount Ephraim.
Opposite the " Morning Star " P.H.
London Road/Vale Road.
London Road/Mount Ephraim Road.

Trees.—A letter, signed by thirteen householders residing at Nos. 13-27, Eridge Road, requesting that trees in that road and standing on the Commons, should be cut back, to prevent them obscuring the light, was laid before the Conservators.

The Surveyor reported that approximately thirty trees were involved and that no provision had been made in the Estimates for the ensuing year, to enable them to be cut back.

RESOLVED—That the petitioners be so informed and that no further action be taken in the matter at the present time.

Post Office Telephones.—An application was received from the Telephone Manager, Post Office Telephones, for permission to place telegraph poles (1) in the corner of the footway outside No. 8 Upper Street, Rusthall, (2) in the footway outside Dale Place, Rusthall and (3) near the footway leading to the Toad Rock.

The Clerk reported that the sites numbered (1) and (2) above were not on the Commons and that the Conservators had no jurisdiction thereover.

RESOLVED—That no objection be raised to the placing of a pole on the Common, near the footway leading to the Toad Rock, in the position shewn on the plan

accompanying the application provided that the consent of the Lord of the Manor and Freehold Tenants is obtained and that the Clerk be authorised to sign the necessary form.

Employees.—The Surveyor reported that Mr. H. Oakley, an employee of the Conservators had enrolled in the Territorial Army and had made application for two weeks leave of absence to enable him to attend Annual Training.

RESOLVED—That two weeks' leave of absence be granted, with pay.

Rusthall Common.—It was reported that the iron railing around the Toad Rock had been damaged.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Surveyor.

Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims called attention to the condition of the Rusthall Common and the Surveyor reported to the Conservators upon his programme of work upon the Commons.

Tunbridge Wells Common.—Mr. R. S. R. Berry reported that vehicles using the private road to his premises, Mount Edgcumbe Cottage, The Common, and adjoining property, were encroaching on to the Common and that he proposed, subject to the consent of the various authorities, to affix posts adjoining the drive, to prevent this practice.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do raise no objection to the proposal.

Questions relating to the formation of a car park on part of the Common, adjoining the Higher Cricket Ground, were considered and Mr. R. W. Card reported to the Conservators thereon.

J. S. L. G. out
Chairman

1st June 1948

1st June, 1948.

Commons Conservators.

1st June, 1948.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Sargent) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. S. Hallett-Reed,
F. F. Howarth, Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley Sims, W. C.
Raiswell, C. H. Strange, S. V. Thorpe and C. E. Westbrook.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £480. 8s. 7d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Accounts—Year Ended 31st March, 1948.—The Treasurer submitted the Accounts of the Commons Conservators for the year ended 31st March, 1948.

RESOLVED—That, subject to Audit, the Accounts be approved.

Higher Cricket Ground.—Questions relating to the possibility of replacing the iron railings which at one time surrounded the Higher Cricket Ground, were considered and referred to the Clerk to discuss with the Surveyor.

Employees.—Questions relating to the adequacy of the supervision of employees engaged on work on the Commons were considered.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee, to discuss with the Surveyor and to take any action thereon which it deems to be desirable.

Notice Boards.—Mr. R. S. R. Berry called the attention of the Conservators to the misleading nature of certain notice boards on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Surveyor.

The late Mr. F. R. Kember.—A letter was received from the relatives of the late Mr. F. R. Kember thanking the Conservators for the resolution of sympathy passed at their last meeting.

Appointment of Conservator.—A letter was received from the Lord of the Manor notifying the appointment of Mr. C. H. Strange as one of his representatives as a Commons Conservator in the place of the late Mr. F. R. Kember.

Committee.—The Clerk reported that, from time to time, matters requiring urgent attention arose, upon which it was not possible to obtain a decision without convening a special meeting of the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the Committee be authorised to deal with any matters of urgency arising between meetings of the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That Mr. R. W. Card be appointed a member of the Committee in the place of Mr. S. V. Thorpe.

Trees.—The Clerk submitted letters from Messrs. A. Allistone and A. E. Streek requesting the Conservators to reconsider their decision not to cut back the trees on the Common adjoining Nos. 13-27 Eridge Road.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do adhere to their previous decision in this matter.

The Surveyor reported that, with the permission of the Lord of the Manor, he had removed two dead trees from the Tunbridge Wells Common, one from opposite No. 16 Eridge Road and the other from opposite the Earl's Court Hotel, Mount Ephraim.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor's action be approved.

Rusthall Common.—The Clerk reported that since the last meeting he had received an application from the Officer Commanding, 206 L.A.A. Battery, Royal Artillery, for permission to hold a Military Exercise on the Rusthall Common on the 30th March last and that, after consulting representatives of the Town Council, Lord of the Manor and Freehold Tenants, he had given the necessary permission, at the same time reminding the applicants of the necessity for obtaining the consent of the Lord of the Moanor

RESOLVED—That the Clerk's action be confirmed.

Sheltered Seat.—The Clerk submitted a Police report on damage caused to the Sheltered Seat on the Tunbridge Wells Common on the 11th March last, stating that after exhaustive enquiries it had not been possible to apprehend the persons responsible for the damage.

The Surveyor reported that the Sheltered Seat on the Common had now been re-roofed with shingles and that the remaining repairs were in hand.

Gibraltar Cottage.—A letter was received from Mrs. N. F. Gibson calling the attention of the Conservators to the damage caused by children to her property, Gibraltar Cottage, and requesting the provision of a notice board warning the public that action would be taken against persons causing damage to property on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. Gibson be informed that the Conservators regret that they are unable to accede to her request.

Tunbridge Wells Common.—A letter was received from the Tunbridge Wells Evening Townswomen's Guild calling attention to the danger of broken glass on the Common.

The Surveyor reported that the amount of broken glass now found on the Commons was due to the fact that when fires occurred, numerous bottles and tins were exposed and that he had given instructions for these to be collected and removed as soon as possible after each fire.

RESOLVED—That the Townswomen's Guild be so informed.

A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants intimating that he had been instructed to call the attention of the Conservators to the following matters :—

- (a) the present unsatisfactory state of the Commons generally ;
- (b) the need for action to prevent the firing of the Commons ;
- (c) the need for action to prevent cycling on the footpaths.

RESOLVED—That matter (a) be referred to the Committee to consider in conjunction with the question of ensuring adequate supervision of employees engaged on work on the Commons, that with regard to (b) the Freehold Tenants be informed of the action proposed by the Conservators in cases of wilful damage in future, where the offenders are detected and that the Clerk be instructed to communicate with the Police Authority with a view to the enforcement of the Conservators' Bye-law prohibiting cycling on the Commons.

The Surveyor reported that the work of clearing the bracken and undergrowth on the Tunbridge Wells Common was proceeding but that it would now need to be abandoned until the Autumn and the labour transferred to grass cutting.

The Surveyor also reported that he had received a request from Miss D. James that attention should be given to that portion of the Common between the Upper Race Course and the path from Hungershall Park to Nevill Park and that he had informed Miss James that it was hoped to clear that part of the Common during the present year.

Damage to Commons.—The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants with regard to damage caused by children to the rocks on the Rusthall Common and on the action taken with regard thereto.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk's action be confirmed.

The Clerk also submitted two Police reports on fires caused by children on the Rusthall Common.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to communicate with the Police Authority with a view to the institution of proceedings against offenders on future occasions when wilful damage is caused to the Commons.

The Surveyor reported that the stones from the boundary wall between the Spa Hotel and the Rusthall Common (referred to in the minutes of the Conservators of the 2nd December last) had not yet been removed and that many of these stones had been rolled down on to the track across the Common, making it dangerous.

The Surveyor also reported that the cover to the old well had been smashed and the well almost filled with walling stone.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to endeavour to arrange with the local press for publicity to be given to the fact that the Commons are provided and maintained for the enjoyment and recreation of the public and for the issue of an appeal to the public to assist in their preservation.

M Sargent
Chairman
5th October 1948

5th October, 1948.

Commons Conservators.

5th October, 1948.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Alderman Sargent) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. S. Hallett-Reed, F. F. Howarth, G. F. Morrell, W. C. Raiswell, C. H. Strange and C. E. Westbrook.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £894. 11s. 9d. (all as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment,

Rusthall Common.—A letter was received from Mr. S. D. Minto with reference to a notice board erected on the Rusthall Common, requesting the Conservators to consider the possibility of removing the board to an alternative site where it would not obstruct the view of the Common from his premises in Common View.

It was reported that the board in question, which related to the deposit of rubbish on the Commons, had recently been removed by unauthorised persons.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to arrange for the provision of a new board at a point where it will not obstruct the view from premises in Common View.

Damage to Commons.—The Clerk reported that a successful prosecution had recently been taken by the Police in respect of the firing of the Commons when the offender had been bound over for a period of two years, to be of good behaviour.

A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants calling attention to damage recently caused by children to trees on the Rusthall Common.

A letter was also received from the Superintendent of Police upon enquiries which were being made with regard to this damage.

RESOLVED—That the Police Authority be requested, subject to adequate evidence being available, to take proceedings against the persons responsible for the damage.

Tunbridge Wells Common.—The Conservators again considered the letter received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants (referred to in the minutes of the last meeting) calling attention to various matters in connection with the Commons.

The Clerk reported that he had been in communication with the Police Authority with regard to the damage caused to and cycling on footpaths on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the Police Authority be requested to take proceedings, when sufficient evidence is available, in future cases coming to their notice.

The Conservators discussed with the Surveyor the complaint of the Freehold Tenants with regard to the present unsatisfactory state of the Commons, when a programme of forthcoming work was presented. The Surveyor pointed out in connection with this programme that the limiting factor was the inadequacy of the labour strength employed on the Commons.

The Clerk reported a letter from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants enclosing a letter received from Mrs. Mitchell complaining of the condition of a footpath upon the Tunbridge Wells Common in the vicinity of Mount Edgcumbe.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. Mitchell be informed that the track to which she refers is not a footpath for which the Conservators are responsible, but is merely a track formed by constant use on the part of the public.

The Surveyor reported to the Conservators on the cost of replacing part of the iron railings removed during the War from the Higher and Lower Cricket Grounds, with the object of preventing the public from forming tracks over the grounds.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to replace approximately 160 yards of the railings surrounding the Lower Cricket Ground at an estimated cost of £30 plus cost of labour.

Employees.—Questions relating to the adequacy of the supervision of employees engaged on work on the Commons were considered together with a report by the Surveyor thereon.

The Surveyor reported that the 44-hour working week adopted by the Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers) was put into operation, in respect of employees on the Commons, on the 27th September last.

The Surveyor reported that the Linden Park Cricket Club were prepared to make available to the Conservators the services of their groundsman during the winter months, on the same terms as last year.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorised to arrange with the Cricket Club for the loan of the services of their groundsman as and when required during the winter months, payment to be made to the Club for his services on a time basis.

J. M. Cargill
Chairman

14th January 1949

Commons Conservators

4th January, 1949.

Commons Conservators.

4th January, 1949.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Alderman Sargent), *Chairman*.

Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. S. Hallett-Reed, F. F. Howarth, Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley Sims, G. F. Morrell and C. E. Westbrook.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the date of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council had now been altered by the Local Government Act, 1948, from the 9th day of November to a date in May in each year and that the Council had accordingly made application to the Home Secretary for an Order amending the provisions of Section 153 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, which provided for the appointment of Conservators on the 9th day of November, in order to bring these appointments into line with the new date of the Annual Council Meeting.

The Clerk also reported that, in view of the foregoing, the Town Council and the Freehold Tenants had appointed the following members as their representatives on the Commons Conservators until the next Annual Meeting of the Council:—

Town Council	...	His Worship the Mayor (Alderman Sargent), Aldermen Allan, Raiswell and Westbrook.
Freehold Tenants	...	Mr. W. S. Hallett-Reed, Brig.-Gen. R. S. Manley Sims, Messrs. F. F. Howarth and G. F. Morrell.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £446. 15s. 11d. (all as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Estimates 1949/50.—Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators during the next financial year amounting to £2,247 were approved.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year to the amount of £2,247 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Appointment of Committee.—**RESOLVED**—That the Mayor (Alderman Sargent) and Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. S. Hallett-Reed, F. F. Howarth, and W. C. Raiswell be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year to report to the Conservators on such matters as may be referred to them from time to time.

Dates of Meetings.—**RESOLVED**—That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held on the following Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

1st March, 1949	4th October, 1949
31st May, 1949	3rd January, 1950

Damage to Commons.—The Clerk reported that proceedings had been taken by the Police against 10 children between the ages of 8 and 13, in respect of damage caused by them to trees on the Rusthall Common and that the charges had been dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1907, on payment of 1s. 6d. cost by each defendant.

Employees.—The Surveyor reported that Mr. W. Lambkin, foreman in charge of employees engaged on work on the Commons, had been absent from duty owing to illness since the 6th September last, that it was not anticipated that he would again be available for some months and that in the meantime he had appointed Mr. A. Smith as acting foreman, with an increase of 1d. per hour over his normal rate of pay.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor's action be approved and that Mr. Smith's appointment as acting Foreman be continued for the time being.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorised to purchase six pairs of overalls for use by employees engaged on work on the Commons at an approximate cost of £6.

Seats.—The Surveyor reported that eight new seats had now been provided on the Commons and that provision had been made in next year's Estimates for further seats.

Tunbridge Wells Common.—The Surveyor reported that it had been necessary to expend a sum of £27 to make good damage to the stonework around the Brighton Lake.

Rusthall Common.—Mr. W. S. Hallett-Reed called attention to the need for the repainting of the posts on Rusthall Common on the bend in Rusthall Road at its junction with Bretland Road.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Surveyor.

Cycling on Commons.—RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to request the Head Postmaster to draw the attention of employees of his Department to the bye-law prohibiting cycling on the footpaths on the Commons.

M. Sargent
Chairman

1st March 1949

Commons Conservators

1st March, 1949.

Commons Conservators.

1st March, 1949.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Alderman Sargent), (*Chairman*).

Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. S. Hallett-Reed,
F. F. Howarth, Brig-Gen. R. S. Manley-Sims, G. F. Morrell,
W. R. Raiswell, C. H. Strange and C. E. Westbrook.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £132. 2s. 10d. (all as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Home Secretary had now expressed his willingness to make an Order amending the provisions of Section 153 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, which provided for the appointment of Conservators on the 9th day of November, in order to enable these appointments to be made on a date in May to conform to the new date of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

Committee.—RESOLVED—That three members do form a quorum of the Committee of the Conservators appointed at the last meeting.

Cycling on Footpaths on Commons.—A letter was received from the Head Postmaster with reference to the Conservators' complaint of the non-observance by employees of his Department of the bye-law prohibiting cycling on the footpaths on the Commons, expressing his regret at this transgression of the bye-law and intimating that he had issued special instructions to employees on the subject.

Electrical Transformer Pillars.—Mr. R. S. R. Berry reported to the Conservators on correspondence which had passed between the Lord of the Manor's Agents and the District Manager of the South Eastern Electricity Board with reference to an application by the Board to place a transformer pillar on a portion of the Common at the junction of Rusthall Road and Bretland Road, from which it appeared that delay had been occasioned owing to an application for the consent of the Conservators to the proposal, and stated that the Lord of the Manor contended that the consent of the Conservators to the erection of these pillars on the Commons was not necessary.

It was moved by Mr. T. C. Allan and seconded by Mr. C. E. Westbrook—That the Conservators (so far as they are empowered by law so to do) do consent to the erection of the Transformer Pillar in question.

It was moved as an Amendment by Mr. R. S. R. Berry and seconded by Mr. R. W. Card—That the Surveyor be instructed that the question of the erection of the transformer pillar is of no interest to the Conservators.

On a vote being taken by a show of hands, there voted:—

For the Amendment	...	2
Against	...	6

The Amendment was accordingly lost.

The original resolution, on being put as the substantive motion was carried *nem. con.*

Inspection of Commons.—Questions relating to the desirability of the carrying out by the Conservators of an inspection of the Commons were considered and deferred.

Rusthall Common.—The Surveyor reported that work on the clearing of the undergrowth on the Rusthall Common had been commenced, but had needed to be suspended owing to the necessity for the transfer of the employees to the Tunbridge Wells Common to assist in rodent control on that Common.

Commons Conservators

2

Tunbridge Wells Common.—Questions relating to the replacement of the iron railings removed from the Higher Cricket Ground during the war were again considered.

The Surveyor reported that a sum of £50 had been included in the ensuing year's Estimates in respect of the replacement of a portion of these railings and that the work would be put in hand so soon as the necessary labour was available.

Insurances.—The Treasurer reported that the insurance policy taken out by the Conservators in respect of Employers' Liability now fell due for renewal and submitted a quotation he had obtained from the Conservators' Insurers for the renewal of the Policy.

RESOLVED—That the quotation of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Ltd., to effect the necessary cover for a premium of 2s. 0d. per cent. of the annual amount of wages paid to employees, less 10 per cent., be accepted for a period of one year from the 1st April, 1949.

Tunbridge Wells.

Chairman

31st May 1949

Commons Conservators

31st May, 1949.

Commons Conservators.

31st May, 1949.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Councillor Miss Wells) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. S. Hallett Reed, F. F. Howarth, W. C. Raiswell, H. A. Sheppard, C. H. Strange and S. V. Thorpe.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Home Secretary had now made an Order amending the provisions of Section 153 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, to enable appointments of Conservators to be made on a date in May to conform to the new date of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

The Clerk also reported that the Town Council at its Annual Meeting on the 23rd instant, appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 1950 :—

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor Miss Wells).

Aldermen Allan and Raiswell.

Councillor Sheppard.

Mr. S. V. Thorpe extended a welcome, on behalf of the Conservators, to His Worship the Mayor.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £664. 14s. 2d. (all as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Employees.—The Surveyor reported that Mr. W. Lambkin, foreman in charge of employees engaged on work on the Commons, had been absent from duty owing to illness since 16th September last and had now produced a medical certificate as to his permanent incapacity for work.

RESOLVED—That Mr. A. W. Smith, acting foreman, be appointed foreman in charge of employees on the Commons in the place of Mr. Lambkin, at his present rate of pay, viz., £5. 0s. 8d. per week.

Questions relating to the desirability of taking steps to secure the admission of employees on the Commons into the superannuation scheme established by the Town Council under the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, were considered.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

Appointment of Committee.—RESOLVED—That the Mayor (Councillor Miss Wells) and Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. S. Hallett-Reed, F. F. Howarth and W. C. Raiswell be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year to report to the Conservators on such matters as may be referred to them from time to time and that three members do form a quorum of the Committee.

Appointment of Auditors.—RESOLVED—That a vote of thanks be given to the Auditors, Messrs. F. F. Howarth and W. C. Raiswell, for their services and that they be re-appointed Auditors to audit the accounts for the past financial year.

Accounts—Year ended 31st March, 1949.—The Treasurer submitted the Accounts of the Commons Conservators for the year ended 31st March, 1949.

RESOLVED—That, subject to audit, the accounts be approved.

Clearance of Commons.—The Clerk reported that he had received three anonymous complaints (two of which had been addressed to the local branch of the R.S.P.C.A.) with regard to the extent of the clearance work now being carried out on the Rusthall Common, the grounds for complaint in each case being that nesting places for birds were being disturbed.

The Surveyor reported in connection with the matter that the clearing of the undergrowth was commenced before the nesting season and very few birds' nests had been found, and that when they had been found the shrub or bush containing them had been left undisturbed.

The Surveyor also reported—

- (1) That a considerable amount of common land previously an impenetrable mass of brambles and blackthorn had now been made available to the public and large quantities of broken bottles, tin cans and other debris had been removed.
- (2) That the clearance work would shortly be closed down owing to the need to transfer employees to grass cutting and repairs to paths, but that it was proposed to re-commence clearing as soon as the employees were again available for the work.
- (3) That the spread of bracken on both Commons was gradually reducing the area of turf and that it was impossible to deal with this problem with the labour available.

Rabbit Snaring.—The Clerk submitted an application he had received for permission to snare rabbits on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the applicant be informed that his request should be addressed to the Manorial Authorities.

Litter Baskets.—The Clerk reported that he had received a request from Mrs. Gaitskell-Burr that additional litter baskets should be provided on the Commons.

The Surveyor reported that he estimated the cost of wire litter baskets at £3. 10s. 0d. each.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. Gaitskell-Burr be informed that in the opinion of the Conservators the provision of additional litter baskets would not reduce to any appreciable extent the amount of litter scattered on the Commons by members of the public, and that they regret, therefore, that they are unable to comply with her suggestion.

Rusthall Common.—The Clerk reported that on the 17th instant he received a report from the Kent County Constabulary that a hole in the earth on Rusthall Common had been discovered by the employees engaged on the clearance of undergrowth, approximately 150 yards from Bretland Road, that the hole was thought to have been caused by an unexploded bomb in view of the fact that six such bombs fell in the immediate vicinity in October, 1940, and that "Unexploded Bomb" notices had accordingly been posted on the site and the appropriate authorities notified.

Higher Cricket Ground.—The Clerk reported that he had received a Police Report on the playing of unauthorised games on the Higher Cricket Ground on the 1st instant in contravention of the Conservators' Bye-laws.

RESOLVED—That in this instance proceedings be not taken against the offenders but that the Clerk be instructed to warn them against a repetition of the occurrence.

Lower Cricket Ground.—The Surveyor reported that work had commenced on restoring the grass on the track made by the public across the Lower Cricket Ground and would be completed now that the ground was no longer required for football.

It was reported to the Conservators that while the track in question had been closed to the public another track was being formed.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee to report to the Conservators on the best means of fencing off the Lower Cricket Ground in such a manner as to prevent the formation of further tracks.

Tunbridge Wells Common.—A letter was received from Mr. S. H. Muffett calling attention to the following matters requiring attention on the Tunbridge Wells Common :—

- (1) The surface condition of a certain part of the Old Race Course in which dangerous ruts had been formed.
- (2) A seat on the same pathway, south of Major Yorke's Road, requiring repair.
- (3) The poor condition of a soil path at a point where a path from the Queen's Grove to the Post Office verges on to Castle Road, owing to erosion by surface water.

RESOLVED—That the matters be referred to the Surveyor for consideration and report.

Tunbridge Wells.

Chairman

4th October 1949

<u>Expenditure</u>	£	s	d	£	s	d
Wages	1.644.	11.	7.			
National Insurance Contributions	61.	14.	10.			
Workmen's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance	9.	9.	11.	1715.	16.	4.
Salaries - Clerk	50.	0.	0.			
Assistant	20.	0.	0.			
Surveyor	40.	0.	0.			
Treasurer	20.	0.	0.	130.	0.	0.
Advertising				4.	5.	
Fire Insurance				1.	1.	
Brighton Lake Repairs				29.	13.	4.
Notice Boards				8.	12.	6.
Roads and Footpaths				8.	19.	7.
Covered Seat Repairs	18.	18.	9.			
Seat Repairs	86.	15.	9.	105.	14.	6.
Repairs to Tools and Equipment				28.	12.	3.
Trimming Trees, Cutting Grass etc.				7.	8.	11.
Filling hole in bank, Rusthall Common				5.	15.	10.
Renewing Roof of Covered Seat				27.	15.	0.
Felling and Removing Dead Trees				16.	17.	1.
Railing and Seeding, Lower Cricket Ground				48.	2.	1.
Sealing Well on Common				2.	5.	4.
Removal of barbed wire - Rusthall Common.				-	6.	2.
				£2136.	4.	5.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1949.

<u>Liabilities and Surplus</u>	£	s	d
Creditor - Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation for rechargeable work, wages & insurances	663.	11.	5.
Suspense Account - For re-instatement of damage.	158.	1.	4.
	£ 821.	12.	9.

D. L. COPEMAN, F.I.M.F.A.

Treasurer.

<u>Income</u>	£	s	d
Ministry of Works - Compensation removal of barbed wire, Rusthall Common	39.	17.	11.
Postages - overcharged in previous year	9.	6.	
Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation - Contribution for year	2095.	17.	0.
	£2136.	4.	5.

<u>Assets</u>	£	s	d
Debtor - Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation for balance of Contribution	645.	17.	0.
Stamps in hand - Clerk 8s. 7½d.			
Treasurer 18s. 4½d.	1.	7.	0.
Cash at Bank ^{in hand}	174.	8.	9.
	£ 821.	12.	9.

4th October, 1949.

Commons Conservators.

4th October, 1949.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Councillor Miss Wells) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. S. Hallett-Reed, F. F. Howarth, G. F. Morrell, H. A. Sheppard, C. H. Strange and S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £501. 2s. 7d. (all as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Appointment of Conservators.—A letter was received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants notifying the appointment of the following representatives on the Commons Conservators until the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in 1952 :—

Messrs. R. Gunnis, W. S. Hallett-Reed, F. F. Howarth and G. F. Morrell.

Committee's Report.—The following minutes of the proceedings of the Committee at its meeting on the 22nd June, 1949, were submitted to the Conservators for approval.

22nd June, 1949.—At a meeting of the Committee of the Commons Conservators held on the Tunbridge Wells Common.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Councillor Miss Wells) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. S. Hallett-Reed and W. C. Raiswell.

1—**Lower Cricket Ground.**—The Committee considered various methods of preventing the formation of tracks across the Lower Cricket Ground by members of the public.

The Surveyor reported that the necessary material to enable railings to be re-affixed for distances of 80 yards at each end of the existing track across the ground had now been delivered and would shortly be erected.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to proceed with the provision of the railings for which provision has been made in the current year's estimates and also to erect notices requesting the public to keep to the footpaths.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed also to explore the possibility of obtaining a supply of Dannert (barbed) wire to be placed around the football pitch on this ground while works of restoration are in progress.

2—**Higher Cricket Ground.**—The Committee also considered complaints received with regard to the playing of unauthorised games on the Higher Cricket Ground.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to confer with the Police Authority with a view to action being taken to enforce the Bye-law prohibiting the playing of unauthorised games on parts of the Commons set apart for cricket.

3—**Litter on Commons.**—The Committee considered a complaint received as to the amount of litter left lying on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

RESOLVED—That the foregoing minutes be approved.

Tunbridge Wells Common.—The attention of the Conservators was called to the danger to children playing in the vicinity of the Wellington Rocks owing to the presence of broken glass, and also to the defacement of the Rocks.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Surveyor.

A letter was received from Miss E. B. Roome calling attention to the damage being caused to a large tree on the Tunbridge Wells Common, by the growth thereon of ivy.

The Surveyor reported that this matter had now received attention.

The attention of the Conservators was called to the need to cut back gorse bushes overhanging the private road to Mount Edgcumbe.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Surveyor.

Higher Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Linden Park Cricket Club calling attention to the damage caused to the Higher Cricket Ground by the playing thereon of unauthorised games, and suggesting the erection of notice boards drawing attention to the prohibition against such games.

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the instructions of the Committee he had communicated with the Police Authority with a view to action being taken to enforce the Bye-law dealing with this matter, and submitted a letter from the Superintendent of Police stating that instructions had been given to Police Officers to pay particular attention to the enforcement of the Bye-law, but pointing out that on the last occasion a report was submitted by the Police on this subject, the Conservators decided not to take proceedings against the offenders.

RESOLVED—That, in the event of a report being received from the Police Authority in future of an infringement of the Conservator's Bye-laws, the matter be referred to the Committee with power, if sufficient evidence is available, to authorise proceedings to be taken against the offenders.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to obtain estimates of the cost of purchasing sufficient second-hand railings completely to enclose the Higher Cricket Ground, and that such tenders be referred to the Committee with power (i) to accept the most favourable, and (ii) to make application to the Finance Committee of the Town Council for a supplementary grant to enable this work to be proceeded with during the current financial year.

Brighton Lake.—The Clerk submitted a number of letters received by the Mayor from residents in the Borough, suggesting that the Brighton Lake should be put into a fit condition to enable it to be used as a Model Yacht Pond.

A letter was also received from the Tunbridge Wells Industrial Council suggesting the erection of warning notices at the Brighton Lake, drawing attention to the dangers of paddling therein owing to the presence of broken glass.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken on the foregoing matters.

Rusthall Common.—A letter was received from Miss E. Waddilove calling attention to damage to benches and seats on the Rusthall Common caused by irresponsible persons.

RESOLVED—That Miss Waddilove be informed of the action the Conservators propose to take in this matter.

A letter was received from the County Civil Defence Officer, stating that the suspected unexploded bomb on the Rusthall Common, referred to in the Conservators' minutes of 31st May last, had now been investigated and discredited.

Bracken.—The Surveyor submitted a letter from Mr. L. Alexander requesting permission to cut bracken on the Commons for the purpose of bedding down horses.

RESOLVED—That the applicant be referred to the Manorial Authorities.

Cycling on Footpaths.—It was reported to the Conservators that the practise of cycling on footpaths on the Commons was becoming more prevalent and that the Commons Ranger had suggested that the erection of notices calling attention to the fact that this was prohibited might act as a deterrent.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to erect notices calling attention to the prohibition against cycling on footpaths on the Commons, at each end of the main paths across the Commons.

Employees.—Questions relating to the absence from duty, owing to a disability, of an employee of the Conservators were considered.

It was reported that to date the Conservators had adopted no scheme for the payment of wages to its employees during periods of sickness or disability.

RESOLVED—That, subject to the production of regular medical evidence of his incapacity, the employee in question be paid his normal weekly wage, less the amount of any sickness benefit to which he is entitled under the National Insurance Act, 1946, during the period of his incapacity, up to a maximum of 13 weeks.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do adopt a scheme enabling its employees absent from duty owing to sickness, accident or disablement, not arising from or attributable to their own misconduct, to receive, subject to the submission of satisfactory medical evidence, an amount equivalent to their normal weekly wage, exclusive of overtime or other occasional or exceptional payments, for the following periods, according to length of service :—

(a) after six months but less than twelve months continuous service—six weeks

(b) after twelve months continuous service—thirteen weeks,

the amount of sickness benefit or compensation receivable under any statutory provisions to be deducted from their wages.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to draw up for the consideration of the Committee of the Conservators a scheme embodying the above provisions.

Audit of Accounts.—The Treasurer reported that the Audit of the Conservators' Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1949, had now been completed.

Muriel Wells.

Chairman

3rd January 1950

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

SICKNESS PAY SCHEME.

QUALIFICATION
FOR BENEFITS

1. Before becoming entitled to benefit under this scheme an employee shall :-

- (a) complete six months' continuous service, and
- (b) submit (if so required) to a medical examination by a registered medical practitioner nominated by the Conservators and be recommended by such medical practitioner for admission to the scheme.

SICKNESS
ALLOWANCE

2. An employee to whom this scheme applies shall, within any period of twelve consecutive calendar months, be granted during absence due to sickness, accident or disablement, not arising from or attributable to the employee's own misconduct, an allowance which when added to:
- (i) The rates of sickness benefit receivable under the National Insurance Act, 1946,
 - (ii) the rates of injury benefit receivable under the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act 1946.
 - (iii) compensation payments under the Workmen's Compensation Acts where the right to compensation arises in respect of an accident sustained before 5th July, 1948.
 - (iv) compensation payments under the Employers' Liability Acts or at Common Law.
- will secure to the employee the equivalent of the normal weekly wage, exclusive of overtime or other occasional or exceptional payments for the following periods according to length of service :
- (a) after six months but less than twelve months continuous service - six weeks,
 - (b) after twelve months continuous service - thirteen weeks,
- provided that -
- (a) the employee for the purposes of the scheme, shall be under an obligation to declare to the Conservators in whatsoever manner may be required his or her entitlement to benefit under the foregoing Acts, and any subsequent alteration in the circumstances on which such entitlement is based, in default of which the Conservators shall be entitled to determine the benefit by reference to the maximum benefit obtainable and
 - (b) The Conservators may, at their discretion extend the period for sickness allowance in individual cases if the circumstances so justify.

PERIOD OF
ALLOWANCE

3. The period during which the sickness allowance shall be paid in respect of any period of absence due to sickness, accident or disablement, shall be ascertained by deducting from the period of benefit on the first day of absence, the aggregate of the periods of absence due to sickness, during the year immediately preceding the first day of absence provided that -

- (a) a period of absence due to an injury sustained by an employee in the discharge of his duty and without his own default, shall not be taken into account for the purposes of this scheme and
- (b) a period of absence due to an injury sustained by an employee in which he recovers damage from a third party shall be treated in the terms of paragraph 5 of this scheme.

CONCLUSION
BENEFIT

4. An employee whose absence on account of sickness is due or attributable to his or her own misconduct, or to active participation in sport as a professional, shall not be entitled to a sickness allowance except at the discretion of the Conservators.

ACCIDENT -
THIRD PARTY
CLAIMS

5. An employee who is absent as a result of an accident shall not be entitled to an allowance if damages are recoverable from a third party. In this event the Conservators may, having regard to the circumstances of the case, advance to the employee a sum not exceeding the sickness allowance provided under this scheme, subject to the employee undertaking to refund to them the total amount of such allowance, or the proportion thereof represented in the amount of damages received. Any period of absence in such a case where a refund of the monies advanced is made in full shall not be taken into account for the purposes of paragraph three of this scheme. Where, however, the refund is made in part only, the Conservators may at their discretion decide to what extent, if any, the period of absence may be taken into account for the purposes of paragraph three.

CERTIFICATION 6.
SICKNESS

- An employee shall not be entitled to claim an allowance unless
- (a) notification is made immediately to the Surveyor to the Conservators, and
 - (b) the sickness is certified by a registered medical practitioner and a certificate furnished to the conservators not later than the fourth day of absence and at such other times during the period of sickness as they may reasonably require.

An employee shall if required by the Conservators at any time during any period of absence due to sickness, submit to a medical examination by a registered medical practitioner nominated by the Conservators and in case of dispute as to the source and nature of the sickness of the employee the matter shall be referred to the local appeal tribunal established under the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act, 1946.

PAYMENTS NOT
TO ADMIT
LIABILITY
UNDER WORKMEN'S
COMPENSATION
ACTS, ETC.

7. Any payment under this scheme shall not be an admission of liability under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, the Employers' Liability Acts, any Acts amending, altering or affecting those Acts, or at Common Law.

COMMENCEMENT
SCHEME

8. This scheme shall come into operation on the 1st day of November 1949.

31. 10. 49.

3rd January, 1950.

Commons Conservators.

3rd January, 1950.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Councillor Miss Wells) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, F. F. Howarth
G. F. Morrell and S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £921. 17s. 4d. (all as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Estimates 1950/51.—Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators during the next financial year amounting to £2,228 were approved.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year to the amount of £2,228 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Dates of Meetings.—RESOLVED—That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held on the following Tuesdays at 3 p.m. :—

4th April, 1950.

3rd October, 1950.

6th June, 1950.

2nd January, 1951.

Tunbridge Wells Common—Seats.—A letter was received from the Tunbridge Wells Civic Association calling attention to the advanced state of dilapidation into which many of the seats on the Tunbridge Wells Common had fallen, and suggesting that action should be taken to examine these seats and to carry out the necessary repairs.

The Surveyor reported that he hoped shortly to obtain delivery of six new seats for the Common at an estimated cost of £60 and that the remainder of the amount provided in the current year's Estimates for the provision of seats would be expended on the repair of those found to be damaged.

RESOLVED—That the Civic Association be informed accordingly.

Brighton Lake.—A letter was received from the Tunbridge Wells Industrial Council with regard to its suggestion that notices should be erected in the vicinity of the Brighton Lake warning the public against the danger of paddling in the Lake owing to the presence of broken glass, requesting the Conservators to reconsider their decision not to take action in this matter.

RESOLVED—That the Industrial Council be informed that the Conservators are unable to see their way to depart from their previous decision.

Higher Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Linden Park Cricket Club thanking the Conservators for the action which they proposed to take to prevent, so far as possible, the playing of unauthorised games on the Higher Cricket Ground and for the enclosure of the ground.

Rusthall Common.—A letter was received from the Rusthall Cricket Club calling attention to the deterioration of the cricket ground on the Rusthall Common owing to its use by the public for the playing of unauthorised games, and indicating steps which it proposed to take to prevent, so far as possible, this practice; further stating, however, that in its opinion the only adequate solution of this problem would be the provision of a suitable recreation ground for children, and suggesting for the consideration of the Conservators, the setting apart of an area of land in the vicinity of Common View for this purpose.

RESOLVED—That the Rusthall Cricket Club be informed that the Conservators regret that they are unable to assist in the manner it suggests.

Committee's Report.—The following minutes of the proceedings of the Committee were submitted to the Conservators for approval:—

9th November, 1949.—At a meeting of the Committee of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Councillor Miss Wells) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, W. S. Hallett-Reed and F. F. Howarth.

Higher Cricket Ground.—The Surveyor reported that he estimated the cost of completely enclosing the Higher Cricket Ground with railings, involving the erection of 43 new posts and the provision of 1,350 feet of railing, at £95, this amount being £45 in excess of the amount provided in the Conservators' estimates for the current financial year in respect of the partial enclosure of the Ground.

RESOLVED—That application be made to the Finance Committee of the Town Council for a supplementary grant of £45 to enable this work to be put in hand during the current financial year and that, subject to the grant being forthcoming, the Surveyor be authorised to proceed with the work.

Employees.—In accordance with the instructions of the Conservators at their last meeting, the Clerk submitted to the Committee a draft scheme authorising payment of wages to employees of the Conservators during periods of sickness or disability.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators be recommended to adopt the Scheme, as now amended by the Committee, with effect as from the 1st November, 1949.

RESOLVED—That the foregoing minutes be approved and that the recommendation contained therein be adopted and acted upon.

The Clerk reported that following the meeting of the Committee application had been made to the Finance Committee of the Town Council for a supplementary grant of £45 to enable the Conservators to complete, during the current financial year, the erection of posts and railings around the Higher Cricket Ground and that the Finance Committee, while not prepared to agree to the making of a supplementary grant, had indicated that no objection would be raised to the expenditure being met out of the Conservators' general Estimates during the current year, provided that the total amount of those Estimates was not exceeded.

It was reported that this expenditure could be met out of the current year's estimates and that the work would accordingly be put in hand.

Muriel Wells,

Chairman.

4th April 1950

4th April, 1950

Commons Conservators.

4th April, 1950.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Councillor Miss Wells) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, R. Gunnis, F. F. Howarth, H. A. Sheppard, C. H. Strange and S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £153. 16s. 7d. (all as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Mr. W. S. Hallett-Reed.—The Clerk reported that Mr. W. S. Hallett-Reed was unable to attend this meeting of the Conservators owing to illness.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to convey to Mr. Hallett-Reed the Conservators regret at his illness and their hope for a speedy recovery.

Insurances.—The Treasurer reported that the Insurance Policy taken out by the Conservators in respect of employers' liability, now fell due for renewal.

RESOLVED—That the quotation of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Ltd., to effect the necessary cover for a premium of 2s. per cent., of the annual amount of salaries and wages paid to Officers and Employees of the Conservators, less 10 per cent., be accepted for a period of one year from the 1st April, 1950.

Next Meeting.—RESOLVED—That the next meeting of the Conservators be held on Tuesday the 25th July next, at 3 p.m., instead of the 6th June next, as previously arranged.

Rusthall Common.—The Surveyor submitted a letter he had received from Mrs. Jones, the occupier of Bulls Hollow Cottage, Rusthall Common, requesting the Conservators to give attention to a track leading from Rusthall Park to Bulls Hollow.

- (a) RESOLVED—That Mrs. Jones be informed that the track to which she refers is not one for the maintenance of which the Conservators are responsible, and that they have, therefore, no power to comply with her request.

A letter was received from Miss Jenkinson, on behalf of the owner of Rusthall Elms, requesting the Committee to remove a number of young elm trees growing on Rusthall Common, which were preventing the access of light and air to the property.

- (b) RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee of the Conservators to inspect and to take such action as it may deem desirable.

The Surveyor reported that there was situate on Rusthall Common at Bulls Hollow an old well which had hitherto been covered by railway sleepers, that these sleepers had now rotted and that the well presented a danger to children playing in the vicinity.

- (c) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to arrange for the re-sealing of the well opening with railway sleepers.

Tunbridge Wells Common.—The Surveyor submitted a letter he had received from Mr. E. C. G. Newton calling attention to two lime trees situate on the Common outside No. 24, Eridge Road, which it was alleged prevented the access of light and air to the premises and suggesting that these trees should be lopped.

- (a) RESOLVED—That consideration of the matter be deferred until the next meeting of the Conservators to enable members in the meantime to inspect the trees.

The Surveyor reported upon his correspondence with the Rev. R. R. Needham on the subject of repairs carried out to a track leading from Mount Ephraim to Gibraltar Cottage.

(b) RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Manorial Authorities.

The Surveyor reported that the erection of fencing around the Higher Cricket Ground on the Common had now been completed.

The attention of the Conservators was called to the lopping which had been carried out of trees in the vicinity of St. Helena.

Seats.—A letter was received from Mrs. A. Cottell calling attention to the condition of seats on the Common opposite to the Homoeopathic Hospital.

The Surveyor reported the seats in question had been inspected and had been found to be in fair condition, other seats on the Common being in greater need of replacement.

RESOLVED—That in the circumstances no action be taken in the matter.

The Surveyor reported that seven new seats had now been provided on the Tunbridge Wells Common.

Questions relating to the condition of a seat near the Higher Cricket Ground were considered and the Surveyor was instructed to effect the necessary repairs.

Encroachments.—The Surveyor reported that vehicular access was being gained across the Common from London Road to No. 77, London Road.

(a) RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Manorial Authorities.

The Surveyor also reported upon an encroachment on to Rusthall Common by omnibuses traversing the Rusthall Road.

(b) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to communicate with the Maidstone and District Motor Services, Ltd., on the subject.

Mumil Wells
Chairman
25th July 1950

25th July, 1950.

Commons Conservators.

25th July, 1950.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Councillor Miss Wells) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, R. Grant Oliver,
R. F. Gunnis, G. F. Morrell, W. C. Raiswell, H. A. Sheppard,
C. H. Strange and S. V. Thorpe.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its annual meeting on the 22nd May last, appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the annual meeting of the Council in 1951 :—

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor Miss Wells).
Aldermen Allan and Raiswell.
Councillor Sheppard.

A letter was also received from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants notifying the appointment of Mr. W. Grant Oliver as a Conservator (representing the Freehold Tenants) in the place of the late Mr. W. S. Hallett-Reed.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £985. 12s. 5d. (all as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

The late Mr. W. S. Hallett-Reed.—RESOLVED—That a sincere vote of sympathy and condolence be passed with Mrs. Hallett-Reed on the death of Mr. W. S. Hallett-Reed, who had been a Commons Conservator (representing the Freehold Tenants) for the past 30 years, and that an expression of the Conservators regret at the loss of so esteemed a colleague be recorded on the minutes and communicated to Mrs. Hallett-Reed.

Appointment of Committee.—RESOLVED—That the Mayor (Councillor Miss Wells) and Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, W. Grant Oliver, F. F. Howarth, W. C. Raiswell and S. V. Thorpe be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year, to report to the Conservators on such matters as may be referred to them from time to time, and that three members do form a quorum of the Committee.

Appointment of Auditors.—RESOLVED—That a vote of thanks be given to the Auditors, Messrs. F. F. Howarth and W. C. Raiswell for their services and that they be re-appointed Auditors to audit the accounts of the Conservators for the past and current financial years.

Accounts—Year ended 31st March, 1950.—The Treasurer submitted the accounts of the Conservators for the year ended 31st March, 1950.

RESOLVED—That, subject to audit, the accounts be approved.

Covered Shelter.—Questions relating to the desirability of replacing the covered shelter on the Tunbridge Wells Common, destroyed by enemy action, and in respect of which a sum of £158. 1s. 4d. had been received by the Conservators from the War Damage Commission, were considered.

RESOLVED—

- (i) That the shelter be not re-erected.
- (ii) That the above-mentioned sum be expended on the provision of additional seats on the Common, and
- (iii) That the matter be referred to the Committee to consider and report on the proposed number, siting and design of the additional seats to be provided.

Trees.—The Conservators again considered the letter from Mr. E. C. G. Newton, suggesting the lopping of two lime trees outside No. 24, Eridge Road.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

Paths.—It was reported that the Manorial authorities had now dealt with the question of the repairs carried out by the Rev. R. R. Needham to a track leading from Mount Ephraim to Gibraltar Cottage.

Encroachments.—It was reported that the Manorial authorities had been in communication with the owner of No. 77, London Road, on the subject of vehicular access to those premises across the Common from London Road.

Litter Baskets.—A letter was received from Mrs. W. A. Ormond, suggesting the provision of litter baskets on the Tunbridge Wells Common.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. Ormond be informed that in view of the extent of the Commons and of the cost of the provision of litter baskets, the Conservators are unable to adopt her suggestion.

Preservation of Bird Life.—A letter was received from the Tunbridge Wells Civic Association urging the Conservators in the interests of the preservation of bird life, not to disturb thickets on the Commons in the vicinity of Rusthall Church, Hungershall Park and Nevill Park, by clearing of trees, bracken or undergrowth.

RESOLVED—That the Association be informed that certain clearance operations are necessary in order to maintain the Commons in a tidy condition, but that such clearance is always undertaken at periods of the year other than nesting time.

Lower Cricket Ground.—A letter was received from the Hungershall United Football Club calling attention to the condition of the football pitch on the Lower Cricket Ground, particularly in the goalmouth areas and enquiring whether the Conservators could do anything to improve the ground.

The Clerk reported that he had informed the Club that it would not be possible to obtain the instructions of the Conservators on this subject in time for work to be carried out on the ground, even if funds were available, before the opening of the coming season, and submitted a further letter enquiring whether objection would be raised to the Club itself proceeding with such work as might be found possible.

RESOLVED—That the Club be informed that the Conservators would raise no objection to it carrying out such repairs as it is able to the ground and that if it can arrange its fixture list in such manner as to vacate the ground before the end of the coming season, consideration will be given to the possibility of effecting improvements during the close season 1951.

Committee's Report.—The following minutes of the proceedings of the Committee at its meeting held on the 5th July, 1950, were submitted to the Conservators for approval:—

5th July, 1950.—At a meeting of the Committee of the Commons Conservators held on Rusthall Common.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Councillor Miss Wells) (*Chairman*).
Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, F. F. Howarth and W. C. Raiswell.

Rusthall Common.—The Committee considered a complaint by the owner of Rusthall Elms that young elm trees on the Rusthall Common were preventing the access of light and air to the premises and the Surveyor was, after an inspection of the trees in question, instructed to thin out these seedlings.

RESOLVED—That the foregoing minutes be approved subject to the addition of the words "in the interests of a good afforestation" after the word "seedlings".

Muriel Wells.
Chairman

3rd October 1950

3rd October, 1950.

Commons Conservators.

3rd October, 1950.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Councillor Miss Wells) (*Chairman*).

Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. Grant Oliver, F. F. Howarth, G. F. Morrell, H. A. Sheppard and S. V. Thorpe.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, K.C.B., K.B.E., had been appointed as one of the representatives of the Lord of the Manor of Rusthall, to be a Conservator in the place of Mr. C. H. Strange.

His Worship the Mayor extended a welcome on behalf of the Conservators to Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt and expressed pleasure at his action in becoming a member of the Board of Commons Conservators.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £452. 17s. 4d. (all as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

The Late Mr. W. S. Hallett-Reed.—A letter was received from Mrs. Hallett-Reed expressing her appreciation of the sympathy extended to her by the Conservators on the death of the late Mr. W. S. Hallett-Reed.

Trees.—A letter was received from Miss A. Allistone requesting the Conservators to consider the possibility of lopping trees on the Common adjoining property in Eridge Road, to prevent them from obscuring the light to those premises.

RESOLVED—That Miss Allistone be informed that the Conservators regret that they are unable to accede to her request.

Audit of Accounts.—A report was received from Mr. F. F. Howarth, upon the audit of the accounts of the Conservators for the year ended 31st March, 1950.

Festival of Britain, 1951.—The Conservators were informed that a Sub-Committee of the Town Council, to which matters relating to the celebration of the Festival of Britain, 1951, had been referred, had made a recommendation to the Council that an additional grant be made to the Conservators during that year to enable work to be carried out to improve the appearance of the Commons.

RESOLVED—That, in the event of a further grant being forthcoming from the Town Council, the Surveyor be authorised to expend the sum received on the employment of additional labour for the purpose, at the most appropriate time, of improving the appearance of the Commons.

Notice Boards.—The attention of the Conservators was called to notice boards recently erected on the Higher Cricket Ground and the Rusthall Cricket Ground and Mr. S. V. Thorpe explained to the Conservators the circumstances attending the erection of these boards.

Employees.—RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorised to purchase a peaked cap for the Foreman in charge of the employees on the Commons.

Damage to Trees.—The Surveyor reported that prior to the war, notice boards were affixed to trees on the Commons warning members of the public against damage and requested authority to purchase a further supply of these notices.

(a) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorised to obtain and erect a further supply of the notices in question.

The Surveyor also reminded the Conservators that previously these notices bore an inscription offering a reward of 5s. to persons giving information leading to the conviction of offenders.

(b) RESOLVED—That the reward in question be now increased to 10s.

Equipment.—A recommendation was received from the Surveyor that an Allen Scythe should be purchased for the purpose of grass cutting on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee of the Town Council being given to the appropriation of an unexpended amount provided in the Conservators' estimates for wages of employees, the Surveyor be authorised to purchase an Allen Scythe, at an estimated cost of £69.

Miss Wells,

Chairman.

2nd January, 1951.

Commons Conservators.

2nd January, 1951.—At a meeting of the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (*Chairman*).

Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, F. F. Howarth,
H. A. Sheppard, S. V. Thorpe and W. T. White.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that Councillor W. T. White had been appointed as one of the representatives of the Town Council to be a Conservator in the place of the late Mr. W. C. Raiswell until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 1951.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts.—Accounts amounting to £436 1s. 5d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Estimates.—Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators during the next financial year amounting to £2,304 were approved.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year to the amount of £2,304 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Dates of Meetings.—RESOLVED—That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held on the following Tuesdays, at 3 p.m. :—

10th April, 1951.

24th July, 1951.

2nd October, 1951.

1st January, 1952.

Festival of Britain, 1951.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council had now approved the issue of a supplementary grant of £300 to the Conservators during the current financial year to enable the work of improving the appearance of the Commons to proceed in time for the Festival of Britain.

The Surveyor informed the Conservators of the difficulty of carrying out this work by direct labour owing to labour shortages and recommended that consideration be given to the desirability of entrusting the work to a local contractor.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Surveyor to make the best possible arrangements.

Employees.—It was reported that as a result of a recent award of the National Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers), employees of the Town Council had been granted an increase in wages of 5s. 6d. per week as from the pay day in the week in which the 1st December last fell.

RESOLVED—That employees of the Conservators be granted a similar increase as from the date of the award.

Trees.—A letter was received from Miss E. L. Norman, requesting the Conservators either to fell or lop a tree adjoining Nos. 18-24, Lower Green Road, the leaves from which choked the gutters of the property, and pointing out that a number of branches had recently fallen from the tree with consequent danger to occupiers of the premises.

It was reported that the tree in question did not stand upon the Rusthall Common but on the Waste of the Manor.

RESOLVED—That in the circumstances the letter be referred to the Manorial Authorities.

A letter was received from Miss M. Jenkinson expressing appreciation of the work carried out by the Conservators in the clearance of elm seedlings from Rusthall Common in the vicinity of Rusthall Elms but pointing out that a number of small trees still remained standing and suggesting their removal.

The Surveyor reported that in accordance with the instructions of the Conservators, the clearance work had been carried out in accordance with good forestry practice and that further thinning of the remaining seedlings would take place in due course.

RESOLVED—That Miss Jenkinson be so informed.

The Clerk reported upon representations he had received with regard to the danger to pedestrians which existed at the junction of Major York's Road and Langton Road, when the suggestion had been made that a number of trees standing on the Common in the neighbourhood of the junction should be removed.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

Tunbridge Wells Common.—A letter was received from Mrs. A. R. Bacon, calling attention to the fact that owing to its secluded nature and the absence of adequate lighting, the length of road between the Spa Hotel and Hurstwood Lane was unpleasant for pedestrians to use after dark, and suggesting that bushes and undergrowth on that portion of the Common lying between the road and Mount Ephraim should be cleared to enable advantage to be gained from the lights on Mount Ephraim.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. Bacon be informed that the Conservators regret that they are unable to accede to her request.

Seats.—A letter was received from Mrs. B. Pritchett, suggesting the provision of a seat on the Tunbridge Wells Common near the path crossing the Common from Church Road to Mount Ephraim.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee with power to take such action as it may deem desirable and that in the meantime the Clerk be instructed to obtain further information as to the precise site of the suggested seat.

Committee.—RESOLVED—That Mr. T. C. Allan be appointed a member of the Committee, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Mr. W. C. Raiswell.

Committee's Report.—The following minutes of proceedings of the Committee at its meeting held on the 17th November, 1950, were submitted to the Conservators for approval.

17th November, 1950.—At a meeting of the Committee of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, F. F. Howarth and S. V. Thorpe.

Chairman.—RESOLVED—That Mr. R. S. R. Berry be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Seats.—It was reported that the Commons Conservators at their last meeting had referred to the Committee the question of the utilisation of a sum of £158. 1s. 4d. received from the War Department in respect of damage to the Commons, on the provision of additional seats.

The Surveyor reported to the Committee on the number and situation of seats originally placed on the Rusthall and Tunbridge Wells Commons, which were now missing.

The Surveyor also reported that during the week commencing the 6th November last, one concrete and two wooden seats on the Rusthall Common had been overturned and six other wooden seats completely wrecked and that he estimated the cost of making good the damage at £76.

- (a) RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorised to arrange for the re-erection and replacement where necessary of these seats, in accordance with his estimate of £76, this expenditure to be met out of the above mentioned sum of £158. 1s. 4d. and that the balance of this sum be utilised in the provision of six new seats on the Rusthall Common and five on the Tunbridge Wells Common, at the following points :—

RUSTHALL COMMON.

Omnibus stop—Denny Bottom
Dingley Dell.
Rusthall Cricket Ground (2).
Tarry Path.
Cherry Garden Lane (Old Coach Road).

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMON.

Mount Ephraim (near Wellington Hotel).
" " (opposite Earls Court Hotel).
Between Queens Grove and the Pantiles (2).
Between London Road and Inner Road (adjoining oak tree).

- (b) RESOLVED—That it be suggested to the Works Committee of the Town Council that the existing concrete ended seats on the Pantiles be replaced by wooden seats, more appropriate to the surroundings and that the Committee be informed that if it is prepared to agree to the suggestion the Conservators will purchase the existing concrete ended seats at a cost of £10 per seat.
- (c) RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to communicate with the editors of the local papers with a request that they will give publicity to the wanton damage caused to seats on the Commons and issue an appeal to the public (1) to assist in their preservation, and (2) to inform the Police of any damage coming to their notice in order that appropriate action may, if practicable, be taken.

RESOLVED—That the foregoing minutes be approved.

Henri Wells.
Chairman.
10th April 1951

10th April, 1951.

Commons Conservators.

10th April, 1951.—At a meeting of the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (*Chairman*).

Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. Grant Oliver,
F. F. Howarth, G. F. Morrell, S. V. Thorpe and W. T. White.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts.—Accounts amounting to £620. 14s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Tunbridge Wells Common.—A further letter was received from Mrs. A. R. Bacon, with reference to her suggestion that bushes and undergrowth on that portion of the Common lying between the road from the Spa Hotel to Hurstwood Lane and Mount Ephraim should be cleared to enable advantage to be gained from the lights on Mount Ephraim.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. Bacon be informed that the public lighting on Mount Ephraim is arranged in such a manner that even if the bushes to which she refers were cleared, no advantage would be gained therefrom, but that such clearance of dead bushes as may be necessary will be effected in due course.

Bye-law Infringements—(1) **Encroachments.**—A letter was received from Mr. C. H. Stanley, calling attention to the practice of motorists of parking their cars on the Tunbridge Wells Common, off Castle Road, in the vicinity of the Lower Cricket Ground, and suggesting that a post be erected in the centre of the entrance to the footpath used by motorists for the purpose of gaining access to the Common, or alternatively that a warning notice should be erected.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to arrange for the erection of a post on the footpath in question.

The Conservators also considered a report by the Common Ranger on the use by motorists of the footpath crossing the Common, known as the Old Race Course and suggesting that posts which previously existed at the entrance to this footpath from Hungershall Park, should be reinstated.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to arrange for the replacement of the posts in question.

(2) **Firearms.**—The Clerk submitted a Police Report on the firing of an air-gun by a youth on the Tunbridge Wells Common on the 28th February last.

RESOLVED—That proceedings be not taken in this instance, but that the Superintendent of Police be requested to interview the offender and to warn him against a repetition of the offence.

(3) **Damage to Commons.**—The Clerk also submitted a Police Report on damage caused to trees on the Rusthall Common on the 23rd February last.

RESOLVED—That the Police Authority be requested to take proceedings against the offenders in this case.

The Conservators considered the desirability of making arrangements to enable expeditious action to be taken in future cases of damage to the Commons which may be brought to their notice.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to obtain the instructions of a member of the Conservators representing each of the three appointing bodies, viz. The Town Council, The Lord of the Manor and the Freehold Tenants, on cases of infringement of Bye-laws coming to his notice, and to take any necessary action arising out of such instructions.

Seats.—A further letter was received from Mrs. B. Pritchett, with reference to her suggestion that a seat should be provided on the Tunbridge Wells Common near the path crossing the Common from Church Road to Mount Ephraim.

RESOLVED—That the matter be reconsidered at a later date when it has been possible to ascertain whether a sufficient sum will be available in the current year's estimates with which to provide the suggested seat.

The Clerk reported that the Works Committee of the Town Council had accepted the offer of the Conservators to purchase for the sum of £60 six concrete seats, at present situated on The Pantiles, for use on the Commons, provided that they were not removed until wooden seats were available in replacement.

The Conservators considered a suggestion that a seat should be provided on the Tunbridge Wells Common in the vicinity of Mount Ephraim Road.

The Surveyor reported that the Works Committee of the Town Council had also considered this matter, and was prepared to provide the seat if the Conservators would raise no objection thereto.

RESOLVED—That the Works Committee be informed that if it will supply the seat, the Conservators will arrange for its erection.

Rusthall Common.—A letter was received from Miss M. Jupp, calling attention to the condition of a footpath on Rusthall Common from Rusthall Park to Harmony Street.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorised to carry out any necessary repairs to the path now indicated by the Conservators.

The Clerk reported that the Works Committee of the Town Council had also had before it a petition signed by residents in Denny Bottom and Woodside Road, calling attention to the danger to elderly persons of a footpath on Rusthall Common, known locally as Taylor's Hill, and requesting the erection of handrails on each side thereof, and had referred the matter to the Conservators with the recommendation that the petitioners' request be granted.

RESOLVED—That the petitioners be informed that the Conservators are unable to see their way to provide the suggested handrails.

The Surveyor submitted a letter from Mrs. Jones, the owner of Bull's Hollow Cottage, Rusthall Common, again requesting the Conservators to give attention to a track from Rusthall Park to Bull's Hollow.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in this matter.

The attention of the Conservators was called to blocked storm water pipes on the Rusthall Common, which were giving rise to flooding in the vicinity of Lower Green Road.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Surveyor to take any necessary action with regard thereto.

Appointment of Auditors.—RESOLVED—That Mr. T. C. Allan be appointed an Auditor, to audit the accounts of the Conservators for the past financial year, in the place of the late Mr. W. C. Raiswell.

Commons Ranger.—Questions relating to the terms of appointment by the Lord of the Manor and the Freehold Tenants of a Commons Ranger were considered, together with the desirability of the Conservators joining in the appointment of a successor, should the present occupant of the post relinquish his appointment.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee of the Conservators for consideration and report to the next meeting.

Festival of Britain, 1951.—The Surveyor reported on the manner in which the supplementary grant of £300, made to the Conservators by the Town Council for improvement works on the Commons in connection with the Festival of Britain, had been expended.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor's action be approved.

J. H. James
Chairman
24th July 1951

24th July, 1951.

Commons Conservators.

24th July, 1951.—At a meeting of the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Alderman F. S. Harries) (*Chairman*)

Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. Grant Oliver,
R. F. Gunnis, G. F. Morrell, S. V. Thorpe and W. T. White.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts.—Accounts amounting to £1,121. 13s. 6d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its Annual Meeting on the 23rd May, 1951, appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 1952 :—

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman F. S. Harries).

Alderman Allan.

Councillors Sheppard and White.

Appointment of Committee.—**RESOLVED**—That the Mayor (Alderman F. S. Harries), Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, W. Grant Oliver, F. F. Howarth and S. V. Thorpe, be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year, three to form a quorum.

Appointment of Auditors.—**RESOLVED**—That a vote of thanks be given to the Auditors, Messrs. T. C. Allan and F. F. Howarth, and that they be re-appointed Auditors of the accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.

Accounts—Year ended 31st March, 1951.—The Treasurer submitted the accounts of the Conservators for the year ended 31st March, 1951.

A report was received from Mr. T. C. Allan, upon the audit of accounts.

RESOLVED—That the accounts be approved.

Commons Ranger.—The Conservators again considered and deferred questions relating to the joint appointment with the Manorial Authorities of a Commons Ranger in the event of the appointment of the present occupant ceasing.

Seats.—A letter was received from the Rusthall Cricket Club, suggesting the provision of additional seats around its Ground on the Rusthall Common.

RESOLVED—That consideration of the matter be deferred until the Estimates for the financial year 1952/53 are before the Conservators.

A letter was received from Mrs. A. Cottell calling attention to the unsuitability, in her opinion, of the site of a seat placed upon the Tunbridge Wells Common, between London Road and the Inner Road.

The Surveyor reported that the seat in question was in fact a replacement of a previous seat erected on the same site.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

The Clerk reported that the Works Committee of the Town Council had accepted the Conservators' offer to erect a seat to be provided by the Council on the Common in the vicinity of Mount Ephraim Road.

Trees.—A letter was received from Mr. P. Ralph calling attention to a tree adjoining No. 37, Upper Street, Rusthall, which, it was alleged, choked the gutters of the property and requesting that a number of branches should be lopped in order to remedy the nuisance.

The Surveyor reported that the tree in question was some distance from the house and was not in his opinion detrimental to the property.

RESOLVED—That in the circumstances, no action be taken in the matter.

Bye-Law Infringements.—(1) **Damage to Commons.**—The Clerk reported that at the request of the Conservators, the Police Authority took proceedings on the 30th April last, against two persons for causing damage to trees on the Rusthall Common, when the defendants were found guilty and discharged on payment of costs.

(2) **Firearms.**—The Clerk reported that in accordance with the request of the Conservators, the youth referred to in the minutes of the last meeting had now been interviewed by the Police Authority and warned against a repetition of his offence.

The Clerk also reported that since the last meeting of the Conservators, proceedings had been taken against a further youth responsible for firing an air-gun on the Rusthall Common on the 21st April last, that the defendant had pleaded guilty and was discharged by the Bench on payment of costs.

Tunbridge Wells Common.—The attention of the Conservators was called to the condition of a length of gravel path in London Road, in the vicinity of the Tunbridge Wells and Counties Club.

It was reported that the path in question was not one for which the Conservators were responsible.

The Surveyor reported that as instructed by the Conservators, a post had been erected on the footpath leading from Castle Road, to prevent motorists parking their vehicles on the Common at that point, and that as a result it had become the practice for cars to be parked on another footpath to the north of the original path.

RESOLVED—That the question of providing a post also for the second path be referred to the Committee with power to act.

Rusthall Common.—The attention of the Conservators was called to a lime tree in the vicinity of No. 18, Lower Green Road, which it was alleged choked the gutters of the property.

RESOLVED—That consideration of the matter be referred to the Committee with power to take such action as it may deem necessary.

M. A. H. Ainslie
Chairman

2nd October 1957

2nd October, 1951.

Commons Conservators.

2nd October, 1951.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Alderman F. S. Harries) (*Chairman*).

Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt.

Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, W. Grant Oliver,
F. F. Howarth, H. A. Sheppard, S. V. Thorpe and W. T. White.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts.—Accounts amounting to £65. 5s. 0d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Footpaths.—A letter was received from Miss L. Dixon, calling attention to the dangerous nature, owing to its steep incline and slippery surface, of the footpath leading from Mount Ephraim opposite the Marlborough Hotel across the Common to Mount Ephraim Road, and suggesting the provision of a handrail.

RESOLVED—That Miss Dixon be informed that, in the opinion of the Conservators, such a handrail would not be in keeping with the character of the Common, and that in the circumstances they are unable to accede to her request.

Seats.—A further letter was received from Mrs. A. Cottell, with regard to the seat placed upon the Tunbridge Wells Common between London Road and the Inner Road suggesting its removal to a site on the footpath of the Inner Road at a point opposite Rose Hill School.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. Cottell be informed that the Conservators are unable to accept her suggestion.

Employees.—The Surveyor reported upon a recent award of the Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers) which had resulted in an increase in the rates of pay of employees of the Town Council by 2d. an hour, such increase to operate from the pay day in the week commencing the 3rd September, 1951, in respect of the week covered by that pay day, and reminded the Conservators that it had been their practice in the past to apply the terms of the Joint Industrial Council's awards also to employees on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the foregoing award be applied to manual employees of the Conservators as from the date set out therein.

Committee.—The following minutes of proceedings of the Committee at its meeting held to-day were submitted for approval :—

2nd October, 1951.—At a meeting of the Committee of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Alderman F. S. Harries) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, W. Grant Oliver and
S. V. Thorpe.

1—**Minutes.**—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

2—**Commons Ranger.**—The Committee considered the terms of appointment by the Lord of the Manor and the Freehold Tenants of the Commons Ranger, together with the desirability of the Conservators joining in the appointment of a successor, should the present occupant of the post relinquish his appointment.

RESOLVED—That in the opinion of the Committee it is expedient that the Conservators should join with the Lord of the Manor and the Freehold Tenants in the appointment of the Commons Ranger, and that the Conservators be recommended accordingly.

3—**Tunbridge Wells Common.**—The Committee considered methods of preventing the parking of cars on the Tunbridge Wells Common at points near a footpath from Castle Road.

RESOLVED—That provision be made in the Estimates for the year 1952/53 for the provision of a number of notices to be erected on the Common prohibiting the parking of vehicles.

4—**Rusthall Common.**—It was reported that the Conservators at their last meeting had referred to the Committee a complaint relating to the choking of the gutters of No. 18, Lower Green Road, by the leaves of a lime tree adjacent thereto.

The Committee was informed that steps had been taken to remove the cause for complaint in this matter.

RESOLVED—That the foregoing minutes be confirmed and the recommendation therein contained adopted, subject (a) to the substitution of the following for the resolution under paragraph 2 :—

(i) " That in the opinion of the Committee it is expedient that the Conservators should join with the Lord of the Manor and the Freehold Tenants in the appointment of the Commons Ranger and that financial arrangements be considered at a later date ; and

(ii) That the Conservators be recommended accordingly."

and (b) the deletion of the words : " a number of " from the resolution under paragraph 3.

Lost Property.—The Surveyor reported to the Conservators on the arrangements now adopted by the Town Council for dealing with articles of lost property recovered by its employees, the effect of which was that such articles were handed to the Police Authority for custody and, if unclaimed, subsequently referred to the appropriate Committee for instructions as to disposal, and requested the instructions of the Conservators whether similar arrangements should be made to deal with property recovered from the Commons.

RESOLVED—That consideration of the matter be deferred until the next meeting, to enable the Clerk to consider and report upon the title to property found on the Tunbridge Wells Commons and which remained unclaimed.

Higher Cricket Ground.—The attention of the Conservators was called to damage which had been caused to the railings recently erected around the Higher Cricket Ground and the matter was referred to the Surveyor.

Kilbert Gunnis
Chairman

16 January 1952.

1st January, 1952.

Commons Conservators.

1st January, 1952.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, R. F. Gunnis, W. T. White and S. V. Thorpe.

1—**Chairman.**—RESOLVED—That Mr. R. F. Gunnis be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

2—**Minutes.**—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

3—**Accounts for Payment.**—Accounts amounting to £538. 5s. 11d. (all as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

4—**Estimates.**—Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators during the next financial year amounting to £2,473 were approved.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year to the amount of £2,473 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

5—**The Late Mr. R. G. Puttock.**—The Clerk reported the death, on the 22nd October, 1951, of Mr. R. G. Puttock, Assistant Clerk to the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the Conservators do place on record their sincere appreciation of the services rendered to them by the late Mr. R. G. Puttock.

6—**Brighton Lake.**—The question of the clearance of weeds in the Brighton Lake was considered, with the ultimate aim of using the lake for model boating.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to investigate and report on the possibility of clearing the weeds by harrowing.

7—**Dates of Future Meetings.**—RESOLVED—That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held on the following Tuesdays.

1st April, 1952.	30th September, 1952.
1st July, 1952.	30th December, 1952.

8—**Trees.**—A letter was received from the Rusthall Beacon Hotel requesting that the trees overhanging their premises should be lopped as they shut out the light from the windows.

RESOLVED—That the Manager of the Rusthall Beacon Hotel be informed that the Conservators regret they are unable to accede to his request.

9—**Lost Property.**—The Clerk reported on the ownership of articles lost on the Commons in accordance with the request of the Conservators at their meeting held on the 2nd October, 1951.

RESOLVED—That no alteration be made in the existing practice with regard to articles found on the Commons by employees of the Conservators.

10—**Seats.**—The Clerk called the attention of the Conservators to the resolution they passed at their meeting held on the 24th July, 1951, when they undertook to give further consideration to a request from the Rusthall Cricket Club that additional seats should be placed round the Club's Ground. The Surveyor stated that a sufficient sum had been provided in the Estimates for the provision of such seats.

R. F. Gunnis

Chairman

1st April 1952.

Commons Conservators

2

10—Litter.—The Surveyor submitted a letter from a Miss Ormend of Rusthall Beacon Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, with regard to litter left on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the letter be referred to the Surveyor for any possible action.

11—Rusthall Common—Rubbish.—A letter was submitted from a Mrs. Holmes of 14, Common View, Rusthall, with regard to rubbish left on the Common from a bonfire which took place in November, 1951.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to dispose of the rubbish as soon as possible.

12—Parking of Vehicles on the Commons.—A letter was received from Mr. C. E. H. Stanley of Romanoff Lodge, The Common, Tunbridge Wells, complaining that vehicles were being parked on various parts of the Common and causing the grass to be churned up.

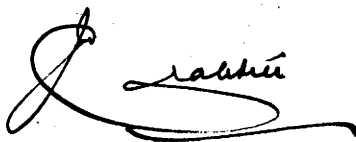
RESOLVED—That Mr. Stanley be informed that the Lord of the Manor and his advisers will deal with the matter.

13—Track from Nevill Park to Major York's Road.—The Surveyor submitted a letter which he had received from Mrs. D. F. Ambrose of 3, Nevill Park, Tunbridge Wells, asking that the track which used to lead from a gate in her field to Major York's Road, should be cleared to facilitate the carting of hay.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. Ambrose be informed that as the track is a private one, the Conservators are unable to help her.

14—Chairman.—The attention of the Conservators was called to the fact that as His Worship the Mayor would be relinquishing his office in May next, he would cease to be Chairman of the Commons Conservators.

RESOLVED—That a hearty vote of thanks be given to His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman F. S. Harries, LL.B.) for his able and courteous conduct in the Chair during the past year.



Chairman.

1st July 1952.

1st July, 1952.

Commons Conservators.

1st July, 1952—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Councillor J. Crabtree) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, R. F. Gunnis, J. W. Mercer,
W. Grant Oliver and S. V. Thorpe.

Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts.—Accounts amounting to £1,104. 6s. 3d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

Appointment of Conservators.—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its Annual Meeting on the 21st May, 1952, appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 1953 :—

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor J. Crabtree),
Alderman Allan
Councillors Savage and Sheppard.

Appointment of Committee.—RESOLVED—That the Mayor (Councillor J. Crabtree), Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, W. Grant Oliver, R. F. Gunnis and S. V. Thorpe, be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year, three to form a quorum.

Accounts—Year ended 31st March, 1952.—The Treasurer submitted the accounts of the Conservators for the year ended 31st March, 1952.

RESOLVED—That the accounts be approved.

Flying of Model Aircraft on the Commons.—The Clerk submitted a letter from Miss H. G. Kent of Oakhurst, Mount Ephraim, complaining of the annoyance caused by the continual flying of model aircraft within hearing of Oakhurst.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to discuss with the Home Office the possibility of a Byelaw being adopted prohibiting the flying of model aircraft on any part of the Commons, but that if it be found that the Home Office will not confirm a Byelaw prohibiting this practice over the whole of the Common, it be delegated to the Committee to decide on the areas of the Common to which the prohibition should apply.

Clearance of Undergrowth.—The Clerk submitted a letter which he had received from the Tunbridge Wells Civic Association complaining that undergrowth clearing had been taking place on the Rusthall Common during the height of the bird nesting season. The Surveyor reported that cutting had actually ceased early in April, but it had been necessary to do some burning up later owing to the very wet spring and that a careful scrutiny was made for signs of birds nesting during the actual cutting, but that no nests were observed.

RESOLVED—That the Tunbridge Wells Civic Association be informed accordingly.

Still Green—Clearance of Rubbish.—The Clerk submitted a letter from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants complaining of the state of Still Green. The Surveyor reported that the rubbish had now been cleared, but that the Green was being used as a dump for refuse, presumably by the tenants of the Town Council's Grange Estate some of whom had made openings in the garden fences and constructed bridges across the ditch.

RESOLVED—That the Town Council be requested to require its tenants to restore their fences.

Damage to Trees on Commons.—The Clerk reported that he had received a complaint that two boys had been observed damaging trees near Rusthall Church, that he had informed the Superintendent of Police of the matter and the Superintendent had arranged for one of his Officers to call on the boys and warn them of the consequences of a repetition of such behaviour.

Cycling on the Commons.—The attention of the Conservators was called to the danger arising from cycling on the Commons, not only on the footpaths, but in the vicinity of the Upper Cricket Ground.

RESOLVED—That in pursuance of Byelaw No. 32 the Conservators do order that no person shall ride any bicycle or other like machine on any part of the Commons and that the Surveyor be instructed to erect appropriate notices.

Seats.—It was suggested that some of the seats under the group of trees opposite Oakhurst, Mount Ephraim, should be moved to the Upper Cricket Ground as they did not appear to be fully utilised in their present position.

The Surveyor explained that these seats were of an old type which could not be moved. He also stated that he had already spent the current year's allowance on various repairs to seats on the Common and on five new seats in the following positions :—

1 seat on Mount Ephraim.

1 seat on the path leading from the General Post Office to the Wellington Hotel.

3 seats round the Upper Cricket Ground.

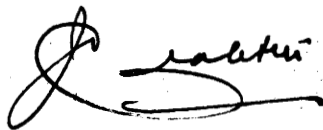
Lower Cricket Ground.—Mr. Berry called attention to the improved condition of the Lower Cricket Ground and suggested that the improvement would have a better chance of being maintained if the Ground were not used for football when its condition was unsuitable for play.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to suggest to the Lord of the Manor that when granting a licence to use the Ground he should call the attention of the licensees to the undesirability of using the Ground when its condition was unsuitable.

The Conservators considered the question of disposal of the hay from the Lower Cricket Ground.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to explore the possibility of having the hay cut and removed free of cost to the Conservators.

Collection of Rubbish from Commons.—The Surveyor reported on the amount of rubbish which had been removed from the Commons during the last year and particularly since the undergrowth had been cut.



Chairman.

30th September, 1952.

30th September, 1952.

Commons Conservators.

30th September, 1952.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—The Mayor (Mr. Councillor J. Crabtree) (*Chairman*).

Messrs. T. C. Allan, R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, J. W. Mercer,
W. Grant Oliver, H. A. Sheppard and S. V. Thorpe.

1—**Minutes.**—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

2—**Accounts.**—Accounts amounting to £660 (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

3—**Flying of Model Aircraft on the Commons.**—RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to submit to the Home Office a draft Byelaw prohibiting the flying of model aircraft on any part of the Commons.

4—**Lower Cricket Ground.**—It was reported to the Conservators that the Lord of the Manor had made it a condition in the licence to use this ground that the Commons Ranger should determine whether or not the ground were fit for play.

5—**Parking of Cars on the Commons.**—The Clerk reported that a complaint had been received from a Mr. R. N. Fleming of Sevenoaks with regard to a charge of one shilling made for parking cars on the land opposite the Linden Park Cricket Club Pavilion.

6—**Damage to Railings, Lower Cricket Ground.**—The Clerk reported that the railings round this ground had been damaged by a runaway motor car on the 6th July last, and that he had obtained from the owner of the car the cost of their repair. X

7—**Seats.**—The Clerk reported that the covered seat near the Higher Cricket Ground had been badly damaged by fire and that a claim of £23 had been made on the Conservators' Insurers.

The Surveyor reported that the whole structure of which the seat formed part was in a very dilapidated condition and asked for instructions as to whether it should be removed or repaired.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to submit an estimate of the cost of providing a new covered seat to the Conservators at their next meeting.

8—**Grange Cote, Bishop's Down.**—The Clerk submitted a letter from Mr. W. H. Gervis of this address, asking that a large ash tree outside his house should be removed and also that the dense undergrowth on that part of the Common should be cleared.

The Surveyor reported that the undergrowth on the part of the Common in question was in process of being cleared and that the ash tree outside Mr. Gervis' house was a particularly fine specimen.

RESOLVED—That Mr. Gervis be informed the Conservators regret they cannot see their way to grant his request with regard to the ash tree.

9—**Clearance of Undergrowth.**—The Clerk submitted a further letter from the Tunbridge Wells Civic Association with regard to the clearance of undergrowth during the bird nesting season.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken.

10—**Trees.**—The Surveyor reported that he had received a verbal request from Miss Taylor, of 2, Rusthall Park, that three small oak trees on the Common outside her house should be cut down.

RESOLVED—That Miss Taylor be informed the Conservators regret they cannot grant her request.

11—**Employees.**—The Conservators considered questions relating to the organisation and supervision of the work on the Commons and instructed the Surveyor with regard thereto.



Chairman.

30th December, 1952

30th December, 1952.

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Commons Conservators.

30th December, 1952.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (*Chairman*).

Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, R. F. Gunnis, Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, Messrs. J. W. Mercer, G. F. Morrell, D. Savage and S. V. Thorpe.

1—**Minutes.**—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

2—**Accounts for Payment.**—Accounts amounting to £521. 12s. 3d. were passed for payment (all as per list signed by the Chairman).

3—**Estimates.**—Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators during the next financial year amounting to £2,442 were approved.

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year to the amount of £2,442 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

4—**Dates of Future Meetings.**—RESOLVED—That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held on the following Tuesdays :—

31st March
23rd June

29th September
29th December

5—**Seats.**—In accordance with Minute 7 of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Conservators, an estimate of the cost of providing a new shelter near the Higher Cricket Ground was considered.

RESOLVED—That, for the present, the matter be left in abeyance.

6—**The Brighton Lake.**—A letter was considered, received from the Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Association, on the condition of the Brighton Lake.

The Surveyor reported that he proposed to make arrangements for the lake to be cleaned out in the Spring, and that provision had been made in the Estimates for £10 to be spent, if necessary, on its repair.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to keep the Lake clean, if necessary, carrying out this work twice a year.

7—**Footpaths.**—A letter was considered from the Secretary to the Freehold Tenants of the Manor of Rusthall, drawing attention to the condition of the footpath leading from Lower Green Road, Rusthall, opposite The White Hart Inn, to the commencement of the Rusthall High Street.

The Clerk reported that this track did not come under the jurisdiction of the Conservators.

RESOLVED—That the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants be informed that the track in question is not a footpath for the maintenance of which the Conservators are responsible.

8—**Maintenance of Commons.**—The following extract from a letter from the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants was considered :—

“ The meeting also considered that the present system of control and maintenance of the Commons by the Conservators' staff is not satisfactory, and it was felt that due consideration should be given to placing the necessary work out to Contract by private enterprise. It was considered that in this way better service would be obtained at a much lower cost, and that the Commons would be better maintained.”

Commons Conservators

RESOLVED—

- (a) That the present system of control and maintenance of the Commons by the Conservators' staff is not satisfactory.
- (b) That due consideration be given to placing the necessary work out to contract by private enterprise and that a special Sub-Committee be formed, consisting of His Worship the Mayor (Mr. J. Crabtree), Mr. R. W. Card and Mr. J. W. Mercer, to consider the question.

9—**Drainage, Gorse Cottage.**—A letter was considered from Mr. G. F. Hatcher complaining that the drainage pipe outside his house was continually being blocked by children with the result that the path became quickly flooded, and asking that the water be piped some distance from the path to obviate this nuisance.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to see that the drainage pipe is kept clear.

J. Crabtree
Chairman

31st March 1953.

31st March, 1953.

Commons Conservators.

31st March, 1953.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (*Chairman*).

Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt,
Messrs. Savage, Sheppard and Thorpe.

1—**Minutes.**—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

2—**Accounts for Payment.**—Accounts amounting to £541. 16s. 10d. were passed for payment (all as per list signed by the Chairman).

3—**Flying of Model Aircraft on the Commons.**—With regard to paragraph 3 of the Minutes of the meeting of the Conservators held on 30th September, 1952, the Clerk submitted a letter from the Home Office, asking the Conservators to reconsider the possibility of setting aside a suitable portion of the Commons for flying model aircraft, if necessary with some restriction on the times when flying is permitted, and also asking for the views of the local model aircraft clubs on the Conservators' proposal to prohibit flying on any part of the Commons. The Clerk reported that he had consulted both the Linden Park Cricket Club and the Model Aero Club; the former stated that the flying of model aircraft on their ground was completely unauthorised and the latter that none of their members used the Commons for flying and that it would not affect them in any way if flying were prohibited.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to approach the Home Office again giving the views of the Model Aero Club, and in the light of the Club's reply, pressing the Secretary of State to confirm the byelaw as originally submitted.

4—**Vehicles on Footpaths.**—An application was submitted from a Mrs. Figg, for permission to drive her electric invalid's chair on the footpath from Hungershall Park to Major York's Road, near York Cottage.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. Figg be informed the Conservators very much regret they are unable to accede to her request as vehicles are prohibited by their Byelaws from being driven on any paths on the Commons.

5—**Maintenance of the Commons.**—With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minutes of the Conservators' meeting held on 30th December last, the Clerk reported that owing to the continued ill health of Mr. J. W. Mercer, the Sub-Committee appointed to consider this matter had not yet met.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to write to Mr. Mercer sending the sympathy of the Conservators and expressing the hope that he will soon recover his health.

6—**Clearance of Undergrowth.**—The Surveyor reported that Mr. Murphy, of 1a, Nevill Park, had asked that the undergrowth should be cleared on that part of the Common adjoining Nevill Park in the same way as that fronting Bishop's Down.

RESOLVED—That Mr. Murphy be informed that the Conservators are unable to accede to his request and that the Common at Rusthall on the south side of the Langton Road be cleared in due course.

7—**Employees—Protective Clothing.**—The Surveyor reported that, at the present time workmen employed on the Commons had to stop work in wet weather as they had no waterproof clothing.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorised to purchase waterproof jackets at £2 8s. 0d. each for the use of the Conservators' employees.

553-15 95

The Surveyor reported on possible economies which might be effected by reducing the number of the permanent staff of workmen and contracting with the Corporation for the supply of labour necessary to clear the undergrowth.

RESOLVED—That, for a period of 12 months the number of workmen permanently engaged by the Conservators be fixed at four and, that workmen be engaged through the Tunbridge Wells Corporation for clearing undergrowth.

10—Flying of Model Aircraft on the Commons.—The Clerk submitted a letter from the Under Secretary of State intimating that, subject to the consideration of any objections which he might receive, he would be prepared to confirm Byelaws in the terms of a draft then submitted to the Conservators.

RESOLVED—

(1) That the Conservators do frame the following Byelaws :—

1. Throughout these Byelaws the expression “ the Conservators ” means the Conservators nominated and appointed for the time being under the provisions of Section 152 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 ; the expression “ the Commons ” means the Commons as defined by Section 151 of the said Act and the expression “ power-driven model aircraft ” means any model aircraft driven by the combustion of petrol-vapour or other combustible substances.

2. A person shall not fly any power-driven model aircraft on the Commons.

3. Every person who shall offend against the foregoing Byelaw shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two pounds.

(2) That the Byelaws be signed by three Conservators and the Clerk.

(3) That the Clerk be instructed to take the necessary steps to advertise the Byelaws and to submit them to the Home Secretary for confirmation.

11—Footpaths and Seats.—The Conservators considered a letter from Miss Wylde, of 55, Mount Ephraim, suggesting that certain tracks on the Common should be made up with asphalt, and asking that two covered seats be provided.

The Surveyor reported that none of the tracks mentioned by Miss Wylde were repairable either by the Conservators or by the Tunbridge Wells Corporation.

RESOLVED—

(1) That Miss Wylde be informed that the Conservators are unable to accede to her request with regard to the footpaths.

(2) That the question of the provision of covered seats be considered by the Committee when they meet to discuss the disposal of the insurance money referred to in paragraph 8 of these Minutes, and that Miss Wylde be so informed.

12—Litter.—The Conservators considered a suggestion from Mr. J. Hudson, of 64, Dynevor Road, that picture slogans be erected at refuse containers to be erected on various points on the Commons.

RESOLVED—That the suggestion be not adopted.

13—Grass Cutting.—The Surveyor reported that he had received a letter from Mr. F. Lawson Dodd, of 2, Howrah House, 76, London Road, thanking the Conservators for the improvement to London Road by the cutting of the rough grass opposite the houses on the south-east side of the road, and suggesting that still more benefit to the turf could be achieved if it were run over by a light mechanical roller to flatten the lumps.

RESOLVED—That Mr. Lawson Dodd's suggestion be not adopted.

14—Rusthall Common—Tethering of Horses.—Mr. Thorpe reported complaints which had been received through the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants with regard to the tethering of two horses on the Common at Rusthall.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to inform the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants that the grazing of horses on the Common appears to be an infringement of the rights of the Freehold Tenants, who should take appropriate action to prevent this trespass.

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1953.

<u>1951/52</u> £ s d	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1952/53</u> £ s d	<u>1951/52</u> £ s d	<u>Income</u>	<u>1952/53</u> £ s d
	<u>Salaries</u>				
50. 0. 0.	Clerk	50. 0. 0.	- - -	Damage to Railings, Lower Cricket	
40. 0. 0.	Surveyor	40. 0. 0.		Ground, Recovered	2.10. 0.
20. 0. 0.	Treasurer	20. 0. 0.			
11. 4. 1.	Assistant Clerk	- - -	2320. 2. 11.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -	
				Contribution for Year	2275. 6. 1.
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>				
14. 0. 0.	Postages	11. 3. 0.			
- - -	Printing & Stationery	4. 7. 6.			
2.15. 8.	Insurances	2.14. 4.			
1930.16. 0.	<u>Wages</u>	1811. 9. 7.			
	<u>Employer's Insurances</u>				
79. 6. 0.	National Insurance Contributions	54.17. 8.			
1.17. 1.	Employer's Liability Insurance	1.14. 6.			
40. 4. 0.	Tools, Implements & Equipment ...	56. 9. 11.			
11. 4. 10.	Autoscythe - Running Expenses & Repairs	17.11. 4.			
10. 1. 0.	Seat Repairs & Renewals	101.17. 7.			
4.13. 7.	Notice Boards	19.13. 7.			
19. 2. 5.	Cutting Grass, Trimming Trees etc.	27. 2. 2.			
35. 1. 3.	Fences and Posts	13. 6. 9.			
3.13. 2.	Roads and Footpaths	1.11. 0.			
5. 5. 7.	Brighton Lake - Repairs & Cleaning	9. 2. 6.			
23.10. 6.	Drainage Work	1.14. 0.			
- - -	Improvements to Lower Football Ground	42. 4. 10.			
- - -	Fencing around Shelter	1. 7. 7.			
6. 1. 6.	Repairs to Depot	- - -			
24.12. 3.	Repairs to Steps, Happy Valley	- - -			
<u>2,320. 2. 11.</u>		<u>£2,277.16. 1.</u>	<u>£2,320. 2. 11.</u>		<u>£2,277.16. 1.</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1953.

<u>Liability and Surplus</u>				<u>Assets</u>			
<u>1951/52</u>		<u>1952/53</u>		<u>1951/52</u>		<u>1952/53</u>	
£ s d		£ s d		£ s d		£ s d	
	Sundry Creditors -				Debtor - Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation for Balance of Contributions		
1211.15. 3.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	1040.12. 7.		1277. 1. 6.		562. 7. 7.	
55. 0. 0.	Others	55. 0. 0.			Postage Stamps in Hand -		
	Suspense Account for Reinstatement of Damage	13. 5.11.		1. 0. 9.	Clerk	10. 0.	
13. 5.11.				13.11.	Treasurer	13. 5.	
				1. 5. 0.	Cash in Hand	545. 7. 6.	
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
£1,280. 1. 2.		£1,108.18. 6.		£1,280. 1. 2.		£1,108.18. 6.	

D. L. COPEMAN, F.I.M.T.A.

Treasurer

Published subject to Audit.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS COMMITTEE

14th August 1953 - At a meeting of the Commons Conservators Committee held at the Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

PRESENT - The Mayor (Chairman)
Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.F. Gunnis and S.V. Thorpe.

SEATS - The Committee, in accordance with the instructions given to them by the Commons Conservators at their meeting on 23rd June, 1953, discussed the disposal of the money, amounting to £225.0.0. received from the Insurance Company in respect of damage done by fire to the covered seat near the Higher Cricket Ground on 3rd April 1953, and also other funds, amounting to £200 available for the provision of seats.

RESOLVED - (1) That the Conservators be recommended to erect one covered seat, at a cost of approximately £200 on the site of the old covered seat between the Higher Cricket Ground and the Spa Hotel.

(2) That twenty new seats be provided and that the Surveyor be instructed to submit to the Committee for their consideration a scheme showing the suggested positions of the new seats.

J. J. J. J. 7/1/53

Chairman.

7th October, 1953.

Commons Conservators.

7th October, 1953.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—Hiss Worship the Mayor (Alderman J. A. McNab, M.B.E.)
(Chairman).

Councillors N. L. Glanfield, D. Savage, H. A. Sheppard and Mr.
R. S. R. Berry.

- 1—Minutes.—The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
- 2—Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £519. 0s. 1d. were passed for Payment (all as per list signed by the Chairman).
- 3—The late Mr. Alderman T. C. Allan.—The Clerk reported that Mr. Alderman T. C. Allan, a representative of the Town Council on the Conservators, died on 13th July last and that the Town Council had appointed Mr. Councillor N. L. Glanfield in his stead.
- 4—Appointment of Auditor.—RESOLVED—That Mr. Councillor N. L. Glanfield be appointed an Auditor in the place of the late Mr. Alderman Allan.
- 5—Flying of Model Aircraft on the Commons.—The Clerk reported that the Home Secretary had approved the Byelaws with regard to the flying of model aircraft on the Commons and had fixed 1st October, 1953 as the date on which they should come into force.
- 6—Seats.—The Surveyor reported that the Committee recommended the erection of one covered seat, at a cost of approximately £200 on the site of the old covered seat between the Higher Cricket Ground and the Spa Hotel.

He also reported that members of the Committee recommended that additional seats be erected on the Commons in the following positions :—

1. London Road N. of Highbury.
2. London Road opposite Rose Hill School.
3. London Road S. of " St. Helena."
4. London Road S. of " St. Helena."
5. Mt. Ephraim opposite No. 24.
6. North of footpath on N.E. side of Lower Cricket Ground.
7. Ditto.
8. Ditto.
9. Mt. Ephraim opposite No. 83.
10. Mt. Ephraim opposite Mt. Ephraim House.
11. S. of Gorse Cottage.
12. Site of covered shelter S. of Higher Cricket Ground.

RUSTHALL COMMON.

13. Rusthall Road east of road to Denny Bottom.
14. West of Harmony Street facing Toad Rock.
15. Langton Road N. side adjoining junction with road to Rusthall Church.
16. Langton Road N. side, west of junction with Tea Garden Lane.
17. On bank facing Happy Valley.
18. Ditto.
19. On steps from Happy Valley.

RESOLVED—That the recommendations of the Committee be approved.

- 7—Trees.—The Surveyor reported a request from the proprietors of Petronellas Café that two lime trees adjoining that Café should be trimmed.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be charged to carry out such work as may be necessary.

The Surveyor read a letter from Messrs. Creasey, Son & Wickenden on behalf of Mrs. Leeder of Rust Hall complaining of the proximity of a wych elm on the Common.

RESOLVED—That the matter be referred to the Committee for attention.

Jamant

Chairman.

29/12/53.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

ESTIMATES 1954-55

				<u>Estimated</u> <u>1953-54</u> £		<u>Approximate</u> <u>1953-54</u> £		<u>Estimated</u> <u>1954-55</u> £	
<u>Salaries</u>									
Clerk	...	...		50		50		50	
Surveyor	...	...		40		40		40	
Treasurer	...	...		<u>20</u>	110	<u>20</u>	110	<u>20</u>	110
<u>Establishment & Miscellaneous Charges</u>									
Printing, Stationery, Postages and Advertising.	...	...		4		8		5	
Public Liability and Fire Insurances				<u>5</u>	9	<u>3</u>	11	<u>3</u>	8
<u>Wages</u>									
Leading Man	...	...		357		378		378	
Labourers	...	...		<u>1499</u>	1856	<u>1233</u>	1611	<u>1280</u>	1658
<u>Employer's Insurances</u>									
National Insurance Contributions	...			78		63		65	
Employer's Liability Insurance	...			<u>2</u>	80	<u>2</u>	65	<u>2</u>	67
<u>Private Works</u>									
<u>Annual</u>									
Tools, Implements & Equipment.	...			40		60		60	
Repairs & Maintenance - Depot and Toolshed				10		10		10	
Autoscythe - Running Expenses and Repairs	...			20		20		20	
Seat Repairs and Renewals	...	...		80		100		80	
Notice Boards - Repairs and Renewals				10		10		10	
Cutting Grass, Trimming Trees etc.				15		55		50	
Roads and Footpaths	...	...		5		5		117	
Fences and Posts	...	...		20		20		20	
Brighton Lake - Repairs and Cleaning				10		63		65	
Clearing Undergrowth (Rusthall Common)				<u>-</u>	210	<u>121</u>	464	<u>120</u>	552
<u>Special</u>									
Provision of Shelter	...	...		200		200		-	
Provision of 20 New Seats	...	...		-		240		-	
Lopping Trees (Eridge Road and Mount Edgcombe)	...	...		-		-		51 102	
Repairs to Railings (Lower Cricket Ground)	...	...		<u>-</u>	200	<u>5</u>	445	<u>-</u>	51 102
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	...	...			2465		2706		2497 2446
<u>Less Income</u>									
Covered Seat - Fire Insurance Recovered				23		248		-	
Lower Cricket Ground - Damage to Railings recovered	...	...		<u>-</u>	23	<u>5</u>	253	<u>-</u>	-
NET EXPENDITURE	...	...			£2,442		£2,453		£2,497

Januar
Chairman. 6/4/54 £2,446