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Harcourt. Death of Admiral Sir Cecil

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6th April, 1954.

Commons Conservators.

6th April, 1954.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Alderman J. A. McNab, M.B.E.)
(Chairman).

Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, G.B.E., K.C.B., K.B.E.

Messrs. S. V. Thorpe, H. T. Clarke, W. Grant Oliver, R. W. Card,
R. S. R. Berry and Councillors N. L. Glanfield and D. Savage.

1—**Minutes.**—The minutes of the meeting held on 29th December, 1953, were read and confirmed.

2—**Accounts for Payment.**—Accounts amounting to £842. 1s. 3d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

3—**Mr. W. Grant Oliver.**—The Chairman welcomed back Mr. W. Grant Oliver after his long illness.

4—**Damage to New Shelter on Common.**—The Surveyor reported that on three occasions in February and once in March damage had been caused to the New Shelter on the Common.

RESOLVED—

(a) That the Clerk should draw the attention of the Police to the damage that was being caused to property on the Commons and to the fact that the Commons came within their jurisdiction.

(b) That the Clerk obtain permission from the Education Authority to write to Head Teachers of Schools in the Borough pointing out the damage that was being caused to the Commons and asking that children be warned against causing damage to the Commons and any property thereon.

(c) That a Notice be fixed in each of the Shelters on the Commons offering a reward of £2 to any one giving information leading to the conviction of any person found guilty of damaging the Shelter.

5—**Insurance.**—RESOLVED—That the Treasurer be authorised to increase the cover against Third Party risks to £50,000.

6—**Rusthall Cricket Club.**—The Surveyor reported that the Rusthall Cricket Club had requested that some of the undergrowth at the rear of the Pavilion be cut down.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be authorised to have this work carried out.

7—**Elm Tree near Mount Edgumbe Cottage.**—Mr. R. S. R. Berry called attention to the condition of an elm tree adjoining this house.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor do inspect the elm tree and take any necessary action.

8—**Posts on the Commons.**—Mr. S. V. Thorpe called the attention of the Conservators to the fact that new posts on the Commons were required near the crossing to Rusthall Church, near the Morning Star, Rusthall, and at Rusthall Yews.


RESOLVED—That concrete posts be placed at the necessary points.

9—**Cycling on the Commons.**—Mr. Grant Oliver pointed out that cyclists were still contravening the Byelaw prohibiting cycling on the Commons, particularly on the footpath from Lower Green Road to Rusthall High Street.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk raise the matter of cycling on the Commons with the police.

10—**Linden Park Cricket Club.**—A letter was submitted from the Secretary of the Linden Park Cricket Club informing the Conservators that approval of the Lord of the Manor and the Local Authority had been given to certain additions to the rear of the Pavilion on the Higher Ground.

11—**Date of the Next Meeting.**—RESOLVED—That the next meeting of the Conservators be held on Tuesday, 27th July.


Chairman

27th July, 1954.

Commons Conservators.

27th July, 1954.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Alderman J. A. McNab) (*Chairman*).

Councillors Croucher and Glanfield.

Messrs. R. W. Card, H. T. Clarke, R. F. Gunnis, R. F. Morrell,
W. Grant Oliver and S. V. Thorpe.

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

2—**Accounts for Payment.**—Accounts amounting to £1,161. 12s. 7d. were passed for payment (all as per list signed by the Chairman).

3—**Accounts—Year ended 31st March, 1954.**—The Treasurer submitted the audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1954.

RESOLVED—That the accounts be approved.

4—**Appointment of Conservators.**—The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its Annual Meeting on 27th May, 1954, appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 1955 :

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman J. A. McNab).

Councillors Croucher, Glanfield and Savage.

5—**Conservators—Representative of Freehold Tenants.**—The Clerk reported that Col. T. Fleming had resigned as representative of the Freehold Tenants and that Mr. W. Grant Oliver had been appointed in his stead.

6—**Appointment of Auditors.**—RESOLVED—That Councillor N. L. Glanfield and Mr. R. F. Gunnis be appointed Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.

7—**Appointment of Committee.**—RESOLVED—That His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Glanfield, Messrs. Berry, Gunnis, Grant Oliver and Thorpe be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year (three to form a quorum), to report to the Conservators on such matters as may be referred to them from time to time.

8—**Cycling on the Commons.**—The Committee again considered the question of cycling on the Commons.

RESOLVED—

(a) That the Clerk be instructed to discuss this matter with the Police.

(b) That the Surveyor be authorised to renew six notice boards relating to cycling on the Commons and to affix to these notices a suitably worded plaque offering a reward of £2 to any one giving information leading to the conviction of any person found guilty of damaging the notices.

9—**Trees.**—The Clerk submitted a letter from Mr. Yeo, Rusthall Beacon, requesting the thinning and lopping of the trees in front of his house.

The Conservators also considered a suggestion that certain Hawthorn trees on Rusthall Common should be removed.

RESOLVED—

(a) That the Surveyor be instructed to investigate Mr. Yeo's complaint and to take such action as may be necessary.

(b) That no action be taken with regard to the removal of Hawthorn trees.

3 ,

Commons Conservators

2

10—Maintenance of Commons.—The Conservators considered the question of the maintenance of the Commons by the Conservators staff.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to discuss the question with the foreman.

11—Brighton Lake.—The Conservators considered the question of the cleaning of the Brighton Lake.

RESOLVED—That consideration of the matter be deferred until the next meeting and that, in the meanwhile, the Surveyor be instructed to obtain a report from the Freshwater Biological Society on the possibility of draining the lake and treating with weed killer the weeds at the bottom of the lake.

12—Land near the General Post Office, London Road.—The Conservators considered a suggestion that the triangular piece of land, opposite the General Post Office, in London Road should be planted out as a Garden.

RESOLVED—That no action be taken in the matter.

J. J. J. J.
Chairman.

5/10/54.

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1954.

<u>1952/53</u> £ s d	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1953/54</u> £ s d	<u>1952/53</u> £ s d	<u>Income</u>	<u>1953/54</u> £ s d
	<u>Salaries</u>				
50. 0. 0.	Clerk	50. 0. 0.		Repairs to Railings - Lower Cricket	
40. 0. 0.	Surveyor	40. 0. 0.	2.10. 0.	Ground - Recovered	4.11. 6.
20. 0. 0.	Treasurer	20. 0. 0.			
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>			Covered Seat - Cost of Damage	
4.18. 9.	Printing, Stationery, Advertising & Postages.	9.11.10.	- - -	Recovered	248. 8. 0.
2.14. 4.	Public Liability and Fire Insurances	2.10.10.			
311. 9. 7.	<u>Wages</u>	1610.13.10.		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -	
56.12. 2.	<u>Employer's Insurances</u>	64.11. 0.	2275. 6. 1.	Contribution for Year	2423.11. 6.
	<u>Other Expenditure</u>				
56. 9.11.	Tools, Implements & Equipment ...	68.11. 7.			
- - -	Repairs & Maintenance - Depot & Toolshed	9.14. 1.			
17.11. 4.	Autoscythe - Running Expenses & Repairs	22. 2. 4.			
101.17. 7.	Seat Repairs & Renewals	103. 2. 4.			
19.13. 7.	Notice Boards - Repairs & Renewals	17.17.10.			
27. 2. 2.	Cutting Grass, Trimming Trees etc.	55. 8. 3.			
1.11. 0.	Roads and Footpaths	1.15. 0.			
13. 6. 9.	Fences and Posts	11. 9. 8.			
9. 2. 6.	Brighton Lake - Repairs and Cleaning	63.12. 4.			
- - -	Clearing Undergrowth - Rusthall Common	120.14. 6.			
- - -	Provision of Shelter	197. 6. 0.			
- - -	Provision of new Seats	202.18. 1.			
- - -	Repairs to Railings - Lower Cricket Ground	4.11. 6.			
1.14. 0.	Drainage Work	- - -			
42. 4.10.	Improvements to Lower Football Ground	- - -			
1. 7. 7.	Fencing around Shelter	- - -			
<u>277.16. 1.</u>		<u>£2,676.11. 0.</u>	<u>£2,277.16. 1.</u>		<u>£2,676.11. 0.</u>

£ 5 5

Published subject to Audit.

D. L. COPEMAN, F. I. M. T. A.

Treasurer

5th October, 1954.

Commons Conservators.

5th October, 1954.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Alderman J. A. McNab, M.B.E.),
(Chairman).

Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, G.B.E., K.C.B., K.B.E.

Councillors Glanfield and Savage.

Messrs. R. W. Card, H. T. Clarke, W. Grant Oliver and S. V. Thorpe.

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

2—Accounts for Payment.—Accounts amounting to £185. 19s. 11d. were passed for payment (all as per list signed by the Chairman).

3—Damage to Tree on the Common.—The Clerk submitted a report from the Police about damage to a tree on the Common by a boy of 13.

The Surveyor's report was read stating that the damage was so small it was not possible to give an estimate.

RESOLVED—That the Clerk be instructed to inform the father of the boy that in this instance his son will not be prosecuted but if this offence be repeated the Conservators would not again treat the matter so leniently.

4—Brighton Lake.—The Surveyor submitted the following letter from the Director of the Freshwater Biological Association :—

FRESHWATER BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE FERRY HOUSE,
FAR SAWREY,
AMBLESIDE.

1st September, 1954.

H. P. BISHOP, Esq.,
Tunbridge Wells.

DEAR MR. BISHOP,

We have examined the sample of *Equisetum* you sent with your letter of 31st August and it does appear to be *Equisetum limosum*.

I think the only chemical which is likely to be effective in eradicating it is arsenic. Whether it is possible to use this substance depends of course on what happens to the outflow, if any, from the pond. I think it would also be desirable to keep people away from it for a short time after arsenic had been applied, but if the application were made in summer and the place closed to the public for a fortnight I think you need have no fear of there being any danger to humans—I doubt in fact whether there would ever be any danger but it would be as well to be on the safe side. According to a leaflet published by the American Fish and Wildlife Service sodium arsenite in concentrations up to 1.5 p.p.m. of arsenious oxide (As_2O_3) will kill most weeds except water lilies and *Chara* (stonewort) without injuring fish. For this purpose it is usual to apply Commercial 'sodium arsenite' (containing 32% As_2O_3) at a concentration of about 4 p.p.m. It is best applied by sprinkling over the surface of the water especially on the areas where the weed is growing.

If circumstances make it impossible to use arsenic I think your next best course would be to drag the plants out whole by means of a harrow. If you could get a farmer to drag a harrow with good sharp tines through the pond several times in different directions I think you should drag out most of the *Equisetum*. This would of course make rather a mess of the

pond temporarily, but I think you would find that the mud stirred up would very soon settle again and that no permanent damage would be suffered.

Finally I think I should add that it is hardly likely to be possible to keep a shallow pond of this sort free from rooted vegetation for any long period without doing something about it. Even if you apply arsenic and succeed in killing all the Equisetum it is likely that something else will grow in its place eventually, but I think it should be possible either by using arsenic or mechanical means to obtain a few years grace from the necessity for cutting.

I hope this information may be of use to you.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. C. GILSON,
Director.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to put the experiment of applying arsenic in hand immediately and to rail off the lake temporarily.

- 5—**Employees.**—The Surveyor reported upon a recent award of the Joint Industrial Council for Manual Workers, which had resulted in an increase in the rates of pay of employees of the Town Council by 1½d. an hour operative from the 9th August, 1954, and reminded the Conservators that it had been their practice in the past to apply the terms of the Joint Industrial Council's awards 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.

- 6—**Litter Basket on the Commons.**—The Surveyor reported that Mrs. Leroy of St. Helena, The Common, had offered to pay for the provision of a litter basket to be placed near the two seats on the Common opposite her house.

RESOLVED—That Mrs. Leroy's offer be accepted.

- 7—**Elm Tree.**—The Surveyor reported that there was a dead elm tree on the Common near London Road and Major York's Road which he thought should be cut down as he considered it unsafe.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to have the dead elm tree cut down.

- 8—**Plaques on Seats.**—The Surveyor reported a request he had received from Mrs. Dupont that a plaque in memory of a Mrs. Malkham should be placed on a seat on the Common opposite the Central Hotel, on which she frequently used to sit.

RESOLVED—That the request be not granted.

- 9—**Footpaths on the Commons.**—It was reported that a footpath leading from Lower Green Road to Langton Road had become overgrown with grass and weeds, etc.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor should look into this matter and take any necessary action.

- 10—**Trees on the Commons.**—The Conservators discussed a suggestion that sycamore and silver birch trees on the Commons were becoming too prolific and might in time extinguish other trees.

RESOLVED—That the Surveyor be instructed to look into this question and at the appropriate time take any action deemed necessary.

Journal
Chairman
4th January 1955.

5th January, 1955.

Commons Conservators.

5th January, 1955.—At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall.

PRESENT—His Worship the Mayor (Alderman J. A. McNab, M.B.E.)
(Chairman).

Messrs. S. V. Thorpe, H. T. Clarke, R. W. Card, R. S. R. Berry and
Councillors N. L. Glanfield and D. Savage.

Apologies for absence were received from Admiral Sir Cecil
Harcourt, G.B.E., K.C.B., K.B.E.

1—**Minutes.**—The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th October, 1954, were read and confirmed.

2—**Accounts for Payment.**—Accounts amounting to £451. 18s. 4d. (as per list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.

3—**Estimates.**—Two estimates one amounting to £2,449 and the other to £2,417 for the purposes of the Commons Conservators during the next financial year, were discussed. The alternative estimate of £2,417 provided for the maintenance of the Commons being carried out by the Tunbridge Wells Corporation as Contractors to the Conservators in place of the workmen being employed direct by the Conservators.

RESOLVED—

- (1) That this scheme be approved and that the position be reviewed in twelve months time.
- (2) That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to provide in its Estimates for the next financial year the sum of £2,417 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act.

4—**Trees.**—The Surveyor submitted an estimate of £82 for lopping 18 lime trees in Eridge Road and another one of £60 for lopping 16 lime trees, from the Southern Tree Surgeons.

He also submitted an estimate of £10 from A. Farnes for felling an elm tree opposite the Pump Room on the Commons and an estimate of £4 from the same firm for felling a lime tree on the Commons near Langton Road.

RESOLVED—

- (a) That the estimate of £60 from the Southern Tree Surgeons be accepted, and
- (b) That the estimates of £10 and £4 from A. Farnes be accepted.

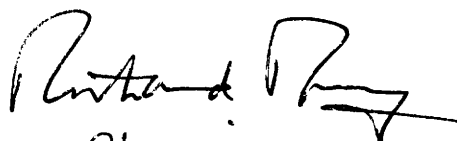
5—**" No Cycling " Notices.**—The Surveyor reported that these Notices had been erected on the Commons in six places and so far none had been destroyed.

6—**Dates of Future Meetings.**—RESOLVED—That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held on the following Tuesdays :—

5th April, 1955	4th October, 1955
28th June, 1955	3rd January, 1956

7—**Rusthall Elms.**—The Surveyor reported that he had received a complaint from Mr. Johnson, the owner of Rusthall Elms, that seedling elm trees were darkening the living room of his house.

RESOLVED—That the Committee do inspect the site at an appropriate time and decide what action, if any, should be taken.


Chairman

5th April 1955.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

ESTIMATES 1955/56

			<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Approximate</u>	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Alternative</u>
			<u>1954-55</u>	<u>1954-55</u>	<u>1955-56</u>	<u>Estimated</u>
			£ £	£ £	£ £	£ £
<u>Salaries</u>						
Clerk	...	...	50	50	50	50
Surveyor	...	...	40	40	40	40
Treasurer	...	...	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>
			110	110	110	110
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>						
Printing, Stationery, Advertising						
and Postages	...	...	5	12	12	12
Public Liability & Fire						
Insurance	...	...	<u>3</u> 8	<u>4</u> 16	<u>4</u> 16	<u>4</u> 16
<u>Wages</u>						
Leading Man	...	...	378	398	395	-
Labourers	...	...	<u>1280</u>	<u>1273</u>	<u>1335</u>	-
			1658	1671	1730	-
Employer's Insurances	...	...	67	65	81	-
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
<u>Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -</u>						
Seats	...	...	80	110	80	80
Notice Boards	...	...	10	20	10	10
Fences and Posts	...	...	20	30	20	20
Depot and Toolshed	...	...	10	10	10	10
Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake			65	65	30	30
Clearing Undergrowth - Rusthall						
Common	...	...	120	120	120	120
Tools, Implements and Equipment.			60	20	40	-
Cutting Grass, Trimming Trees etc.			50	25	50	-
Running Expenses and Repairs -						
Autoscythe	...	...	20	40	40	-
Roads and Footpaths	...	...	117	115	30	-
Commons Maintenance by						
Corporation Works Department			-	-	-	1939
			552	555	430	2209
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Lopping Trees	...	...	51	60	82	82
Provision of New Seats			-	10	-	-
			51	70	82	82
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			£2,446	£2,487	£2,449	£2,417

December, 1954.

у.

5th April, 1955

PRESENT : Admiral Sir Cecil Marcourt, C.B.E., K.C.B., K.B.E.,
Messrs. S.V. Thorpe, H.T. Clarke, R.W. Card, W. Grant
Oliver, G.F. Morrell, R.S.R. Berry, Councillors N.L.
Glanfield and E. Croucher.

1. CHAIRMAN.- In the absence of His Worship the Mayor through illness, it was RESOLVED that Mr. R.S.R. Berry do take the chair.
2. MINUTES.- The Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th January, 1955, were read and confirmed.
3. ACCOUNTS.- Accounts amounting to £806. 4s. 10d. (as set out in the list signed by the Chairman) were passed for payment.
4. MAINTENANCE OF COMMONS.- The Surveyor reported that the Commons Conservators' men had been discharged and the Contractors (Tunbridge Wells Corporation) had commenced maintenance as from the 4th April, 1955.
5. INSURANCE CLAIM.- The Clerk reported that the Insurance Company had paid the claim for the cost of repairs to a lamp standard damaged by Corporation workmen in felling trees on the Common.
6. TREES.- The Surveyor suggested that the Southern Tree Surgeons should now be given an order to lop further lime trees in Eridge Road at a cost of £82.

RESOLVED - That the order be given to the Southern Tree Surgeons.

7. POOL ON THE COMMON.- It was reported that a pool was forming on the Common at Yew Tree Cottages.

RESOLVED - That the Surveyor examine the pool and report thereon.

8. CYCLING ON THE COMMONS.-- It was reported that cycling was still taking place on the path leading from Lower Green Road.

RESOLVED - That a notice prohibiting cycling on the Commons be placed at this point.

9. CHAIRMAN OF CONSERVATORS.- RESOLVED - That the Clerk do write to His Worship the Mayor wishing him a speedy recovery from his indisposition and conveying the appreciation of the Conservators for his able and courteous conduct in the chair during the last two years.

Steffell
Chairman

~~286.55~~
4. 10. 55.

COMMONS CONSERVATORS4th October, 1955.

4th October, 1955 - PRESENT - His Worship the Mayor (Councillor
S.H. Muffett, J.P.) (Chairman)
Messrs. S.V. Thorpe, R.W. Card, Alderman H.A.
Sheppard and Councillor D. Savage.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th April, 1955, were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. - Accounts amounting to £1,397. 18. Od. were passed for payment (all as set out in list signed by the Chairman).
3. ACCOUNTS. - Year ended 31st March, 1955 - The Treasurer submitted the Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1955.

Resolved - That the Accounts be approved.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS. - The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its Annual Meeting on 25th May, 1955, appointed the following representatives on the Commons Conservators until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 1956 :

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor S.H.
Muffett, J.P.)
Alderman Sheppard
Councillors N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage.

5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS. - Resolved - That Councillor N.L. Glanfield and Mr. R.F. Gunnis be re-appointed Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
6. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE. - Resolved - That His Worship the Mayor, (Councillor S.H. Muffett, J.P.), Councillor Glanfield, Messrs. Berry, Gunnis, Grant Oliver and Thorpe be re-appointed a Committee for the ensuing year (three to form a quorum) to report to the Conservators on such matters as may be referred to them from time to time.
7. SEAT ON THE COMMON. - The Conservators considered a suggestion from Miss White-Wallis that a seat removed from a position midway between the "Morning Star" and Langton Road should be replaced for the benefit of those who needed to rest before reaching the top of the Common.

Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to inform Miss White-Wallis that the Conservators regret they cannot accede to her request as the seat in question had to be removed owing to the regularity with which it was damaged by hooligans.

8. LITTER BASKETS. - The Conservators considered a letter from Miss Waddilove suggesting the provision of litter baskets in the Happy Valley.

Resolved - That Miss Waddilove be informed that the Conservators regret they are unable to accede to her request as, in their view, litter baskets placed on the Commons would be removed or damaged in a very short time.

9. FREEHOLD TENANTS - ATTENDANCE. - Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to call the attention of the Secretary of the Freehold Tenants to the irregularity of the attendance of the Freehold Tenants' Representatives at the Conservators meetings.



<u>1953/54</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1954/55</u>	<u>1953/54</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>1954/55</u>
£ s d		£ s d	£ s d		£ s d
	<u>Salaries</u>				
50. 0. 0.	Clerk	50. 0. 0.	4.11. 6.	Repairs to Railings - Lower Cricket	
40. 0. 0.	Surveyor	40. 0. 0.		Ground - Recovered	- - -
20. 0. 0.	Treasurer	20. 0. 0.			
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>		248. 8. 0.	Covered Seat - Cost of Damage	
9.11.10.	Printing, Stationery, Advertising & Postages.	9. 0. 8.		Recovered	- - -
2.10.10.	Public Liability and Fire Insurances	3.18. 6.			
610.13.10.	<u>Wages</u>	1670.12. 5.	2423.11. 6.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -	
				Contribution for Year	2448.16. 8
64.11. 0.	<u>Employer's Insurances</u>	65. 2. 0.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>				
103. 2. 4.	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals:-				
17.17.10.	Seats	112. 6. 3.			
11. 9. 8.	Notice Boards	21.14. 5.			
9.14. 1.	Fences and Posts	21.19. 3.			
63.12. 4.	Depot and Toolshed	3. 8.11.			
120.14. 6.	Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	4.14. 6.			
68.11. 7.	Clearing Undergrowth - Rusthall Common	124.15. 6.			
55. 8. 3.	Tools, Implements and Equipment.	16.13. 7.			
22. 2. 4.	Cutting Grass, Trimming Trees etc.	66.11.10.			
1.15. 0.	Running Expenses and Repairs - Autoscythe	37.15. 3.			
	Roads and Footpaths	110. 9. 5.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>				
- - -	Lopping Trees	60. 0. 0.			
202.18. 1.	Provision of New Seats	9.14. 2.			
197. 6. 0.	Provision of Shelter	- - -			
4.11. 6.	Repairs to Railings - Lower Cricket Ground	- - -			
676.11. 0.		£2,448.16. 8.	£2,676.11. 0.		£2,448.16. 8.

COMMONS CONSERVATORS3rd January, 1956

3rd January, 1956 - PRESENT - His Worship the Mayor (Councillor S.H. Muffett, J.P.) (Chairman)
 Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, G.B.E., K.C.B., K.B.E.
 Alderman H.A. Sheppard and Councillor N.L. Glanfield
 Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke, W. Grant
 Oliver, R.F. Morrell and S.V. Thorpe.

1. MINUTES. - The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October, 1955, were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. - Accounts amounting to £602. 10. 1d. were passed for payment (all as per list signed by the Chairman).
3. ESTIMATES 1956/57. - Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators during the next financial year amounting to £2,973 were approved.

Resolved - That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year of an amount of £2,973 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164, Public Health Act, 1875.

4. RAILINGS OUTSIDE RUSTHALL BOYS SCHOOL. - A letter was received from Mr. B.E. Bryant, Divisional Education Officer, concerning the condition of the posts and chains outside Rusthall Boys School.

Resolved - That Mr. Bryant be informed that the posts and chains to which he refers were erected by the Church Wardens of St. Paul's, Rusthall, by arrangement with the Manorial Authorities, and that the Conservators have no responsibility for these erections.

5. TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMON. - A letter was received from Miss A.C. Wylde suggesting that, in view of the disappearance of a lady from the Vale Royal Hotel, thick clumps of bushes on the Common should be uprooted.

Resolved -

- (a) That the Clerk be instructed to inform Miss Wylde that the condition of the Tunbridge Wells Common had nothing to do with the disappearance of the lady from the Vale Royal Hotel, that her suggestion as to clearing the undergrowth is impracticable, but that attention will be given to some of the undergrowth.
 - (b) That the Surveyor be asked to suggest to the Corporation that it should consider the purchase of mechanical equipment for clearing undergrowth.
6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS. - Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held on the following Tuesdays :

10th April, 1956.
 3rd July, 1956.
 2nd October, 1956.
 1st January, 1957.

J. Muffett
 Chairman.

Met 10. 56.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Estimates 1956/57

	<u>Estimated</u> <u>1955/56</u>		<u>Approximate</u> <u>1955/56</u>		<u>Estimated</u> <u>1956/57</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 and Miscellaneous Charges</u>						
Printing, Stationery, Advertising and Postages	12		8		8	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	<u>4</u>	16	<u>4</u>	12	<u>4</u>	12
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
Repairs, Maintenance & Renewals -						
Seats	80		80		90	
Notice Boards	10		10		10	
Fences and Posts	20		20		20	
Depot and Toolshed	10		5		10	
Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton						
Lake	30		15		35	
Clearing Undergrowth	120		120		130	
Commons Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	<u>1939</u>	2209	<u>2102</u>	2352	<u>2162</u>	2457
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Lopping Trees	82		82		-	
Renewing Fence - Upper Cricket Ground	-		-		394	
Repairing Fence near Rusthall Church	<u>-</u>	82	<u>-</u>	82	<u>41</u>	435
TOTAL EXPENDITURE						
	<u>£2417</u>		<u>£2556</u>		<u>£3014</u>	

22nd December, 1955.

[Signature]
Chairman

COMMONS CONSERVATORS10th April, 1956

10th April, 1956 - PRESENT - His Worship the Mayor (Councillor S.H. Muffett, J.P.) (Chairman)
 Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, G.B.E., K.C.B., K.B.E.
 Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card, Holland T. Clarke,
 C.F. Morrell, W. Grant Oliver, S.V. Thorpe,
 Alderman H.A. Sheppard and Councillor N.L. Glanfield.

1. MINUTES. - The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January, 1956, were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. - Accounts amounting to £599. 18. 5d. were passed for payment (all as per list signed by the Chairman).
3. ESTIMATES 1956/57. - It was MOVED by Mr. Berry and seconded by Mr. Morrell and Resolved - That consideration of expenditure on the repair of the fence to the Higher Cricket Ground be deferred for six months.
4. LETTING OF PART OF THE COMMONS. - A letter was received from Mr. Girling, Town Clerk, with regard to letting of part of the Commons, asking that the Conservators would try, as far as possible, to ensure that letting to circuses, fairs etc. would not interfere with the use of any part of the Commons by the public.

Resolved - That the Clerk do write to the Town Clerk informing him that the Conservators have no power over the letting of any part of the Commons, but that they have the assurance of the Lord of the Manor, Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, that the use of the Commons by the inhabitants of Tunbridge Wells will not be unduly interfered with.

5. WYCH ELM NEAR MAJOR YORK'S ROAD. - The Surveyor submitted a report to the effect that this tree was in a dangerous condition owing to decay in the main fork of the crown.

Resolved - That the Surveyor do take such action as he can to render the tree safe without having it felled; and that the attention of the Insurance Company who indemnify the Conservators against third party claims be drawn to the matter.

6. DAMAGE TO TREE IN BULLS HOLLOW, RUSTHALL COMMON. - The Clerk submitted a report from the Police about damage to a tree on the Commons.

Resolved - That the Police be requested to initiate a prosecution against the offender.

7. RUSTHALL CRICKET CLUB. - The Clerk submitted a letter from the Rusthall Cricket Club asking that undergrowth near the pavilion be cut because of the risk of fire.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised to have this work carried out.

8. MAINTENANCE OF COMMONS. - (1) RABBITS - Resolved - That workmen on the Commons be asked to report to the Surveyor if they see any signs of infestation of the Commons by rabbits.

- (2) BRACKEN - Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to report as to the action which may be taken to restrict the spread of bracken on the Commons.

- (3) MECHANICAL CUTTER FOR UNDERGROWTH - Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to accept the offer of the Waterworks Committee of the Town Council to lend the Conservators a mechanical cutter to clear the undergrowth on the Commons for a trial period.

Richard Thomas

3rd July, 1956 - PRESENT - Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card, T.H. Clarke, R.F. Gunnis, W. Grant Oliver, S.V. Thorpe, Alderman H.A. Sheppard and Councillor N.L. Glanfield.

In the absence of the Chairman (His Worship the Mayor)(Cllr. S.H. Muffett, J.P.) Mr. R.S.R. Berry was appointed Chairman.

1. MINUTES. - The minutes of the meeting held on 10th April, 1956, were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. - Accounts amounting to £413. 8. 11d. were passed for payment (all as per list signed by the Chairman).
3. ACCOUNTS - YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1956. - The Treasurer submitted the Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1956.

Resolved - That the Accounts be approved.

4. INSURANCE. - Attention was called to the low premium payable in respect of the Public Liability and Fire Insurance Policies of the Conservators and the Clerk and Treasurer were instructed to investigate the position and to take such steps as were considered necessary to see that the Conservators were adequately covered.
5. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS. - The Clerk reported that the Town Council at its Annual Meeting on 27th May, 1956, appointed the following representatives on the Commons Conservators until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May, 1957 :

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor S.H. Muffett, J.P.)
Alderman Sheppard
Councillors N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage.

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS. - Resolved - That Councillor N.L. Glanfield and Mr. R.F. Gunnis be re-appointed Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
7. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE. - Resolved - That His Worship the Mayor (Councillor S.H. Muffett, J.P.), Councillor N.L. Glanfield and Messrs. Berry, Gunnis and Grant Oliver and Thorpe be re-appointed a Committee for the ensuing year (three to form a quorum) to report to the Conservators on such matters as may be referred to them from time to time and deal with matters of urgency which may arise.
8. WYCH ELM NEAR MAJOR YORK'S ROAD. - The Clerk reminded the Conservators that at its last meeting the Surveyor reported on the condition of the Wych Elm and had then been instructed to take such steps as he could to preserve the tree and submitted the following memorandum which he had received from the Surveyor :

"I have made a further examination of the above tree. The tree can be examined at 5 points where branches have been removed in the past - 1 on the main trunk, 2 on each main branch and also at the main fork of the crown. In all cases there is evidence of serious rot and a chisel could be inserted to a depth of about 4 inches in one hole in the main branch overhanging Major York's Road. The whole tree leans towards the road.

In reference to minute 5, Commons Conservators, 10th April, 1956, there is no action which I could take to render the

12. tree safe and I suggest that the Conservators Committee should inspect this tree at the earliest possible moment. In my opinion the tree is definitely dangerous and will become more so as the weight of foliage increases.

(sgd) H.P. BISHOP

Surveyor to the Conservators.

The Clerk reported that, in view of the terms of the memorandum, he had got in touch with the Chairman of the Conservators and with as many members as possible of the Committee and with their authority had advised the Surveyor that the tree should be felled.

The Surveyor now reported that no action had been taken owing to difficulties which had arisen with the Manorial Authorities arising from the fact that fallen or felled timber vested in the Lord of the Manor and that the only tender he had received was a combined offer for felling and purchase of the timber.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to obtain revised tenders for the felling of the tree and to accept the most favourable, and to make such arrangements as were necessary with the Manorial Authorities for the disposal of the timber.

9. MAINTENANCE OF THE COMMONS - BRACKEN.- The Surveyor reported that he had been touch with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as to measures which might be taken for preventing the spread of bracken on the Commons and reported that the Ministry were unable to give any useful help.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed :

- (a) to make enquiries as to whether the owners of any goats would be prepared to tether them on the Commons with a view to their keeping down the bracken, and
- (b) To communicate with the Ministry of Agriculture for Scotland with a view to ascertaining whether that Department has had any experience in dealing successfully with the suppression of bracken.

10. GAMES ON THE COMMONS. - The Clerk submitted the following letter from Mr. H. Barrand, Marlborough Hotel :

"

29th April, 1956.

Dear Sir,

The Happy Valley is admittedly one of the most pleasant and peaceful spots in our Borough. On going there again this Sunday morning I was disgusted to find that the open space there was monopolised by a number of boys playing football well across the footpath. None of the nice surrounding seats was or could be occupied - some ladies there shared my annoyance.

Might I suggest that someone in authority should visit this spot from time to time in order to stop this nuisance.

Incidentally the Happy Valley has, in the past, been a favourite haunt of the Nightingale.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd) H. BARRAND.

"

Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to call the attention

of Mr. Barrand to the terms of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, with regard to the privilege of the inhabitants of Tunbridge Wells of playing games on the Commons.

11. LITTER. - The Clerk submitted an extract from a letter from Toc H calling attention to the quantity of broken glass collected on the Commons.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to provide three litter bins in the vicinity of the Wellington Rocks and the Upper Cricket Ground.

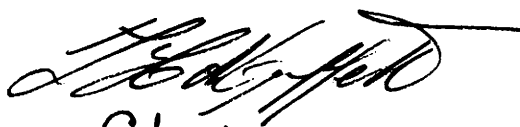
12. BYELAWS. - Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to renew where necessary the copies of Byelaws posted on the Commons.

13. CYCLING. - Mr. S.V. Thorpe called attention to the danger arising from boys cycling on the footpaths in the vicinity of the Brighton Lake.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to erect further notices calling attention to the fact that cycling on the paths on the Commons is an offence under the Conservators Byelaws.

14. PRESS. - Mr. Councillor Gunnis submitted a letter from the Editor of the Kent and Sussex Courier suggesting that an invitation be extended to representatives of the Press to attend future meetings of the Conservators.

Resolved - That an invitation be extended to representatives of the local Press to attend future meetings of the Conservators.


Chairman

2/10/1956.

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1956.

<u>1954/55</u> £ s d	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1955/56</u> £ s d	<u>1954/55</u> £ s d	<u>Income</u>	<u>1955/56</u> £ s d
	<u>Salaries</u>				
50. 0. 0.	Clerk	50. 0. 0.		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -	
40. 0. 0.	Surveyor	40. 0. 0.	2448.16. 8.	Contribution for Year ...	2387. 9. 5.
20. 0. 0.	Treasurer	20. 0. 0.			
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>				
9. 0. 8.	Printing, Stationery, Advertising & Postages.	1.15.11.			
3.18. 6.	Public Liability and Fire Insurances	8.10.			
1670.12. 5.	<u>Wages</u>	- - -			
65. 2. 0.	<u>Employer's Insurances</u>	- - -			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>				
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals:-				
112. 6. 3.	Seats	58.18. 9.			
21.14. 5.	Notice Boards	14.10.			
21.19. 3.	Fences and Posts	22.18. 6.			
3. 8.11.	Depot and Toolshed	2.13. 1.			
4.14. 6.	Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	15. 5. 7.			
124.15. 6.	Clearing Undergrowth	120. 0. 0.			
16.13. 7.	Tools, Implements and Equipment. ...	- - -			
66.11.10.	Cutting Grass, Trimming Trees etc.	- - -			
37.15. 3.	Running Expenses and Repairs - Autoscythe	- - -			
110. 9. 5.	Roads and Footpaths	- - -			
	General Maintenance by Corporation Works	-			
- - -	Department	1972.13.11.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>				
60. 0. 0.	Lopping Trees	82. 0. 0.			
9.14. 2.	Provision of New Seats	- - -			
<u>448.16. 8.</u>		<u>£2,387. 9. 5.</u>	<u>£2,448.16. 8.</u>		<u>£2,387. 9. 5.</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1956.

<u>1954/55</u> £ s d	<u>Liability and Surplus</u>	<u>1955/56</u> £ s d	<u>1954/55</u> £ s d	<u>Assets</u>	<u>1955/56</u> £ s d
	Sundry Creditors -			Debtor - Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation for Balance of Contribution	
1299. 0. 4.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	959. 2. 4.	1441.15. 9.		1026. 5. 2.
133.14. 6.	Others	55. 0. 0.		Postage Stamps in Hand -	
	Suspense Account for Reinstatement of Damage			Clerk	7. 9.
13. 5.11.		13. 5.11.	3. 2.	Treasurer	11. 9.
			12. 3.	Cash in Hand	3. 7.
			3. 9. 7.		
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
1,446. 0. 9.		£1,027. 8. 3.	£1,446. 0. 9.		£1,027. 8. 3.
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>

D. L. GOFEMAN, F.I.M.T.A.

9th June, 1956.

Treasurer

2nd October, 1956 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor S.H. Muffett, J.P.)
(Chairman)

Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card,
H.T. Clarke, W. Grant Oliver, G.F. Morrell,
S.V. Thorpe,
Alderman H.A. Sheppard
Councillors N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage.

1. MINUTES. - The minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd July, 1956, were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. - Accounts amounting to £736. 14. 7d. were passed for payment (all as per list signed by the Chairman).
3. WYCH ELM. - The Surveyor reported that the Wych Elm in Major York's Road had now been removed and that the sum of £12 had been paid to the Lord of the Manor as the value of the timber.
4. COMMITTEE - CHESTNUT TREE. - The following minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on the 15th August, 1956 were submitted to the Conservators.

"15th August, 1956, at a meeting of the Committee of the Conservators held at Fonthill, the Common -

Present

Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, W. Grant Oliver, S.V. Thorpe,
and Councillor N.L. Glanfield.

CHESTNUT TREE - The Surveyor reported that, in his opinion, the most westerly of the three horse chestnut trees in front of the Fonthill Shelter was in a dangerous condition and submitted tenders from

(a) Mr. A. Farnes to fell the tree for the sum of £4, and

(b) Mr. F. Theobald to lop and fell the tree for the sum of £15.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised to discuss his proposals with Mr. Farnes and to accept his tender or any reasonable modification thereof. "

The Surveyor reported that the chestnut tree referred to therein had been felled on 17th August, 1956 at a cost of £4.

5. TREES. - A letter was submitted from Mrs. Ellen A. White suggesting that a sapling should be planted near to the site of the recently felled chestnut tree at Fonthill and offering to defray the cost of this work.

Resolved -

- (a) That Mrs. White be thanked for her offer which the Committee regrets it is unable to accept, but that she be informed that the question of planting additional trees in the vicinity of Fonthill will be considered in conjunction with the general question of re-planting on the Common.
- (b) That the Surveyor be instructed to consider and report on the clearing of seedlings and the planting of additional trees on various parts of the Common.
- (c) That the forthcoming report of the Surveyor be referred to the Committee with power to take such action thereon as they may consider appropriate.

- 15
6. BRACKEN.— The Surveyor submitted a letter from the West of Scotland Agricultural College, from which the following are extracts :-

" The Secretary of the Dept. of Agriculture for Scotland passed to me your letter of the 27th August (ref. HPB/BCG: pl/4a) concerning the eradication of bracken on Tunbridge Wells Commons.

Bracken is probably our worst perennial weed in the West of Scotland and accordingly a large amount of research work on the problem has been done in this College. At present the two main practical methods of control are ploughing and mechanical treatment (i.e. cutting or bruising). The latter method is the one in most common use in Scotland as bracken occurs mainly on land which cannot be ploughed.

Ploughing has given 100% eradication in many cases and is probably the best method if the land is even, free from stones, and has a good depth of soil. After ploughing the land must be cultivated, fertilised and brought into a normal farm rotation or it can be directly re-seeded with grass, which would possibly be more suitable in your particular case. Costs for re-seeding depend on conditions but an average in our area would be from £20 to £30 per acre including fertiliser and seed.

Mechanical treatment is used where the land is unploughable. The main implement in the past was the scythe but this has been mainly superseded by tractor drawn machines either of the cutting or bruising types.

A cutting or bruising programme should be carried on over at least 3 consecutive years with two treatments per year. The time of the first treatment is particularly important and this is when the bracken fronds are almost but not completely unfolded. This stage would be reached in the south of England by early June. The second treatment should follow 6 weeks later. Cutting or bruising after 3-4 years treatment will not eradicate bracken completely but it will reduce the bracken very substantially in height, e.g. from 3-5 ft. to 6-12 inches and will keep it in check for a period of 5-8 years when a single treatment may be required. Where bracken has been cut the trampling effect by heavy stocking with cattle is effective in final eradication.

Various selective weed control chemicals have been tried but none have been found effective against bracken. Sodium chlorate which is a soil sterilant has been found effective but for economic reasons it is only of use for "mopping up" patches which could not be reached by machines. "

Resolved - That consideration of the matter be deferred to enable the Surveyor to report further thereon at the next meeting.

7. INSURANCE.— The Treasurer reported that he had verified that the Conservators were covered in the sum of £50,000 in respect of public liability and that a fresh Fire Insurance Policy had been issued to the Conservators.
8. LITTER BINS.— Referring to paragraph 11 of the minutes of the Conservators meeting of the 3rd July, the Surveyor reported that the litter bins had now been provided.

9. CYCLING ON THE COMMONS.— Mr. Berry and other members referred to the danger arising to members of the public through cycling occurring on the Commons and the Press were asked to call attention to the fact that this practice was an offence against the Commons Conservators' Byelaws and offenders were liable to penalties.

The Surveyor reported that the cost of erecting the notices referred to in paragraph 13 of the minutes of the 3rd July would amount to approximately £20 for which no provision had been made in the estimates.

Resolved - That consideration of this matter be deferred until the estimates for the next year are under consideration.

10. FENCING AROUND THE HIGHER CRICKET GROUND.— Referring to paragraph 3 of the minutes of the Conservators of 10th April, it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to proceed with the fencing of the Higher Cricket Ground for which provision had been made in the estimates.

11. LOWER CRICKET GROUND.— It was moved and seconded that the rails removed from the Higher Cricket Ground be used to fence in the south-west corner of the Lower Cricket Ground. On being put to the meeting the motion was lost. It was

Resolved - That the rails removed from the Higher Cricket Ground be taken into store, that the question of fencing the portion of the Lower Cricket Ground be considered in conjunction with the estimates for the next financial year.

12. UPPER STREET.— Mr. Councillor Savage called attention to the danger from traffic constituted by the position of a rock adjoining Upper Street.

It was pointed out that the question did not appear to be one with which the Conservators could deal.

13. RACE COURSE.— Resolved - That the Surveyor be requested to report on the possibility of restoring the race course on the Common.

14. EXPENDITURE.— The Conservators discussed the desirability of specific authority being given to incur expenditure for which provision had been made in the estimates. It was

Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed report to the Conservators the action taken by the Town Council with regard to the provision of funds to enable the Conservators to consider whether to proceed with projects for which provision had been made in their estimates.

[Signature]
Chairman

1/1/1957

COMMONS CONSERVATORS

1st January, 1957

1st January, 1957 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor S.H. Muffett,
J.P.)(Chairman)
Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, G.B.E., K.C.B.,
K.B.E.
Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke,
R.F. Gunnis and S.V. Thorpe.
Alderman Sheppard and Councillor Glanfield.

1. MINUTES. - The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October, 1956, were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. - Accounts amounting to £668. 11. 4d. were passed for payment (all as set out in list signed by the Chairman).
3. ESTIMATES 1957/58. - Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year amounting to £2,716 were approved.

Resolved - That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year of an amount of £2,716 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

4. BRIGHTON LAKE. - The condition of this lake was discussed and the Surveyor instructed to attempt to borrow equipment from the Parks Department of the Tunbridge Wells Corporation to try to eradicate the weeds.
5. FENCING AROUND THE HIGHER CRICKET GROUND. - The Surveyor reported that he had got the rails, the posts were on order and the fencing should be finished by the 31st March, 1957.
6. BRACKEN ON THE COMMONS. - The Surveyor reported on the successful treatment of bracken by the Scottish methods of hard cutting and use of the Allen Scythe. On part of the Common so treated along the edge of Langton Road the bracken had now given place to grass.
7. PLANTING OF TREES ON THE COMMONS. - Referring to paragraph 6 of the minutes of 2nd October, 1956, the Surveyor was instructed to incorporate in his forthcoming report a map showing the sites referred to therein so that the planting of seedlings can be considered in time for the planting to be carried out next Autumn.
8. RACE COURSE ON THE COMMONS. - The Surveyor reported on the restoration of the race course on the Commons and that he estimated the cost at £400.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to take such steps as he can within the limits of the estimates to clear the undergrowth and define the path of the race course.

9. CYCLING ON THE COMMONS. - The Conservators considered a letter from Mr. W. Grant Oliver complaining about the prevalence of cycling on the Commons and the dangers arising from this practice. He made the following suggestions:
 1. Disciplinary action by the Postmaster to eliminate the example set by Government Officials, namely postmen.

2. A small board attached to the "vehicle" posts

COMMONS CONSERVATORS

at each end of the track from High Street to Lower Green Road, Rusthall, bearing the two words "CYCLING PROHIBITED".

3. A Police Officer patrolling this path the whole of one Saturday morning when he could effect half a dozen arrests.

Resolved - That

- (a) The Clerk be instructed to communicate with the Head Postmaster asking him to call the attention of postmen to the Byelaw dealing with cycling on the Commons.
- (b) Notices bearing the words "No Cycling" be erected at each end of the path leading from Rusthall High Street to Lower Green Road.
- (c) The attention of the Superintendent of Police be called to the desirability of a patrol operating on this path, particularly on a Saturday morning.

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.- Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held on the following Tuesdays :

2nd April, 1957
25th June, 1957

1st October, 1957
31st December, 1957

11. SPA POST OFFICE.- Councillor Gunnis submitted complaints that the ground outside the Spa Post Office was considerably worn and that water collected in the depression thus formed.

The Conservators were advised that this land was part of the Waste of the Manor for the maintenance of which they were not responsible.

Mr. Thorpe stated that the Tunbridge Wells Corporation had been granted permission, on the payment of an acknowledgement rental, to maintain this piece of land and the Surveyor promised to take appropriate action.

12. BUILDINGS NEAR RUSTHALL COMMON.- The Surveyor reported that a Mrs. Best of 1, Langton Road, complained that a lime tree opposite her house swayed in the wind and might endanger her house.

Resolved - That the Surveyor do obtain the opinion of Mr. Tom Newick about the tree in question and then take appropriate action.

Chas. Newick

Chas. Newick
2/4/57

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Estimates 1957/58

	<u>Estimated</u> <u>1956/57</u>		<u>Approximate</u> <u>1956/57</u>		<u>Estimated</u> <u>1957/58</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 and Miscellaneous Charges</u>						
Printing, Stationery, Advertising and Postages.	8		8		8	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	<u>4</u>	12	<u>2</u>	10	<u>2</u>	10
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
Commons Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	2162		2234		2281	
Repairs, Maintenance & Renewals -						
Seats	90		70		80	
Notice Boards	10		20		10	
Fences and Posts	20		10 20		20	
Depot and Toolshed	10		10		10	
Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	35		63		35	
Clearing Undergrowth	<u>130</u>	2457	<u>130</u>	2537	<u>140</u>	2576
				2547		
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Provision of No Cycling Notices	-		-		20	
Renewing Fence - Upper Cricket Ground	394		394		-	
Felling Tree	<u>-</u>	394	<u>9</u>	403	<u>-</u>	20
 <u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>						
	<u>£2,973</u>		<u>£3,060</u>		<u>£2,716</u>	
			<u>2070</u>			

9th December, 1956.

Chairman

2/4/57

2nd April, 1957 - PRESENT - Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, C.B.E.,
K.C.B., K.B.E.
Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, W. Grant Oliver
and S.V. Thorpe
Alderman H.A. Sheppard and Councillors
D. Savage and N.L. Glanfield.

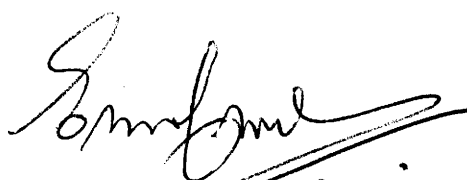
In the absence of the Chairman (Councillor S.H. Muffett,
J.P.) Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt was appointed Chairman.

1. MINUTES. - The minutes of the meeting held on 1st January, 1957 were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. - Accounts amounting to £679. 9. 7d. were passed for payment (all as set out in list signed by the Chairman).
3. BRACKEN ON THE COMMONS. - A letter from the Boy Scouts Association was considered in which it was suggested that for the Good Turn Week commencing 17th June, Scout Troops under supervision should beat down the bracken on the Common.

Resolved - That the suggestion be agreed to and the Surveyor be instructed to inform the Boy Scouts Association that the Conservators accept with pleasure its offer of assistance and that he be instructed to make any necessary arrangements.

4. SEATS ON THE COMMONS. - A letter from Councillor Mrs. Greenfield was read suggesting that two seats should be moved from other positions on the Common and re-sited on the south side of Church Road between London Road and Mount Ephraim. The Surveyor reported that the Works Committee of the Town Council was prepared to provide a seat in Church Road and if the Conservators agreed, wished to place it on the Common.

Resolved - That the suggestion be agreed in principle; that the Works Committee be informed the Conservators are prepared to take over the seat supplied by them and erect it on the Common adjoining Church Road and that the Surveyor be instructed to get into touch with Councillor Mrs. Greenfield to settle the precise position of the seats.


Chairman
2/7/57

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

2nd July 1957

PRESENT.

The Mayor (Councillor E. Croucher J.P.)
Messrs. R.S.R.Berry. R.W.Card. T.H.Clarke. W. Grant Oliver.
Alderman H.A. Sheppard and Councillor N.L.Glanfield. J.P.

1. MINUTES. The minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd April 1957 were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. The Accounts amounting to £744. 16. 1 were passed for payment as set out in the list signed by the Chairman.
3. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1957. The Treasurer submitted the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 1957.

RESOLVED - That the Accounts be approved.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS. The Clerk reported that the Town Council had appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the annual meeting of the Council in May 1958.

His Worship the Mayor -
Councillor E. Croucher. J.P.

Alderman H.A.Sheppard.

Councillors N.L.Glanfield and
D. Savage.

5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.

RESOLVED - That Councillor N.L.Glanfield and Mr. R.F.Gunnis be re-appointed Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.

6. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE.

RESOLVED - That His Worship the Mayor (Councillor E. Croucher J.P.) Councillor N.L. Glanfield and Messrs. Berry, Gunnis Grant Oliver and Thorpe be re-appointed a Committee for the ensuing year (three to form a quorum) to report to the Conservators on such matters as may be referred to them from time to time and to deal with matters of urgency which may arise.

7. COMMITTEE MINUTES. The Clerk submitted the minutes of the sub-Committee held on 21st May, 1957

8. LITTER. The Clerk submitted the following letter from the Superintendent of Police, Tunbridge Wells.

KENT COUNTY CONSTABULARY.

Police Station,
Tunbridge Wells.

20th May, 1957.

Dear Sir,

I have to inform you that I have received a report from one of my officers to the effect that Rear Admiral R.B.Darke, C.B., D.S.O., of Flat 2 Chancellor House, Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells, has complained that customers of Di Mashio's ice cream van parked near Linden Park Cricket Ground, drop their ice cream papers on to the Common.

Mr. Di Mashio, Junior has been interviewed and advised to have a notice displayed on the van pointing out to his customers the offence against the Byelaw and to have a litter basket attached for their use.

Perhaps the Conservators will wish to consider erecting additional anti-litter signs and litter baskets in the vicinity of the van.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) R.J.Sly.

Superintendent.

The Clerk to the Common Conservators,
Town Hall,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.

- (1) RESOLVED.- That the Surveyor be instructed to supply and erect additional litter baskets in the vicinity of the upper cricket ground and that the Police be asked to initiate prosecutions against persons found depositing litter on the Common.
- (2) The Clerk submitted a letter from residents in Lower Green Road, Rusthall asking that a litter bin should be erected near the shops at the top of Lower Green Road.

RESOLVED - That the surveyor be instructed to provide a litter bin in this vicinity.

9. FOOTPATH NEAR BELLEVUE. The Clerk reported that his attention had been drawn by Mr. Thorpe to the faded condition of the notice at the foot of the path leading to Bellevue from London Road. He also called attention to the dangerous condition of the path leading from Mount Ephraim to those premises.

RESOLVED - That the Surveyor be instructed to re-paint and re-letter the existing notice board and to provide an additional notice board near the path at its junction with Mount Ephraim.

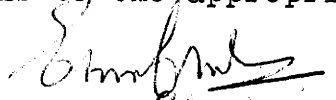
10. THE SURVEYORS REPORT.

- (1) Happy Valley. The Surveyor reported that the seats in the neighbourhood of Happy Valley were continually being dislodged from their position and thrown into the valley.

RESOLVED - That the Police be requested to endeavour to give some additional supervision to this area.

- (2) Boy Scouts. The surveyor reported that approximately 40 Boy Scouts had attended every night for a week clearing portions of the Common under his supervision.

RESOLVED... That the Conservators do place on record their appreciation of the action of the Scouts in this matter and that the Clerk be instructed to convey their thanks to the appropriate quarter.


Chairman.

/10/87

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1957.

<u>1955/56</u> £ s d	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1956/57</u> £ s d	<u>1955/56</u> £ s d	<u>Income</u>	<u>1956/57</u> £ s d
	<u>Salaries</u>				
50. 0. 0.	Clerk	50. 0. 0.		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -	
40. 0. 0.	Surveyor	40. 0. 0.	2387. 9. 5.	Contribution for Year	2829.19. 6.
20. 0. 0.	Treasurer	20. 0. 0.			
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>				
1.15.11.	Printing, Stationery and Postages.	6. 6. 0.			
8.10.	Public Liability and Fire Insurances	17. 7.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>				
1972.13.11.	General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	2108. 3. 8.			
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals. -				
58.18. 9.	Seats	31.13.10.			
14.10.	Notice Boards	15.11. 4.			
22.18. 6.	Fences and Posts	- - -			
2.13. 1.	Depot and Toolshed	25. 7. 7.			
15. 5. 7.	Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	63. 8. 5.			
120. 0. 0.	Clearing Undergrowth	130. 0. 0.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>				
- - -	Provision of No Cycling Notices	3.12. 0.			
- - -	Renewing Fence - Upper Cricket Ground	325.19. 1.			
- - -	Felling Tree	9. 0. 0.			
82. 0. 0.	Lopping Trees	- - -			
<hr/> 2,387. 9. 5. <hr/>		<hr/> £2,829.19. 6. <hr/>	<hr/> £2,387. 9. 5. <hr/>		<hr/> £2,829.19. 6. <hr/>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1957.

<u>Liabilities and Surplus</u>			<u>Assets</u>		
<u>1955/56</u>		<u>1956/57</u>	<u>1955/56</u>		<u>1956/57</u>
£ s d		£ s d	£ s d		£ s d
	<u>Sundry Creditors</u>			Debtor -	
959. 2. 4.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	1369. 5. 8.		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	
55. 0. 0.	Others	55. 0. 0.	1026. 5. 2.	for balance of Contribution	1436. 4. 8.
				Postage Stamps in Hand -	
13. 5.11.	Suspense Account for Reinstatement of damage	13. 5.11.	7. 9.	Clerk	5. 6.
			11. 9.	Treasurer	11. 1.
			3. 7.	Cash in Hand	10. 4.
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
£1,027. 8. 3.		£1,437.11. 7.	£1,027. 8. 3.		£1,437.11. 7.
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>

12th June, 1957.

D. L. COPEMAN, F.I.M.T.A.

Treasurer

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

PRESENT : The Mayor (Councillor E.Croucher) 1st October, 1957
 (Chairman)
 Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card, S.V. Thorpe and
 Councillor D. Savage.

1. MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July, 1957 were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - Accounts amounting to £715.17.4d. were passed for payment (all as set out in the list signed by the Chairman)
3. GIBRALTAR COTTAGE - The Clerk reported an interview and submitted a letter from the Tenant of Gibraltar Cottage, Mr. W. Richards, in which he complained of the annoyance and damage caused by youths playing in the vicinity of his house and suggested that part of the Common adjoining his house should either be enclosed by a fence or notice boards erected.

Resolved (i) that Mr. Richards be informed that the Conservators regret they have no power to enclose part of the Common for his protection but would agree to the erection of a notice board at his expense provided that its position, size, colour and wording were first approved by the Surveyor to the Conservators.

(ii) That the attention of the Police be called to the complaint from Mr. Richards and that they be asked to give such attention as they can to the matter.

4. SYCAMORE TREE - QUEENS GROVE - The Clerk reported that he had called the attention of the Surveyor to possible danger from decayed branches on a sycamore tree in Queens Grove near to seat No. 87. The Surveyor reported that he had removed the dead branches and suggested that this tree and another sycamore tree near seat No. 91 should be felled

Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised to fell the two trees in question.

5. ONSLOW HOUSE - Mr. Thorpe reported that the owner of Onslow House, Mr. S. Hughes, had complained of the damage to his property caused by our overhanging horse chestnut and also by two larch trees, the Surveyor reported that so soon as the labour was available, the chestnut tree would be lopped but that the two larch trees appeared to be growing on Mr. Hughes' property.

6. LITTER BINS - Referring to paragraph 8 of the minutes of the 2nd July, 1957, the Surveyor reported that litter bins had been erected in the vicinity of Linden Park Cricket Club and the shops at Lower Green, Rusthall.

7. HAPPY VALLEY - Referring to paragraph 10(1) of the minutes of the 2nd July, 1957, the Clerk reported that he had as instructed, written to the Police and received a letter

27.
from Superintendent Sly from which the following
is an extract :-

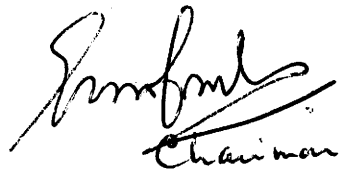
"As the result of a complaint from Mr. Thorpe on the 6th May last, special attention has been paid by the Police daily to this matter and a number of possible offenders have been warned regarding the damage. So far as the Police are aware no further damage has been committed since the 6th May and it is surprising to hear that the seats are continually being up-rooted and thrown down the Valley".

8. PLAQUE ON OAK TREE DAMAGED BY FLYING BOMB - The Mayor reported that the plaque near the Oak tree on the Common between the Linden Park Cricket Club and the Spa Hotel was in need of attention.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to take such action as may be necessary.

9. RACE TRACK - The Surveyor reported that the section of the race track between Onslow House and Major Yorks Road had now been cleared.

31st December 1957


Chairman

PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor E. Croucher J.P.)
Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, G.B.E., K.C.B., K.B.E.,
Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card, H.S. Clarke, W. Grant Oliver
R. Gunnis and S.V. Thorpe.
Alderman H.A. Sheppard, Councillors N.L. Glanfield and
D. Savage.

1. MINUTES.- The minutes of the meeting held on 1st October, 1957 were read and confirmed.

2. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.- Accounts amounting to £661.11.5d. 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 for the next financial year amounting to £2,814 were approved.

Resolved.- That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year of an amount of £2,814 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

4. TREES.- The Conservators considered an application from Mr. N.A. Nicholls for the removal of two sycamore trees which he alleged were causing his chimney to smoke owing to their proximity to his house.

Resolved.- That Mr. Nicholls be informed that the Committee is unable to accede to his request

5. SURVEYORS REPORT.- The Conservators considered the annexed report from the Surveyor

Resolved.- That in dealing with future applications for the felling of trees on the Common in order to improve private property, consideration be given to requiring the applicant to defray any cost incurred.

6. HAPPY VALLEY.- Arising from the Surveyor's report that there had been no further cases of damage to seats in this area since the Police started giving more supervision it was Resolved that the Clerk write an appropriate letter to the Police with regard to supervision of the Commons.

7. SURVEYOR.- The Conservators received the resignation of Mr. H.P. Bishop as their Surveyor to take effect from the 31st March, 1958.

Resolved - That the Conservators do place on record their keen appreciation of the services rendered to them by Mr. H.P. Bishop and of his constant efforts to maintain and improve the Commons

(2) That Mr. H.G. Tucker be appointed pro tem as Surveyor to the Conservators at a salary at the rate of £40 per annum provided the Town Council will consent to his accepting the appointment.

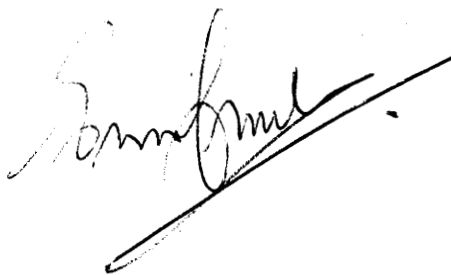
8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS. Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held on the following Tuesdays:-

1st April 1958	30th September, 1958
1st July 1958	6th January, 1959

26.

9. BRIGHTON LAKE.- Mr. Councillor Glanfield called attention to the fact that the pipe carrying the spring running into Brighton Lake and passing under the footpath was stopped up and water was flowing across the path.

Resolved - That the Surveyor do give the matter his attention.

A handwritten signature, possibly "S. Glanfield", is written in dark ink. A long, sweeping horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature, extending from the left side of the signature towards the right edge of the page.

27

THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS PROGRESS
REPORT, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 1957.

1. The area around the junction of Lower Green Road and Rusthall Road has been cleared of undergrowth, willow-herb, etc. (following complaints)
2. The sycamore overhanging 37, Upper Street, was felled on 25th November, 1957 (following complaint from that address).
3. The hollow sycamore on Mount Ephraim (near top of Church Road) was felled and grubbed out. Three young sycamores have been planted on this site.
4. At the site mentioned in item 3, there are six teak seats, and a gap where a seventh seat probably stood. This missing seat is not shown on the numbered plan. A new teak seat (to similar pattern) would cost £25 approximately. Could this item be put in next year's estimates?
5. The severe gale at the end of October blew down 3 large birches and 1 oak at the rear of the Common Convenience. These have been cut up and sold by the Common Ranger.
6. The clearing of the portion of the Old Race Course from Major Yorks Road to Hungershall Park is in progress.
7. The plaque (near oak tree damaged by flying-bomb) has been cleaned and lacquered and re-erected (Minute 8 of last meeting).
8. The two sycamore trees at Queens Grove (mentioned in Minute 4 of last Committee Meeting) have been felled.
9. The horse chestnut tree at rear of Onslow House has been lopped. (Minute 5 of last meeting).
10. Happy Valley. Since the Police started giving attention to this area there have been no further cases of damage to seats. (Minute 7 of last meeting).
1. Sapling Planting. Reference Minute 2(c)(1) dated 21st May, 1957. The following saplings have been planted :-

Section 13 on plan	- 32 oaks
" 15 "	- 169 oaks
" 34 "	- 11 oaks
	- 25 elms
	- 27 ash
	- 5 beech

Total 269

=====

This work was done out of "General Maintenance" and cost approximately £50.

2. Undergrowth clearing at Happy Valley is in progress

Town Hall,
Tunbridge Wells.

20th December, 1957



ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Estimates 1958/59

	<u>Estimated</u> <u>1957/58</u>		<u>Approximate</u> <u>1957/58</u>		<u>Estimated</u> <u>1958/59</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 and Miscellaneous Charges</u>						
Printing, Stationery and Postages.	8		8		8	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	<u>2</u>	10	<u>2</u>	10	<u>2</u>	10
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	2281		2341		2377	
Repairs, Maintenance & Renewals -						
Seats	80		80		80	
Notice Boards	10		10		10	
Fences and Posts	20		20		20	
Depot and Toolshed.	10		10		10	
Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	35		25		35	
Clearing Undergrowth	<u>140</u>	2576	<u>140</u>	2626	<u>150</u>	2682
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Provision of Seat - Mount Ephraim	-		-		12	
Provision of 'No Cycling' Notices	20		3		25	
	—	20	—	3	—	25
	—		—		—	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>£2,716</u>		<u>£2,749</u>		<u>£2,827</u>	14

11th December, 1957.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

PRESENT : Mayor (Councillor E.Croucher) 1st April, 1958
(Chairman)
Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card, G.F. Morrell,
S.V. Thorpe.
Alderman H.A. Sheppard, Councillors Glanfield
and Savage.

1. MINUTES .- The minutes of the meeting held on 31st December, 1957, were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.- Accounts amounting to £702.6s.0d. were passed for payment (all as per list signed by the Chairman).
3. BRIGHTON LAKE - Arising out of paragraph 9 of the minutes of 31st December, 1957, Mr. Councillor Glanfield suggested that the gutter constructed to take surface water across the footpath adjoining the Brighton Lake was not sufficiently deep to be effective.

Resolved - That the matter be referred to the Surveyor to the Conservators to take such action as may be practicable.

4. LETTER FROM MR. BRIGHT .- The Committee considered a letter from Mr. J.M. Bright of Bracken View, Rusthall Common calling attention to the damage done to the Common through vehicles cutting across the grass from Bretland Road to the private way opposite Baxterly Flats and suggesting the erection of a line of posts parallel to Bretland Road and also a line of posts parallel to and adjoining the private way to Baxterly Flats.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to erect 4 posts parallel to Bretland Road and also 3 similar posts parallel to and adjoining the private way to Baxterly flats.

5. SURVEYORS REPORT .- The Surveyors report was received.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. M. Bright', is written over the bottom of the fifth item of the list.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS FOR
JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, 1958.

1. Three concrete posts were erected in Sunnyside Road (as a barrier) on 9th January 1958.
2. Castle Road. The point at which cars were backing and turning on the Common has been kerbed and banked up with soil. 13th January 1958.
3. Brighton Lake. A channel has been put in to take the water from the Spring across the path. (11th January 1958). The path around the lake has been re-stoned. (Minute No. 9 dated 31st December 1957).
4. Large Fir Tree, Castle Road. This tree, which was dangerous, following gale damage, was felled on 16th January, 1958.
5. On 30th January 1958, it was discovered that the 68 Saplings planted on Rusthall Common had all been pulled up and badly damaged by hooligans. The Police were informed. Replanting (fresh saplings) commenced on 31st January 1958. During the weekend of February 1/2, four more saplings were destroyed (Police informed).
6. Kerb has been placed in Lower Green Road at junction with Rusthall Road where traffic was encroaching on Common.
7. Some brambles and bracken have been cut down, on the bends in Rusthall Road to improve the line-of-sight to motorists. (February 1958).
8. During the past Winter, one of the men engaged on the Commons has killed 38 rabbits on the Commons (In his own time).
9. Gorse has been cut, below Ephraim Lodge to dislodge rabbits (February, 1958).
10. Clearing undergrowth and pruning has been completed on sections 1, 2 and 3 (Surveyor's Report on Planting and Clearing.) Minute 2 (c)(2) dated 21st May, 1957.
11. The Pine tree at junction of Bishops Down and Inner Bishops Down which was uprooted by a gale, was cut up and sold (March 1958).

Town Hall,
Tunbridge Wells.

19th March, 1958

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

1st July, 1958 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor E. Croucher, J.P.)
 (Chairman)
 Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt
 Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke and
 S.V. Thorpe
 Alderman Sheppard
 Councillor Glanfield

1. MINUTES .- The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS.- An account amounting to £572.19.0d. was passed for payment (as set out in the list signed by the Chairman).
3. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March, 1958.- The Treasurer submitted the Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1958, and reported that these Accounts had been audited.

Resolved - That the Accounts be approved.

4. MR. W. GRANT OLIVER.- The Clerk reported that Mr. W. Grant Oliver, one of the representatives of the Freehold Tenants had died recently.

Resolved - That the Conservators do place on record their sincere sympathy in the loss Mrs. Grant Oliver has sustained in the death of her husband and its appreciation of the very valuable interest taken by the late Mr. Grant Oliver in the upkeep of the Commons.

5. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS.- The Clerk reported that the Town Council had appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the annual meeting of the Council in May, 1959 :

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor E. Croucher, J.P.)
 Alderman H.A. Sheppard
 Councillors N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage

6. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE.- Resolved - That His Worship the Mayor (Councillor E. Croucher, J.P.), Councillor N.L. Glanfield, and Messrs. Berry, H.T. Clarke, R.F. Gunnis and S.V. Thorpe be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year (three to form a quorum) to report to the Conservators on such matters as may be referred to them from time to time and to deal with matters of urgency which may arise.

7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.- Resolved - That Councillor N.L. Glanfield and Mr. R.F. Gunnis be re-appointed Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.

8. BRIGHTON LAKE.- Questions relating to the weeds in the Brighton Lake were considered.

9. RUSTHALL AND HIGHER CRICKET GROUNDS.- The Committee considered questions relating to the playing of cricket by unauthorised persons on the Rusthall and Higher Cricket Grounds, and the Surveyor submitted a quotation of £6.16.0d. for the supply of two notices (one for each ground) giving extracts from the appropriate Byelaws.

Resolved.- That the Clerk be instructed to prepare a suitable notice stating in a condensed form the effect of the appropriate Byelaws and that the Surveyor be instructed to arrange for the notices to be erected.

10. POLICE SUPERVISION ON THE COMMONS.- Questions relating to Police supervision of the Commons were considered and the Clerk instructed to write to the Police Superintendent with regard thereto.

11. SURVEYOR'S REPORT .- The Surveyor's report was received.

E. Crowder

Chairman . 30th September 1958

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1958.

<u>1956/57</u> £ s d	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1957/58</u> £ s d	<u>1956/57</u> £ s d	<u>Income</u>	<u>1957/58</u> £ s d
	<u>Salaries</u>				
50. 0. 0.	Clerk	50. 0. 0.		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -	
40. 0. 0.	Surveyor	40. 0. 0.	2829.19. 6.	Contribution for Year	2652. 7. 3.
20. 0. 0.	Treasurer	20. 0. 0.			
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>				
6. 6. 0.	Printing, Stationery and Postages.	5.17. 6.			
17. 7.	Public Liability and Fire Insurance	18. 1.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>				
2108. 3. 8.	General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	2278. 6. 8.			
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -				
31.13.10.	Seats	74. 6. 7.			
15.11. 4.	Notice Boards	15.16. 4.			
- - -	Fences and Posts	10.12. 5.			
25. 7. 7.	Depot and Toolshed	1. 4. 4.			
63. 8. 5.	Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	12.11. 9.			
130. 0. 0.	Clearing Undergrowth	140. 0. 0.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>				
3.12. 0.	Provision of 'No Cycling' Notices	2.13. 7.			
325.19. 1.	Renewing Fence - Upper Cricket Ground	- - -			
9. 0. 0.	Felling Tree	- - -			
<hr/> £2,829.19. 6. <hr/>		<hr/> £2,652. 7. 3. <hr/>	<hr/> £2,829.19. 6. <hr/>		<hr/> £2,652. 7. 3. <hr/>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1958.

<u>1956/57</u> £ s d	<u>Liabilities and Surplus</u>	<u>1957/58</u> £ s d	<u>1956/57</u> £ s d	<u>Assets</u>	<u>1957/58</u> £ s d
	Sundry Creditors -			Debtor -	
1369. 5. 8.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	1220. 5. 0.		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	
55. 0. 0.	Others	55. 0. 0.	1436. 4. 8.	for balance of Contribution	1286.11.11.
	Suspense Account for Reinstatement			Postage Stamps in Hand -	
13. 5.11.	of damage	13. 5.11.	5. 6.	Clerk	1. 3. 1.
			11. 1.	Treasurer	- - -
			10. 4.	Cash in Hand	15.11.
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
£1,437.11. 7.		£1,288.10.11.	£1,437.11. 7.		£1,288.10.11.
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>

D. L. COPEMAN, F.I.M.T.A.

Treasurer

18th June, 1958.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS FOR

APRIL, MAY AND JUNE, 1958.

1. The Brighton Lake has been cleared of rubbish and weeds (April, 1958). This annual clearance appears to be gradually weakening the growth of the weeds.
2. Seven concrete posts have been erected along Bretland Road and in front of Baxterley Flats (Minute 4. meeting 1/4/58).
3. The ditches and surface water drains in the area between Lower Green Road and Rusthall High Street have been cleared to improve the drainage from neighbouring footpaths. (April/May 1958).
4. The paved channel across the footpath by the Brighton Lake has been widened and made slightly deeper. The channel cannot be made any deeper due to the shallowness of a pipe underneath. (minute 3. meeting 1/4/58).
5. Three areas on Tunbridge Wells Common have been cleared following fires in the gorse and undergrowth (April/May 1958).
6. Grass cutting by Allen scythe was started on 7th May, 1958. The following areas have been cut:- Inner Bishops Down, Mount Ephraim, the Race Course, London Road, Nevill Park and the junction of Major Yorks Road and Hungershall Park, Church Road and Castle Road and Rusthall Road and Lower Green Road.
7. The small twigs growing from the lower parts of the trunks have been trimmed from lime trees (a) near Rusthall Beacon (b) at junction of Major Yorks Road and Langton Road and (c) in Eridge Road.
8. Following complaints that unauthorised persons were with difficulty being restrained from playing cricket on the Higher and Rusthall cricket grounds a quotation has been obtained for two notices giving appropriate extracts from the Byelaws. The notices would be printed and protected by laminated perspex and if approved, it would be suggested to the respective cricket clubs that they fix the notices externally on their pavilions.

The quotation for the two notices is £6.16.0. and the byelaws to be reproduced are Nos. 21, 22, 24 and 25.

9. Attention has been drawn to "suckers" from the parent wild cherry stock growing in two of the ornamental Cherry Trees in Mount Edgumbe Road. These growths will be removed in the late Autumn.

Town Hall,
Tunbridge Wells.

June, 1958

COMMONS CONSERVATORS

30th September, 1958

At a meeting of the Commons Conservators held at the Town Hall

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor (Councillor E. Croucher)
(Chairman)

R.W. Card and Councillor D. Savage.

1. MINUTES.- The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed
2. ACCOUNTS.- Accounts amounting to £717.0s.11d. were passed for payment (as per list signed by the Chairman)
3. TREES.- The Committee considered the minutes of the Committee held on 7th September, 1958 (copy attached), in conjunction with the attached report from Mr. W. Dallimore.

The Surveyor reported that he had invited tenders for felling the oak tree: the only quotation he had received was from Mr. A. Farnes of Buxted for £20 for felling and £45 for felling and grubbing.

The Surveyor further reported that the crack in the tree had extended since the inspection carried out by the Committee and that in the prevailing high winds there was continuous movement in the crack which might result in the tree falling at any time.

The members present proceeded to inspect the tree.

It was resolved

- (1) That as a matter of urgency the Surveyor be instructed to accept the offer of Mr. A. Farnes for felling and grubbing the tree
- (2) That the question of re-planting oak trees in the vicinity be considered at the next ordinary meeting of the Conservators.

The members then proceeded to examine a very decayed oak tree on the Common opposite Tweeddale Terrace.

The Surveyor reported that in the ordinary course work within this area of the Common would fall to be dealt with in the near future and he was instructed to remove the oak tree in question.

4. RUSTHALL CRICKET CLUB.- The Committee considered the following letter from the Rusthall Cricket Club :-

RUSTHALL CRICKET CLUB

J. Whitmore,
Hon. Sec. 57 Long Meads,
Tunbridge Wells.

12th August, 1958.

Dear Sir,

My Committee would like to know if the undergrowth at the rear of our Pavilion on Rusthall Common could be cut away and also

/some..../

some of the branches of the small trees close to the building.

In recent weeks boys have been noticed climbing the trees and from there on to the roof of the Pavilion.

Yours faithfully,

Sgd. J. Whitmore.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to take such steps as are practicable to remove the cause of complaint.

5. SURVEYOR'S REPORT.- The Surveyor's report was received.

Richard Ray

Chairman

• January 6th 1959

A meeting of the Committee of the Commons Conservators was held on the Common near Rose Hill School on Monday, 7th September, 1958.

PRESENT : Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, H. Clarke, R.F. Gunnis,
S.V. Thorpe and Councillor N.L. Glanfield

The committee considered the following report from the Surveyor to the Conservators :-

Large Oak Tree between London and London Inner Roads
near Rose Hill School.

Attention having been drawn to the condition of the above tree, it was decided in the interests of public safety, that it should be roped off and warning notices erected.

A very large crack has developed in the Northern portion of the tree. It is evident that this crack has been developing for a long time but there are also signs that it has recently become worse. I consider that the tree should be regarded as immediately dangerous and after considering other methods of treatment I recommend that it should be felled.

Other possibilities would be (a) to endeavour to make it safe by strapping with metal bands and anchorages to the remaining part of the tree and (b) to lop and top the tree in order to relieve the weight on the defective portion.

In the former case I think a lot of money could be spent to no avail, as the sound part of the tree would not provide a safe anchorage for the defective part.

With regard to the second possibility I think the amount of lopping and topping required to make the tree safe would destroy its amenity value and that the amount of cutting would lead to the rapid deterioration of the tree.

In the event of a decision that the tree should be felled it might be thought desirable to plant one or more Oak trees to provide future replacements.

Sgd. H.G. Tucker.
Surveyor to the Commons Conservators

Resolved - That the Surveyor be requested to obtain the opinion of an Expert on Trees as to the steps which the Conservators ought to take with regard to the Oak Tree referred to in the Report.

Copy/

Kew Cottage,
The Ridge,
Bidborough, Kent.

10th September, 1958.

H.G. Tucker Esq.,
Surveyor to the Commons Conservators,
Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells,
Town Hall, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Dear Sir,

By arrangement with Mr. Couchman I examined, with him and Mr. Farr, on September 10th a large storm damaged Oak growing on the margin of Tunbridge Wells Common, near the London Road.

The tree is probably 200 or more years of age and it has for many years been an excellent example of the Oak as an Ornamental Tree. From a distance it might still be regarded as being in good health but close examination reveals that it is suffering severely from storm damage and is now in a very dangerous condition.

Unnoticed, deterioration of the tree must have been going on for a long time as much of the heart wood is suffering from decay, making the thin margin of living sap wood unable to support the branch system.

The rather short trunk divides into two very large and heavy branches, one of which has developed long, open cracks on two sides, perhaps from twisting wind action. However the cracks came about they make the branch very dangerous, a condition that should be given prompt attention.

Two means of dealing with the dangerous state of the tree are available. One, the removal of the greater part of the branch system, cleaning out decayed wood pockets, bracing weak places, treating exposed wood with a preservative substance, filling cavities with cement to exclude water, and any other protective work that may develop. The other method is to cut down the tree and replace it with a young one.

Repair work would be expensive and the necessary mutilation of the branch system would make the tree very ugly. The cracked branch would have to be removed to the base, and the opposite branch would have to be well shortened and all wounds properly treated. Therefore, it would be better to dispose of the tree than to save it at some expense as a badly crippled object. If repaired it should be given periodical examination.

Repair work on trees is a specialised occupation. I do not know of any reliable person in the neighbourhood who undertakes the work but a firm that advertises in professional journals is The Southern Tree Surgery Company, Byways, Woodham Lock, West Byfleet, Surrey. I have not seen any of the firm's work, but it is bound to be expensive.

Should your Conservators decide to remove the tree I advise grubbing it up by the roots rather than sawing it off just above the grass. In the position a sawn off butt would probably be a menace to mowing machines.

Sgd. W. Dallimore.

Report of Surveyor to the Commons Conservators
for September Quarter, 1958.

1. The Toad Rock. A section of the protective railing has been repaired and some of the barbed wire renewed. (Late June 1958).
2. Grass cutting has proceeded at:-
 - London Road (by G.F.O.)
 - Eridge Road.
 - Mount Edgecumbe Road.
 - Lower Cricket Ground.
 - The Racecourse (2nd cut).
 - Junction Church Road/London Road.
 - Near entrance Nevill Park (2nd cut).
 - Inner Bishops Down. "
 - Mount Ephraim. "
 - Junction Rusthall Road/Lower Green Road.
(2nd cut).
 - Edges of gravel paths on Rusthall and
Tunbridge Wells Commons.
 - London Road (2nd cut).
3. Two large branches fell from a Chestnut tree adjoining Church Road in July. The necessary action was taken to treat the scars.
4. The gale on Sunday 13th July 1958, severely damaged the large Ash tree near Romanoff Lodge, Castle Road. The damaged branches and other potentially dangerous branches were removed.
5. The two Notice Boards relating to the playing of games on The Higher and Rusthall Cricket Grounds were fixed on 13th August, 1958, as approved by the Conservators at the last meeting.
6. It is proposed to clear a further section of the old Race Track during the coming Winter, probably on the north side of Hungershall Park.

..... H.G. TUCKER.
Surveyor to Commons Conservators

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

January 5th 1959. PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor E.Croucher J.P.)
Messrs. R.S. R. Berry, R.W. Card
H.T. Clarke,
Alderman H.A. Sheppard
Councillors N.L.Glanfield & D. Savage.

Resolved that R.S.R. Berry be appointed Chairman in the absence of the Mayor.

1. MINUTES.- Resolved - That the action as recorded in the Minute Book, of the members who met on the 30th September, 1958, be confirmed and adopted.
2. ACCOUNTS.- Accounts amounting to £698.11.7 were passed for payment (all as set out in the list signed by the Chairman).
3. ESTIMATES.- Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year amounting to £2,911 were approved.

Resolved - That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year of an amount of £2,911 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

The Mayor in the Chair

4. INSURANCE TENDERS - The Treasurer submitted tenders for the Third Party and Employers liability risks of the Conservators.

Resolved - (1) That the tender of the Yorkshire Insurance Co.Ltd. amounting to 3s.10d. be accepted for Third Party Insurance, provided that the Corporation accepts the offer of that Company for the same risk or otherwise that the tender of the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Ltd. amounting to 11/- be accepted.

- (2) That the offer of the General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation Ltd. amounting to 4s.3d. be accepted for Employers' Liability, subject in both cases to the approval of the Policy by the Clerk.

5. SURVEYOR'S REPORT (1) OLD RACE TRACK - The Conservators expressed their appreciation of the manner in which the clearance of the Old Race Track had been effected.

Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to call the attention of the local Press to the possibility of having photographs of the Race Track published.

- (2) TREES - Resolved that the Surveyor be authorised to purchase from a Nursery two young beech trees and two young oak trees for replanting in the neighbourhood of the site at which the dangerous oak tree was recently felled.

- (3) LOWER CRICKET GROUND - Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised to remove any posts remaining on the edge of the Lower Cricket Ground with the exception of the posts at the junctions of Church Road and London Road

36
and Castle Road and Mount Edgcumbe Road respectively.

6. LETTER FROM MR. J. M. S. BRIGHT (1) The Conservators considered a further letter from Mr. J.M.S. Bright of 4 Rusthall Common calling attention to the fact that certain of the posts erected by the Conservators had been displaced and suggesting that steps should be taken to prevent vehicles driving between the posts.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised to increase the number of posts on the edge of Bretland Road and the private way opposite Baxterley Flats.

7. BAXTERLEY-DUSTBINS - The Conservators considered a letter from Mr. J.M.S. Bright complaining of the detriment to the amenities on the Common caused by the dustbin being placed on the Common in front of "Baxterley".

Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to request the tenants at Baxterley Flats to remove their dustbins to the rear of the premises.

8. LOWER GREEN ROAD.- The Conservators considered a letter from Mrs. L. Boote requesting the felling of a tree on the triangle between Lower Green Road and Ashley Park.

Resolved - That Mrs. Boote be informed that the Conservators regret that they are unable to accede to her request.

9. DATES AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS.- Resolved - That meetings for the ensuing 12 months be held at three o'clock at the Town Hall on

Tuesday 31st March 1959	Tuesday 6th October, 1959
" 30th June, 1959	" 5th January, 1960

10. SEAT.- The Surveyor submitted an enquiry from Mrs. Stone of "Whiteladies" Bishops Down Tunbridge Wells, as to whether the Conservators would be prepared to accept a seat for erection on the portion of the Common lying between Mount Ephraim and the Spa Hotel subject to there being no conflict with the rights granted by the Lord of the Manor to the Corporation.

Resolved - That Mrs. Stone be informed that the Conservators would be prepared to accept a donation for a seat for erection at the point mentioned.

11. MOUNT EDGCUMBE COTTAGE - Resolved - That the attention of the Watch Committee be called to the detrimental effect on the Common of cars being compelled to turn in the road opposite Mount Edgcumbe Cottage.

12. DAMAGE TO COMMON - Mr. S. V. Thorpe drew attention to the damage being done to the Common by the cutting of the corner at the junction of York Road and London Road.

Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to communicate

with the Omnibus Company asking them to warn their drivers against this practice.

3. TREES NEAR STEVENSONS GARAGE - Mr. Holland Clarke called attention to three trees on the north side of the premises of Stevensons Motors Limited and suggested that the tree nearest London Road should be grubbed.

Resolved - That the suggestion be referred to the Surveyor for report to the next meeting of the Conservators.

4. SURVEYOR TO THE CONSERVATORS - The Conservators considered the following letter from Mr. H.G. Tucker, who had been appointed Surveyor pro tem to the Conservators as from 1st April 1958. -

Borough Surveyor's Dept.
Town Hall,

22.12.58.

Dear Mr. Whitehead,

I beg to refer to my appointment as Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

You will recollect that when I accepted the appointment it was understood that I should only hold the post temporarily and that the position should be reviewed when the new Borough Surveyor had taken up his duties.

As Mr. Pickering has now been Borough Surveyor for the past nine months I shall be glad if the Conservators will now undertake that review.

I have been pleased to serve the Conservators in a temporary capacity in their work of preserving and improving the Commons.

Yours sincerely,

Signed. H.G. Tucker.

Resolved - That Mr. H.G. Tucker be appointed Surveyor to the Conservators at a salary at the rate of £40 per annum, the appointment to be terminable by six months' written notice on either side, provided the Town Council would consent to his acceptance of the appointment.



Chairman

31st March 1959.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Estimates 1959/60

	Estimated 1958/59		Approximate 1958/59		Estimated 1959/60	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<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 and Miscellaneous Charges</u>						
Printing, Stationery and Postages.	8		8		8	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	<u>2</u>	10	<u>2</u>	10	<u>2</u>	10
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation						
Works Department 	2377		2440		2476	
Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -						
Seats 	80		80		80	
Notice Boards 	10		12		10	
Fences and Posts 	20		20		20	
Depot and Toolshed 	10		10		10	
Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	35		35		35	
Clearing Undergrowth 	<u>150</u>	2682	<u>150</u>	2747	<u>160</u>	2791
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Provision of Seat - Mount Ephraim	12		12		-	
Felling dangerous tree - London Road	<u> </u>	12	<u>58</u>	70	-	
 TOTAL EXPENDITURE £	 2,814		 2,937		 2,911	

9th December, 1958.

Report of the Surveyor to the Commons Conservators
for December Quarter, 1958.

1. Old Race Track. The clearance of the old race track has now been completed. The portions recently completed are those between Hungershall Park and Major Yorks Road and Major Yorks Road to Fir Tree Road.
2. Clearance of Undergrowth. In accordance with the approved plan the clearance of undergrowth has commenced on Sections 5 and 31 and Section 4 will be dealt with should time permit.
3. Planting of Young Trees. Also in accordance with the approved scheme young oak trees have been planted in Sections 2, 3 and 31. It has been possible to salvage a number of wrought iron tree guards from well established trees on the Common and they have been used to protect the most exposed of the newly planted trees.
4. Dangerous Tree near London Road. This tree has been felled and grubbed and the surface of the Common temporarily made good. Grass seed will be sown on the bare patch in the Spring should it appear necessary.
5. Old Oak Tree opposite Tweeddale Terrace. The undergrowth around this tree has been cleared and although a surrounding railing indicates that the tree had some special significance no plaque has been found to indicate the reason why, and the date when it was planted. Although the tree is very old there is no indication that it is dangerous and it is suggested that it should be left in its present condition until such time as felling becomes imperative.
6. Rusthall Cricket Ground. In accordance with the approved request by the Rusthall Cricket Club a clearance of undergrowth has been made in the vicinity of the Pavilion.
7. Lower Green Road, Rusthall. In accordance with recent practice a strip of undergrowth has been cleared on either side of this road between Rusthall Road and Langton Road.
8. Lower Cricket Ground. It is suggested that consideration be given to the removal of the remaining posts around the Lower Cricket Ground as they no longer serve any useful purpose in the absence of railing. Many of the posts are broken and constitute some danger to the general public. An exception could be made by the retention of posts at the junction of Church Road and London Road and the junction of Castle Road and Mount Edgecumbe Road.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

1st March, 1959 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor E. Croucher J.P.) (Chairman)
Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt G.B.E., K.C.B., K.B.E.,
Mrs. G.K. Kentner, Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W.
Card, H.T. Clarke.
Councillors Glanfield and Savage.

MINUTES.- The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

ACCOUNTS.- Accounts amounting to £799.4s.1d. were passed for payment
(as per list signed by the Chairman).

MEMBERSHIP.- The Clerk reported that since the last meeting of the
Conservators, Mr. Sydney V. Thorpe, who had been a member since
December, 1917, had died.

It was resolved -

(a) That the Conservators desire to place on record their
deep sense of the loss they have suffered through the
death of Mr. S.V. Thorpe; they appreciated the thoroughness
with which for over forty years he discharged his duties
as a Conservator and will miss the benefit of his unrivalled
knowledge of the Manor of Rusthall so readily placed at their
disposal.

(b) That the Clerk be instructed to convey to Mrs. Thorpe
and her son the sincere sympathy of the Conservators in
their bereavement.

(c) The Clerk submitted a letter from Mr. Leslie J.D. Bunker,
intimating that the Lord of the Manor desired to nominate as
a fourth representative Mrs. Griselda Katharine Kentner of 1
Mallord Street, Chelsea, S.W.3.

4. BAXTERLEY DUSTBINS.- The Conservators considered a further letter from
Mr. J. M.S. Bright complaining that 4 dustbins were still
standing on the Common outside Baxterley.

The Clerk reported that he had interviewed the owner
of these flats who had in consequence of the request of the
Conservators, already instructed his Agents to deal with this
matter, but that the dustbins were still in position this
morning. The owners had promised to supply the Clerk with
the names of the individual tenants of the flats.

Resolved - That when the Clerk receives the names of the
tenants he write to them calling their attention to the
infringement of the Commons Byelaws and requesting them
to remove the bins.

5. GAMES ON THE COMMONS.- (1) The Conservators considered a letter from
Mr. A. G. Deane complaining of the playing of football on that
portion of the Common lying between Rusthall Church and
Rusthall Beacon, suggesting that such games might be
transferred to the other side of Langton Road.

Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to inform Mr. Deane
that the Conservators deprecated the use of the Cricket
Ground for the playing of football, and that no offence against
the Conservators' byelaws appears to have been committed by
the youths playing football.

(2) Mr. Berry drew attention to the fact that on Easter Monday a
coach load of people apparently from London, had spent a
considerable time playing games on the Upper Cricket Ground
being a portion of the Common set apart for cricket.

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Resolved - That should members of the Conservators notice the repetition of a similar occurrence they be requested to make a note of the name of the Coach Proprietor and notify the Clerk.

6. TREES ON THE COMMONS.- The Conservators considered a letter from J. Rawson and Sons Limited calling attention to trees in the vicinity of their garage in London Road which were detrimental to their building.

The Surveyor reported that the trees in question might in fact be a danger to the Company's buildings and were in any event unsightly.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to remove the trees in question.

7. PATHS AND SEATS ON THE COMMON.- The Conservators considered a letter from Mrs. Robinson of the Vale Royal Hotel asking the Conservators

(a) To repair the paths in the vicinity of the Lower Cricket Ground

(b) To replace the existing seat on the path from Stevensons Garage to the Vale Royal Hotel and to provide additional seats near this path opposite the Castle Hotel. She also suggested that some of the seats in Queens Grove might be transferred to more open situations.

The Surveyor reported that he had already commenced to repair the paths referred to.

Resolved - (1) That the existing seat on the path from Stevensons Garage towards the Vale Royal Hotel be moved to a point closer to the path and that an additional seat near this path be provided.

(2) That the question of reducing the number of seats in Queens Grove be considered when the question of providing seats on other parts of the Common arises.

8. CARS PARKED ON THE COMMONS - The Conservators considered a letter from Mr. E. MacDonald of 17 Apsley Street complaining of cars being parked on the Common.

Resolved - That the matter be referred to the Commons Ranger in the first instance and that it be further considered at the next meeting of the Conservators.

9. SURVEYORS REPORT (1) TREES - LONDON ROAD - Mr. Councillor Glanfield called attention to the fact that the trunks of trees felled in London Road were still lying on the Common and suggested that steps should be taken to have them removed. The Representatives of the Lord of the Manor stated that they had been unable to sell the timber but were prepared to permit the Surveyor to dispose of it to any contractor who would undertake to remove the trunks.

10. BRIGHTON LAKE.- Mr. Councillor Savage enquired whether any progress was being made with the clearing of Brighton Lake. The Surveyor reported that the condition of the lake was gradually being improved and he hoped that in the course of time the weed would be entirely cleared.

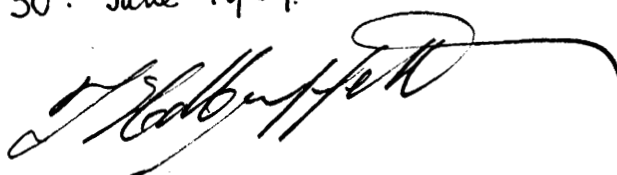
11. TIME OF MEETINGS - Resolved - That future meetings of the Conservators

be held at 2.30 p.m. and that minute 9 of January 5th 1959 be varied accordingly.

2. CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATORS.- Resolved - That the Conservators express their thanks to the Chairman for his able and courteous conduct in the Chair during the past 2 years and their regret that he will cease to be a member of the Borough Council.

Chairman.

30th June 1959.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. H. Bennett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS
FOR MARCH QUARTER 1959.

1. Clearance of Undergrowth.

The clearance of undergrowth in accordance with the approved plan has been completed on Sections 4, 5 and 31. In the main the policy has been to clear a strip of bramble and other growth along each side of the roads and main footpaths crossing these sections leaving the undergrowth beyond the strip untouched to provide cover for birds and small animal life. At the same time mishapen or damaged underwood has been cleared from the strips in order to improve the appearance of the more shapely trees and underwood.

2. Trees - London Road.

In accordance with the Conservators' instruction, 2 Oak trees and 2 Beech trees, obtained from Messrs. Arthur Charlton, have been planted on the open ground between London Road and London Inner Road on the South side of Church Road.

3. Lower Cricket Ground.

The work of removing the defective posts and reinstating the posts at the junction of Church Road and London Road and of Castle Road and Mount Edgumbe Road is in hand and will be completed by the end of the month.

4. Bretland Road - Baxterley Flats.

In accordance with the Conservators' instructions 2 additional posts have been provided in front of the Baxterley Flats. One of the original posts has been broken by a coal lorry and will be replaced at the expense of the owner of the lorry.

5. Seat near the Spa Hotel.

Mrs. Stone has confirmed her offer to pay for the provision of a seat to be erected near the 'bus stop outside the Spa Hotel. The necessary seat is on order and will be fixed in a position tentatively agreed with the late Mr. Thorpe.

6. Trees near Stevensons Garage.

In accordance with the instructions of the Conservators the above have now been inspected. There are 2 small Oak trees and 1 small clump of Sycamore growth. The Sycamore growth is nearest to London Road and in my opinion this growth and the 2 small Oak trees form a screen to the end of the garage building and it would be a loss to the amenity if any of them were removed. No complaint has been received from Messrs. Stevensons but it is conceivable that in due course, when they become larger, the 2 Oak trees will become a nuisance to the garage and the roots a potential danger to the structure.

7. Hungershall Park.

The practice of parking on the South side of Hungershall Park has developed recently and has caused damage to the Common and has been the subject of complaint by members of the public, and as an experiment small banks of soil have been formed across the 2 openings. When these have consolidated it is proposed to cover them with turf.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

14th March, 1959.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

30th June, 1959

PRESENT - Councillor S.H. Muffett
Messrs. G.R. Barr, R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card,
H.T. Clarke and A.S.T. Maddams

(In the absence of the Mayor, Councillor S.H. Muffett was elected Chairman)

1. MINUTES.- The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS.- An account amounting to £635.15.1d. was passed for payment (as set out in list signed by the Chairman).
3. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1959.- The Treasurer submitted the Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1959, and reported that these Accounts had been audited.

Resolved - That the accounts be approved.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS.- The Clerk reported (1) That the Town Council had appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the annual meeting of the Council in May, 1960:-

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor N.L. Glanfield, J.P.)
Alderman H.A. Sheppard
Councillors S.H. Muffett and D. Savage.

- (2) That the Freehold Tenants had appointed the following :
to represent them on the Commons Conservators :-

Mr. G.R. Barr
Mr. H.T. Clarke
Mr. R.F. Gunnis
Mr. A.S.T. Maddams

5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE.- Resolved - That His Worship the Mayor (Councillor N.L. Glanfield, J.P.), Councillor D. Savage, Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke and R.F. Gunnis be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year (three to form a quorum) to report to the Conservators on such matters as may be referred to them from time to time and to deal with matters of urgency which may arise.
6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.- Resolved - That Mr. R.F. Gunnis and Mr. A.S.T. Maddams be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
7. THE SURVEYORS REPORT was received.
8. PLAQUE ON THE COMMONS.- The Surveyor reported that the bronze plaque marking the point at which a flying bomb fell on the Commons had again been stolen and so far had not been recovered.
9. WEEDS ON THE COMMONS.- The Surveyor reported that there were several patches of weeds on the Commons which had persisted in spite of efforts to eradicate them

Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised, taking due precautions, to use a selective weed killer on the patches of weeds in question.

10. TREES.- Attention was called to the number of trees which had been felled on the instructions of the Conservators and ~~subsequently~~ become the property of the Lord of the Manor, who did not desire to remove them.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised to apply the amount standing to the credit of Suspense Account in the removal and disposal of the trees in question.

11. CARS PARKED ON THE COMMONS.- Further consideration was given to the letter from Mr. E. MacDonald of 17 Apsley Street, Rusthall, in which is complained of cars being parked on the Common in the vicinity of his dwelling.

Mr. Card reported that the Common Ranger had experienced difficulty in making contact with the owners of the cars.

Resolved - That consideration of this matter be deferred to enable the Representative of the Lord of the Manor to consider the position.


12. BYELAWS.- The Clerk called the attention of the Conservators to the fact that the Byelaws, which were made in 1892, had not since been revised, and in particular to Byelaw No. 23 (Prohibiting the playing of games on Sunday on those parts of the Commons set aside for games). The Committee also considered the desirability of amending or repealing Byelaws No. 26 (Drilling on the Commons) and 28, 29 & 30 (Regulating the use of animal and carriages let out for hire on the Commons).

Resolved - (1) That the Clerk be instructed to submit a draft byelaw to the Secretary of State repealing Byelaw No. 23 and that in due course he report on the cost of obtaining this amendment to the byelaws.

(2) That no action be taken with regard to the other byelaws.

13. SEAT ON THE COMMONS.- The Conservators considered a letter from Mr. A.W. Ormond, suggesting that a seat in Hungershall Park should be re-sited so as to make it more convenient for passengers waiting for a bus.

Resolved - That Mr. Ormond be informed that the Conservators regret that they are unable to accede to his request.



Chairman

6th October 1959

REPORT OF SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS
FOR JUNE, 1959

1. Lower Cricket Ground

Posts. All posts have now been removed with the exception of those at the corners by London Road/Church Road and Castle Road/Mount Edgcombe Road. At these corners defective posts have been replaced and the rails reinstated as far as possible.

Paths. The repairs to the paths in the vicinity of the Lower Cricket Ground have been completed.

2. Trees by Messrs. Rawsons Garage, London Road.

The two trees affecting the garage buildings and two other misshapen trees have been felled.

3. Brighton Lake

The annual clearance of weed has been completed, repairs to the stone walling and to the gravel paths have been carried out and additional drains laid to improve the condition of the path along the Common side of the lake.

4. Seats.

The seat by the path near Vale Royal Hotel has been re-sited.

5. Grass Cutting.

This work commenced on 11th May in Bishops Down ("South of France") and has followed the normal course along Mount Ephraim and is now proceeding in London Road and along Eridge Road. At the same time the banks at road junctions are being trimmed to improve visibility for traffic.

H.G. Tucker.
Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

June, 1959

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1959.

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Income</u>	
<u>1957/58</u>		<u>1957/58</u>	<u>1958/59</u>
£ s d		£ s d	£ s d
	<u>Salaries</u>		
50. 0. 0.	Clerk	50. 0. 0.	
40. 0. 0.	Surveyor	40. 0. 0.	
20. 0. 0.	Treasurer	20. 0. 0.	
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>		
5.17. 6.	Printing, Stationery and Postages.	6.19. 5.	
18. 1.	Public Liability and Fire Insurance	18. 1.	
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>		
2278. 6. 8.	General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	2388.15. 9.	
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -		
74. 6. 7.	Seats	75.19.10.	
15.16. 4.	Notice Boards	11.13. 3.	
10.12. 5.	Fences and Posts	19. 6. 3.	
1. 4. 4.	Depot and Toolshed	9.14. 7.	
12.11. 9.	Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	19.18. 4.	
140. 0. 0.	Clearing Undergrowth	150. 0. 0.	
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>		
2.13. 7.	Provision of 'No Cycling' Notices	- - -	
- - -	Felling Tree - London Road	57.15. 7.	
<u>£2,652. 7. 3.</u>		<u>£2,652. 7. 3.</u>	<u>£2,851. 1. 1.</u>

Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -
Contribution for Year

2851. 1. 1.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1959.

Liabilities and Surplus

Assets

<u>1957/58</u> £ s d		<u>1958/59</u> £ s d	<u>1957/58</u> £ s d		<u>1958/59</u> £ s d
	Sundry Creditors -			Debtor -	
1220. 5. 0.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	635.15. 1.		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	
55. 0. 0.	Others	- - -	1286.11.11.	for balance of Contribution	646.13. 0.
	Suspense Account for Reinstatement		1. 3. 1.	Postage Stamps in Hand	13. 8.
13. 5.11.	of damage	13. 5.11.	15.11.	Cash in Hand	1.14. 4.
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
£1,288.10.11.		£649. 1. 0.	£1,288.10.11.		£649. 1. 0.
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>

D. L. COPEMAN, F.I.M.T.A.

Treasurer

12th June, 1959.

6th October, 1959.

PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor N.L.Glanfield J.P.) (Chairman)
Mrs. G.K. Kentner
Messrs. G.R. Barr, R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card,
A.S. Maddams.
Alderman H.A. Sheppard, Councillors Muffett and Savage.

1. MINUTES. - The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £768.3.4d. were passed for payment (as per list signed by the Chairman).
3. BYELAWS. - Referring to minute 12 of the meeting of the Conservators of 30th June, the Clerk reported that the Secretary of State was prepared, subject to any objections received to confirm a Byelaw repealing Byelaw No 23 (Prohibiting the playing of games on Sunday on those parts of the Commons set aside for games) and that the cost of advertising the Byelaw would be approximately £7.

Resolved - (1) That the following Byelaw be framed by the Conservators and that three Conservators be requested to append their signatures thereto :-

BYELAW framed by the Conservators of the Tunbridge Wells Commons under the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the government, control, improvement and management of the said Commons.

BYELAW No. 23 of the Byelaws framed by the Conservators of the Tunbridge Wells Commons on the 26th day of May, 1891, and confirmed by the Secretary of State on the 23rd day of February 1892 is hereby repealed.

GIVEN under the hands of the undersigned Conservators
this 6th day of October 1959.

(Signed) A.

B.

C.

Countersigned

Clerk to the Conservators

- (2) That the Clerk be instructed to apply to the Secretary of State for confirmation of the Byelaw and to give notice of intention to apply for such confirmation.
4. CARS PARKED ON THE COMMONS. - Referring to minute 11 of the meeting of 30th June, 1959, Mr. Card reported that the Commons Ranger had investigated complaints of parking on the Commons and found that the complaint really concerned noise made by engines of cars which were frequently driven on to the Commons very late at night.
Resolved - That no further action be taken in this matter for the time being.
5. SURVEYORS REPORT . - (1) WHILIGH OAK - Resolved - That the thanks of the Conservators be conveyed to Mr. Marshall for his generous offer, but that it be not accepted.
(2) TREE NEAR LINDEN PARK CRICKET GROUND - The Surveyor reported that he had received a request from the Secretary of the Linden Park Cricket Club that an oak tree on the south side of the Crick Ground which had not been lopped at the same time as adjoining

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trees, should now be dealt with.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to lop the tree in question.

6. "THE BUMPS". - The Surveyor reported that a piece of ground known as "The Bumps" in the vicinity of Harmony Street, Rusthall, had been cleared some time ago and that in an attempt to attract footballers from the vicinity of the Happy Valley, it might be desirable to erect goal posts which could be provided from trees now growing on the Common.

The Lady of the Manor intimated that she had no objection to the Conservators felling trees for this purpose.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised to carry out the work.

7. CONDITION OF THE COMMONS - (1) The Conservators considered a letter from Mrs. Brame Hildyard calling attention to the trees overhanging the footpath running from the Langton Road: to the condition of the seat adjoining that footpath and the overgrown state of the Common in that vicinity.

The Surveyor reported that the trees referred to were growing on private property: that the seat was in fact not suitably placed, and required renewing and that the undergrowth would be dealt with in the ordinary course of the routine work on the Commons.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to erect a new seat in the vicinity, but that it be resited.

- (2) Mr. Berry then called attention to a complaint in the local Press that Rusthall Common had been neglected.

The Surveyor reported that this complaint was without foundation as the Rusthall Commons received equal treatment to the Tunbridge Wells Common.

8. NOTICES ON THE COMMONS. - Mr. Card reported that the Lord of the Manor was desirous of erecting notices on the Commons prohibiting cycling on certain footpaths. It was pointed out that such notices would be ineffective for the purpose of prosecution under Byelaw 32 of the Conservators Byelaws. Mr. Card then offered to present the notices to the Conservators, provided that their erection was authorised.

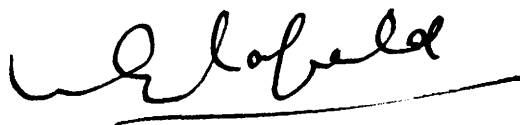
Resolved - That the Conservators authorise the erection on the Common at points near the Wellington Rocks, the Upper Cricket Ground and the Lower Cricket Ground respectively of notices prohibiting the riding of cycles on the footpaths on the Commons.

9. CAR PARKING. Mr. Card also reported that the Lord of the Manor wished to erect on the Commons notices prohibiting the parking of motor vehicles there except on payment of a fee of 1/-. The Conservators expressed concern that such notices might encourage motorists to use the Common as a parking place to the detriment of the Commons. Attention was also called to Byelaw No. 32 which prohibits the driving of vehicles on certain portions of the Commons.

Resolved - That consideration of this matter be deferred to enable the Clerk to discuss the subject with a representative of the Lord of the Manor.

10. STOPPAGE OF DRAIN LEADING TO MOUNT EPHRAIM SHADES - The Clerk submitted a letter from Messrs. Berry and Berry claiming that the stoppage of a drain leading from the Mount Ephraim Shades to the sewer in Mount Ephraim had been caused by the roots of willow trees growing on the Common.

The Clerk reported that this claim was being dealt with by the Conservators' Insurers.



Chairman

5th January 1960

1. Grass Cutting.

The normal programme of grass cutting has proceeded. The area in the vicinity of Bishops Down and Mount Ephraim having received a second cut and additional cutting having been carried out in the vicinity of Font Hill, London Road. Various areas where fires have occurred are being cleared.

2. Weed Spraying.

Some experimental work has been done on weeds near St. Helena, London Road and in other places and the effect is being watched. The spraying was done rather late in the season for best results and it may be that the rapid evaporation due to the very hot weather will have lessened its effect.

3. Removal of Trees.

In accordance with the Conservators' instructions, quotations were invited from three contractors for the removal of the trees near Rosehill School, Messrs. Rawson's garage, Montacute Gardens and Lower Green Road, Rusthall. Only one quotation, that of Mr. Theobald, was received and following consultation with the Mayor and Chairman of the previous meeting, his quotation of £18 was accepted and the trees have now been removed. This amount was approximately £5 in excess of the amount in the Suspense Account but it is anticipated that the balance can be provided out of General Maintenance.

4. Brighton Lake.

A limited area of the lake has been cleared of weed in order to compare the effect of removing the weed late in the season instead of in the Spring as has been the practice up to date. Observation will be kept to know if there is any advantage in leaving the work of clearance until the late Summer.

5. Whiligh Oak.

The small wooden palisade around this oak tree which was planted near the Spa Hotel in 1954 had become rotten and was recently removed. Subsequently a Mr. Clifford Marshall (a Member of the "Men of the Trees") offered, through Mrs. Clemetson, to pay for the provision of a new guard. Actually a wrought iron guard was salvaged from a tree on the Common not now needing protection and has been placed round the tree. Mrs. Clemetson has also handed to me a metal plaque commemorating the planting of the tree which has never been fixed in position because of the risk of damage to the plaque. It seems desirable that the plaque should be placed in position and probably the best safeguard would be to embed it in a dwarf concrete pillar, to be let into the ground near the foot of the tree. The cost of providing the salvaged tree guard and erecting the plaque would amount to about £2. The Conservators instructions are required as to whether Mr. Marshall's offer should be accepted or whether the work should be paid for out of General Maintenance.

6. Wooden Railings - Mount Ephraim.

The dwarf wooden railing, along the top of the bank near the junction of Mount Ephraim and London Road was recently damaged by a car. The driver of the car has been contacted for an assurance that she will pay for the cost of repair. Two other rails had to be removed as they had been damaged by unidentified persons and were likely to be a danger to passers-by.

7. Happy Valley.

During the Autumn it is proposed to carry out repairs to the steps leading down the Valley.

8. Clearance of Undergrowth, etc.

During the coming Winter it is suggested that the programme for clearing undergrowth should include a strip along the South Western side of Major Yorks Road as recently complaints were received that damage was being caused to double-decker 'buses by overhanging branches. The clearance of a strip along this road would eliminate the risk of damage and it is felt would improve the appearance of the Common along the road frontage.

H.G. TUCKER

September, 1959.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

COPY/

BERRY & BERRY

Solicitors.

11 Church Road,
Tunbridge Wells.

21st September, 1959.

PW.

Dear Sir,

Royal Mount Ephraim Hotel.

We act for Mr. J.C. Daeppen, the owner of the above property, who informs us that about a week or a little more ago it was discovered that there was a stoppage in the drain leading from the building known as "The Shades".

This drain has now been examined and excavation made up to the point where it joints the main sewer. It has been found that the blockage has been caused by tree roots, believed to be elm, which have grown into the sewer and have completely stopped up the branch leading to the Mount Ephraim Shades. The roots have been sent for analysis to confirm that they are in fact elm. According to our instructions, the only elms in the immediate vicinity are those on the opposite side of the road growing on the common and it is thought that the roots of one of these have penetrated the sewer and caused the trouble that has arisen. The drain is now open and can be examined if desired and will remain open for another few days before the repairs can be completed.

Should the roots prove to be of elm origin, we anticipate that Mr. Daeppen will give us instructions to make a claim against the Conservators for trespass in allowing the roots to spread unchecked. So far as we can see, this is solely a matter for the Conservators and not a concern of the Lord of the Manor because by the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act 1890 management of the commons, and in particular the trees, was taken away from the Lord of the Manor and vested in the Commons Conservators.

Our object in writing to you at this stage is to afford you the opportunity of instructing a Surveyor to inspect the pipe so that he is able to see the circumstances from which the conclusions are drawn. You may, however, think it unnecessary to arrange for such an inspection because the drain and the cause of blockage have, we understand, already been examined by a member of the Borough Surveyor's department. Further, we believe that there is a third party indemnity policy affecting the commons and the liability of the Commons Conservators and it may be you would think fit to communicate the possible claim to the insurers.

Yours faithfully,

Signed. Berry & Berry.

J. Whitehead Esq.,
Clerk to the Commons Conservators,
Town Hall,
Tunbridge Wells.

5th January, 1960

PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor N. L. Glanfield J.P.) Chairman
Mrs. G. K. Kentner
Messrs. G.R. Barr, R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card,
A.S. Maddams, C. Wood.
Councillor Savage.

1. **MINUTES.** - The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. **ACCOUNTS.** - Accounts amounting to £731.14.2d. were passed for payment (as per list signed by the Chairman).
3. **MEMBERSHIP.** - The Clerk reported that since the last meeting of the Conservators, Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, C.B.E., K.C.B., K.B.E., had died leaving a vacancy on the Conservators for a representative of the Lord of the Manor.

It was resolved - That the Conservators place on record the sense of their loss through the death of Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt and their sympathy with the Ladies of the Manor.

The Clerk reported that the Ladies of the Manor had appointed Mr. Cyril Wood of 7 London Road, Tunbridge Wells to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Sir Cecil Harcourt.

4. **REPRINTING OF BYELAWS.** - The Clerk reported that the supply of copies of extracts from the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and the Conservators' Byelaws was nearly exhausted and that it would cost approximately £36 to reprint 100 copies or approximately £12 for the same number of copies to be reproduced by the Multilith process.

Resolved - That 150 copies of the Extracts from the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and the Byelaws be printed and the sum of £45 be added to the estimates for this purpose.

5. **ESTIMATES.** - Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year amounting to £3,002 were approved.

Resolved - That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year of an amount of £3,002 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

6. **BRIGHTON LAKE.** - Mr. Councillor Savage called attention to the desirability of providing thick woollen stockings for the men wearing waders when cleaning out Brighton Lake.

The Surveyor reported that this provision would be made in the future.

7. BYELAWS - OBJECTIONS.- The Clerk reported that the proposal to repeal Byelaw No. 23 had been duly advertised and that a number of objections had been received all on the grounds that "the legalisation of Sunday Games would detract from the value of Sunday as a day of rest and worship and would open the way for further and more extensive activities." The Clerk reported that the Home Office had invited the observations of the Conservators on the objections and was instructed as to the reply.

8. CONDITION OF THE COMMONS (1) The Conservators considered a further letter from Mrs. Brame-Hillyard concerning the removal of a tree adjacent to a footpath running from Langton Road.

The Surveyor reported that one branch of the tree might cause an obstruction.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to remove the branch in question.

(2) Mr. Higgs, the owner of Romanoff Lodge, had asked for the removal, at his expense, of certain thorn trees close to his house.

The Surveyor reported that there was no objection to Mr. Higgs' proposal which would, in fact, improve the prospect.

Resolved - That the tree in question be removed at the expense of Mr. Higgs.

(3) Mr. Whitmore, the Hon. Secretary of Rusthall Cricket Club had requested the clearance of undergrowth near the Club's pavilion because of the risk of fire.

The Surveyor reported that the undergrowth in question had been removed and that the clearance of the undergrowth would in future be dealt with in the routine maintenance of the Commons.

9. 22 RUSTHALL ROAD.- The Surveyor reported that he understood permission had been granted by the Lord of the Manor to the owner or occupier of 22 Rusthall Road to make a vehicular access across the Common from Rusthall Road to those premises; that the road had not been paved and had become foundrous and that drivers of vehicles were deviating on to adjoining portions of the Common.

The Agents to the Lord of the Manor reported that in fact no licence had actually been granted to make this vehicular access, but that negotiations had taken place.

Resolved - That the matter be referred to the Agent to the Ladies of the Manor.

10. CAR PARKING ON THE COMMONS.- The Clerk reported that he had discussed with Mr. Card the question of erecting notices on the Common prohibiting the parking of motor vehicles except on payment of a fee of 1/-; that under the Byelaws

made in 1863, the standing of vehicles on any part of the Commons had been authorised but that in his view the Byelaws had since been overridden. Having regard to the saving clause in the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act of 1890, it was open to the Lord of the Manor to authorise the standing of vehicles on the Commons to the extent that he and the Freehold Tenants had enjoyed this right prior to the passing of the 1890 Act, and that so far as the Conservators were concerned, they could take no action to prohibit this practice. Mr. Card explained that the object of the Ladies of the Manor was to authorise the Commons Ranger to exercise discretion with regard to the parking of vehicles, and to give him authority to prohibit such parking, if thought desirable, and that in the first instance they had contemplated erecting notices on the strip of common land in Eridge Road regularly used for parking during the Agricultural Show, and also near the Fairground.

The Conservators agreed to keep the matter under observation.

11. ROAD LEADING TO RUSTHALL CHURCH. - The Conservators gave consideration to the condition of this road.

The Surveyor reported that the paths on either side of the road were maintained by the Corporation, but that for thirty years no expenditure had been incurred on the road, either by the Corporation or the Conservators but that such repairs as had been executed had been done by the Verger of St. Pauls Church. Mr. Berry stated that the Church Authorities were desirous of repairing the road and of improving the turning point at the end adjoining the Church.

Resolved - That no action be taken in this matter.

12. SURVEYOR'S REPORT .-

(1) "The Bumps", Rusthall Common. - The Surveyor reported that two seats were available and suggested that they might be placed in the vicinity of "The Bumps".

Resolved - That the Surveyor's suggestion be accepted.

(2) London Road - Oak Tree - The Surveyor reported that one of the oak trees planted last year between London Road and London Inner Road had died and suggested that the small oak tree growing within 6 ft. of London Road should be transplanted. His Worship the Mayor offered to present to the Conservators a new oak tree to avoid transplanting the existing tree.

Resolved - That the Mayor's offer be accepted with thanks.

13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS. - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held at 2.30 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:-

April 5th
July 26th

4th October
3rd January, 1961.

W. J. J. J. J.

Mayor
5th April 1960

Report of the Surveyor
to the Commons Conservators for December Quarter 1959.

1. Whiligh Oak.

The plaque concerning this tree has now been bedded in a dwarf granite pillar which has been placed in the ground at the foot of the tree.

2. "The Bumps", Rusthall Common.

This area has now been cleared and four posts have been erected to serve as goal posts.

3. Footpath - Nevill Park to Rusthall Church.

The old defective seat has now been replaced in a slightly different position by a new seat.

4. Happy Valley Steps.

The steps leading down the Valley have now been repaired using old stone kerb and the undergrowth at each side of the steps has been cleared.

5. Footpath - Rusthall Elms to Rusthall Road.

The existing path has been restored to it's original width and has been extensively repaired with old road stone.

6. Storm Damage.

Following recent storm damage it was necessary to take down one middle-sized oak tree that was extensively damaged and to lop the branches of another oak tree. Both these trees were on Tunbridge Wells Common just south of the Higher Cricket Ground.

7. London Road - Oak Tree.

One of the oak trees planted last year on the Common between London Road and London Inner Road has died, probably due to the very dry summer. There is a small oak tree growing within about six feet of the London Road on the same portion of the Common which will shortly have to be trimmed because of it's proximity to the main road. It is suggested that this tree should be removed and re-planted in place of the dead tree.

8. Major York's Road.

The clearance of the undergrowth on the south western side is now well in hand and on completion it is suggested that a small strip should be cleared along the north eastern side.

9. Rusthall Road.

It is suggested that some clearance of undergrowth and scrub should be undertaken along the north eastern side between Langton Road and Bretland Road. This would achieve two purposes.

- (a) It would improve the very fine view from this road in the direction of Culverden and Southborough, and
- (b) It would remove some trees and bushes damaged during a recent fire.

H. G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

December 1959.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Estimates 1960/61

	Estimated 1959/60		Approximate 1959/60		Estimated 1960/61	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<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 and Miscellaneous Charges</u>						
Printing, Stationery, Postages and Advertising.	8		16		<u>8</u>	53
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	<u>2</u>	10	<u>1</u>	17	<u>1</u>	9
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	2476		2499		2523	
Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -						
Seats	80		80		80	
Notice Boards	10		10		20	
Fences and Posts	20		20		10	
Depot and Toolshed	10		10		10	
Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	35		35		35	
Clearing Undergrowth	<u>160</u>	2791	<u>160</u>	2814	<u>160</u>	2838
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Clearing Trees	-		* 13		-	
 TOTAL EXPENDITURE	 £	 2,911	 £2,954		 <u>2,957</u>	

30 0 2

* £13 being met from Suspense Account balance.

at December, 1959.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

5th April, 1960 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor N.L. Glanfield J.P.) (Chairman)
 Mrs. G. K. Kentner
 Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card, A.S. Maddams.
 Alderman H.A. Sheppard
 Councillor S.H. Muffett.

1. MINUTES. - The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £800 7.0d. were passed for payment (as per list signed by the Chairman)
3. BYELAWS. - The Clerk reported that the Home Secretary had informed him of objections lodged against the proposed new Byelaw and that he had replied to these objections. The Byelaw had now been confirmed by the Secretary of State and came into operation on the 1st April 1960.
4. REPRINTING OF BYELAWS. - The Clerk reported that in accordance with the instructions of the Conservators he had ordered 150 copies of extracts from the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act 1890, and the Byelaws as revised to be printed at an estimated cost of £36 and had also taken the opportunity of ordering 20 posters at an estimated cost of £5.10s.

Resolved. - That the action of the Clerk be confirmed.

3. BELLEVIEW - THE COMMON. - The Surveyor submitted a letter from Mr. B.H. Fountain with regard to a sycamore tree in the vicinity of his house and suggested that the tree should be removed and replaced.

Resolved. - That the sycamore tree be removed and that it be left to the Surveyor to approve a suitable tree after consultation with Mr. Fountain.

4. PARKING ON THE COMMONS. - The Conservators considered the following letters with regard to parking on the Common :-

- (1) From Mr. Glyn Morgan complaining of litter on the Common and vehicles traversing that portion of the Common in Upper Street dividing the unmade section of Upper Street from the path to Rusthall Road.

The Surveyor reported on the position from which it appeared that the extension of Upper Street beyond the adopted portion may at one time have been a recognised vehicular track and that in such a case it would not be practicable to adopt Mr. Morgan's suggestion of erecting stanchions at the end of the adopted section.

Resolved - That consideration of this question be deferred to enable the legal position to be investigated.

- (2) Mrs. E.A. McDonald complaining of the regular parking of a vehicle on the Common near her house in Aspley Street.

Resolved - That the Clerk enquire from Mrs. Macdonald whether she would be prepared to give evidence in the event of a prosecution being initiated.

- (3) From Mr. A. King enclosing a letter addressed to the Kent and Sussex Courier complaining of the parking of vehicles on the Common.

Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to discuss with the Police the whole problem of the parking of cars on the Commons.

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5. HAPPY VALLEY- STEPS. - The Surveyor reported that some concrete steps leading to Happy Valley had been removed and thrown to the bottom of the slope.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to replace these steps with disused granite kerbings.

6. VALE ROAD SLIP ROAD - Mr. Card called attention to the fact that the slip road leading from the Vale Road to London Road was gradually being widened by the encroachment of vehicles on Common.

Resolved. - That the Surveyor be instructed to report on the cost of erecting post and chain fencing to restrict the encroachment.

W. B. Beasly

Chairman

26 July 1960

Report of the Surveyor to The Commons Conservators
for March Quarter 1960

SEATS

In accordance with previous instructions new seats have now been placed as follows -

- a) By the footpath from Stevensons garage towards Vale Royal Hotel near Highbury, and
- b) On Rusthall Common in the area known as the 'Bumps' (2 seats).

GRAVEL PATH

The existing path from the end of York Road crossing the Common to Church Road near the Lower Cricket Ground has been reshaped and re-gravelled.

LONDON ROAD - OAK TREE

The oak tree provided by the Mayor as a replacement for the oak tree near Rose Hill School has now been planted.

MAJOR YORK'S ROAD.

The clearance of the undergrowth on the south-western side has now been completed and a number of small seedling Birch, beech, oak and holly trees have been planted in the open spaces.

LANGTON ROAD - RUSTHALL COMMON

The undergrowth has now been cleared from the area on the south side of Langton Road from the entrance to Rusthall Place to the road leading to Rusthall Church and the planting of a few seedling trees is in hand.

In accordance with the instructions of the Conservators the branch of the yew tree which overhung the footpath has been removed.

RUSTHALL ROAD

The clearance of the burnt undergrowth and bushes on the north-eastern side of the road near its junction with Harmony Street is well in hand.

HIGHER CRICKET GROUND - OAK TREE

The overhanging branches of the oak tree on the southern side of the ground have now been lopped.

STORM DAMAGE

A willow tree near Common View, Rusthall, which was blown down has been cut up and removed and a birch tree near the Brighton Lake will receive attention very shortly.

ROMANOFF LODGE - THORN TREES

The removal of the thorn trees as agreed by the Conservators is in hand and the owner will be charged in due course.

NOTICE BOARDS - RUSTHALL COMMON

Various notice boards have been temporarily removed for repair and re-painting.

H..G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators

March 1960.

26th July, 1960

26th July, 1960 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor M.W. Beastall J.P.)
(Chairman)

Mrs. G. K. Kentner

Messrs. Barr, Card, Clarke, Maddams, Wood.

Councillors N.L. Glanfield, J.P. S.H. Muffett
and D. Savage.

1. MINUTES. - The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £643.6.9d. were passed for payment (as set out in list signed by the Chairman).

3. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1960. The Treasurer submitted the accounts for the year ended 31st March 1960, and reported that these Accounts had been audited.

Resolved - That the accounts be approved.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS. - The Clerk reported that the Town Council had appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the annual meeting of the Council in May, 1961:-

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor M.W. Beastall J.P.)

Councillors N.L. Glanfield J.P., S.H. Muffett and D. Savage.

5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE. - Resolved - That Councillors N.L. Glanfield, J.P., D. Savage, Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke and R.F. Gunnis be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year (three to form a quorum) to report to the Conservators on such matters as may be referred to them from time to time and to deal with matters of urgency which may arise.

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS. - Resolved - That Mr. R.F. Gunnis and Mr. A.S.T. Maddams be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.

7. PARKING ON THE COMMONS. - (1) The Clerk reported that as instructed by the Conservators he had discussed with Supt. Sly the problem of the unauthorised parking of vehicles on the Common and in particular on that part of the Common near Toad Rock. He had also called attention to overnight parking on the strip of land opposite Rose Hill School. He had informed Supt. Sly that the Lord of the Manor was authorising parking on certain sections of the Common but that in every such case an official receipt was issued and that in no circumstances was overnight parking being authorised. Attention had been called to the byelaws which made it an offence to drive any vehicles over the Common.

Supt. Sly had said that he would make a note of the points the Clerk had raised and would take such steps as he reasonably could to deal with offenders.

(2) The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Glyn Morgan reiterating his plea for the prevention of the use by vehicles of the unmade portion of Upper Street. He also read a letter from six other persons who

had resided in Upper St. for a great many years deprecating any interference with the access to the unmade portion of that street.

Resolved (1) That the Clerk be instructed to write to the correspondents and to inform them that the Conservators had given careful consideration to the arguments adduced by each side but are satisfied that the balance of convenience lies in favour of permitting the use of the unmade portion of Upper Street by vehicles legitimately required to approach the houses abutting onto that portion of the street.

(2) That the Clerk be instructed to ask the Police to prevent the parking of vehicles on the small triangular piece of grass contiguous to the unmade portion of the street.

(3) The Clerk submitted a further letter from Mrs. MacDonald complaining of the parking of a vehicle opposite her house in Apsley Street and giving information as to ownership and the Clerk was instructed to communicate with the owner of the car in question requiring the discontinuance of the practice of parking on the Common.

8. TREES ON THE COMMON - The Clerk submitted a letter from Mr. A.D. Bush calling attention to trees adjacent to Mount Ephraim Hotel. The Surveyor reported that two of the trees in question were within the curtilage of the hotel and that until the foliage was off the trees he was unable to give an opinion as to whether the other trees were dangerous.

Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to inform Mr. Bush that the Conservators have no responsibility with regard to the trees growing within the curtilage of his premises and that they will give attention to the other two trees which he mentions so soon as a thorough inspection can be made.

9. RUSTHALL ELMS - The Surveyor reported the receipt of a request from Miss M.A. Johnson of Rusthall Elms that overhanging growth on either side of the road leading from Langton Road to Rusthall Elms should be cut back and that in his opinion the request was reasonable.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to cut back the overhanging growth

10. PATH LEADING TO RUSTHALL CHURCH - The Clerk submitted a letter from Mrs. Brame Hillyard thanking the Conservators for cutting back branches overhanging the path to Rusthall Church and suggesting that the grass adjoining the path should be cut down.

The Surveyor reported that the responsibility for the maintenance of the path in question rested upon the Tunbridge Wells Corporation and that the grass had already been cut.

11. STOPPAGE OF DRAIN LEADING TO MOUNT EPHRAIM SHADES - The Clerk reported that this matter had now been settled by the Conservators' Insurers.

12. SURVEYORS REPORT - Whiligh Oak - Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to keep this matter under observation.

Vale Road - Posts and Chains - The Surveyor further reported that the Borough Surveyor had prepared a report on traffic within the Borough and if that report were implemented it might affect the road above referred to.

Resolved - That no further action be taken in the matter.

cl. and sent 4th October 1960

Report of The Surveyor to the Commons Conservators

June Quarter 1960

GRASS CUTTING

The normal programme of grass cutting has been in progress and up to date the following areas have been cut -

South of France, Mount Ephraim, London Road, Eridge Road, and work is now in progress at Lower Green, Rusthall.

NOTICE BOARDS - RUSTHALL COMMON

Various boards have now been replaced following repainting, or have been entirely renewed.

HAPPY VALLEY STEPS

The damaged steps have now been replaced by second-hand granite kerbing.

BELLEVILLE, LONDON ROAD

The Sycamore tree has now been removed and in due course will be replaced by a flowering thorn in agreement with and at the expense of Mr. B.H. Fountain.

WHILIGH OAK

The young tree planted by the Men of Trees has been extensively damaged by hooligans to the extent that all shoots and the head were completely broken. The young tree has been pruned and further shoots have grown and it is hoped that with further care and attention it will recover and eventually grow into a satisfactory tree.

RABBITS

Following a report that rabbits had been seen in the neighbourhood of Mount Edgcumbe the Rodent Operator was called in and although only one warren was discovered this was treated with poison. It could be possible that the rabbits are lying in the undergrowth and if so it is difficult to deal with them. However no further complaints have been received since the above action was taken.

VALE ROAD - POSTS AND CHAINS

In accordance with the instructions of the Conservators, enquiries have been made concerning the provision of post and chain fencing on either side of the slip road between Vale Road and London Road. The estimated cost of providing 5" x 5" precast concrete posts at 6' centres with 3" x 1/4" spiked chain is £64. 0. 0. of which £49. 0. 0. represents the cost of materials.

H. G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators

July 1960

Wm Beestall

Chairman

4th October 1960

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1960.

Expenditure

Income

<u>1958/59</u>		<u>1959/60</u>	<u>1958/59</u>	<u>1959/60</u>
£ s d		£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
	<u>Salaries</u>			
50. 0. 0.	Clerk	50. 0. 0.	- - -	Transfer from Suspense Account
40. 0. 0.	Surveyor	40. 0. 0.		
20. 0. 0.	Treasurer	20. 0. 0.		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -
			2851. 1. 1.	Contribution for Year
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>			
6.19. 5.	Printing, Stationery, Postages and			
	Advertising.	16. 8.11.		
18. 1.	Public Liability and Fire Insurance	1. 1.10.		
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>			
2388.15. 9.	General Maintenance by Corporation			
	Works Department	2478. 2. 0.		
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -			
75.19.10.	Seats	58. 2. 5.		
11.13. 3.	Notice Boards	21. 6. 1.		
19. 6. 3.	Fences and Posts	1.12.10.		
9.14. 7.	Depot and Toolshed	10. 0. 0.		
19.18. 4.	Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	33.12. 8.		
150. 0. 0.	Clearing Undergrowth	160. 0. 0.		
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>			
57.15. 7.	Felling Tree - London Road.	- - -		
- - -	Clearing Trees	13. 5.11.		
<u>£2,851. 1. 1.</u>		<u>£2,903.12. 8.</u>	<u>£2,851. 1. 1.</u>	<u>£2,903.12. 8.</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1960.

Liabilities and Surplus

1958/59
£ s d

Sundry Creditors -

635.15. 1.
- - -

Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation
Others

13. 5.11.

Suspense Account for Reinstatement
of damage

£649. 1. 0.

1959/60
£ s d

1347. 3. 9.
55. 0. 0.

- - -

£1,402. 3. 9.

Assets

1958/59
£ s d

Debtor -

646.13. 0.
Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation
for balance of Contribution

13. 8.

Postage Stamps in Hand

1.14. 4.

Cash in Hand

£649. 1. 0.

1959/60
£ s d

1401.19. 9.

2. 3.

1. 9.

£1,402. 3. 9.

Audited and found correct.

D. L. COPEMAN, F.I.M.T.A.

R. F. GUNNIS
A. S. T. MADDAMS

Treasurer

Auditors

12th July, 1960.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

4th October, 1960

PRESENT:- The Mayor (Councillor M.W. Beastall J.P.) (Chairman)
 Mrs. G. K. Kentner
 Messrs. Barr, Berry, Card, Wood.
 Councillors Glanfield, Muffett, and Savage.

1. MINUTES.- The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

2. ACCOUNTS.- Accounts amounting to £786.13.7d were passed for payment (as set out in list signed by the Chairman).

3. THE COMMONS.- The Conservators considered further letters from Mr. Glyn Morgan suggesting that in order to protect a small triangular piece of grass contiguous to the unmade portion of Upper Street, suitable posts should be erected on its boundary. The Surveyor reported on the proposal and pointed out that the area in question was an appreciable slope and showed no signs of being damaged by encroachment.

3. Resolved - That no further action be taken.

4. TREES ON THE COMMONS. (1) The Conservators considered a letter from Mr. E.R. Perkins of the Rusthall Beacon Hotel suggesting that two large lime trees outside his hotel should be lopped in order to avoid the disadvantages which their proximity created. The Surveyor reported that he had discussed this matter with Mr. Perkins who had also suggested that a large ash tree adjoining the hotel should be felled.

Resolved - That permission be given to Mr. Perkins to cut off two branches from the lime trees in question and to fell the ash tree, such work to be carried out to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

(2) The Clerk submitted a letter from Mr. R.A. Brunt of South Lodge, Hungershall Park, calling attention to the disadvantages to his premises caused by the proximity of two trees growing at the junction of Hungershall Park and High Rocks Lane; the Surveyor called attention to the fact that these trees were not growing on any part of the Common.

Resolved - That Mr. Brunt be so informed.

5. CLERK TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.- (1) The Conservators considered a letter from the Clerk tendering his resignation and suggesting that it should take effect on 30th November.

Resolved - That Mr. Whitehead's resignation be accepted to take effect on 30th November next, and that the Conservators place on record their appreciation of the services which he has rendered to them since his appointment.

(2) Resolved - That subject to the approval of the Town Council, Mr. M.J.H. Girling be appointed Clerk to the Conservators on and from the 1st December next at a salary of £50 per annum.

6. SEATS. - Mr. Councillor Muffett called attention to the deplorable condition of some of the seats on the Commons and suggested that a sum of £200 be included in the estimates for next year towards the cost of their replacement. The Surveyor reported that the Conservators had approximately 300 seats on the Commons.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be requested to report to the next meeting of the Conservators on the condition of the seats on the Commons; the cost of replacing the damaged ones, and the type of seat which might be suitable for the purpose and that in the light of this report suitable provision be made in the estimates for next year.

7. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's report was received.

8. DEATH OF MRS. HOLLAND T. CLARKE. - Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to convey to Mr. Holland T. Clarke the sincere sympathy of the Conservators with him in his recent bereavement.

Mr Beasall

Chairman. 3/1/1961

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

September Quarter 1960

GRASS CUTTING

All the areas usually cut annually have been dealt with and areas in Bishops Down Road, Mount Ephraim and London Road have been cut a second time.

BRIGHTON LAKE

The weed has been cleared from the perimeter of the lake, but owing to the pressure of work on grass cutting the centre has not yet been tackled.

WOODEN RAILINGS, MOUNT EPHRAIM

A short section near St. Helena has been repaired following damage from an unknown cause.

SEATS

The repair of decayed and damaged seats is in hand. Seats in various places have been uprooted and following complaints of annoyance to the occupier of Bulls Hollow by persons using a seat near that dwelling the seat has been moved to a site near the Toad Rock.

NOTICES

The reprinted Byelaws have been placed in the five display cases on the Commons after repairing and repainting the cases and posts.

CLEARANCE OF UNDERGROWTH

During the coming Winter it is suggested that the clearing along the north eastern sides of Major York's Road and of Rusthall Road should be completed.

In addition, if time allows, it is suggested that similar clearance should be undertaken along Hungershall Park, Fir Tree Road and Tea Garden Lane.

H.G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators

September 1960

Chairman. 3/1/1961.

3rd January, 1961

PRESENT : His Worship the Mayor (Councillor M.W. Beastall J.P.)
(Chairman).
Mrs. G.K. Kentner
Messrs. G.R. Barr, R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke, A.S. Maddams
and C. Wood.
Councillors Glanfield, Muffett and Savage.

1. MINUTES.- The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS.- Accounts amounting to £750.1s.0d. were passed for payment (as set out in list signed by the Chairman).
3. CLERK TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.- Mr. M.J.H. Girling, the new Clerk was welcomed by the Chairman.
4. ESTIMATES.- Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year were amended and finally approved in the sum of £3,425.

Resolved - That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year of an amount of £3,425 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and in addition to provide an extra £98 for the current year to cover the excess over the original estimate.

5. OFFICERS.- The Conservators reviewed the salaries payable to their officers and

Resolved - That with effect from 1st April 1961 the salaries payable to the Officers be as under and that in addition each Officer be paid an allowance of £15 for travelling and other expenses :-

Clerk	£85 per annum
Surveyor	£65 per annum
Treasurer	£45 per annum

6. BRIGHTON LAKE - (1) Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to investigate the possibility of keeping two Swans on the Lake to help to keep down the weeds.

- (2) The Surveyor reported that he had received an offer from the Parks Superintendent of the Town Council of two willow trees to be planted on the island at the Lake.

Resolved - That the offer be accepted with thanks.

7. SEATS ON THE COMMONS.- The Surveyor submitted a report and survey of seats on the Commons together with designs for oak seats with concrete ends, with and without backs.

The Conservators expressed appreciation of the time and trouble

65.
taken to present such a detailed report and

Resolved - That (a) the Surveyor's suggestions be adopted and that as a matter of policy the oak seats without backs be used for renewals and replacements where appropriate.

(b) provision of £100 be made in the financial estimates for each of the next three years to cover the costs involved.

8. TREE ON THE COMMON.- The Conservators considered a postcard from Mr. J. W. Burke asking that a young oak tree opposite No. 8 Bishops Down Road should be trimmed and shaped.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to have this oak tree trimmed to a height of 10 - 12 ft.

9. RUSTHALL CRICKET CLUB.- The Conservators considered a request from Rusthall Cricket Club that undergrowth on the north side of the Cricket Ground be cut.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to have the brambles and bracken cut back and the thorn trees trimmed.

10. SURVEYOR'S REPORT.- Arising out of the Surveyor's report it was

Resolved (1) That two diseased Lime Trees standing on the Common at Mount Edgcumbe be cut down and replaced by two other Lime Trees in positions to be approved by Mr. R. S. Berry

(2) That authority be given to the Surveyor to the Conservators to have a hornbeam tree (growing on the triangle of grass at junction of Major York's Road and Nevill Park) grubbed and burnt immediately if after an inspection by a Ministry of Agriculture representative in the Spring, it is found to be suffering from fire blight.

II. VEHICLES DRIVING ON TO THE COMMONS (1) The Surveyor reported that vehicles were being driven on to the Commons at the Old Coach Road, Rusthall, and at Hungershall Park.

The representatives of the Lady of the Manor said they were aware of the position and that no action was necessary.

(2) The Surveyor reported that vehicles turning in to Lime Hill Road from London Road were having to drive on to the Common in order to negotiate the corner.

Resolved - That the Town Council be asked to consider the possibility of a road improvement being carried out at this corner so that vehicles would not have to be driven on to the Common

12. PATHS ON THE COMMONS.- Attention was drawn to the condition of the gravel paths leading from Stevensons and Rawsons garages towards Castle Road.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to look into this matter.

13. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.- Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held at 3 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:-

April 4th, 1961.
June 27th, 1961.

3rd October 1961
2nd January 1962.

Mr Beestall.

Chairman

4th April 1961

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

P1/4a
HGT/SJS

DECEMBER QUARTER - 1960

ance of Undergrowth

Clearance of undergrowth and deformed underwood has commenced in Hungershall Park in accordance with the improved programme.

l Paths

A number of gravel paths have been 'edged and regraded' with a view to minor repairs with gravel and old stone when labour is available.

at Mount Edgcumbe

In accordance with Minute 8 of the Commons Conservators meeting 26 July 1960, the two Lime Trees standing on the Common have now been inspected. These trees are approximately 50-60 feet high and have been previously lopped and topped. In both instances there is clear evidence of considerable decay at the base of the trees and I think they should be regarded as potentially dangerous. Inspection was made from the ground, but it is apparent that decay has set in in the trees where large branches have been severed. Because of the lopping and topping, a very bushy growth has developed at the top of the trees which must provide considerable leverage during times of storm when the trees are in full leaf. On these grounds I recommend that these two trees should be felled.

n Trees

Following a report in the Kent & Sussex Courier that Fire Blight had been reported by a Ministry of Agriculture Inspector in Thorn Trees on Rusthall Common, enquiries were made from the Ministry of Agriculture. In their reply they stated that an inspection had taken place but no evidence of infection had been found and that they were proposing to carry out further inspection next Spring.

beam Tree

I have been concerned for sometime with the condition of the Hornbeam Tree on the triangle of grass at the junction of Major York's Road and Nevill Park, and asked the Ministry of Agriculture's Inspector to examine it. He reports that some dying back of the branches is taking place but cannot at present diagnose the cause and again proposes to examine the tree in the Spring.

Various seats have been repaired or replaced and a report on all the seats on the Common has been prepared and a schedule of the seats is attached to this Report.

ss Cutting

This was continued longer than usual due to loss of time through bad weather and to the late growth of grass in a mild Autumn.

ter and Tool Hut

Attempts are being made to waterproof the men's shelter and tool hut under the bank near the Higher Cricket Ground.

ches

During the exceptional rainfall particular attention was paid to clearing ditches alongside footpaths and drives.

H. G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Condition</u>			<u>G. F. P. B.</u>				<u>G. F. P. B.</u>				<u>G. F. P. B. M.</u>					
			<u>G.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>G.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>B.</u>	<u>G.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>B.</u>	<u>G.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>B.</u>	<u>M.</u>	
1.	Concrete ends with oak seats and backs	- 95	95	-	-	94	1	-	-	95	-	-	-	94	-	-	1	-	
2.	Concrete ends with oak seats only	- 3	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	
3.	Oak ends with oak seats and backs	- 86	-	72	14	2	71	11	2	1	71	12	2	2	53	5	3	23	
4.	Oak ends with oak seats only	- 33	-	22	11	-	28	5	-	-	22	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	
5.	Iron ends with oak seats and backs	- 36	2	18	6	4	31	1	-	2	28	6	-	2	29	4	1	-	
6.	Iron seats with backs	- 2	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	
7.	Teak seats with backs	- 18	7	11	-	7	11	-	-	7	11	-	-	7	11	-	-	-	
			273	108	134	31	112	142	17	2	110	132	28	3	109	93	10	5	23
8.	Seats existing in 1953 now missing	- 8																	
			281																

G. signifies GOOD i.e. Should not require attention for a very long time.

F. signifies FAIR i.e. Should last a fair number of years with normal maintenance.

P. signifies POOR i.e. Should be replaced, extensively repaired or discarded.

B. signifies BROKEN i.e. Should be replaced or discarded.

M. signifies MISSING i.e. The seat originally had a back whereas those in item 4 have never had backs.

Notes : - (a) Seat No. 246 bears a plate inscribed "Remembrance - Edith M. Sweetman".

(b) Seat No. 268 bears a plate inscribed 'Percy Wickenden - 1882 - 1953'.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND RUSTHALL COMMONSSURVEY OF SEATS - 1960Existing Seats

The existing seats may be divided into the following classifications:-

1. Concrete ends with oak seats and backs : 95

These are relatively new, are in good condition and form just over one third of the total.

2. Concrete ends with oak seats only : 3

These are quite new and are in good condition. They are not particularly suited to the Commons and were supplied when no other types were available. They were designed for use in very restricted positions in streets.

3. Oak ends with oak seats and backs : 86

These were probably the original seats installed on the Commons and have proved suitable and durable. With the rising costs of timber and labour they have been replaced by those in classification 1. above. Apart from normal decay the backs are prone to damage by irresponsible persons. More than a quarter of these seats have the back missing. Because of the cost and difficulty of fixing new backs it has been the practice to saw off the damaged backs and utilise the seat until complete renewal becomes necessary.

4. Oak ends with oak seats only : 33

Similar to classification 3. but without the back and used only around the perimeter of the Higher Cricket Ground. Neat and unobtrusive they are very suitable for this exposed position.

5. Iron ends with oak seats and backs : 36

A very simple and durable form of seat, but not as attractive as those in classification 3.

6. Iron seats with backs : 2

These may have been presented to mark some special occasion or in memory of a particular person.

7. Teak seats with backs : 18

Apart from a single seat near the Higher Cricket Ground inscribed "Percy Wickenden" these are sited along the 'South of France' and by the group of trees near the junction of Mount Ephraim and Church Road. Superior in material, design and workmanship they have probably been selected for their special situations.

NOTE : The total number of seats is 273, distributed thus :-

Tunbridge Wells Common	:	221
Rusthall Common	:	52.

Compared with the record of seats made in 1953 a total of 8 have been removed and not replaced.

General Condition of existing seats

Of the total of 273 seats 242 may be said to be in reasonably sound or better condition. In a few cases the ends need adjusting in order to raise the seats or to make them level and these will be dealt with by the general maintenance employees. A few of the 242 need some structural repairs of a minor nature.

The remaining 31 are in poor condition and need major repairs or complete renewal.

Repairs and renewals recommended

<u>Repairs</u> :	Concrete ended seats:	New back rail -	1
	Wooden ended seats :	New seat slats -	6
		New seat stiffeners -	4
		New slatted seats -	9
	Iron ended seats :	New wood seats -	5
		New wood backs -	4
			<u>29</u>
<u>Renewals</u> :	Concrete ended seats with backs	-	11
	Concrete ended seats without backs	-	6
			<u>17</u>

It is suggested that seats missing from, or in poor condition in, the following situations should not be replaced mainly because there are already sufficient seats in those areas.

Queen's Grove - 2
Happy Valley - 2

Types of new seats

In addition to the normal requirements of a seat it is essential that those on the Commons should be :-

- (a) Durable to withstand being exposed to the weather all the year round
- (b) Strong and heavy to reduce the risk of damage by irresponsible persons, and
- (c) Economical in initial cost and general maintenance.

To fulfill these requirements it is recommended that for normal use composite seats of concrete and wrought oak should be used, but that teak seats should continue to be used where they are already in use.

Seats with backs

It is recommended that the type of concrete-end seat now in use, as manufactured by Messrs. Tyler of Tonbridge should continue to be used. In general they have proved satisfactory and standardisation would simplify maintenance.

Cost per seat : £12. 0. 0.

Seats without backs

It is recommended that the existing shape be maintained but that precast concrete ends should be used instead of oak. If agreed, a design would be prepared and quotations invited.

Estimated Cost per seat : £7. 0. 0.

Estimated cost of recommendations

Repairs	...	...	...	...	£55. 0. 0.
New seats with backs	...	...	...	...	£132. 0. 0.
New seats without backs	...	...	...	...	£42. 0. 0.
					<u>£229. 0. 0.</u>

Half the repairs can be carried out with the balance remaining in the present Annual Estimates and the remainder could be dealt with early in 1961/62.

The renewals amounting to £174 would require special provision and can be spread over whatever period the Conservators deem appropriate.

Cricket Grounds

There are at the moment the following seats around the perimeters of the three grounds :-

The Higher	:	41
The Lower	:	13
Rusthall	:	10

The recommendations include for the following in respect of these grounds :-

<u>The Higher</u>	:	Renewals	-	7	seats
		Repairs	-	5	"
		Adjust legs	-	7	"

It is suggested that the seat without a back is suitable for this position as it is neat and unobtrusive when the ground is deserted, the lower cost allows more to be provided and being without a back it does not encourage dozing which can be dangerous when cricket is in progress.

<u>The Lower</u>	:	Renewals	-	1	seat
------------------	---	----------	---	---	------

The existing seats at Rusthall Cricket Ground are all in sound condition but the Conservators may like to consider providing more seats when funds are available.

General

In the main the seats are well distributed, the popular areas being all catered for, but probably a few more along the Rusthall Road and especially in the Lower Green area would be appreciated by local inhabitants.

H. G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators

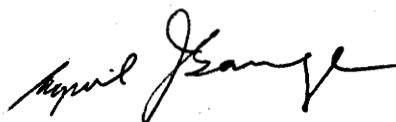
TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

4th April, 1961

PRESENT : His Worship the Mayor (Councillor M.W. Beastall J.P. (Chairman)
 Mrs. G.K. Kentner
 Messrs. G.R. Barr, R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card and C. Wood.
 Alderman Muffett and Councillor Glanfield.

1. MINUTES. - The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £717.6.10d. were passed for payment (as set out in list signed by the Chairman).
3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS. - The Clerk reported the resignation of Mr. A.S. Maddams and Mr. R.F. Gunnis, representing the Freehold Tenants.
4. RUSTHALL COMMON. - The Clerk reported that a complaint had been received from Miss M.E. Page of 22 Manor Road, Rusthall, about the condition of footpaths on Rusthall Common caused through the riding of horses thereon.

Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to write to Miss Forrest of Holmewood Riding School, Langton Green, pointing out that the riding of horses on the Commons is prohibited from November to March, in each year, and asking her to bring this regulation to the notice of all her pupils.
5. VEHICLES DRIVING ON TO THE COMMONS. - The Clerk reported that the Town Council had deferred consideration of the request made by the Conservators for a road improvement to be effected at the corner of Lime Hill Road so that drivers of vehicles could negotiate the corner more easily.
6. SURVEYORS REPORT. - Arising out of the Surveyor's report it was resolved
 - (1) That the Surveyor be authorised to cut down three oak saplings growing too near the road in Tea Garden Lane.
 - (2) That the Surveyor be instructed to write to nearby residents of Brighton Lake asking them to refrain from feeding the swans away from the lakeside, in the hope that this will stop the birds straying across Eridge Road and so causing danger to traffic.
 - (3) That a thatched shelter should be provided for the care of the swans on Brighton Lake in due course.
 - (4) That new seats be placed in the positions indicated in the report.
 - (5) That the Clerk be instructed to write to the Superintendent of Police pointing out that trees on the Commons are being cut by unauthorised persons.



Chairman

27th June 1961.

Report of the Surveyor to The Commons Conservators

March Quarter 1961

Clearance of Undergrowth

The clearance of undergrowth and deformed trees has been completed in Hungershall Park, Tea Garden Lane and the approach to Rusthall Elms, and the work in Rusthall Road is well in hand.

Gravel Paths

The two paths leading from London Road at the rear of Messrs. Rawsons and Stevensons garages have now been "edged and regraded".

Lime Trees - Mount Edgcumbe

In accordance with the instructions of the Conservators these two Lime Trees have now been felled and two young Lime Trees have been planted in close proximity to the original positions.

Bishops Down Road

The Oak Tree on the edge of the Common adjacent to this road has been trimmed.

Rusthall Cricket Ground

The undergrowth has been cleared and thorn trees and other bushes have been trimmed on the North side of this cricket ground.

Brighton Lake - Willows

The two Willow Trees referred to at the last meeting have now been received from the Parks Department and planted, one on each island in the lake.

Brighton Lake - Swans

The two swans temporarily placed on the lake from the Grosvenor Recreation Ground are still there and I understand from the Parks Superintendent that arrangements could probably be made with the Parks Committee for them to be retained. No difficulties have arisen during the time the swans have been on the lake and as far as can be foreseen none should arise should the Conservators decide to retain them.

The one doubt in my mind is the fact that from time to time the swans have left the lake and strayed across the Eridge Road and must, therefore, be some danger to passing traffic.

If it is decided to retain the swans I suggest that a temporary shelter of wattle hurdles be provided on the island at the Western and deeper end of the lake and that in due course this temporary shelter be replaced by a

more permanent structure, probably of wood thatched with heather or other suitable material. The provision of this shelter and the care and maintenance of the swans can be met out of the Annual Estimates.

Seats

The work of adjusting seats which have sunk or been displaced is well in hand. I recommend that the following new seats should be provided out of the special provision made for the next Financial Year to replace broken or missing seats revealed by the recent survey.

No. 9.	69 London Road. W.	1	with back
12.	Tarmac F.P., Church Road. N.	1	" "
16.	Gibraltar, Mount Ephraim.	1	" "
31.	Bredbury, Mount Ephraim. E.	1	" "
39.	Lower Cricket Ground, Castle Road. E. ...	1	" "
107.	Higher Cricket Ground. E. On Rails. ...	1	without back
121.	- do - N. - do - ...	1	" "
122.	- do - N. - do - ...	1	" "
128.	- do - N. - do - ...	1	" "
131.	- do - N. - do - ...	1	" "
132.	- do - N. - do - ...	1	" "

Unauthorised Wood Cutting

It is apparent that a number of Birch and other saplings have been cut by unauthorised persons mainly in the area North and South of Hungershall Park and in the vicinity of Bulls Hollow. The latter has the appearance of having been done by children, but in the area adjoining Hungershall Park it is obviously being done by more adult persons.

H. G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

27th June, 1961

27th June, 1961. PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor C.J. Gange) (Chairman)
 Mrs. G.K. Kentner
 Messrs. R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke, and C. Wood
 Councillor N.L. Glanfield

1. MINUTES. - The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £825.16.10. were passed for payment (as set out in the list signed by the Chairman).
3. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1961. - The Treasurer submitted the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 1961, but reported that the figures had not been audited owing to the resignation of the two Auditors during the financial year.
Resolved - That the accounts be approved subject to audit.
4. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS. - The Clerk reported that the Town Council had appointed the following as its representatives on the Conservators until the next annual meeting of the Council in May 1962.

The Mayor (Councillor C.J. Gange)
 Alderman S.H. Muffett
 Councillor Glanfield.
 (NOTE: The appointment of Councillor Savage was also approved at a meeting of the Town Council on 28th June, 1961).
5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE. - Resolved - That His Worship the Mayor (Councillor C.J. Gange), Councillors Glanfield, Savage, Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card and H.T. Clarke be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year (three to form a quorum).
6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS. - Resolved - That Councillor N.L. Glanfield and Mr. C. Wood be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the year ended 31st March 1961 and for the current financial year.
7. RUSTHALL CRICKET CLUB. - The Conservators considered a request from the Rusthall Cricket Club for an improvement to be made at the junction of Langton Road and the Coach Road to prevent vehicles from encroaching on to the grass verge and damaging the water main.
Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to lay a short length of kerb at this junction.
8. HAPPY VALLEY. - The Conservators considered a request from Mr. A.H. Witt of Rusthall, that bushes and trees obstructing the view from Happy Valley should be cut.
Resolved - That Mr. Witt be informed that the site will be inspected during the next month or two and the matter considered again in October, 1961 to see whether any work of clearance can be undertaken during the winter months.

9. FIR TREE ROAD - Resolved - That no action be taken on a request for a barrier to be provided at the end of the footpath leading on to Fir Tree Road in order to prevent cyclists riding direct on to the roadway.

10. SURVEYOR'S REPORT.- Arising out of the Surveyor's Report is was resolved :-

(1) That the offer of the gift of a seat from Mrs. Morgan, in memory of her mother, to be placed on the Common opposite Torrington be accepted by the Conservators with thanks, such seat to be made of teakwood with a memorial plaque thereon.

(2) To agree to the action taken on the up-grading of workmen employed on the Commons.

11. PLAQUE ON THE COMMONS.- The Surveyor reported that the bronze plaque marking the point at which a flying bomb fell on the Commons, which had been removed by a person or persons unknown had subsequently been found.

Resolved - That the Surveyor arrange for the plaque to be re-fixed preferably in a block of granite.

12. TREES ON THE COMMONS.- (1) Thorn Trees - The Surveyor reported that what appeared to be signs of fire blight on Thorn bushes near the Rusthall Cricket Club Ground, had been investigated but it had been found that the bushes were not in fact so infected.

(2) HORNBEAM TREE AT JUNCTION OF MAJOR YORKS ROAD AND NEVILL PARK - It was reported that a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture had agreed to examine the defective branches with a view to establishing the nature of the disease affecting this tree and making recommendations for the treatment thereof.

13. PARKING ON THE COMMONS.- It was reported that cars were being parked on the verges of the Common in Major Yorks Road

Resolved - That the matter should receive further consideration at the next meeting with a view to the formation of a ditch and bank during the winter to prevent the practice.

14. SALVAGE.- The Conservators considered a complaint from a resident of Rusthall about an old trailer, wheelbarrow and car covers left on the Common for a period of time.

Resolved - That the Surveyor arrange for these articles to be removed to the depot.

15. OVERHANGING TREES IN LOWER GREEN ROAD, RUSTHALL.- The Conservators considered a complaint from the Kent Fire Brigade about a Fire Engine being scratched by overhanging branches in Lower Green Road.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to investigate the matter and if necessary contact the representatives of the Lord of the Manor.

16. TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS.- It was Resolved that future meetings should be held at 2.45 p.m. instead of at 3.0'clock.

G. W. Isaacs
Chairman October 3rd 1961

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

JUNE QUARTER 1961

Clearance of Undergrowth

The clearance of undergrowth and defective trees has been completed along the North-Western side of Rusthall Road and has resulted in improved views of the Culverden area and affords glimpses of the Rocks in the Denny Bottom area.

Grass Cutting

Grass cutting commenced early in April and the areas in Bishops Down, Mount Ephraim, London Road, Hungershall Park and the Race Track have been completed.

Burnt Undergrowth

Burnt undergrowth resulting from fires has been cleared from a number of areas on both Commons.

Seats

A number of the seats referred to in the recent survey have already been repaired and the new concrete ends for additional seats have been delivered and the seats will be fabricated and placed in position as soon as possible.

Tea Garden Lane

In accordance with the Conservators' authorisation the young oak saplings at the road-side in Tea Garden Lane have been cleared away.

Workmen engaged on The Commons

Following an upgrading of the pay of Street Sweepers, the workmen on the Commons, who were originally taken from this class of labour, became at a disadvantage relative to the Sweepers and the majority asked to return to sweeping. In order to avoid losing men now doing good work on the Commons it was decided, in consultation with the Borough Surveyor, to upgrade these men to the same group or classification. The effect was an increase in wages from 183/9 to 189/- per man per week and an estimated total increase for the year of about £50. The Conservators are asked to confirm this action. It is suggested that economies be effected to offset this increase in view of the increased amount granted by the Council for the current year.

H. G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1961.

<u>Expenditure</u>			<u>Income</u>		
<u>1959/60</u>		<u>1960/61</u>	<u>1959/60</u>		<u>1960/61</u>
£ s d		£ s d	£ s d		£ s d
	<u>Salaries</u>		- - -	Sale of Bye-laws	3. 0.
50. 0. 0.	Clerk	50. 0. 0.			
40. 0. 0.	Surveyor	40. 0. 0.	13. 5.11.	Transfer from Suspense Account	- - -
20. 0. 0.	Treasurer	20. 0. 0.			
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>		2890. 6. 9.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -	
16. 8.11.	Printing, Stationery, Postages and			Contribution for Year	3121. 3. 1.
	Advertising.	51. 9. 4.			
1. 1.10.	Public Liability and Fire Insurance	1. 1.10.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>				
2478. 2. 0.	General Maintenance by Corporation				
	Works Department	2602. 3. 4.			
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -				
58. 2. 5.	Seats	105.13. 4.			
21. 6. 1.	Notice Boards	55.11.10.			
1.12.10.	Fences and Posts	7. 1. 7.			
10. 0. 0.	Depot and Toolshed	11. 2.10.			
33.12. 8.	Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	12. 2. 0.			
160. 0. 0.	Clearing Undergrowth	165. 0. 0.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>				
13. 5.11.	Clearing Trees	- - -			
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
£2,903.12. 8.		£3,121. 6. 1.	£2,903.12. 8.		£3,121. 6. 1.
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1961.

<u>Liabilities</u>			<u>Assets</u>	
<u>1959/60</u>		<u>1960/61</u>	<u>1959/60</u>	<u>1960/61</u>
£ s d		£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
	Sundry Creditors -			Debtor -
1347. 3. 9.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	1496. 6. 4.		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation
55. 0. 0.	Others	46.13. 4.	1401.19. 9.	for balance of Contribution
			2. 3.	Postage Stamps in Hand
			1. 9.	Cash in Hand
<u>£1,402. 3. 9.</u>		<u>£1,542.19. 8.</u>	<u>£1,402. 3. 9.</u>	<u>£1,542.19. 8.</u>

D. L. COPEMAN, F.I.M.T.A.

9th June, 1961.

Treasurer

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

3rd October, 1961

PRESENT : His Worship the Mayor (Councillor C.J. Gange J.P.)
Mrs. G.K. Kentner
Alderman S.H. Muffett, Councillor N.L. Glanfield.
Messrs. G.R. Barr, R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card and C. Wood.

1. **MINUTES.** - The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

2. **ACCOUNTS.** - Accounts amounting to £931.3.10d. were passed for payment (as set out in list signed by the Chairman).

3. **PARKING OF CARS ON THE COMMONS.** - The Conservators further considered the question of the parking of cars on the verges of the Commons in Hungershall Park near the junction of Major York's Road.

Resolved - That the Surveyor arrange for the formation of a ditch and bank on the verge in question in order to prevent this practice.

4. **HORNBEAM TREE AT THE ENTRANCE TO NEVILL PARK.** - Further to minute 12 (2) of the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 1961, the Surveyor reported that a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture had examined this tree and having found that a fungus disease was attacking the roots for which there was no effective remedy, recommended treatment to improve its well-being.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to carry out the recommended treatment.

5. **SURVEYOR'S REPORT.** - Arising out of the Surveyor's Report it was resolved :-

(1) That the sum of £100 for the purchase of a Rotary Allen Sickle for grass cutting be included in the next annual estimates and at the appropriate time arrangements be made for the insurance of the machine.

(2) That the clearance of the undergrowth and small defective trees as set out in the Report be continued and that extensive "sucker" growth opposite Tweeddale Terrace in London Road and opposite the Pump Room in Eridge Road be cleared to show up the larger trees more clearly.

(3) That the trees in Happy Valley now marked with white paint be removed to improve the views and that various seats be re-arranged.

(4) That a permanent shelter made of larch poles, slab timber and a heather thatched roof in accordance with the sketch submitted be constructed for the swans on Brighton Lake.

(5) That the new seats when delivered be put into store until the spring.

(6) That the Conservators accept with thanks the offer of Mrs. Stone to provide an additional seat to be placed on the south side of Langton Road opposite the one she previously presented near the Spa Hotel.

(7) That the condition of the surface of the ground at the open space known as "The Bumps" be improved to make it more suitable for children to play football.



Chairman

2nd. January 1962 .

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REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS
CONSERVATORS

September Quarter 1961

Grass Cutting

All the usual areas have now been cut and prominent areas, like Mount Ephraim and London Road, have received a second cut. As a means of improving the standard of grass cutting, I recommend that consideration be given to including in the next Annual Estimates a sum of £100 for the purchase of a second grass cutting machine. A rotary Allen sickle is recommended as being suitable for use on banks and under damp conditions when the existing Allen scythe cannot be used. An improvement in the standard of grass cutting should result without any additional labour being required

Clearance of Undergrowth

Continuing the policy of clearing undergrowth and small defective trees alongside roads, it is suggested that parts of London Road (west side), Eridge Road (north-west side), Castle Road (southern end, both sides) and Rusthall Road (southern side) should be dealt with during the coming winter. I recommend that extensive "sucker" growth opposite Tweeddale Terrace in London Road and opposite the Pump Room in Eridge Road be cleared to show up the larger trees more clearly. In the case of Eridge Road, it should add to the safety of people using the steps leading to the Common opposite Linden Park Road.

Mount Ephraim Promenade

The surface tarring has been completed at a cost of £73, showing a substantial saving on the amount of £120 provided in the Annual Estimates.

Happy Valley

With reference to Minute 8 of the Conservators Meeting on the 27th June last, I suggest that clearing be effected in two places at the top of Happy Valley in order to improve the view.

(a) From approximately the centre of the main open space and looking towards Rusthall Beacon, I suggest the removal of some dead and dying Holly trees and relatively small and poorly shaped Oak trees.

(b) From the smaller open space southwards of the above and looking towards Ashdown Forest, I suggest the removal of small Oak trees under a fairly large Oak, and a clump of Holly and Oak trees at a lower level.

All the trees which it is suggested should be removed have been marked with white paint

Brighton Lake

Following the collapse of a portion of the surrounding wall,

fairly extensive repairs have been carried out.

The swans appear to have settled on this lake quite happily and are giving no trouble and it is recommended that the temporary shelter be replaced by a more permanent shelter constructed of larch poles, slab timber and heather thatched roof in accordance with the sketch submitted.

Oak Tree near Nevill Park

As a matter of urgency Mr. Theobald was engaged to fell and remove a moderate sized Oak tree which had been damaged during a gale and a potential danger to pedestrians on the Common.

Seats

1) Three quotations were invited for the construction of the new seats required and that of Messrs. Saxby and Everest was accepted. Unfortunately a delay has occurred in securing the necessary oak but delivery has been promised very shortly.

2) Mrs. C. Stone of 8 Bishops Down Road has offered to provide an additional seat to be placed on the south side of Langton Road opposite the one which she previously presented outside the Spa Hotel subject to the Conservators accepting the offer.

3) The teak seat provided by Mrs. Morgan has been received and will shortly be placed in position.

"The Bumps"

The use of this open space for football appears to be on the increase and is probably attracting the youngsters away from Happy Valley. It is recommended, therefore, that an effort should be made made to improve the surface of the ground, which at the moment is very uneven. This work can be carried out by the existing labour engaged on the Commons and will probably take about a week for two men.

H.G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

2nd January, 1962. PRESENT : His Worship the Mayor (Councillor C.J. Gange, J.P.) (Chairman)
 Mrs. G.K. Kentner
 Councillors N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage.
 Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card and C. Wood.

1. MINUTES. - The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - An account amounting to £896.3s.4d. was passed for payment.
3. ESTIMATES. - Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year were examined and approved in the sum of £3,754.

Resolved - That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year of an amount of £3,754 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

4. RENEWAL OF FIRE AND AIRCRAFT INSURANCES. - Resolved - That these insurances be renewed upon the most favourable terms available to the Corporation; the Treasurer to report to the Committee of the Commons Conservators in writing about the possibility of the Conservators taking out additional cover for aircraft damage if the Tunbridge Wells Corporation should decide to extend its policy against such risk.
5. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received.
6. BRIGHTON LAKE - Resolved - That ducks may be kept on this lake in the future if such are offered to the Conservators.
7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS. - Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held at 2.45 p.m. on the following Tuesdays :-

3rd April 1962
 26th June 1962

2nd October 1962
 1st January 1963.

8. ENCROACHMENT ON TO THE COMMONS. - The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Bidlake of Thackeray's House, The Common, complaining that motor vehicles were over-running the edge of the Common opposite Longman's Restaurant in Mount Ephraim.

Resolved - That the Surveyor arrange for second hand kerb stones to be placed along the edge of the Common at the position in question, the approximate cost of £25 - £30 being met from the estimates for general maintenance.

Agil Gange
 Chairman 3rd April
 1962

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Estimates 1962/63

EXPENDITURE	ESTIMATED 1961/62		APPROXIMATE 1961/62		ESTIMATED 1962/63	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Salaries</u>						
Clerk	85		85		85	
Surveyor	65		65		65	
Treasurer	45		45		45	
Allowances for expenses	<u>45</u>		<u>45</u>		<u>45</u>	
		240		240		240
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>						
Printing, Stationery, Postages and Advertising.	12		12		10	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>	
		13		13		11
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	2627		2627		2978	
Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -						
Seats	80		80		80	
Notice Boards	25		25		25	
Fences and Posts	10		10		10	
Depot and Toolshed	10		10		10	
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake	35		60		25	
Clearing Undergrowth	<u>165</u>		<u>165</u>		<u>175</u>	
		2952		2977		3303
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Tarpainting Mount Ephraim Promenade	120		94		-	
Improvements to Seats	100		100		100	
Provision of grass cutting machines	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>		<u>100</u>	
		220		194		200
TOTAL EXPENDITURE £		3,425		3,424		3,754

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1961

Apsley Street

Brambles and other undergrowth along the West side of this street have been cleared.

The Bumps

Some improvement has been made by levelling the worst humps and filling the hollows to attract the playing of football to this area.

Footpath - Castle Road to Spa Hotel

This gravel footpath has been edged, re-shaped and made good where necessary with old stone and gravel.

Happy Valley

The undergrowth and small trees have been removed in two places to improve the view and certain seats resited.

Brighton Lake

The shelter for the swans has been erected on one of the small islands.

H. G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

3rd April, 1962

PRESENT : The Mayor (Councillor C.J. Gange, J.P.)(Chairman)
Alderman S.H. Muffett, Councillor D. Savage.
Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card and H.T. Clarke.

1. MINUTES. - The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed

2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £785.13.9d were passed for payment.

3. AIRCRAFT INSURANCE. - Further to minute 4 of the meeting held on 2nd January 1962, the Treasurer reported that he had arranged for additional insurance against damage by aircraft for the Commons Conservators with the Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd. at a premium of £1.5.6d. per annum, with effect from 1st April 1962.

Resolved - That the Treasurer's action be confirmed.

4. SPECIMEN SIGNATURES. - In accordance with a request from Lloyds Bank Ltd. for a list of specimen signatures from the Conservators, those present at the meeting gave their signatures, and the Clerk undertook to obtain the specimen signatures of absent members at a suitable opportunity.

5. HANDRAIL TO STEPS LEADING ONTO THE COMMON OPPOSITE CASTLE STREET. - A request from a resident for the provision of a handrail to the steps leading onto the Common opposite Castle Street was considered. The Surveyor reported that as these steps were maintainable by the Tunbridge Wells Corporation, the Borough Surveyor had agreed to request the Council to provide a suitable handrail.

6. LITTER BASKET. - The Surveyor reported that a resident in Bishops Down had requested that a litter basket be placed in the area known as the South of France.

Resolved - That a litter basket be provided in the position requested at a cost of approximately £3.

7. ENCROACHMENT ONTO THE COMMON. - It was reported that motor vehicles were encroaching onto the Common in the slipway between Vale Road and London Road.

Resolved - That the Works Committee of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council be asked if they could arrange for the kerb stones to be raised at this particular place.

8. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - Arising out of the Surveyor's report it was

Resolved:

(1) That the quotation of S.E. Haward & Co. amounting to £85.10.9d. (the lowest received) for the provision of a

75.

Rotary Allen Sickle be accepted.

(2) To fell four dangerous lime trees in Eridge Road on the south eastern side and to replace them with four other lime trees in the Autumn of this year.

Mr. R. S. R. Berry undertook to ascertain the ownership of a defective tree within the curtilage of the Cornwallis Hotel.

H. W. P.
Chairman
26th June 1962

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1962

Clearance of Undergrowth

In accordance with the approved programme, undergrowth has been cleared along the West side of Eridge Road from Linden Park Road to the Brighton Lake, and at the moment is proceeding in Castle Road and Major York's Road. The programme has been delayed due to labour being diverted to clearing up damage caused by the recent gales and also by fires on the Common.

Hungershall Park

A ditch and bank have been formed along the edge of the verge at two points where car parking was taking place on the Common. Apart from one or two instances the measures adopted appear to have been effective.

Mount Ephraim Road.

Secondhand kerbing has been laid along the edge of the Common and the bank made good behind the kerb where traffic had been encroaching on the edge of the Common.

Seats

Twelve additional seats are now ready for fixing in accordance with the list approved by the Conservators and these will be placed in position during April and it is recommended that a further 12 should be provided during 1962 to replace seats in the Mount Edgcombe, Major York's Road Nevill Park areas, where seats are missing and to replace seats that have already been smashed at Dingley Dell and Mount Ephraim.

Rotary Allen Sickle.

In accordance with provision made in the annual estimates for 1962/63 quotations have been obtained for the above as follows:-

S.E. Haward & Co., £85.10.9d. H.R. Nash Ltd. £87.17.6d.
Godfrey & Partners Ltd. £90.5.0d.

It is recommended that the machine should be purchased forthwith from Hawards and that a waterproof cover should also be purchased for the protection of this machine.

Eridge Road Line Trees South Eastern side

From an examination of the line trees along the edge of the Common between the Pump Room and Broadwater Park, serious defects have been found in 5 of these trees. It is recommended that 2 trees outside Nos.18 & 19 respectively should be felled immediately as being dangerous and that it would be advisable to also fell 2 additional trees, one outside No.17 and one outside No.16. A further tree inside the park enclosure of the Cornwallis Hotel has a hole in the trunk at ground level and should receive appropriate treatment to arrest the decay of the tree.

NOTE: It may be that this tree is under the control of the owner of the Hotel.

H.G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

Haward
Chairman

26th June 1962

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Meeting 26th June, 1962. PRESENT - His Worship the Mayor (Councillor D. Savage, J. P.) (Chairman)
Alderman N. L. Glanfield.
Messrs. Barr, Berry, Card, Clarke & Wood.

1. Minutes. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. Account. - An account amounting to £658.16.6. was passed for payment.
3. Accounts for year ended 31st March, 1962. - The Treasurer submitted the accounts for the year ended 31st March 1962.

Resolved - That in future years only a Revenue account be produced.

4. Appointment of Conservators. - The Clerk reported that the Town Council had appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until the annual meeting of the Council in May, 1963:-

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor D. Savage)
Aldermen Glanfield and Muffett
Councillor C. J. Gange.

5. Appointment of Committee - Resolved - That the Mayor, Aldermen Glanfield and Muffett, Messrs. R. S. Berry, R. W. Card and H. T. Clarke be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year (three to form a quorum).
6. Appointment of Auditors - Resolved - That Alderman Glanfield and Mr. C. Wood be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
7. Encroachment of Traffic onto the Commons. Further to minute 7 of the last meeting, the Clerk reported that the Works Committee of the Corporation had agreed to provide and lay the requisite length of secondhand kerbing at the place in question and make good the Commons behind the kerbing.
8. Broken Glass on Commons. - The Conservators considered a request from Mrs. Stiller for the provision of a litter bin in which to place broken glass picked up from the Commons.

Resolved - That a bin be provided on the Commons in the vicinity of the fairground.
9. Surveyor's Report - Arising out of the Surveyor's report it was
Resolved (1) That consideration of the type of forest trees, other than limes, to be planted to replace the four defectivelime trees in Eridge Road, recently felled, be deferred until the next meeting.

(2) That provision be made in next year's financial estimates for the provision of six additional litter bins on the Commons; the Surveyor to report on suitable positions in which they might be placed.

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10. Report in Press of Condition of Commons .- The attention of the Commons Conservators was drawn to a report in the Tunbridge Wells Advertiser of 26th June, 1962, that a Mr. Frank Day had returned to Tunbridge Wells after many years absence, and had commented unfavourably on the state of the Commons.

Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to write to Mr. Day asking him to state in detail his views on the condition of the Commons, saying in what way he thought they had changed during his absence and how he considered they could be improved.

S. W. G.
Chairman,

2nd October 1962 -

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1962.

<u>Liabilities</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
<u>1960/61</u> £ s d	<u>1961/62</u> £ s d	<u>1960/61</u> £ s d	<u>1961/62</u> £ s d
Sundry Creditors -		Debtor -	
1496. 6. 4. Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	1324.10. 3.		
46.13. 4. Others	120. 0. 0.	1542. 2.10. Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation for balance of Contribution	1444. 1. 0.
		4. 5. Postage Stamps in Hand	3. 8.
		12. 5. Cash in Hand	5. 7.
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
£1,542.19. 8.	£1,444.10. 3.	£1,542.19. 8.	£1,444.10. 3.
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

D. L. COPEMAN, F.I.M.T.A.

Treasurer

8th June, 1962.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING JUNE 1962

Clearance of Undergrowth

In accordance with the approved programme, undergrowth has been cleared along both sides of Castle Road, on the North Eastern side of Major York's Road and on the South Western side of London Road in the vicinity of Vale Royal. The entire area of Still Green has also been cleared, both of undergrowth and a considerable quantity of rubbish.

Grass Cutting

Grass cutting commenced in April and at the moment is engaging all available labour. The area in Bishops Down, Mount Ephraim, London Road and Fonthill is now being cut for the third time using the new Allen Rotary Sickle, which has proved very satisfactory. In addition, the Lower Green Road area, Rusthall, the Lower Cricket Ground and areas on the North side of London Road, have also been cut.

Brighton Lake - Dead Swan

The following is the report of the Veterinary Surgeon on the Swan which died at the end of April:-

"Post mortem examination of a female swan from Brighton Lake showed death due to peritonitis. A wad of coarse grass had managed to pass through the gizzard, and had become impacted in the small intestine. The pressure had caused the intestinal wall to rupture, and so caused the peritonitis. I broke down the grass, but there was no fish hook inside it."

Peter M. Sutton.
M.R.C.V.S.

Enquiries have been made concerning the provision of another female swan through the Queen's Swan Master and delivery of the swan has been promised very shortly.

The Conservators are asked to approve the action taken to secure another swan. It is probable that the sole cost to the Conservators will be that of catching and delivering the swan.

Eridge Road Line Trees.

The four seriously defective line trees near Nos. 16 to 19 Eridge Road have now been felled and grubbed and proved to be very rotten at the centre. The owners of the Cornwallis Hotel have undertaken to treat the hole in the trunk of the line tree standing in their parking enclosure.

Bishops Down - Litter Basket

The additional litter basket approved by the Conservators, has now been fixed near the seats in the "South of France".

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

2nd October, 1962.

PRESENT : His Worship the Mayor (Councillor D. Savage, J.P.)(Chairman)
Mrs. G.K. Kentner. Aldermen Glanfield and Muffett.
Councillor C. Gange. Messrs. Card, Clarke and Wood.

1. MINUTES .- The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS .- Accounts amounting to £1158.8.4d. were passed for payment.
3. TREASURER TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS .- The Clerk reported that the Treasurer, Mr. D. Copeman, was ill in hospital.

Resolved - That a letter be sent to Mr. Copeman with the best wishes of the Conservators for a speedy recovery.

4. KENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN .- Resolved - That the action of the Committee in lodging an objection to the proposed alterations and additions to the Royal Tunbridge Wells and Southborough Town Map in view of the lack of detailed information relating to the Commons contained in the written statement, and in seeking an assurance from the County Planning Authority that the powers of the Commons Conservators will in no way be abridged by any of the provisions in the Town Map either now or at any time in the future be approved.

5. THE COMMONS .- The Conservators considered (1) a letter from Mrs. Milburn complaining about conditions on the Commons and it was

Resolved - (a) That posts approximately 3' high should be placed in suitable positions to try to prevent cars from parking on certain parts of the Commons.

(b) to refer the question of cycling on the Commons to the Police.

- (2) A letter from Mrs. R. Hanbury asking for additional seats to be provided on the Commons in the vicinity of the Russell Hotel.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to place an additional seat in an appropriate position in the area between Lime Hill Road and Church Road.

- (3) A letter from Mr. Ryder complaining about cars being parked on the Commons opposite 1 - 11 Apsley Street, Rusthall, and a report was given on the action taken by the Police.

Resolved - That the Police be thanked for the efficient way in which they had dealt with this problem.

- (4) A letter from Mr. Ballard drawing attention to a football pitch which had been set up on the Commons opposite 19 Rusthall Road.

Resolved - That two sites on the south side of Rusthall Road, opposite Common View, be set aside for football with one pair of goal posts on each site.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS. - The resignation of Mr. G. Barr, one of the representatives of the Freehold Tenants, was reported.

7. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - Arising out of the Surveyor's report it was Resolved (1) That 4 maple trees as replacements for the lime trees on the South Eastern side of Eridge Road, and two flowering cherries for replacements in Mount Edgcumbe Road, be purchased from Adams Nurseries, at a cost of 24/- each.

/// (2) That provision be made in the next financial estimates for the limited replacement of posts and railings at the N.E. and S.W. corners of the Lower Cricket Ground, including the whole of the Church Road side of the Ground as at present.

(3) That provision be made in the financial estimates for next year for the purchase of an additional grass cutting machine.

(4) That the new design for seats adopted by the Works Committee be approved for use on the Commons.

[Signature]
Chairman
18th January 1963.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1962.

Brighton Lake - Replacement Swan

A young female swan was received from the Queen's Swan Master during July and soon settled down.

The actual charge made was for catching and delivering the swan and amounted to £5.16.11d.

Litter Baskets

In accordance with Min.8 - 26th June 1962, a new litter basket has been fixed at the entrance to the Fair Ground off Major York's Road.

With regard to sites for the six additional litter baskets to be provided in next year's estimates, the following are suggested:-

- (a) Brighton Lake; (b) Fonthill; (c) footpath - Church Road to Molyneux Park;
- (d) Rusthall Cricket Ground; (e) Toad Rock, Harmony Street.

Bridge Road - Replacement of Lime Trees.

With reference to the decision to consider another type of tree as replacements for the lime trees on the South Eastern side of Bridge Road, I suggest that one of the following would be suitable:-

1. Maple, choosing a variety with attractive foliage.
2. Acacia, on account of its attractive foliage at all seasons.
3. Silver Birch, because of its attractive foliage and trunk.

I recommend them for consideration in that order as I think the Maple is most suitable because of its moderate height, 35 to 40 feet, its attractive foliage, and because it would be in harmony with the types of trees occurring naturally on the Commons.

In filling the gaps in this row of trees, I suggest that a more open spacing be adopted than is the case at present and that the trees be sited to avoid, as far as possible, obstruction to the houses and to garage entrances.

Lower Cricket Ground.

The existing rails at the North Eastern and South Western ends are now very unattractive in appearance. The rails are rusty and many of them are bent and the posts are uneven and some of the wooden ones are defective. I suggest that consideration should be given to including an amount in next year's estimates for renewing the rails in the same manner as for the Higher Cricket Ground some years ago, and at the same time to resetting the posts and replacing those which are defective with concrete posts.

Grass Cutting.

Grass cutting has continued in the normal areas along Mount Ephraim, London Road, Bridge Road and at Rusthall. Also the area in Bulls Hollow, Apsley Street and Upper Street, Rusthall have been cut.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.