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TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

1st January, 1963. PRESENT : His Worship the Mayor (Councillor D. Savage, J.P.)
Mrs. G. K. Kentner, Alderman N. L. Glanfield.
Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, B. H. Fountain,
C. R. Harler, A. H. Witt and C. Wood.

1. MINUTES.- The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS.- An account amounting to £90l. 16. 8d. was passed for payment.
3. 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 £3,839.

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 £3,839 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.- The Clerk reported the appointment of Mr. B. H. Fountain, Mr. C. R. Harler, and Mr. A. H. Witt as representatives of the Freehold Tenants on the Board of the Conservators to fill the three existing vacancies, and welcomed them to the meeting.
5. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.- Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held at 2.45 p.m. on the following Tuesdays in 1963 :-

2nd April
25th June

1st October
31st December.

6. TREES ON THE COMMONS.- The Conservators confirmed the action taken by the Surveyor in removing a tree overhanging the garden of Mount Edgcombe Cottage and in lopping a tree adjacent to The Lodge, Hungershall Park.
7. SURVEYOR'S REPORT.- The Surveyor's report was received and it was Resolved - That the Surveyor be congratulated on the improved condition of the Commons and be asked to convey the appreciation of the Conservators to all the workmen concerned.
8. DEPOT.- The Surveyor reported that, following a small fire at the depot by the Higher Cricket Ground, he had prepared a claim on the Insurance Company in respect of the loss of rubber boots and other equipment and the re-whitening of the walls in the sum of £20.2.6d.
9. COMMON VIEW.- The Surveyor was instructed to report at the next meeting upon suitable crossing places over the ditch which runs parallel with Common View, Rusthall.
10. COACH ROAD.- Reference was made to the practice of parking cars on the Commons adjoining the Coach Road but no action was taken thereon.

H. W. G.
Chairman
2nd April 1963

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Estimates 1963/64

EXPENDITURE		ESTIMATED 1962/63		APPROXIMATE 1962/63		ESTIMATED 1963/64	
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<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.	... ..	10		12		12	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance		<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>	
			11		13		13
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>							
General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	... ..	2978		2978		3062	
Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -							
Seats	... ..	80		80		80	
Notice Boards	... ..	25		25		25	
Fences and Posts	... ..	10		10		20	
Depot and Toolshed	... ..	10		10		10	
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake		25		25		25	
Clearing Undergrowth	... ..	<u>175</u>		<u>175</u>		<u>180</u>	
			3303		3303		3402
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>							
Improvements to Seats	... ..	100		100		100	
Provision of grass cutting machines		100		85		-	
Renewing posts and railings (part)							
Lower Cricket Ground	... ..	-		-		50	
Provision of Litter Baskets	... ..	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>		<u>34</u>	
			200		185		184
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		...	...	£	
			3,754		3,741		3,839

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORSQUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1962

In accordance with Minute 5 of the meeting on the 2nd October 1962, the following matters have been dealt with:-

- (a) Concrete Posts. Posts have been erected at the entrance to the Race Course at the junction of Major York's Road and Nevill Park, on the western side of the Coach Road near the pavilion of the Rusthall Cricket Club, and by Rusthall school on the approach to Happy Valley, with a view to preventing the access of motor cars to the Commons.

- (b) Goal Posts. Two pairs of goal posts have been erected on the south side of Rusthall Road to encourage the playing of football in this area.

Trees The 4 Maple trees and the 2 Flowering Cherries have been planted in Eridge Road and Mount Edgcumbe Road respectively.

Paths. The weeding and trimming of the edges of gravel paths have been carried out on the following paths:

London Road to the Spa Hotel via the Lower & Higher Cricket Grounds;
Rusthall Road to Langton Road near Rusthall Elms;
Rusthall Church to Nevill Court;
London Road to Castle Road; and
Eridge Road to Hungershall Park.

Seats. All seats have been checked and foot holes made good with soil and turf and any necessary repairs and replacements will be made early in the Spring from funds provided in the annual estimates.

Trimming. The sides of Eridge Road, Apsley Street and Castle Road (including an area of burnt gorse) have been trimmed and in due course similar work will be carried out in Major York's Road, Hungershall Park and London Road.

Clearing Undergrowth. It is recommended that work of clearing the undergrowth, brambles and deformed trees should be carried out in the Bishops Down area between Bishops Down and Bishops Down Road and also along the south western side of Rusthall Road.

"No Cycling" Signs. A number of the existing signs have become damaged or affected by weather and it is recommended that 12 of these signs in cast aluminium at a cost of 14/9d each should be purchased in order to replace defective signs from time to time, or to provide new signs should it be thought desirable.

✓ 20 done

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

HGT/BS Pl/4a

7

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

2nd April 1963. PRESENT : His Worship the Mayor (Councillor D. Savage J. P.)
(Chairman)

Mrs. G. K. Kentner
Messrs. R. W. Card, H. W. Clarke, B. H. Fountain,
C. R. Harler, A. H. Witt, C. Wood.
Aldermen N. L. Glanfield and S. H. Muffett.
Councillor C. Gange.

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

2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £932.3.5. were passed for payment.

3. KENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN - Resolved - That the action of the Clerk in withdrawing the objection previously lodged be approved.

4. MANOR OF RUSTHALL. - The Conservators considered a letter from Mrs. D. Hollands complaining about the state of a footpath at the rear of her premises at 4 Nevill Park.

Resolved - That the matter be left in the hands of the Agents to the Lord of the Manor.

5. RABBITS ON THE COMMONS. - The Conservators considered a letter from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food about the reappearance of rabbits on the Commons and a suggestion that the Conservators might join the Stonewall Rabbit Clearance Society.

Resolved - (1) That the Ministry be informed that the Conservators do not wish to join The Rabbit Clearance Society.

(2) That the question of the reappearance of the rabbits be left to the Surveyor to liaise with the two Ferreters authorised by the Lord of the Manor.

(3) That in any action that is taken, no cyanide be used.

6. COMMON VIEW, RUSTHALL. - The Conservators considered a letter from Councillor Ludden complaining about the state of the road at Common View.

Resolved - (1) That the question of the spring and the ditch be left to the Surveyor for any necessary action.

(2) That the Health Committee of the Borough Council be asked to give consideration to the matter in view of the recent demolition of properties pursuant to a Demolition Order.

(3) That the Clerk be authorised to take legal action if necessary against the Demolition Contractor with regard to damage to the Common.

7. SURVEYOR'S REPORT Arising out of the Surveyor's report it was resolved

(1) That the action of the Surveyor in purchasing gravel and weedkiller for the paths from funds unexpended on general maintenance during the severe winter weather be approved.

4

(2) RUSTHALL ROAD/BRETLAND ROAD JUNCTION. - Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised to replace posts, repair verges and take such other steps as may be desirable to try to prevent traffic from encroaching onto the Common.

8. COACH ROAD. - Resolved - That the Works Committee of the Borough Council be asked to consider the possibility of the construction of a suitable lay-by in this area for use by lorry drivers and others who at present tend to park on the Common.

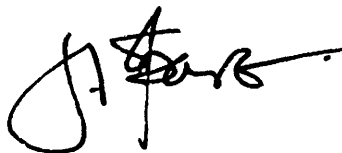
9. CARS DUMPED ON THE COMMONS. - Reference was made to derelict cars which had been dumped on the Common near the Fairground, and at Still Green, near Denny Bottom, Rusthall.

Resolved - That the Surveyor, upon being satisfied as to the position with the Police be authorised to dispose of the car near the Fairground, it being understood that the Police are dealing with the car at Still Green.

10. ROAD IMPROVEMENT, LIME HILL ROAD. - Reference was made to damage being caused to the Common at the junction of Lime Hill Road and London Road, but the Clerk was able to inform the Conservators that upon receipt of the necessary authority, suitable action was being taken by the Town Council to effect a road improvement at this junction.

11. PARKING OF VEHICLES ON THE COMMONS. - Reference was made to the growing practice of parking cars on the Common in the vicinity of Rose Hill School and the Clerk was instructed to write to the owners of both the Vale Royal and the Russell Hotels, seeking their co-operation in trying to prevent the practice.

12. CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATORS. - His Worship the Mayor was thanked for his able and courteous conduct in the chair during the past year.



Chairman

25th June 1963.

5.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1963

EFFECT OF WINTER WEATHER

With snow covering the ground from the last week in December to the first week in March, all maintenance work on the Commons was stopped and the labour transferred to snow clearing. This will mean that very little of this year's programme of clearing undergrowth will be carried out as grass-cutting will soon commence.

The snow has caused some damage to trees and bushes and this is gradually being tidied up.

The frost has also damaged some of the wall round the Brighton Lake. A portion, mainly along the eastern side, is in danger of collapse into the lake and will be rebuilt as soon as labour is available.

HORNBEAM TREE - JUNCTION OF MAJOR YORKS ROAD & NEVILL PARK

A large branch of this tree badly affected by disease has been removed in the hope of saving the remainder of the tree.

DEPOT

Following the fire reported last month the depot has been completely cleared out and the walls and roof re-whitened.

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

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

25th June, 1963 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor J. Spare) (Chairman)
Alderman N. Glanfield, Councillor C. J. Gange.
Mrs. Kenter, Messrs. R. S. R. Berry, R. W. Card, H. T. Clarke, B. Fountain, C. R. Harler, A. H. Witt, and C. Wood.

1. MINUTES.- The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS.- Accounts amounting to £377.6.11d. were passed for payment.
3. REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st March 1963.- The Treasurer submitted the Revenue account for the year ended 31st March, 1963.
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, 1964 :-

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor J. Spare)
Alderman N. L. Glanfield
Councillors C. J. Gange and D. Savage.

5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE.- Resolved - That the Mayor, Alderman N. Glanfield, Councillor D. 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 Alderman N. Glanfield and C. Wood be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
7. ALDERMAN MUFFETT.- Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to write to Alderman Muffett expressing the thanks and appreciation of the Conservators for his help in the management of the Commons over the past few years.
8. COACH ROAD.- Further to minute 8 of the meeting held on 2nd April 1963, the Clerk reported that the Works Committee of the Borough Council had decided to take no action on the request of the Conservators for the provision of a lay-by in the Langton Road/Coach Road area.
9. DAMAGE IN THE TOAD ROCK AREA OF RUSTHALL COMMONS.- The Clerk reported on the action taken by the Police in connection with a complaint about damage etc. in this area made by Mrs. Macdonald of Rusthall.
10. LITTER ON THE COMMONS.- The Clerk read a letter from the Rusthall Residents Association complaining about the prevalence of litter on Rusthall Common, and also a copy of his reply indicating that the Commons are patrolled once a week by a scavenger in an endeavour to control the position so far as possible.
- II. SURVEYOR'S REPORT.- Arising out of the Surveyors report it was Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised to place obstructions at Still Green to prevent cars being dumped and rubbish being deposited from vehicles.

The Surveyor also reported verbally :-

- (i) That six litter baskets had been placed in approved positions and

7

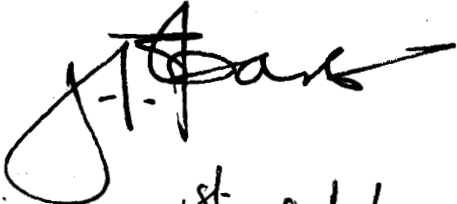
(ii) That as the severe weather last winter had caused damage to the gorse growing on the Commons, special attention should be given to it next winter.

12. ENCROACHMENT ON TO THE COMMONS AT THE JUNCTION OF LONDON ROAD AND INNER LONDON ROAD OPPOSITE THE VALE ROYAL HOTEL.-

Resolved - That the Works Committee of the Borough Council be asked to examine the position with a view to action being taken to prevent further encroachment.

13. SEATS IN THE COMMON VIEW AREA OF RUSTHALL COMMON.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised to place 2 additional seats, with backs, in this area after discussion with Mr. Witt as to a suitable location.


Chairman 1st October 1963

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1963.

<u>1961/62</u> £ s d	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1962/63</u> £ s d	<u>1961/62</u> £ s d	<u>Income</u>	<u>1962/63</u> £ s d
	<u>Salaries and Allowances</u>				
85. 0. 0.	Clerk	85. 0. 0.	- - -	Insurance Claim in respect of Fire damage	20. 2. 6.
65. 0. 0.	Surveyor	65. 0. 0.			
45. 0. 0.	Treasurer	45. 0. 0.	3271.18. 2.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation - Contribution for Year	3348.18. 1.
45. 0. 0.	Allowances for expenses	45. 0. 0.			
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>				
7. 8. 9.	Printing, Stationery, Postages and Advertising.	11.10.10.			
1. 1.10.	Public Liability and Fire Insurance	2. 1. 8.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>				
2554. 5. 6.	General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	2770.18. 2.			
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -				
68. 8. 2.	Seats	90. 0.11.			
9.18. 4.	Notice Boards	12. 3. 4.			
1.19. 9.	Fences and Posts	7. 9.10.			
- - -	Depot and Toolshed	9. 6.10.			
55.18. 5.	Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	13.17. 4.			
165. 0. 0.	Clearing Undergrowth	- - -			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>				
93.11.11.	Tarpainting Mount Ephraim Promenade	- - -			
74. 5. 6.	Improvements to Seats	126. 1. 8.			
- - -	Provision of grass cutting machine	85.10. 0.			
<u>£3,271.18. 2.</u>		<u>£3,369. 0. 7.</u>	<u>£3,271.18. 2.</u>		<u>£3,369. 0. 7.</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1963.

<u>Liabilities</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
<u>1961/62</u> £ s d		<u>1961/62</u> £ s d	<u>1962/63</u> £ s d
Sundry Creditors		Debtor -	
Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	1324. 10. 3.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation for balance of Contribution	1308. 1. 7.
Others	120. 0. 0.	Postage Stamps in Hand	13. 5.
		Cash in Hand	10. 4.
	<u>£1,444. 10. 3.</u>		<u>£1,309. 5. 4.</u>

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

Audited and found correct.

Treasurer

N. L. GLANFIELD

28th May, 1963.

C. WOOD

Auditors

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REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING JUNE 1963.

Grass Cutting

Grass cutting has been in progress since early in May and the usual areas in Bishops Down, Mount Ephraim and London Road have received their second cut. The area at Lower Green Road, Rusthall has also been cut.

Rabbits

The trapper authorised by the Lord of the Manor has made two visits to the Commons and has caught a number of young rabbits.

Common View.

The surface of the Common damaged by a Demolition Contractor has been satisfactorily repaired.

Gravel Paths.

Majority of gravel paths have been treated with weed killer and the treatment appears to have been successful.

Still Green.

This area has been cleared of all rubbish with the exception of a motor car. The Police presumably are endeavouring to trace the owner of the latter. It is suggested that consideration be given to placing an obstruction at the entrance to Still Green from Woodside Road, to prevent further cars being dumped and to prevent rubbish being deposited from vehicles.

H.G.TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

1st October, 1963

PRESENT : His Worship the Mayor (Councillor J.T. Spare)(Chairman)
Mrs. Kentner. Alderman Glanfield.
Messrs. Card, Clarke, Fountain, Harler, Witt and Wood.

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

2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £793.11.7d. were passed for payment.

3. OFFICERS' SALARIES. - The Clerk reported that since salaries had been reviewed there had been two national awards affecting local government officers. The Conservators considered whether to relate its officers' salaries to those in local government and

Resolved - That the more recent award and future awards made for appropriate officers in the local government service be applied proportionately to the Conservators' officers' salaries and expenses such arrangement to become operative on the 1st April 1964.

4. ENCROACHMENT ONTO THE COMMONS AT JUNCTION OF LONDON ROAD AND INNER LONDON ROAD. - Further to minute 12 of the meeting on 25th June, 1963, the Clerk reported that the Works Committee of the Borough Council had agreed to lay a short length of kerbing along the boundary of the highway where it abuts onto this part of the Common.

5. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - In receiving the Surveyor's report the Conservators raised no objection to the tarring of the path surrounding the Brighton Lake to minimise damage by frost and children.

6. ERIDGE ROAD. - The Surveyor reported that one of the maple trees planted last year had been broken off but that the Police had ascertained the name of the culprit. The cost of the replacement has since been supplied to the Police.

7. ENCROACHMENT AT RUSTHALL ROAD AND BRETLAND ROAD JUNCTION
The Surveyor reported that following discussions with the Borough Surveyor, it was recommended that the best method of preventing encroachment onto the Commons opposite Bretland Road would be by the use of kerbing. The estimated cost to the Conservators of continuing the use of posts as at present would be £25 to £30 whereas the cost of kerbing would be between £85 and £115 according to whether secondhand or new materials are used.

Resolved - That the Works Committee of the Borough Council be asked to provide kerbing on the south-westerly side of Rusthall Road for a length of approximately 100 yards upon the understanding that the Conservators would pay £25 towards the cost involved.

8. LITTER BASKET. - The Surveyor reported that one of the new litter baskets placed near the Church Road/London Road junction had been stolen but would be replaced in due course.

9. TRACK FROM MAJOR YORK'S ROAD TO CABBAGE STALK LANE.

The Surveyor reported that on account of the poor condition of this track which is also overgrown to some extent by bushes and low branches of trees, vehicles had commenced to use the footpath along the western side of the Common at Hungershall Park to Cabbage Stalk Lane.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to clear the growth along the side of this track; to circularise the residents in Hungershall Park pointing out that the maintenance of the surface of the track would seem to be their responsibility; and to erect a concrete post by the path referred to in order to prevent its use by vehicles in the future.

10. OVERHANGING BRANCHES NEAR GORSE COTTAGE .- Alderman Gunnis having drawn attention to a number of overhanging branches which may be a danger to buildings attached to his poultry farm, it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to cut back such of the overhanging branches as may be necessary.

11. GOAL POSTS - The Surveyor reported that the placing of two pairs of goal posts on the south side of Rusthall Road to encourage the playing of football in this area had been only partially successful. One pair of posts only seem to be used and the Conservators therefore

Resolved - That the other pair of goal posts be resited.

12. HAPPY VALLEY. - A complaint that the view from Happy Valley is again being obstructed by trees and bushes was considered.

Resolved - That the Commons Conservators do inspect the area whilst the trees are still in leaf to see whether any further work of clearance should be undertaken.

13. TREES AND BUSHES ON THE COMMONS. - (1) Some infected leaves taken from Oak trees on the Commons were inspected and it was

Resolved - That the Research Station at East Malling be asked to examine the leaves with a view to ascertaining exactly what disease had afflicted the trees and what action, if any, could be taken to prevent a recurrence of this infection in the future.

(2) SYCAMORE TREES. - The Conservators considered a complaint from the occupier of "Belleville" on the Common, that sycamore trees surrounding his property are blocking the access of light to his house and garden.

Resolved - That the Surveyor arrange for certain of these trees to be removed.

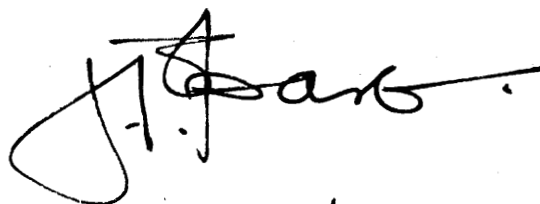
(3) GORSE BUSH AT THE JUNCTION OF THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM CHURCH ROAD TO MOUNT EPHRAIM. - The Conservators considered a complaint that Gorse Bush at this point is obstructing the line of vision of drivers of vehicles.

Resolved - That the Surveyor arrange for the Gorse Bush to be removed.

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14. LITTER ON THE COMMONS. The question of litter left on the Commons was again discussed and it was

Resolved (a) That the Clerk be instructed to write to the local Boy Scouts Association asking if Scouts would be prepared to help in collecting litter from the Commons.

(b) That the Surveyor arrange for 3 additional litter bins and 3 notices about the Litter Act to be placed at points on the Commons where litter seems most prevalent. The Conservators also decided to bear in mind the design of litter bins when consideration is given to the provision to be made in the next annual estimates for litter control.



Chairman. 31st December 1963

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS
QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1963

Grass Cutting

Grass cutting has continued in the usual areas along Mount Ephraim, London Road, Eridge Road and Lower Green Road, Rusthall. The wet weather and late growth of grass has slowed up the work. Areas at Nevill Park, Bulls Hollow, Apsley Street and Upper Street remain to be cut.

Lower Cricket Ground

The new concrete posts for the new railing along the Church Road boundary and at its junction with London Road have been delivered. As soon as grass cutting is finished labour will be available to erect the railing.

Brighton Lake

The frost last Winter has damaged portions of the wall and children have aggravated the damage. As soon as labour is available repairs will be carried out and it is suggested that the surrounding path be then repaired and tarred. If the surface is sealed it should reduce the risk of damage by frost and by children.

Seats

The two additional seats approved at the last Meeting have been placed on Rusthall Common and twelve replacement seats have been fixed. A further five replacements will be put out shortly.

H.G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

31st December, 1963. PRESENT : His Worship the Mayor (Councillor J.T. Spare)
(Chairman).

Mrs. G.K. Kentner, Alderman N. Glanfield,
Councillor C. Gange. Messrs. R. Berry, R.W.
Card, B. Fountain, C.R. Harler and C. Wood.

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

2. ACCOUNTS. - An account amounting to £1,093.4s.6d. was passed for payment.

3. ESTIMATES. - Estimates of the amount required for the purpose of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year were approved in the sum of £4,140.

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 £4,140 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 and Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875.

4. INSURANCE TENDERS. - The Treasurer submitted tenders for the Public Liability and Employers Liability risks of the Conservators for five years from 1st April 1964.

Resolved - That the Tender of the General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation Ltd., amounting to 17/- and 4/3d respectively per year based on estimated cover, be accepted, subject to the approval of the Policies by the Clerk.

5. LITTER ON THE COMMONS. - The Clerk read a letter from the local Boy Scouts Association agreeing to help in the collection of litter left on the Commons.

6. DAMAGE TO PURPLE MAPLE TREE IN ERIDGE ROAD. The Clerk reported that the Police had prosecuted I.C.A. King, a juvenile, who had been found guilty of injuring a purple maple tree in Eridge Road, and that the cost of replacing the tree had been paid to the Conservators.

7. ENCROACHMENT ON THE COMMON AT THE JUNCTION OF RUSTHALL ROAD AND BRET LAND ROAD. - Further to minute 7 of the meeting held on 1st October, 1963, the Clerk reported that the Works Committee of the Borough Council had agreed to lay the requisite length of secondhand kerbing at an estimated cost of £85 and that the balance of the cost after taking into account the contribution of £25, be met from the District Road estimates.

8. HAPPY VALLEY. - Further to minute 12 of the meeting held on 1st October 1963, it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to cut back any holly trees that may be necessary in order to improve the view.

9. CAR PARKING ON THE FAIRGROUND. - The Conservators were assured that a charge for car parking is made by the Lord of the Manor.

10. HOOLIGANISM ON THE COMMONS. - The attention of the Conservators was drawn to the damage that is being done on the Commons in the Rusthall area, particularly in the vicinity of Toad Rock.

Resolved - That the Superintendent of Police be asked if he could arrange for the Commons in that area to be patrolled on Saturday nights particularly after 'Closing time'.

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

Resolved - (a) That the Clerk should draw the attention of the Watch Committee of the Town Council to the condition of the grass verge of the Common opposite the Vale Royal Hotel, and to the ever-increasing encroachment on to the Commons owing to the lack of car parking space in that area ; and

(b) That the offer by Mr. L. Leroy of a litter bin to be placed near the seat below St. Helena on the Common, be accepted with thanks.

12. BOXING DAY MEET - LOWER CRICKET GROUND. - It was pointed out that as the Meet did not move off by the usual route some damage had been done to the Commons particularly to certain of the gravel footpaths.

Resolved - To request the Mayor of the Borough, if invitations are sent out next year for the Hunt to meet on the Commons on Boxing Day, if he would kindly ask the Master to move off by the normal route.

13. CONDITION OF ROAD AT JUNCTION OF LANGTON ROAD AND THE COACH ROAD. - Resolved - That the Works Committee of the Corporation be asked to provide kerbing on the north-west corner of the junction of Langton Road and the Coach Road.

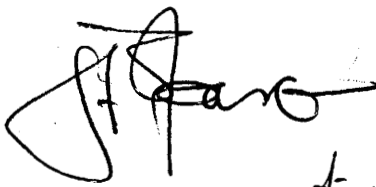
14. FOOTPATH OUTSIDE RUSSELL HOTEL. - A complaint that cars are being driven on the footpath outside the Russell Hotel having been considered it was

Resolved - That the attention of the Works Committee be drawn to the matter with a view to some action being taken to prevent this undesirable practice.

15. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS. - Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held at 2.45 p.m. on the following Tuesdays :-

31st March 1964
23rd June 1964

6th October 1964
5th January 1965


Chairman 31st March
1964

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Estimated 1964/65

EXPENDITURE	ESTIMATED 1963/64		APPROXIMATE 1963/64		ESTIMATED 1964/65	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Salaries</u>						
Clerk	85		85		88	
Surveyor	65		65		67	
Treasurer	45		45		46	
Allowances for expenses ...	<u>45</u>		<u>45</u>		<u>46</u>	
		240		240		247
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>						
Printing, Stationery, Postages and Advertising ...	12		12		10	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	<u>1</u>		<u>2</u>		<u>2</u>	
		13		14		12
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department ...	3062		2919		3396	
Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -						
Seats	80		90		80	
Notice Boards	25		25		25	
Fences and Posts	20		30		20	
Depot and Toolshed ...	10		10		10	
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake	25		140		50	
Clearing Undergrowth ...	<u>180</u>		<u>180</u>		<u>200</u>	
		3402		3394		3781
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Improvements to Seats ...	100		100		100	
Renewing posts and railings (part)						
Lower Cricket Ground ...	50		45		-	
Provision of Litter Baskets	<u>34</u>		<u>47</u>		<u>-</u>	
		184		192		100
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£	3,839		3,840		4,140

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1963

Grass Cutting. Grass cutting continued well into October due to the very late growth of grass this year and all the usual areas were cut.

Lower Cricket Ground. The new concrete posts and galvanised tube railing at the junction of Church Road and London Road have been erected.

Brighton Lake. The defective walls have been repaired and the surrounding path is now being edged and re-gravelled.

Track from Major York's Road to rear of Hungershall Park. This track has now been cleared to make it reasonably passable for vehicles and the residents in Hungershall Park have been informed that the repair of this track is the responsibility of those persons having the right to use it. Concrete posts have been erected to prevent vehicles using the public footpath between Hungershall Park and this track.

Overhanging branches near Gorse Cottage. The overhanging branches which were interfering with buildings on the adjoining property have been cut and cleared away.

Clearance of Undergrowth. The clearance of the gorse affected by last winter's frosts is in hand and up to date the area bounded by Mount Ephraim and London Road has been substantially cleared. During the winter it is proposed to carry out the clearance of undergrowth in the Bishop's Down area and along the south western side of Rusthall Road. A small area of undergrowth on this side of Rusthall Road near a bus stop was recently cleared at the request of the Borough Council in order to improve visibility.

The Old Race Track. Concrete posts have been placed across the race track in the vicinity of Gorse Cottage to prevent cars gaining access to the track.

Oak Trees. Following the report of some infection of the leaves of oak trees on the Common, samples were submitted to the East Malling Research Station and also to the Forestry Commission. Both these authorities identified the trouble as being caused by the Gall wasp (*Neuroterus lenticularis*) in the process of laying their eggs and the galls on the leaves contain their developing larvae. No treatment can reasonably be attempted and in the opinion of the Forestry Commission, there is nothing to worry about.

Rusthall Cricket Club. The Cricket Club sought permission to carry out the mole draining of the cricket ground and individual members of the Committee were contacted and signified that they had no objections to raise. The Cricket Club has also reported that they have permission from the Lord of the Manor to extend the cricket ground, and in connection therewith I am meeting the Honorary Secretary in order to ascertain their proposals.

Encroachment on the Commons. The Borough Council has laid kerbing at the junction of London Road and the inner road near Vale Royal Hotel, and has agreed to provide kerbing along the south west side of Rusthall Road opposite its junction with Bretland Road.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

31st March, 1964. PRESENT : His Worship the Mayor

(Councillor J.T. Spare J.P.) (Chairman)
Mrs. G.K. Kentner, Alderman N.L. Glanfield
Councillors C.J. Gange and D. Savage
Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card, B. Fountain,
C.R. Harler, A.H. Witt and C. Wood.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,229. 3s. 4d. were passed for payment.
3. CARS PARKING ON THE COMMONS. - (1) The Clerk submitted complaints:-

(a) From Mr. Warren concerning the parking of cars on the Commons in the neighbourhood of the Brighton Lake.

(b) From Mr. Schoolar concerning damage to turf in the vicinity of the Toad Rock by motor vehicles parking thereon.

The Conservators considered the problem of car parking on parts of the Commons in some detail including the possibility of erecting physical barriers at some points in the form of concrete posts or a raised bank of soil and turf but

Resolved - That in the first instance the attention of the Police be drawn to this undesirable practice.

(2) Further consideration was also given to the existing practice of parking cars on the Common between the Inner and Outer London Roads. The Conservators expressed surprise that the Borough Council, having refused consent for use as a car park, had taken no action to prevent the land being used unofficially for that purpose.

4. CONDITION OF GRASS VERGES. - A complaint from Mr. Coombs of Pilgrims, Langton Road about horses churning up the grass verge outside his property, was considered but the Conservators expressed the opinion that the matter was not entirely within their jurisdiction. A letter has, however, been addressed to two Riding Stables in the vicinity, drawing attention to the fact that horses should not be taken across the Commons during the months of November to March.
5. SURVEYORS REPORT. - Arising out of the Surveyor's report attention was directed to the condition of "No Cycling" notices, particularly in the High Street/Lower Green Road, Rusthall, area and the Conservators considered the replacement of one or two similar notices in the vicinity of the Linden Park Cricket ground.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to examine the condition of all the notices on the Commons and report upon those needing replacement at the next meeting.

6. COACH ROAD - Further to Minute 8 of the meeting held on the 25th June, 1963, the Conservators decided to give further consideration to the question of encroachment on to the Common in the Langton Road/Coach Road area at the meeting in October, 1964.
7. CONDITION OF ROAD AT JUNCTION OF LANGTON ROAD AND THE COACH ROAD - Further to Minute 13 of the meeting of December 31st, 1963, the Clerk reported that the Works Committee of the Town Council had instructed the Town Clerk to negotiate with the Lord of the Manor for the acquisition of a piece of land sufficient to provide a suitable radius kerb at this point.
8. FOOTPATH OUTSIDE RUSSELL HOTEL - Further to Minute 14 of the meeting of 31st December, 1963, the Clerk reported that the Works Committee of the Town Council had instructed the Borough Surveyor to erect suitable posts at the Lime Hill Road end and at the northern end of the wider section of this footpath, and also at both ends of the footpath between Dudley Road and York Road.

Claudia Cox

Chairman 23rd June, 1964.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH 1964

Clearance of Undergrowth

Work is in progress on clearing undergrowth along the south western side of Rusthall Road and along Bishops Down and Bishops Down Road. The undergrowth along both sides of the footpath from Rusthall Place to St. Pauls Church and Nevill Court has already been cleared. Patches of dead and overgrown gorse in the area bounded by London Road, Castle Road and Mount Edgcumbe Road have been cleared.

Gravel Paths

The paths round the Brighton Lake and also from Eridge Road opposite Montacute Road to Hungershall Park have been edged and re-gravelled.

Railing

The protective railing on the north side of the junction of Eridge Road and Montacute Road has been re-erected using concrete posts in place of the old broken and decayed wooden posts.

Still Green

Posts have now been erected at the north eastern end of Woodside Road to control the access of vehicles to Still Green.

Maple Trees - Eridge Road

The two trees broken off by irresponsible persons have now been replaced.

Damage to trees

A disturbing amount of damage is being done to Birch trees and other saplings, many of which have been sawn off and completely removed. It is probable that adults are responsible as well as children. and the attention of the Police has been drawn to the matter in the hopes of curbing the practice or catching the offenders.

Rusthall Cricket Ground

The Honorary Secretary to the Club indicated on the site that at some future date the Club hopes to extend the levelled area of the ground along the western end in front of the Pavilion and also along the northern side for the width of about 10 yards, in order to improve the playing area. The proposal is subject to suitable material being available and no work will be done until after the 1964 season. There would appear to be no reason for the Conservators to object to the proposals.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

23rd June, 1964. PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Miss C. Cox, J.P.)
(Chairman), Alderman N.L. Glanfield,
Councillor D. Savage, Mrs. G.J. Kentner,
Messrs. R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke, C.R. Harler,
A.H. Witt and C. Wood.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £781. 2. 10d. were passed for payment.
3. REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st March, 1964. - The Treasurer submitted the audited Revenue Account for the year ended 31st March, 1964.
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, 1965:-

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Miss C. Cox)
Alderman N.L. Glanfield
Councillors C.J. Gange and D. Savage.

5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE. - Resolved - That the Mayor, Alderman N.L. Glanfield, Councillor D. 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 Alderman N.L. Glanfield and Mr. C. Wood be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
7. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's report was received.

Arising out of the Surveyor's report the Clerk was instructed to write to the Local Boy Scouts Association expressing appreciation of the help given by the Boy Scouts in the collection of litter on Rusthall and Tunbridge Wells Commons.
8. LITTER BASKETS. - In reporting that the new litter baskets had been placed in position, the Surveyor mentioned that one of the original baskets had been smashed beyond repair and would, in due course, be replaced.
9. SYCAMORE TREES. - The Surveyor reported that Alderman Gunnis had drawn attention to some sycamore saplings alongside his property as they are a potential danger to a brick wall.

Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to write to Alderman Gunnis suggesting that he might like to have the saplings trimmed or removed. If he is unable to have them removed the Surveyor was authorised to make arrangements for the necessary work to be carried out during the winter months.

10. RUSTHALL CRICKET CLUB. - The Surveyor also reported that he had received a letter from Rusthall Cricket Club who wish to lay a short length of concrete path outside the Cricket Pavilion.

Resolved - That permission be given to the Cricket Club to lay this concrete path.

11. TREES ON THE COMMONS. - The Surveyor reported that one of the cherry trees in Mount Edgecumbe Road had died. The tree will be removed in the Winter and replaced next Spring.

12. CONDITION OF NOTICE BOARDS. - Further to Minute No. 5 of the meeting held on 31st March, 1964, the Surveyor submitted a report on the condition of the notices displayed on the Commons and it was

Resolved - That with the two exceptions now mentioned the notices be replaced as necessary, short notices being cast on metal plates and longer notices painted upon metal and backed with wood.

Clarence Cox

Chairman 6th October, 1964

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1964.

<u>1962/63</u> £ s d	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1963/64</u> £ s d	<u>1962/63</u> £ s d	<u>Income</u>	<u>1963/64</u> £ s d
	<u>Salaries and Allowances</u>				
85. 0. 0.	Clerk	85. 0. 0.	20. 2. 6.	Insurance Claim in respect of Fire damage	- - -
65. 0. 0.	Surveyor	65. 0. 0.	- - -	Amount recovered re damage to tree	2. 2. 0.
45. 0. 0.	Treasurer	45. 0. 0.		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation - Contribution for Year	3897. 8. 6.
45. 0. 0.	Allowances for expenses	45. 0. 0.	3348.18. 1.		
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>				
11.10.10.	Printing, Stationery & Postages.	8.10. 9.			
2. 1. 8.	Public Liability and Fire Insurance	5. 6. 9.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>				
2770.18. 2.	General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	2967.11. 3.			
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -				
90. 0.11.	Seats	89. 7. 0.			
12. 3. 4.	Notice Boards	4. 6.11.			
7. 9.10.	Fences and Posts	28. 5.10.			
9. 6.10.	Depot and Toolshed	40.13.10.			
13.17. 4.	Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	137.17. 3.			
- - -	Clearing Undergrowth	180. 0. 0.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>				
126. 1. 8.	Improvements	97. 9. 4.			
85.10. 0.	Provision of grass cutting machine	- - -			
- - -	Renewing posts and railings -				
	Lower Cricket Ground	49. 3.10.			
- - -	Provision of Litter Baskets	50.17. 9.			
<u>£3,369. 0. 7.</u>		<u>£3,899.10. 6.</u>	<u>£3,369. 0. 7.</u>		<u>£3,899.10. 6.</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1964.

<u>1962/63</u> £ s d	<u>Liabilities</u>	<u>1963/64</u> £ s d	<u>1962/63</u> £ s d	<u>Assets</u>	<u>1963/64</u> £ s d
	Sundry Creditors -			Debtor -	
1189. 5. 4.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	781. 2.10.		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	
120. 0. 0.	Others	- - -	1308. 1. 7.	for balance of Contribution	779.16. 8.
			13. 5.	Postage Stamps in Hand	12. 2.
			10. 4.	Cash in Hand	14. 0.
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
£1,309. 5. 4.		£781. 2.10.	£1,309. 5. 4.		£781. 2.10.
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>

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

Treasurer

8th June, 1964.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 30th JUNE 1964

Clearance of Undergrowth: The fringe of the Common along Bishops Down and Bishops Down Road was cleared of undergrowth and mis-shapen trees and a start was made at the western end of Rusthall Road.

Litter Baskets: The additional litter baskets requested by the Conservators have been placed in positions which normally attract a good deal of paper litter.

Collection of litter: The various Boy Scout units under the organisation of Mr. Hinton have been carrying out weekly collections of litter on both Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons, and have given very valuable help and have allowed the normal men to carry on with other maintenance work.

Grass Cutting: Grass cutting commenced in April in Bishops Down, Mount Ephraim and London Road areas and a start will shortly be made on Rusthall Common in the Lower Green area.

H.G. TUCKER

Surveyor to Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS

SCHEDULE OF NOTICE BOARDS OF THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS - JUNE 1964

(Note: There are other notices belonging to the Lord of the Manor, Tunbridge Wells Corporation and private persons)

No.	LOCATION	SUBJECT	CONSTRUCTION		CONDITION	REMARKS
			NOTICE	POST		
1.	Junction of London Road & Mount Ephraim	Bye Laws	Printed in glazed wooden frame	Wood	Good	-
2.	Junction of London Road	do	do	do	do	-
3.	Major York's Road	do	do	do	do	-
4.	ErIDGE Road nr.Charlton's Nurseries	do	do	do	Poor	Glass is missing & printed byelaws discoloured by weather.
5.	Junction of Langton Road & Rusthall Road	do	do	Fixed to Direction Post	Good	-
6.	Junction of Langton Road & Tea Garden Lane	Driving or riding vehicles on Common (see appendix)	do	do	Good	-
7.	By St. Paul's Church & School, Rusthall.	Driving vehicles on Common. (see appendix)	Removed Painted on wood	Removed 2" diam. Tube	Fair	Under repair after being damaged
8 & 9	Footpath-Rusthall High Street to Lower Green Road.	Driving or riding vehicles on path (see appendix)	Painted on wood	2" diam. Tube	8-Fair 9-Poor	This sign was damaged in a road accident but is quite legible.
8a & 9a	do	No cycling	Painted on wood.	1 1/2" diam.	Poor	8-Needs slight repair 9-Needs repainting.
10.	Junction of Langton Road & road to St. Paul's Church, Rusthall	No parking (See appendix)	Missing	Missing	-	Need repainting.
11 & 12	Footpath-Langton Road (School crossing) to Rusthall Road (Lower Green)	Riding bicycles on footpaths (see appendix)	Painted on metal	1 1/2" diam. Tube	Good	-
13 & 14	Victoria Grove	Horse riding (see appendix)	Painted on wood	13-Concrete Post 14-3" diam. Tube	Good	-

No.	LOCATION	SUBJECT	CONSTRUCTION		CONDITION	REMARKS
			NOTICE	POST		
15.	Wellington Rocks	Defacing rocks	Removed	Removed	-	Under repair after being damaged.
16.	Brighton Lake	Traction Engines	Missing	Missing	-	-
17 & 18	"Belleville", Tunbridge Wells	Private Entrance	Painted on wood	Mild steel	Good	-
19	Common View, Rusthall	Depositing rubbish	Painted on wood	2" Tube	Poor	Needs painting.
20 & 21	Still Green, Rusthall	Depositing rubbish	20-Painted on wood	20-Fixed on tree	Poor	
22	Footpath - Lower Cricket Ground	Riding bicycles	21-Missing. Printed, covered with plastic & backed with wood	21-Wood	-	21-Post is damaged.
23	Junction of footpaths Mount Ephraim to Castle Road & Castle Road to Fir Tree Road.	do	Missing	3" diam tube	-	-
24	Footpath - Higher Cricket Ground to Spa Hotel	do	Missing	3" diam. tube	-	-
25 & 26	Brighton Lake	No cycling	Painted on wood	1½" diam. tube	Poor	Need painting
27	Higher Cricket Ground	Interference with organised games.	Printed, covered with plastic & backed with board.	2" diam. tube	Poor	Materials unsuitable.
28	Rusthall Cricket Ground	do	do	do	Poor	do do

June 1964

H.G. TUCKER

Surveyor to Commons Conservators.

SCHEDULE OF NOTICE BOARDS OF THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

APPENDIX

WORDING OF NOTICES

No. 6

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS - NOTICE.

The Conservators of Tunbridge Wells Commons prohibit the driving or riding of any vehicle, Bicycle, Tricycle, or other like machine on that part of the Commons which is bounded on the North by Langton Road, on the West by Tea Garden Lane and on the East by the road leading from Langton Road to St. Paul's Church.

Any person offending is liable to a penalty of Forty Shillings.

BY ORDER of the Conservators.

John Whitehead,
Clerk.

No. 7

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS
NOTICE

The driving of Vehicles (including Motor Cars) on such part of the Commons as is within a distance of 70 yards from TEA GARDEN LANE is hereby prohibited.

Penalty 40/-.

By Order

John Whitehead.
Clerk to the Conservators.

Nos. 8W
& 9E.

NOTICE

The driving or riding of any Vehicle, Bicycle, or other like machine, on this path is strictly prohibited.

By Order

John Whitehead
Clerk to the Conservators.

Nos. 8a & 9a

NO CYCLING

No. 10

NOTICE

Carriage Road to Rusthall Church only. NO PARKING ALLOWED.

Nos. 11 S
& 12 N

NOTICE

The riding of any bicycle or other like machine on any footpath on the Commons is strictly prohibited.

By Order

John Whitehead.
Clerk to the Conservators.

Nos. 13 E
& 14 W

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

NOTICE

Under the Bye Laws framed by the Conservators of the Tunbridge Wells Commons in pursuance of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act of 1890, the Conservators hereby order as follows.

No person shall at any time ride any horse or other animal on that part of the Common which is known as the Queen's Grove.

By Order

John Whitehead.
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

Note

Riding on any part of the Commons is prohibited during the months of November, December, January, February, March.

No. 15.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS CONSERVATORS

The Public are warned to abstain from cutting their names on or otherwise defacing the rocks, and they are reminded that such practice is contrary to the Bye-laws of the Commons and entails a prosecution.

By Order

John Whitehead.
Clerk
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

No. 16.

NOTICE TO TRACTION ENGINE DRIVERS and OTHERS.
Any person taking water from this pond will be prosecuted.

By Order John Whitehead
Clerk to the Conservators,
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

Nos. 17 &
18

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

NOTICE

PRIVATE ENTRANCE ONLY

By Order M.J.H. Girling.
Town Clerk.

No. 19

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS

NOTICE

No road sand, rubbish, rags, refuse, or other material whatsoever, may be thrown or deposited or left, or caused or suffered to be thrown, deposited or left on any part of the Commons.

PENALTY 40/- for each offence and a daily penalty of 20/-.

BY ORDER of the Conservators of the Commons.

John Whitehead, Clerk.

Nos. 20(E)
& 21(W)

NOTICE

No road sand, rubbish, rags, refuse or other material whatsoever may be thrown, deposited, or left, or caused or suffered to be thrown, deposited or left, on any part of the Commons.

Penalty 40/- for each offence, and a daily penalty of 20/-.

BY ORDER

John Whitehead.
Clerk to the Conservators.

Nos. 22, 23 & 24

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

NOTICE

The riding of any bicycle or any like machine on any part of the Commons is prohibited.

A Reward of £ ? will be paid to anyone giving information leading to the conviction of anyone found guilty of damaging or removing this notice.

By order John Whitehead.
Clerk to the Conservators.

Nos. 25 & 26

NO CYCLING

Nos. 27 & 28

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

It is an offence -

to play any game on, or
to drive, ride or lead a horse over this Cricket Ground
without the consent of the Conservators or to interfere with
authorised games.

Penalty: Forty shillings

John Whitehead,
Clerk to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

6th October, 1964 - PRE SENT - The Mayor (Councillor Miss C. Cox, J.P.)
Chairman

Alderman N.L. Glanfield,
Alderman C.J. Gange,
Messrs. B.H. Fountain, A.H. Witt,
H.T. Clarke and R.W. Card.

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

2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £884. 1. 3d. were passed for payment.

3. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor reported upon a number of matters and arising therefrom it was

Resolved - (a) that permission be granted to Rusthall Cricket Club to extend their ground on the southern side along Langton Road and also on the eastern side in front of the existing seats.

(b) that if necessary the Clerk and Surveyor be authorised to take all such action as may be necessary to remove an old van which has been parked for some time on the Commons near Harmony Street, Rusthall.

4. NOTICE BOARDS. - The Borough Surveyor submitted a Schedule of Notices which had been revised to keep the wording on the boards to a minimum

Resolved - that the Schedule as now amended be agreed with the words "Offenders will be prosecuted" at the end of each notice.

5. PARKING ON THE COMMONS. - It was reported that guests at Hotels along the London Road were parking cars on the Common for long periods and that vehicles were frequently left there all night.

Resolved - (a) that the Clerk be instructed to write to the Hotel Proprietors concerned seeking their co-operation in preventing this undesirable practice.

(b) that the Surveyor be instructed to arrange for the erection of notices prohibiting the driving, riding or parking of vehicles on this part of the Common.

6. COACH ROAD. - Further to Minute 6 of the meeting held on the 31st March, 1964, it was

Resolved - that the Works Committee of the Borough Council be asked to consider the possibility of the construction of a lay-by, incorporating a bus-stop, in Langton Road adjacent to the Rusthall Cricket Ground, in a position approximately 100 yards east of the junction with the Coach Road, for use by lorry drivers and others who at present tend to park on the Common.

Christina Cox
Chairman
5.1.65

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER 1964

Grass Cutting:

During this quarter the men have been engaged practically full time on grass cutting in the Bishops Down/Mount Ephraim and London Road areas, also in Eridge Road and Lower Green Road, Rusthall.

Grass cutting is likely to continue into next month in London Road opposite the Post Office, Major York's Road by Nevill Court, and at Bulls Hollow, Rusthall.

In view of the heavy growth of grass a contractor (Mr. Tester of Woodside Road, Rusthall) was engaged to cut the grass on the Lower Cricket Ground, on the large area in London Road, and also the surround of Rusthall Cricket Ground.

Docks & Thistles:

Special attention has been given to patches of docks and thistles which were developing in prominent areas of the Common - in Bishops Down, London Road and the Fonthill area. Owing to the lateness of the season it was decided to dig them out by hand in preference to the use of a suitable spray.

Damage on the Commons:

Another of the newly planted Maple trees in Eridge Road has been broken off but although the matter was reported to the Police, the person responsible has not been found. A replacement tree will be planted during the coming planting season.

Further seats have been damaged or smashed and a certain amount of damage done to the shelter near the Spa Hotel.

Rusthall Cricket Ground:

At a meeting on the site with the Hon. Secretary, he pointed out that Rusthall Cricket Club were seeking permission to extend their ground on the southern side along Langton Road and also on the eastern side in front of the existing seats. The proposal would involve a minor amount of levelling and the piping and filling in of a shallow ditch, and in general would result in an improvement as the continual cutting of the extended area would be beneficial to the turf and would slightly reduce the amount of cutting carried out by the Conservators.

It is recommended that for their part the Conservators should give permission for the proposed work.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

C.C.

amendment
to the
London Road
only
Minute 5
6 Oct. 1964
refers

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS

A. *The driving, riding or parking* *this part of the Commons*
The driving or riding of ANY VEHICLE on the ~~area~~
~~bounded by LANGTON ROAD, by a line 70 yards north-~~
~~west of TEA GARDEN LANE and the road leading from~~
~~LANGTON ROAD to ST. PAUL'S CHURCH~~ is PROHIBITED.
~~PENALTY: FORTY SHILLINGS.~~ *Offenders will be prosecuted.*

By order of
THE CONSERVATORS.

B. TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS

The driving or riding of ANY VEHICLE or BICYCLE on
any FOOTPATH is PROHIBITED.
~~PENALTY: FORTY SHILLINGS.~~ *Offenders will be prosecuted.*

By order of
THE CONSERVATORS.

C. TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS

The RIDING OF HORSES or other animals in the QUEEN'S
GROVE at any time is PROHIBITED.
~~PENALTY: FORTY SHILLINGS.~~ *Offenders will be prosecuted.*

By order of
THE CONSERVATORS.

D. TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS

The cutting of names or otherwise DAMAGING ROCKS, TREES
or ERECTIONS IS PROHIBITED.
~~PENALTY: FORTY SHILLINGS.~~ *Offenders will be prosecuted.*

By order of
THE CONSERVATORS

E. TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS

LITTER OR of any kind
The DEPOSIT of ANY MATERIALS on the Commons is PROHIBITED.
~~PENALTY: FORTY SHILLINGS.~~ *Offenders will be prosecuted.*

By order of
THE CONSERVATORS.

F. TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS

It is an offence to
to play any unauthorised game, or
to drive, ride or lead a horse, or
to interfere with authorised games
on this Cricket Ground.
~~PENALTY: FORTY SHILLINGS.~~ *Offenders will be prosecuted.*

By Order of
THE CONSERVATORS.

C.C.

"Offenders will
be prosecuted"
inserted in all
cases.
Minute 4
6 Oct. 1964
refers

NOTE
In case of need
the Town Council
might do well
to prosecute under
the Litter Act
when the notice in
this form would
help the prosecution.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

5th January, 1965 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor Miss C. Cox, J.P.)

Chairman

Alderman N.L. Glanfield,
Alderman C.J. Gange,
Messrs. R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke,
B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler,
A.H. Witt, C.W. Wood.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £930. 5. 3d. were passed for payment.
3. ESTIMATES. - Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year were approved in the sum of £4,534

Resolved - (a) That the Finance Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year of an amount of £4,534 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 and Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875.

(b) That the salaries of the Officers be reviewed at the meeting in October, 1965.

4. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS. - Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held at 2.45 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:-

30th March, 1965

5th October, 1965

29th June, 1965

4th January, 1966

5. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor reported upon a number of matters and arising therefrom it was

Resolved - (a) That the action taken by the Commons Conservators Committee, in allowing the Developer of the site of Onslow House to remove at his own expense two Sycamore trees, provided they are replaced by a Beech tree planted in a suitable position, be approved.

(b) That the two Lime trees standing on the Common in front of Nos. 1 and 3 Langton Road which have become dangerous, be removed, that the tender of Mr. E. Theobald amounting to £24 be accepted and that the work be put in hand forthwith.

(c) That in order to prevent cars being driven onto the Common, the Surveyor be authorised to erect a concrete post on the footpath by the Higher Cricket Ground where it leaves Fir Tree Road.

The Conservators noted with concern that much wilful damage continues to be done to seats on the Commons.

6. MAINTENANCE OF COMMONS. - The Clerk read an extract from a letter sent to him by a resident at Mount Ephraim House expressing appreciation of the standard of maintenance of the Commons.
7. COACH ROAD. - Further to Minute 6 of the meeting held on the 6th October, 1964, the Clerk reported that in the opinion of the Works Committee, the Conservators' request would not be effective for the proposed purpose, but, with a view to improving the traffic situation near the bend in Langton Road, the Watch Committee now had under consideration the possibility of providing a hard standing adjoining the Coach Road.

Clairinda Cox
Chairman 30th March, 1965

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Estimates 1965/66

EXPENDITURE	ESTIMATE 1964/65		REVISED EST. 1964/65		ESTIMATE 1965/66	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Salaries</u>						
Clerk	88		89		92	
Surveyor	67		68		70	
Treasurer	46		47		49	
Allowances for expenses	46		47		49	
		247		251		260
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>						
Printing, Stationery, Postages and Advertising	10		10		10	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	2		5		5	
		12		15		15
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	3396		3396		3504	
Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -						
Seats	180		180		200	
Notice Boards	25		25		25	
Fences and Posts	20		20		20	
Depot and Toolshed	10		10		10	
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake	50		50		50	
Clearing Undergrowth	200		200		200	
		3881		3881		4009
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Provision of Grasscutting machine ...	-		-		150	
Replacement of Notice Boards - 1st stage	-		-		100	
		-		-		250
TOTAL EXPENDITURE £	4,140		4,147		4,534	

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1964.

1. Grass Cutting

This work continued well into October and all the normal areas were cut and left in a tidy condition.

2. Undergrowth.

The trimming of brambles, bracken and other undergrowth has been carried out along Apsley Street, Bulls Hollow, the area between Langton Road and Nevill Park near Rusthall Church, London Road and is now in progress along the south west side of Rusthall Road.

3. Onslow House Redevelopment.

The Committee of the Conservators met on the site and considered a request on behalf of the developer to remove 2 Sycamore trees which overhung the site and which would become potentially dangerous during redevelopment.

The Committee agreed to the removal of the trees, provided the developer bore the cost and also provided a new standard Beech tree is planted at a suitable spot near the site.

The Sycamore trees have already been removed and the new tree will be planted shortly.

4. Lime Trees near the Spa Hotel.

The Committee also inspected 2 Lime trees standing on the Common in front of Nos. 1 & 3 Langton Road opposite the Spa Hotel.

One tree is obviously hollow at the base and both trees are obviously dying in the tops and are potentially dangerous. The Committee agreed to recommend the Conservators that the 2 trees should be removed and that the question of planting substitute trees should be deferred until the completion of certain private development work in that area.

5. Seats

Damage is continuing to be done to seats on both Commons, the worst occasion being the removal and damaging of 6 teak seats out of the 11 along the wall in Bishops Down, known as the South of France.

Repairs and renewals within the amount provided in the estimates are in hand.

6. Concrete Post on footpath by Higher Cricket Ground

It has been observed that cars are being driven on to the Common by way of the footpath opposite the Pavilion of the Higher Cricket Ground which leads towards the Spa Hotel.

It is recommended that this practice should be prevented by the provision of a concrete post where this footpath leaves Fir Tree Road.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

30th March, 1965. - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor Miss C. Cox, J.P.)
Chairman

Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Alderman N.L. Glanfield,
Alderman C.J. Gange,
Messrs. R.S.R. Berry, R.W. Card,
H.T. Clarke, B.H. Fountain,
C.R. Harler, D. Savage, A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £93l. 4. 8d. were passed for payment.
3. RESIGNATION OF MR. C. WOOD AS CONSERVATOR. - The Clerk reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Mr. C. Wood, which had been accepted as at the 4th of March, 1965.
4. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS. - In view of Mr. Wood's resignation it was

Resolved - That further to Minute No. 6 of the meeting held on 23rd June, 1964, Mr. B.H. Fountain be appointed as an Auditor of the accounts of the Conservators for the remainder of the current financial year.

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

Resolved - (a) That three of the damaged teak seats along the South of France, Bishops Down, be repaired and that three new Iroko seats be purchased at an estimated cost of £43. 7. 0d. to replace those damaged beyond repair.

(b) That the action of the Surveyor in purchasing gravel for the paths from funds unexpended on general maintenance be approved.

(c) That the Surveyor be authorised to purchase ten new signs from Messrs. Supersine at a cost of £8. 12. 6d. each. Four of the signs will relate to driving and parking of vehicles on the Common, two to be erected in London Inner Road near the Vale Royal Hotel and one near the Russell Hotel; two signs will prohibit the depositing of litter or materials of any kind on the Common, one to be erected at Still Green and one at Common View Rusthall; the remainder will refer to the playing of unauthorised games on the Higher Cricket Ground and the Rusthall Cricket Ground.

(d) That the Surveyor be authorised to purchase a Hayter Mower at a cost of approximately £138 from County Supplies Department.

(e) That a donation of Ten Guineas be sent to the Local Boy Scouts Association as a token of appreciation by the Conservators for the help given by the Boy Scouts in the collection of litter on Rusthall and Tunbridge Wells Commons. The Clerk was also instructed to seek the aid of the Boy Scouts during the coming season.

(f) That Mr. Michael Birch of "Rust Hall" be permitted to fill in the pond on Rusthall Common lying between Langton Road and the right-of-way to "Rust Hall", provided always that suitable soil is used, that the surface is sown with grass seed on completion and that the whole of the work is carried out to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

(g) That the Surveyor be authorised to thin a group of Elm trees which are obscuring sun and light from the property known as "Baxterley" in Bretland Road.

(h) That the question raised with regard to an alleged enclosure of a very small portion of the Common in Eridge Road be deferred until the next meeting.

6. PARKING ON THE COMMON. - (a) The Clerk read a letter from the Proprietor of the Hotel Russell regarding the lack of car parking facilities for visitors, it was:

Resolved - That the letter be passed to the Watch Committee of the Borough Council.

(b) The Conservators being concerned about the damage caused by cars parking upon and being driven across the Common between London Road and Inner London Road, especially near Lime Hill Road, it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor report to the next meeting upon the possibility of erecting some form of deterrent to parking on this part of the Common.

7. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES. - The Clerk submitted a plan showing the proposal to erect Public Conveniences on a site near the Wellington Rocks, in view of the inadequate facilities at present available. The proposal is at present under consideration by the Manorial Authorities.

8. ONSLOW HOUSE. - The Surveyor reported that he had received an application from Messrs. Elkingtons for a site to erect four small Huts on the Common in connection with the redevelopment of this site.

Resolved - That consent be given on behalf of the Conservators for a period not exceeding nine months.

F. H. Jernail

Chairman 29th June, 1965

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH 1965.

1. Undergrowth.

The trimming of brambles, bracken and undergrowth has been completed along both sides of Major York's Road and the south west side of Rusthall Road, and is now in progress in the vicinity of Happy Valley, Rusthall Common.

2. Onslow House Redevelopment.

A new standard Beech tree has now been planted at the expense of the developer in accordance with the agreed arrangement.

3. Lime Trees near The Spa Hotel.

These two trees have now been felled and removed and the condition of the worst one fully justified the action taken, as it was completely hollow at the base.

4. Brighton Lake.

A Muscovy Drake has been provided by Mr. Wood as a mate for the existing duck and has settled in satisfactorily.

5. Seats.

Six new seats with backs and three without backs are about to be erected to take the place of damaged or defective seats....

H.G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

March 1965.

F.H.L.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

29th June, 1965. - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor F.H. Simmonds, J.P.)

Chairman,

Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Aldermen N.L. Glanfield and C.J. Gange,
Councillor D. Savage,
Messrs. R.W. Card, B.H. Fountain,
C.R. Harler, A.H. Witt and J.E.T. Kennerley.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS - (a) BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS - 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, 1966:-

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor F.H. Simmonds)
Aldermen N.L. Glanfield and C.J. Gange
Councillor D. Savage.
(b) MANOR OF RUSTHALL - The Clerk reported the appointment of Mr. J.E.T. Kennerley as a Conservator to fill the existing vacancy, and he was welcomed to the meeting.
3. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,035. 1. 10d. were passed for payment.
4. REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st March, 1965. - The Treasurer submitted the audited Revenue Account for the year ended 31st March, 1965 which was approved.
5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE. - Resolved - That the Mayor, Alderman N.L. Glanfield, Councillor D. 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 Alderman N.L. Glanfield and Mr. B.H. Fountain be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
7. LITTER. - The Clerk read a letter from the Local Boy Scouts Association expressing their willingness to assist in collecting litter on the Common during this summer. The Surveyor reported that the Boy Scouts had in fact started to assist in picking up the litter.
8. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor reported upon a number of matters and arising therefrom it was:-

Resolved - That a Muscovy drake should be obtained as a replacement for the drake which had recently died.
9. PARKING ON THE COMMON. - Further to minute 6 of the meeting held on the 30th March, 1965, the Surveyor submitted his report and recommendations for deterring parking on the Common, and it was

Resolved - (a) That in order to enable all Conservators to have an opportunity of inspecting the various sites and considering the Surveyor's recommendations before a final decision is taken, this matter be deferred until the next meeting on 5th October.

(b) That the Surveyor be asked to submit to the next meeting detailed estimates for carrying out the works recommended in his report and indicate the effectiveness of the Notices shortly to be erected on the Inner London Road.

10. TREES ON THE COMMON. - Resolved - That the Committee be asked to inspect certain parts of the Common where it is reported that self-sown seedlings have become too numerous or the lower branches of some trees have become unsightly, and thereafter decide upon the best course of action to be taken.

11. 13 ERIDGE ROAD. - It was reported that the owner of No. 13 Eridge Road appeared to have enclosed a small part of the Common and it was

Resolved - That the Clerk write to the owner of 13 Eridge Road requiring that the fence be removed.

12. GRASS CUTTING. - The Clerk read a letter of complaint from Mr. Bidlake about grass cutting on the Common.

The Surveyor reported that the area concerned is within a circuit for grass cutting and if weather conditions are favourable the grass would be cut every three or four weeks.

The Conservators being satisfied with the present arrangements for grass cutting

Resolved - That the Clerk write to Mr. Bidlake informing him that the grass outside his property has been cut once this year and, if favourable weather conditions prevail, will be cut again within the next fortnight.

13. COACH ROAD. - Further to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 5th January, 1965, the Clerk reported that the Watch Committee of the Town Council had included in its estimates the sum of £250 for the construction of a lay-by in this road, but doubt has since been expressed as to the suitability of the Coach Road for the purpose. The matter is still under consideration and a further report will be made at the next meeting.

14. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES. - Further to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 30th March, 1965, the Clerk reported that agreement had been reached between the Corporation and the Manorial Authorities for the sale of a small piece of land to the Council for the purpose of erecting public conveniences on the Common, and that no objections had been received as a result of a notice of the proposals published in the Press.

In order to comply with the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, the formal consent of the Commons Conservators is required so that the matter may proceed in accordance with the plans as now submitted.

Resolved - That consent be given pursuant to Section 284 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890.

15. LITTER BASKETS. - The Clerk reported that a request had been received from the Rusthall Residents Association for an additional litter basket to be placed in the Coach Road.

Resolved - That an additional litter basket be provided.

F. H. [Signature]

Chairman 5th October, 1965

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1965.

<u>1963/64</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1964/65</u>	<u>1963/64</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>1964/65</u>
£ s d		£ s d	£ s d		£ s d
	<u>Salaries and Allowances</u>		2. 2. 0.	Amount recovered re damage to tree	- . - . -
85. 0. 0.	Clerk	89. 5. 0.			
65. 0. 0.	Surveyor	68. 5. 0.		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -	
45. 0. 0.	Treasurer	47. 5. 0.	3897. 8. 6.	Contribution for Year	3780.19. 5.
45. 0. 0.	Allowances for expenses	47. 5. 0.			
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>				
8.10. 9.	Printing, Stationery & Postages.	8.10. 5.			
5. 6. 9.	Public Liability and Fire Insurance	4.12. 9.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>				
2967.11. 3.	General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	3026. 0. 8.			
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -				
186.16. 4.	Seats	236. 4.10.			
4. 6.11.	Notice Boards	34. 2. 6.			
28. 5.10.	Fences and Posts	8.18. 3.			
40.13.10.	Depot and Toolshed	- - -			
137.17. 3.	Repairs & cleaning - Brighton Lake	- - -			
180. 0. 0.	Clearing Undergrowth	200. 0. 0.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>				
- - -	Grant to Boy Scouts' Association for collecting litter	10.10. 0.			
49. 3.10.	Renewing posts and railings -	- - -			
50.17. 9.	Lower Cricket Ground	- - -			
	Provision of Litter Baskets	- - -			
<u>£3,899.10. 6.</u>		<u>£3,780.19. 5.</u>	<u>£3,899.10. 6.</u>		<u>£3,780.19. 5.</u>

F H - J

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1965.

<u>1963/64</u> £ s d	<u>Liabilities</u>	<u>1964/65</u> £ s d	<u>1963/64</u> £ s d	<u>Assets</u>	<u>1964/65</u> £ s d
	Sundry Creditors -			Debtor -	
781. 2.10.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	1035. 1.10.		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	
- - -	Others	10.10. 0.	779.16. 8.	for balance of Contribution	1044.16. 1.
			12. 2.	Postage Stamps in Hand	5. 9.
			14. 0.	Cash in Hand	10. 0.
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
£781. 2.10.		£1,045.11.10.	£781. 2.10.		£1,045.11.10.
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>

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

Treasurer

9th June, 1965.

F. H. J.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 30th JUNE, 1965.

1. Path. The path from Church Road/London Road junction via the Lower and Higher Cricket Grounds through to Major York's Road/Bishops Down junction and one or two branch paths have been re-gravelled.
2. Grass-cutting. Grass cutting was commenced in May on the usual areas in Bishops Down, Mount Ephraim and London Road and also at Lower Green, Rusthall.
The new Hayter machine was delivered in June and is proving satisfactory.
3. Brighton Lake. The Muscovy Drake recently presented by Mr. Wood was found dead in the undergrowth and had obviously died from external injuries but from what cause could not be ascertained.
4. Litter. The Local Boy Scouts are again assisting in picking up litter both on Tunbridge Wells and on Rusthall Commons.
5. Parking on the Common. Parts of the verges of the following roads have been badly affected by the encroachment of cars mainly from parking, but in some cases in passage along the road:-
 - London Inner Road. Badly affected by parking along a length of 80 yards at its lower end and moderately affected along a further 60 yards.
Notices prohibiting parking have been approved for London Inner Road (2) and London Road/Lime Hill Road junction and delivery is now awaited.
 - Eridge Road. Erosion along the edge of the verge for a distance of about 100 yards eastwards from Charltons Nursery. Probably mainly due to encroachment in passage along the road. This area is used for car parking during the Agricultural Show.
 - Castle Road. The gravel path on the eastern side at its junction with Mount Edgcumbe Road and the verge continuing southwards are badly affected by parking for a distance of 80 yards.
In connection with the redevelopment of the Onslow House site, I suggest that I be authorised to negotiate with the Builder that in reinstating the area used as a temporary depot, he should form a bank about 12 inches high with surplus excavated material covered with top soil and sown with grass seed. The object would be to prevent parking which has been a nuisance at this spot.
 - Fir Tree Road. The verge for about 40 yards along the western side bordering the area used for parking by Linden Park Cricket Club is being damaged to an increasing extent as cars no longer use a limited entrance to the area. Cars also tend to penetrate the Common beyond the area originally set aside for parking and also park here throughout the Winter when the ground is unfit.
 - Hungershall Park. A length of about 20 yards has been badly affected by parking and dumping rubbish.
 - Lower Green Road (Coach Road). About 60 yards on the western side near its junction with Langton Road have been badly damaged by parking and a further 100 yards of the edge of the verge going towards Rusthall Road have been eroded by the passage of cars.
 - Tea Garden Lane. On the eastern side near its junction with Langton Road about 60 yards have been affected in varying degree by parking and on the western side near the Beacon Hotel a length of 30 yards has been badly affected.
 - Harmony Street & Apsley Street. The verge opposite the Toad Rock Retreat in Harmony Street and opposite the Toad Rock Tavern in Apsley Street are being affected by parking.

F.H.J.

The following means are recommended for consideration to reduce the tendency to park on the Common:-

- (1) The provision of a pre-cast concrete kerb or second-hand stone kerb (if available) bedded and backed with concrete with a "face" of 5 to 6 inches above the road surface.

This should be effective and has the advantage that it does not obstruct grass cutting.

Suitable for London Inner Road and Lower Green Road.

Estimated Cost:- £1.10.0d per linear yard.

- (2) The erection of concrete posts 9 feet apart, standing at least 2 feet above ground level and about 18 inches back from the edge of the road. Posts are recommended rather than large stones as being neater and less dangerous to vehicles especially in foggy or snowy weather. If this did not prove completely effective the posts could subsequently be linked with galvanised tubing (as at the Church Road/London Road junction) or additional posts could be provided where necessary.

Suitable for Castle Road (by Mount Edgecumbe junction) and Fir Tree Road.

Estimated cost:- 10/-d per linear yard.

- (3) The formation of a bank about 12" above the road surface and 3 feet in width by depositing soil (if available) or by excavating along the back of the bank and so forming a shallow depression which would accentuate the height of the bank and increase its effectiveness as an obstacle.

Suitable for Hungershall Park, Tea Garden Lane, part of Castle Road opposite Romanoff Lodge and Onslow House or for preventing cars penetrating the Commons.

Estimated Cost:- 15/-d per linear yard.

Any immediate extensive measures to prevent parking would entail asking the Borough Council for a supplementary estimate or a specific item could be included in the Annual Estimates for 1966/67 for work to be carried out next year.

On the other hand the normal maintenance staff could form protective banks, where appropriate, during next Winter or could erect a moderate number of posts which could be provided out of the current estimates.

H.G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

June 1965.

25

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

5th October, 1965. - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor F.H. Simmonds, J.P.)
Chairman,

Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Alderman C.J. Gange,
Councillor D. Savage,
Messrs. R.W. Card, B.H. Fountain,
C.R. Harler, A.H. Witt and J.E.T. Kennerley.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,062. 9. 7d. were passed for payment.
3. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE. - The Mayor referred to the death of Alderman Berry who had been a Conservator for many years and whose knowledge had enabled him to give much valuable help in the management of the Commons.

(All present stood for a moment in silence as a tribute to his memory).

4. TREES ON THE COMMON. - Further to Minute 10 of the Meeting held on the 29th June, 1965, the Clerk reported that the Committee had inspected the trees between Eridge Road and Hungershall Park, and it was agreed that no special action be taken in view of the fact that as a matter of normal routine dead or dying trees and branches overhanging the footpaths are removed every few years.

The Committee also inspected the Queen's Grove area and it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to make arrangements for the sapling trees, mainly on the north west side, to be removed during the coming Winter.

5. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - Arising out of the Surveyor's Report:-

(1) Litter - Attention was drawn to the fact that although the Boy Scouts had assisted in the collection of litter on the Commons this Summer, their efforts had not been as effective as last year, but this was partially due to inclement weather. It was

Resolved - (a) That as a token of appreciation by the Conservators for the help given in the collection of litter on Rusthall and Tunbridge Wells Commons some item of equipment be presented to the Boy Scouts Association.

(b) That the Clerk should write to the Girl Guides Association in an endeavour to enlist the aid of Girl Guides as well as Boy Scouts to help with the collection of litter on the Commons during the Summer of 1966.

(2) Seats - The Surveyor reported that since 1960 twenty seats on the Common had been smashed.

(3) Railing, Mount Ephraim - The existing railing is becoming defective due to the rotting of posts and it was

Resolved - That the existing style of railing be preserved, but that concrete posts with appropriate slots to receive the oak rails be used instead of oak posts.

6. PARKING ON THE COMMON. - The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Bidla expressing concern at the continued parking on the Common especially opposite the Vale Royal Hotel, in spite of the notice prohibiting parking, and requesting that some further action be taken.

Further to Minute 9 of the Meeting held on the 29th June, 1965, the Surveyor gave his recommendations and estimated costs for dealing with portions of the Common affected by the parking of cars and it was

Resolved

London Inner Road and Lime Hill Road - That soil be deposited, as and when available, along the edge of the road in order to form a higher bank and if this fails to deter motorists from parking, further consideration be given to the placing of stones at intervals 10 feet to 12 feet apart.

Castle Road - That the existing bank be extended along the portion of Common affected opposite Romanoff Lodge and that two or three stones be placed in position at the junction of Castle Road and Mount Edgumbe Road.

Fir Tree Road - That action should be taken in accordance with the Surveyor's Report, but that the central entrance be not necessarily closed during the Winter.

Hungershall Park - That action be taken in accordance with the Surveyor's Report.

Lower Green Road - That stones be placed at intervals in order to deter the parking of vans and other vehicles on this part of the Common.

It was reported that provision of a lay-by had been included in the Corporation's provisional estimates for 1966/67.

Tea Garden Lane - That a bank and ditch be formed along the edge of the road to retain the open character of this part of the Common.

Harmony Street and Apsley Street - That marker stones be placed along the edges of the Common opposite the two Public Houses in these street, and the position reviewed again in due course.

General - That, apart from such items as are carried out under General Maintenance, provision for carrying out the above works be allowed in the Annual Estimates for 1966/67.

7. GRASS CUTTING. - The Clerk read a letter of complaint by Mr. Lane Norcott about grass cutting on the Common and confirmed that the grass had now been cut.

The Clerk also read a letter from a visitor to the Town commenting upon the high standard of maintenance of the grass edges of the Common.

8. THE COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT, 1965. - The Clerk reported generally on this Act which is intended to put an end to doubts about ownership and rights over Common land throughout England and Wales, whereby it is thought that land will be put to better use to the benefit of the Public and increase land productivity.

The Act provides for the registration of Common land by County Councils and covers rights over Common land and claims to ownership. Claims will be advertised, with full opportunity to object, and Commons Commissioners will be appointed to decide disputed claims. Land not finally registered will cease to be Common and any claims not established will be lost unless proved.

At a later stage statutory schemes of management, improvement and preservation of all Common land, with universal right of Public access are contemplated.

No action is called for in respect of the Tunbridge Wells Commons at the present time.

9. OFFICERS' SALARIES. - Further to Minute 3(b) of the Meeting held on the 5th January, 1965, it was

Resolved - That the salaries of the Officers continue to be paid in accordance with the Resolution passed under Minute 3 of the Meeting held on the 1st October, 1963.

4 Jan 66.

F. H. *[Signature]*
Mayor

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER 1965

Grass Cutting. Grass cutting will continue until the end of September, the usual areas in Mount Ephraim, London Road, Eridge Road and Lower Green, Rusthall having been cut regularly and the areas in Apsley Street and Bulls Hollow will receive their annual cut.

Litter. Although the Boy Scouts have been operating periodically, their efforts have not been as effective as last year and the normal maintenance staff have had to be diverted to this work for approximately one day per week.

Seats. The three new seats in Iroko have been placed in position in Bishops Down and three of the older seats have been repaired. Damage to seats continues to be done by vandals and a further seat has been completely wrecked in Mount Edgcumbe Road.

Parking on The Common. In accordance with Minute 9 I give the following recommendations and estimated costs where appropriate for dealing with portions of The Common affected by the parking of cars :-

London Inner Road and Lime Hill Road - The three notices prohibiting parking have been erected and the amount of parking has been noticeably less and up to date it is not necessary to recommend any additional action. To remedy the damage already done to the edge of the Common I suggest that if a supply of suitable soil becomes available it should be tipped and spread along the verge and seeded with grass seed. This work will be carried out under General Maintenance.

Estimated cost

- - -

Castle Road (a) The portion of the Common opposite Onslow House will be reinstated by the Builder now developing the Onslow House site at no cost to the Conservators.

(b) On the portion affected opposite Romanoff Lodge, I suggest that parking should be discouraged by the use of marker stones or concrete posts. Estimated cost

20. 0. 0

Fir Tree Road - Along the edge of the portion of the Common used as a parking place opposite the Higher Cricket Ground I suggest that concrete posts should be used to restrict the entry of vehicles to one central portion, and that during the Winter months this central entrance should also be closed by the erection of temporary posts. Estimated cost

20. 0. 0

Hungershall Park. - Only a short length of the Common is affected in this road and I suggest that a bank should be formed to prevent parking and that this work be carried out under General Maintenance. Estimated cost

- - -

Lower Green Road - The western side is extensively affected by parking and I suggest that marker stones or concrete posts should be used to discourage this practice. Estimated cost

80. 0. 0

Tea Garden Lane - Certain lengths in this road on both sides are affected and the use of marker stones or concrete posts is recommended as being suitable to discourage this practice. Estimated cost

45. 0. 0

Harmony Street and Apsley Street - The edges of the Common opposite the 2 Public Houses in these streets are being damaged and marker stones or concrete posts are recommended as a deterrent. Estimated cost

25. 0. 0

Establishment Charges

190. 0. 0

48. 0. 0

Estimated cost

£ 238. 0. 0

NOTE: Provided they are obtainable the use of lengths of old kerbing are recommended as marker stones. These would be approximately 3'0" in length, would be dug into the ground so that they project approximately 18" and would be placed 12 to 18" from the edge of the Common to reduce the risk to vehicles and would slope slightly away from the road.

It is possible that the Works Committee would agree to sell such old kerb stones to the Conservators. If such old kerbing is not available it is recommended that concrete posts should be used and in any case such posts would be suitable for Fir Tree Road to match the existing posts round the Cricket Ground.

Trees on The Common - With reference to Minute 10 (29th June 1965), the Committee inspected the self sown seedlings adjoining the Queen's Grove and decided that they should be removed. This work will be carried out during the coming Winter when it is proposed to deal generally with fallen trees, dead branches of trees and other accumulations of dead wood and bushes throughout the Commons.

Railing, Mount Ephraim - The existing railing is becoming defective due to the rotting of posts and it is recommended that the existing style of railing should be preserved, but that concrete posts with appropriate slots to receive the oak rails should be used instead of oak posts.

H.G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

September 1965.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

4th January, 1966 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor F.H. Simmonds, J.P.)
Chairman,
Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Alderman N.L. Glanfield,
Messrs. R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke, B.H. Fountain,
C.R. Harler, J.E.T. Kennerley and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,278. 9. 10d. were passed for payment.
3. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE. - It was agreed that the vacancy on the Committee should remain until the appointment of a new Conservator.
4. PARKING ON THE COMMON. - The Clerk read a letter of complaint from Mr. Bidlake, concerning the condition of the Common in the Inner London Road, urging that further action be taken to prevent parking, whereupon it was

Resolved - That provision be made in the Estimates for 1966/67 for marker stones to be placed at intervals along the Inner London Road to deter motorists from parking on the Common.

5. ESTIMATES. - Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year were approved in the sum of £4,876.

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 £4,876 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 and Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875.

6. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor reported that the Developers of the Onslow House site had now reinstated that part of the Common used by them for the erection of huts.

Arising from a number of other matters referred to in his written report it was

Resolved - That the provision of a connection from the Fair Ground to the main sewerage system be negotiated with the Lord of the Mannor and that in future the occupants of caravans which are parked on the Fair Ground whilst the Amusement Fairs utilise this ground, be requested to use such facilities.

7. LITTER. - Further to Minute 5(1) of the meeting held on the 5th October, 1965, the Clerk read a letter from the Girl Guides Association expressing the hope that they may be able to assist with the collection of litter left on the Common during the coming Season, but that a final decision has not yet been made

Resolved - That the Clerk and Surveyor be authorised to make all necessary arrangements if the Girl Guides Association agree to help with the collection of litter on the Common during the 1966 season.

8. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS. - Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held at 2.45 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:-

29th March, 1966
28th June, 1966

4th October, 1966
3rd January, 1967

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1965.

Clearing & Trimming:

The verges of all gravel paths on the Commons and of Castle Road, Major York's Road, Hungershall Park, Fir Tree Road and Apsley Street, have or are in the course of being trimmed.

Seats:

A check on the damaged seats has been made and instructions have been given for a total of 23 to receive attention.

Parking on the Commons:

A supply of free soil became available and quantities have been tipped in London Inner Road and Fir Tree Road and a bank approximately 18" in height is being formed along the roadside in order to discourage parking. In due course these banks will be sown with grass seed. In the meantime motorists are continuing to trespass on the Common and causing disturbance to the newly deposited soil and it may be necessary to resort to marker stones in addition to the formation of the banks.

Maple Tree, Eridge Road:

Another of the young Maple trees recently planted in Eridge Road has been damaged by vandals and will be replaced shortly.

Fair Ground - Drainage:

It has become apparent that the occupants of caravans which are parked on the Fair Ground during such times as the Amusement Fairs utilise this ground, have been disposing of the contents of their portable closets by digging holes in the undergrowth surrounding the Fair Ground. The matter has been discussed with the Health Department and the representative of the Lord of the Manor and the suggestion for the provision of a connection to the main sewerage system is being investigated.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

20th December 1965.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

EXPENDITURE	ESTIMATE 1965/66		REVISED EST. 1965/66		ESTIMATE 1966/67	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Salaries</u>						
Clerk	92		92		93	
Surveyor	70		70		71	
Treasurer	49		49		49	
Allowances for expenses	<u>49</u>		<u>49</u>		<u>49</u>	
		260		260		262
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>						
Printing, Stationery, Postages and Advertising.	10		10		10	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	<u>5</u>		<u>6</u>		<u>6</u>	
		15		16		16
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation						
Works Department	3504		3504		3794	
Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -						
Seats	200		200		200	
Notice Boards	25		25		25	
Fences and Posts	20		40		30	
Depot and Toolshed	10		10		10	
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake	50		50		50	
Clearing Undergrowth	<u>200</u>		<u>180</u>		<u>200</u>	
		4009		4009		4309
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Provision of Grasscutting machine ...	150		134		-	
Replacement of Notice Boards ...	100		114		45	
Measures to prevent parking on Common -						
London Inner Road	-		-		88	
Fir Tree Road	-		-		25	
Lower Green Road	-		-		100	
Harmony Street and Apsley Street	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>		<u>31</u>	
		250		248		289
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u> £						
	4,534		4,533		4,876	

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

29th March, 1966 - PRESENT - Alderman N.L. Glanfield,
Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Messrs. J.I. Berry, R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke,
B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler, J.E.T. Kennerley
and A.H. Witt.

1. CHAIRMAN. - In the absence of His Worship the Mayor it was

Resolved - That Mr. R.W. Card be appointed to act as Chairman of this meeting.

Mr. R.W. Card in the Chair.

2. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
3. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £998. 19. 1d. were passed for payment.
4. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS. - The Clerk reported the appointment of Mr. J.I. Berry as a Conservator to fill the existing vacancy, and he was welcomed to the meeting.
5. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received. In particular he reported that work had commenced on the laying of the drain on the Fair Ground.
6. TREES ON THE COMMON. - Further to Minute 4 of the meeting held on the 5th October, 1965, reference was made to the improvement of the Common in the Queen's Grove area now that the sapling trees on the North-west side have been removed.
7. 13 ERIDGE ROAD. - Further to Minute 11 of the meeting held on the 29th June, 1965, the Clerk again referred to the enclosure of a very small piece of Common land at this address without the Conservators' approval. Representatives of the Lord of the Manor continue to claim a right to enclose parts of the Common which has always been disputed by other Conservators. In view of the very small piece of land involved and in order to avoid inconvenience to the present owner, it was however

Resolved - That consent be given to the temporary enclosure of this very small portion of common land measuring approximately 36 feet wide x 37 feet 6 inches deep (average) in front of No. 13 Eridge Road.

(Representatives of the Lord of the Manor did not vote on this Resolution.)

8. COMMON LAND ADJOINING THE PUMP ROOM SITE. - The Clerk reported that a request had been received from A.E. Symes Ltd. the Contractors for this development, for consent to the erection of temporary fencing around the Pump Room site including part of the Common in front of Montacute Gardens in order to enable the development to proceed and on grounds of safety.

Resolved - That consent be given to the temporary enclosure of this small piece of Common land by the erection of protective fencing to the satisfaction of the Surveyor, upon the conditions that no bill posting is allowed and that there is no interference with private rights of way across the Common.

9. LITTER. - Further to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 4th January, 1966, the Clerk reported that the Girl Guides Association are willing to help with the collection of litter on the Common during the coming season.

(The Association has since informed the Clerk with regret, that this particular work cannot now be undertaken.)

10. HORSE RIDING ON THE COMMONS. - A complaint from Miss M.E. Page of 22 Manor Road, Rusthall, about the riding of horses on the Commons during the winter months was considered and it was

Resolved - That in the Autumn the Clerk should write to all Riding Stables in the area, drawing attention to the fact that horses should not be taken across the Commons during the months of November to March.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH 1966

Clearing & Tidying.

A systematic programme of clearing the Commons of rubbish, fallen branches, dead and dying bushes and trees, has been commenced and at the moment the area between Mount Ephraim/London Road/Church Road; Mount Ephraim/Church Road/Castle Road, and also between Castle Road/Mount Edgcumbe and London Road have been largely completed.

Brighton Lake.

The above work has been temporarily suspended in order to carry out extensive repairs and cleaning of the Brighton Lake. At the same time steps are being taken to improve the drainage inlets into the Lake.

Eridge Road.

The damaged Maple tree outside No. 17 has been replaced.

Fair Ground Drainage.

A suggestion for the provision of a drain for the use of occupants of caravans on the Fair Ground has been approved in principle on behalf of the Lord of the Manor and by the Health Department of the Corporation. Arrangements are in hand for the laying of the drain.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

28th June, 1966 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor J.S. Forrest, C.B.E., J.P.)
(Chairman)

Aldermen N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage
Mrs. G.K. Kentner
Messrs. J.I. Berry, R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke,
B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harier, J.E.T. Kennerley
and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,230. 3. 11d. were passed for payment.
3. REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1966. - The Treasurer submitted the audited Revenue Account for the year ended 31st March, 1966, which was 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, 1967:-

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor J.S. Forrest)
Aldermen C.J. Gange, N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage.
5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE. - Resolved - That the Mayor, Aldermen N.L. Glanfield, D. Savage, Messrs. J.I. 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 N.L. Glanfield and Mr. B.H. Fountain be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
7. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received.
8. PARKING ON THE COMMON. - Inner London Road - Further to Minute 4 of the Meeting held on the 4th January, 1966, the Clerk read a letter from Mr. E. Bidlake requesting that further action should be taken to stop cars parking on the Common in the Inner London Road area.

The Surveyor reported that the banks along the road had been raised and seed sown, and the Notices had reduced the number of cars parking on the Common. He expressed the opinion that it would be preferable to avoid placing marker stones along the edge of the Common as they would be inconvenient for cutting grass. The Conservators were also reminded that the road is only 15 feet wide and with marker stones in position it would be impossible for two cars to pass without damage if a line of vehicles were parked along one side of the carriageway.

Resolved - (a) That the Watch Committee be asked to consider making the Inner London Road a one-way street, and

(b) That action with regard to marker stones be deferred at any rate until the autumn to avoid interrupting grass cutting operations.

Fir Tree Road - Further to Minute 6 of the Meeting held on the 5th October, 1965, the Surveyor reported that grass seed had been sown on the portion of the Common used as a parking place opposite the Higher Cricket Ground, but that this action had not proved successful. Concrete posts are on order and will be placed in position in due course.

9. LANE - MAJOR YORKS ROAD TO BRACKEN VIEW. - The Clerk referred to correspondence he had had from Mr. M. Lane Norcott and Mr. G.F. Hatcher regarding the drainage of the lane from Major Yorks Road to Bracken View, and the collection of litter on this part of the Common.

It is understood that a Licence is granted by the Lord of the Manor to adjoining occupiers for the use of this lane and although in the past some assistance has been given in the clearance of ditches, there is strictly no responsibility on the Conservators to maintain the road nor to clear the ditches.

The Surveyor submitted a report on the condition of the ditches and the surface of the lane which in places is below the level of the Common, therefore, making the clearing of some of the ditches ineffective.

It was reported that an additional ditch had recently been dug along part of the northern side of the lane by or on behalf of the Licensees.

Resolved - That the Clerk write to the owners of the properties concerned denying responsibility for the maintenance or clearance of ditches along this road.

10. TREES ON THE COMMON. - It was reported that brambles, gorse, silver birch trees and holly trees were growing amongst the Wellington Rocks.

Resolved - (a) That the brambles and gorse be cleared during the Autumn, and

(b) That the silver birch and holly trees be examined and views expressed on what action should be taken at the next Meeting.

11. HAPPY VALLEY. - It was reported that the view from the top of the valley was now extensively obscured by trees.

The Surveyor pointed out that the trees were very large as they rose from the bottom of the valley and that a major operation would be involved in clearance.

The matter was discussed a few years ago when limited clearance of holly bushes on the rim of the valley was undertaken in order to provide two vistas.

The Conservators agreed to visit the valley before the next meeting with a view to deciding whether any further action should be taken.

J. Y. Gorman

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1966.

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Income</u>	
<u>1964/65</u>	<u>1965/66</u>	<u>1964/65</u>	<u>1965/66</u>
£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
<u>Salaries and Allowances</u>			
89. 5. 0.	Clerk 91.16. 0.	3780.19. 5.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -
68. 5. 0.	Surveyor 70. 4. 0.		Contribution for Year 4569.13.11.
47. 5. 0.	Treasurer 48.12. 0.		
47. 5. 0.	Allowances for expenses 48.12. 0.		
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>			
8.10. 5.	Printing, Stationery and Postages. 9. 6. 6.		
4.12. 9.	Public Liability and Fire Insurance 6.15. 9.		
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>			
3026. 0. 8.	General Maintenance by Corporation 3546. 0. 9.		
	Works Department		
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -		
236. 4.10.	Seats 233. 5. 1.		
34. 2. 6.	Notice Boards - - -		
8.18. 3.	Fences and Posts 37.10. 0.		
- - -	Depot and Toolshed 28. 4. 5.		
200. 0. 0.	Clearing Undergrowth 200. 0. 0.		
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>			
10.10. 0.	Grant to Boy Scouts' Association - - -		
	for collecting litter		
- - -	Provision of grass cutting machine 133.18. 8.		
- - -	Replacement of Notice Boards 115. 8. 9.		
<u>£3,780.19. 5.</u>	<u>£4,569.13.11.</u>	<u>£3,780.19. 5.</u>	<u>£4,569.13.11.</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1966.

<u>1964/65</u> <u>£ s d</u>	<u>Liabilities</u>	<u>1965/66</u> <u>£ s d</u>	<u>1964/65</u> <u>£ s d</u>	<u>Assets</u>	<u>1965/66</u> <u>£ s d</u>
	Sundry Creditors -			Debtor -	
1035. 1.10.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	1230. 3.11.	1044.16. 1.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	1228.10. 0.
10.10. 0.	Others	- - -	5. 9.	for balance of Contribution	
			10. 0.	Postage Stamps in Hand	14. 3.
				Cash in Hand	19. 8.
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
£1,045.11.10.		£1,230. 3.11.	£1,045.11.10.		£1,230. 3.11.
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>

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

Treasurer

17th June, 1966.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30th 1966.

Gravel Paths.

The following footpaths have been re-gravelled:-

- (a) Western end of The Pantiles to the lane rear of Hungershall Park;
- (b) Rusthall Road opposite Bretland Road; and
- (c) Rusthall Road towards Rusthall Cricket Ground.

Brighton Lake.

Extensive repairs have been completed to the walls surrounding the lake and the two islands and the lake has been cleared of rubbish.

Mr. C. Wood has kindly given another Muscovy Drake to replace the previous one which was killed.

Fairground Drainage.

The new drain was completed in time for use by occupants of caravans visiting the Fairground for the Easter period.

Seeding.

The recently formed banks in London Inner Road, Castle Road and Fir Tree Road have been sown with grass seed.

Grass Cutting.

Grass cutting commenced at the beginning of May and the usual cycle of operations in Bishops Down, Mount Ephraim and London Road is being followed, together with other areas at Lower Green, Rusthall and elsewhere.

H.G. TUCKER

Surveyor to Commons Conservators.

June 1966



LANE LEADING FROM MAJOR YORK'S ROAD
to BRACKEN VIEW & GORSE COTTAGE

Periodically, say twice a year, attention is given to the channels and ditches along the above lane in order to drain away surface water. Much more frequently litter is collected from that area as with the whole of the Commons.

In recent years the condition of the surface of the land has deteriorated and because of depressions and wheel-tracks much of the surface water cannot run off as the lane is in places below the level of the Common. The clearing of some of the ditches is therefore of no effect.

The occupier of Bracken View tends to make forceful demands for attention to be given to the ditches coupled with sweeping allegations of neglect.

The question arises as to whether such attention can be demanded as a right or whether it is granted by courtesy of the Conservators to be given when work of more general benefit to the Commons permits.

The note to Section 177 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act 1890 says: "Conservators not to manage roads over Commons". The control of surface water from the roads could be construed as part of the management of these roads.

The licence granted by the Lord of the Manor for the use of this lane would presumably cover permission to undertake repairs, maintenance and attention to surface water drainage.

There are a number of similar roads leading to private properties where occupiers make no similar requests; e.g.

Gibraltar Cottage; Mount Edgcumbe; Major York's Road to rear of Hungershall Park; Major York's Road to Nevill Park; Langton Road to Nevill Park; Langton Road to Rusthall Church; Langton Road to Rusthall Elms and Rusthall Road to Sunnyside Road.

The regular allocation of labour for work on such roads would inevitably divert it from other areas which are used or appreciated by larger numbers of people.

NOTE: Quite recently someone, presumably unauthorised, has cut a ditch along part of the northern side of this lane.

H.G. TUCKER

Surveyor to Commons Conservators.



June 1966

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

4th October, 1966 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor J.S. Forrest, C.B.E., J.P.)
(Chairman)

Mrs. G.K. Kentner

Messrs. J.I. Berry, R.W. Card, B.H. Fountain
and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,206. 3. 4d. were passed for payment.
3. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received.
4. MEN'S CONVENIENCE, FIR TREE ROAD. - The Surveyor reported upon the condition of the shelter at present available to workmen engaged on the Common and recommended that the existing men's convenience, when relinquished by the Corporation, could be adapted for use partly as a shelter, that one of the W.C's should be retained and that the other W.C. compartment should be adapted to provide washing facilities.

Resolved - That an estimate of the cost of adaption be considered at the next meeting for inclusion in the Annual Estimates for 1967/68.

5. PARKING ON THE COMMON - INNER LONDON ROAD. - Further to Minute 8 of the meeting held on the 28th June, 1966, the Clerk reported that the Watch Committee had agreed to include the Inner London Road as a one-way street in the draft Order for a proposed controlled zone in the central area of the town.
6. TREES ON THE COMMON. - Further to Minute 10(b) of the meeting held on the 28th June, 1966, it was

Resolved - (a) That the silver birch and holly trees be removed from the Wellington Rocks.

(b) That the existing policy with regard to the brambles around the Toad Rock be maintained.

7. HAPPY VALLEY. - Further to Minute 11 of the meeting held on the 28th June, 1966, it was

Resolved - That minor clearance works, as before, be carried out during the Winter months.

8. RUSTHALL COMMON - DRAINAGE. - The Clerk read a letter from the Rusthall Residents Association relating to the drainage of Rusthall Common and requesting that attention be given to the following:-

- (1) Rusthall Road - The drain at the point where the footpath from St. Paul's Church to Denny Bottom crosses the Rusthall Road. The drain is frequently blocked and water from the Common flows across the road.

The Surveyor reported that this drain is the responsibility of the Corporation as highway authority and certain work was carried out during last Winter which it is hoped will avoid any trouble in the future.

- (2) Warboro' Lodge - The road opposite Warboro' Lodge, where water drains from the Common onto the road and in cold weather icy patches form.

Resolved - That this site be kept under observation and if it is possible to cure the trouble within reasonable expenditure the matter be attended to during the coming Winter.

- (3) Footpath from Rusthall Road to Langton Road - The footpath which in wet weather becomes a water course as a result of water draining from the Cricket Ground.

Resolved - That this site be kept under observation and if it is possible to effect a cure within reasonable expenditure the necessary work be carried out during the coming Winter.

- (4) Rusthall High Street (Morning Star Public House) - Water drains from the Marl Pit onto the main road.

The Surveyor reported that the drain at this point is the responsibility of the Corporation as highway authority and works satisfactorily provided it is not interfered with by children. The position is complicated by the fact that certain water drains to this point from Common View, which is a private street, and neither the Corporation nor the Commons Conservators can undertake the responsibility for dealing with this matter.

9. GAS PIPE TO RUST HALL. - The Clerk read a letter from Mr. M. Birch concerning the laying of approximately 40 feet of gas pipe along his right of way across the Common.

Resolved - That no objection be raised to the laying of this gas pipe.

10. CARS ON RUSTHALL COMMON. - The Clerk reported that an old car had been dumped on the Common and that the Police had been requested to find the owner of the vehicle, and it was

Resolved - That if the owner of the vehicle cannot be found the Surveyor be authorised to make arrangements for the car to be taken away.

J. S. Forrester
3.1.67.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER 1966.

- (1) Grass Cutting. Grass cutting has been proceeding continuously throughout the quarter in the usual areas and will terminate very shortly when areas at Bulls Hollow, Harmony Street and Apsley Street will be cut.
- (2) Brambles and other weeds. A certain amount of spraying to check the growth of weeds and brambles has been carried out successfully near Gibraltar Cottage, Castle Road, Rusthall Church and Apsley Street. The object is to promote the growth of grass and reduce the amount of annual cutting of weeds.
- (3) Gorse fires. Fires have caused damage in Castle Road and one or two other areas and the dead gorse and other bushes will be cleared during the coming winter.
- (4) Men's Convenience. Fir Tree Road. Now that the Corporation is proposing to close the above convenience, it is recommended that consideration be given to adapting it for use as a shelter for workmen engaged on the Common. The only accommodation available to the men at the moment is in a semi-underground building on the lower side of the Higher Cricket Ground. The present building is largely occupied by tools, has no opening for ventilation other than the doors, is damp and there is no water supply or lavatory for the use of the men.

It is recommended that the existing men's convenience could be adapted for use partly as a shelter, that one of the W.C's should be retained and that the other W.C. compartment should be adapted to provide washing facilities.

If this suggestion is approved in principle an estimate of the cost of adaptation could be considered at the next meeting when the annual estimates for 1967/68 are under consideration.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.



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TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

3rd January, 1967 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor J.S. Forrest, C.B.E., J.P.)
Chairman,
Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Aldermen C. Gange, N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage,
Messrs. R.W. Card, B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler,
J.E.T. Kennerley and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,204. 6. 1d. were passed for payment.
3. ESTIMATES. - Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year were approved in the revised sum of £4,969.

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 £4,969 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

4. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received.
5. TREES ON THE COMMON. - Further to Minute 6 of the meeting held on the 4th October, 1966, the Surveyor reported that the Birch and bramble undergrowth around the Wellington Rocks had now been cleared.
6. HAPPY VALLEY. - Further to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 4th October, 1966, the Surveyor reported that the track leading from Langton Road to Happy Valley and Rusthall Church had been cleared.
7. PARKING ON THE COMMON. - Further to Minute 8 of the meeting held on the 8th June, 1966, the Surveyor reported that the concrete posts to restrict parking during the winter months opposite the Higher Cricket Ground in Fir Tree Road, had been erected.
8. MEN'S CONVENIENCE, FIR TREE ROAD. - Further to Minute 4 of the meeting held on the 4th October, 1966, the Surveyor submitted proposals for the adaptation of this Convenience into a workmen's shelter at an estimated cost of £100. Provision for this expenditure has been made in the Estimates for 1967/68.

Resolved - That the Health Committee of the Borough Council be asked to transfer the building to the Conservators on completion of the new Convenience in Mount Ephraim.

9. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES. - Further to Minute 14 of the meeting held on the 29th June, 1965, the Clerk reported that the Health Committee now sought the approval of the Conservators to any tree planting in the vicinity of the new Conveniences with a view to landscaping the site.

Resolved - That the Mayor be asked to approve on behalf of the Conservators any such landscaping of the site as the Health Committee may in due course wish to adopt.

10. PLANTING OF FLOWERING TREES IN RUSTHALL ROAD. - The Clerk read a letter from the Rusthall Residents Association, suggesting that flowering trees be planted within the Common on either side of Rusthall Road at the entrance to the High Street, Rusthall.

The Surveyor reported that he had written to the Rusthall Residents Association asking them for their views on the extent of the tree planting and the type, and number of trees which they had in mind.

Resolved. - That a decision in this matter be deferred until a reply has been received from the Association.

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11. FOOTPATHS ON THE COMMON. - The Clerk read a letter from the Rusthall Residents Association regarding a number of footpaths on the Common which have become overgrown.

The Surveyor reported that the clearance of these footpaths was in hand.

12. THE COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT, 1965. - Further to Minute 8 of the meeting held on the 5th October, 1965, the Clerk reported in detail upon the provisions of this Act.

The purpose of the Act is to find out and register the facts about the estimated 1 1/2 million acres of common land (and town and village greens) in England and Wales. On many commons it is not known for certain who owns the common rights or who owns the common itself. There may be doubts about where the boundary of the common runs, or even whether the land is common at all.

The Tunbridge Wells Commons are, however, specifically defined and detailed provisions are contained in the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 for the preservation, maintenance, regulation and improvement of the lands for the benefit of the inhabitants of the borough and neighbourhood.

The Act of 1965 does not affect rights of access to commons; in particular Section 193 of the Law of Property Act, 1925 which gives the public the right of access to commons in urban areas, will continue in force, as will all other Acts (including the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890) and Schemes of Regulation giving right of access to the public.

It may well be desirable, however, to register the Tunbridge Wells Commons under the Commons Registration Act of 1965 in the absence of any Ministerial Order for exemption. Such registration may be effected at any time before 1st January, 1970 and a further report on this aspect of the matter will be submitted to the Conservators in due course.

13. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS. - Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held at 2.45 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:-

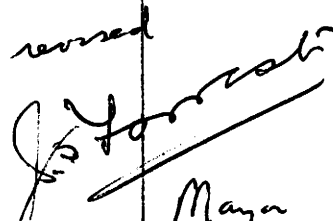
4th April, 1967
27th June, 1967

3rd October, 1967
2nd January, 1968

24th April, 1967.


MAYOR

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

EXPENDITURE	ESTIMATE 1966/67		REVISED EST 1966/67		ESTIMATE 1967/68	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Salaries</u>						
Clerk	93	93	93	93
Surveyor	71	71	71	71
Treasurer	49	49	49	49
Allowances for expenses	49	49	49	49
		262		262		262
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>						
Printing, Stationery, Postages and Advertising	10	10	10	10
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	6	6	6	6
		16		16		16
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation						
Works Department	3794	3794	4076	4076
Repairs, maintenance and renewals -						
Seats	200	200	200	200
Notice Boards	25	10	25	25
Fences and posts	30	40	40	40
Depot and Toolshed	10	10	10	10
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake	50	55	40	40
Clearing undergrowth	200	200	200	200
		4309		4309		4591
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Replacement of Notice Boards	45	45	-	-
Measures to prevent parking on Common -						
London Inner Road	88	88	88	88
Fir Tree Road	25	25	-	-
Lower Green Road	100	100	-	-
Harmony Street and Apsley Street	31	31	-	-
Conversion of public conveniences into Commons Depot	-	-	100	100
		289		201		188
<div> <div>Approved as revised</div> <div>  </div> <div>Mayor</div> <div>Chairman</div> </div>						
3. Jan 1967						
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 4,876	4,788	5,057	4,969

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

EXPENDITURE	ESTIMATE 1966/67		REVISED EST 1966/67		ESTIMATE 1967/68	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Salaries</u>						
Clerk	93		93		93	
Surveyor	71		71		71	
Treasurer	49		49		49	
Allowances for expenses	<u>49</u>		<u>49</u>		<u>49</u>	
		262		262		262
 <u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>						
Printing, Stationery, Postages and Advertising	10		10		10	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	<u>6</u>		<u>6</u>		<u>6</u>	
		16		16		16
 <u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation						
Works Department	3794		3794		4076	
Repairs, maintenance and renewals -						
Seats	200		200		200	
Notice Boards	25		10		25	
Fences and posts	30		40		40	
Depot and Toolshed	10		10		10	
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake	50		55		40	
Clearing undergrowth	<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>	
		4309		4309		4591
 <u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Replacement of Notice Boards ...	45		45		-	
Measures to prevent parking on Common -						
London Inner Road	88		88		-	
Fir Tree Road	25		25		-	
Lower Green Road	100		100		-	
Harmony Street and Apsley Street	31		31		-	
Conversion of public conveniences into Commons Depot	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>		<u>100</u>	
		289		201		188
 <u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u> £						
	4,876		4,876		4,969	

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1966

Grass Cutting:

Grass cutting continued in the usual areas until well into October when a spell of heavy rain causing the turf to become very soft stopped all cutting although the grass actually continued to grow.

Clearing & Trimming:

The verges of gravel paths and the sides of London Road, Eridge Road, Fir Tree Road, Hungershall Park, Major York's Road, and Apsley Street have been or are in course of being trimmed.

The track leading from Langton Road to Happy Valley and Rusthall Church mentioned at the last meeting, has been cleared and also the Birch and bramble growth round the Wellington Rocks in accordance with the instructions in the Minutes.

Parking on the Common:

The concrete posts to restrict parking during the winter months opposite the Higher Cricket Ground in Fir Tree Road, have been erected and the other measures approved by the Conservators will be carried out during the winter with the exception of the marker stones in Inner London Road which the Conservators decided to defer.

Men's Convenience, Fir Tree Road:

In accordance with Minute 4, 4th October 1966, a provisional sum of £100 has been included in the draft annual estimates for 1966/67. This sum includes an allowance for waterproofing and laying an asphalt floor, for waterproofing and lining the walls with fibre board to a height of 6 feet, for the provision of a kitchen sink and water supply and for a solid fuel combustion stove.

If the Conservators approve this proposal an application should be made to the Health Committee to transfer the convenience to the Conservators when it is abandoned by the Health Committee.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

HGT/BS
P1/4a

December 1966.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

4th April, 1967 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor J.S. Forrest, C.B.E., J.P.)
Chairman,

Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Aldermen C.J. Gange, N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage,
Messrs. J.I. Berry, R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke,
B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £803. 16. Od. were passed for payment.
3. RESIGNATION OF MR. J.E.T. KENNERLEY AS CONSERVATOR. - The Clerk reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Mr. J.E.T. Kennerley, which had been accepted as at the 10th February, 1967.
4. HAPPY VALLEY. - Further to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 4th October, 1966, the Surveyor reported that a certain amount of clearance of holly bushes, etc., had been carried out in order to improve the view looking towards Ashdown Forest.
5. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received.
6. PARKING ON THE COMMON. - The Surveyor reported that as instructed by the Conservators and in an endeavour to prevent parking on the Common, guard stones had been placed on the western side of Lower Green Road, Rusthall in conjunction with the construction of a layby by the Corporation. Further guard stones had also been provided in Harmony Street, Upper Street and Apsley Street.

The Clerk read a letter from Mr. L.R. Ryder of 11 Apsley Street, thanking the Conservators for their efforts to conserve the Common land in Rusthall.

Correspondence from Messrs. Savage and Perou, residents in Apsley Street, was also read, complaining that the guard stones are a hazard to road safety and pedestrians walking across the Common after dark, and are rather unsightly in appearance. A Conservator expressed the opinion that the stones made it difficult for deliveries to be made to the Toad Rock Tavern and that patrons were unable to park their cars in Apsley Street due to the narrowness of the road.

A suggestion having been made that the Lord of the Manor might reach agreement with the proprietor for part of the Common opposite the Toad Rock Tavern to be allotted for parking, it was

Resolved - That the Mayor, Mr. Card and the Surveyor be authorised to inspect the site and take such action as may be appropriate.

7. THE COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT, 1965. - Further to Minute 12 of the meeting held on the 3rd January, 1967, the Clerk reported in detail upon the desirability of registering the Tunbridge Wells Commons under the Commons Registration Act of 1965 in the absence of any Ministerial Order for exemption.

The Act does not however affect rights of access to Commons: in particular Section 193 of the Law of Property Act, 1925, which gives the public the right of access to Commons in urban areas, will continue in force, as will all other Acts and Schemes of Regulation giving right of access to the public.

Application would be made to register the Rusthall and Tunbridge Wells Commons as a "Town or Village Green" which is defined in the Commons Registration Act, 1965 as land which has been allotted by or under any Act for the exercise or recreation of the inhabitants of any locality or on which the inhabitants of any locality have a customary right to indulge in lawful sports and pastimes or on which the

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inhabitants of any locality have indulged in such sports and pastimes as of right for not less than twenty years.

It is understood that the Lord of the Manor will take steps to register the freehold interest at the same time.

Resolved - That the Clerk be authorised to register the Commons as a "Town or Village Green" on behalf of the Commons Conservators.

8. MEN'S CONVENIENCE, FIR TREE ROAD. - Further to Minute 8 of the meeting held on the 3rd January, 1967, the Clerk reported that the Health Committee had approved the transfer of this Convenience to the Conservators for use as a shelter for men employed on the Common, without payment, on condition that the premises are kept locked when not in use by the Conservators' employees.
9. PLANTING OF FLOWERING TREES IN RUSTHALL ROAD. - Further to Minute 10 of the meeting held on the 3rd January, 1967, the Surveyor reported that the Rusthall Residents Association had intimated that their suggestion for the planting of trees included for 12 flowering Cherries to be planted along Rusthall Road between the "Terry path" and the entrance to the High Street. The estimated cost of providing these trees, including for excavating and replacing the existing clay with good loam, providing a tree guard and stake, and planting these trees is £60.

The Conservators expressed a general opinion against flowering trees being planted on the Common, taking the view that the Common should so far as possible be retained in its natural state.

Resolved - That no action be taken in this matter.

10. ENTRANCE TO ST. PAUL'S CHURCH AND RUSTHALL SCHOOL. - The Surveyor reported that the attention of the Church and School Authorities had been drawn to damage caused to the Common and encroachment on a public footpath near the War Memorial by vehicles turning in front of the above entrance.

The erection of additional concrete posts to prevent this encroachment would severely hamper access by vehicles to the Church or School unless special provision is made. It is understood that the above Authorities are considering a solution to the problem.

Resolved - That the matter be deferred until considered by the respective Authorities.

11. LIME TREES, ERIDGE ROAD. - The Surveyor reported that a resident in Eridge Road had drawn attention to the damage done by children swinging on the lower branches of the Lime trees and also to the fact that these lower branches seriously impede the light to and the vision from the lower windows of the houses. Twelve Lime trees are involved.

Resolved - That during the course of normal maintenance the Lime trees be cut to twelve feet above ground level to allow more light to houses and be out of reach of the children.

L. E. Bowles

27th June, 1967

MAYOR

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH 1967

Clearing & Trimming:

In accordance with the instruction given in Minute 7, 4th October 1966 a certain amount of clearance of holly bushes etc., has been carried out at Happy Valley in order to improve the view looking towards Ashdown Forest.

Measures to prevent parking:

In accordance with the approved scheme, guard stones have been placed on the western side of Lower Green Road, Rusthall in conjunction with the construction of a layby by the Corporation. Further guard stones are being provided in Harmony Street, Upper Street and also in Apsley Street. Also in accordance with the approved scheme a bank and ditch has been formed along the portion of Tea Garden Lane where parking was taking place.

It has been found necessary to add a railing to connect the concrete posts on the western side of Fir Tree Road as cars were being driven between the posts.

Rusthall Road

Drainage: In accordance with Minute 8 of the 4th October 1966, shallow ditches have been dug along the edge of the Common in an effort to prevent water flowing onto the road opposite Warboro' Lodge.

Proposals for Flowering Trees: The Rusthall Residents Association have now intimated that their suggestion for the planting of trees included for 12 flowering Cherries to be planted by the "Terry path" (which is opposite the junction of Sunnyside with Rusthall Road) to the entrance to the High Street. No indication is given whether they suggest that the trees should be planted in a single line or as an avenue or whether the trees should be in small groups. The estimated cost of providing these trees, including for excavating and replacing the existing clay with good loam, providing a tree guard and stake and planting these trees is £60.

Entrance to St. Paul's Church & Rusthall School:

Following damage to the Common and encroachment on a public footpath by the War Memorial by vehicles, especially large lorries turning in front of the above entrance, the attention of the Church and School Authorities has been drawn to the matter.

The erection of additional concrete posts to prevent this encroachment would severely hamper vehicles needing to gain access to the Church or School unless special provision is made. It is understood that the above Authorities are considering a solution of the problem.

Lime Trees, Eridge Road:

A resident in Eridge Road has drawn attention to the damage done by children swinging on the lower branches of the above and also to the fact that these lower branches seriously impede the light to and the vision from the lower windows of the houses.

Twelve Lime trees are involved and it is suggested that the branches should be trimmed to a higher level than has been done in the past.

Railing - Mount Ephraim:

The first section of railing using concrete posts and oak arris rails to replace the existing defective oak posts has been erected.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

27th June, 1967 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor Mrs. L.E. Bowles, J.P.)
(Chairman)

Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Aldermen C.J. Gange and D. Savage,
Messrs. J.I. Berry, R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke,
B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,368. 16. 1. were passed for payment.
3. REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1967. - The Treasurer submitted the audited Revenue Account for the year ended 31 March, 1967, which was 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, 1968:-

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Mrs. L.E. Bowles)
Aldermen C.J. Gange, N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage.
5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE. - Resolved - That the Mayor, Aldermen N.L. Glanfield, D. Savage, Messrs. J.I. 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 N.L. Glanfield and Mr. B.H. Fountain be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
7. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's report was received. Arising out of the Surveyor's report:-

- (1) Notices - The Surveyor reported that three Notices about the defacing of rocks had been delivered and it was

Resolved - That two of the Notices be placed in the vicinity of the Wellington Rocks and one by the Toad Rock.

- (2) Workmen's Shelter - Resolved - That the Elm saplings growing on the roof of the shelter be removed.

- (3) Parking on the Common - Further to Minute 6 of the meeting held on the 4th April, 1967, the Surveyor reported that an inspection had been made of the guard stones placed in the vicinity of the Toad Rock Tavern and two on the same side as the Tavern had been removed.

A Conservator reported that the undergrowth had grown up around the stones and some were now hidden. The Surveyor was asked to keep a watch on the growth of the grass in this area in order to avoid any danger to traffic.

- (4) Car Park - Toad Rock Tavern - Further to Minute 6 of the meeting held on the 4th April, 1967, it was reported that the Landlord of the Toad Rock Tavern had made an application to the Town Planning Committee to use part of the land opposite the Tavern as a Car Park, but that the Town Planning Committee had disapproved the application as the use would be injurious to the amenity of this area.

The Conservators expressed the opinion that some form of hard-standing for parking cars was essential and would prevent the spread of unauthorised parking on the Common in this particular area.

(5) Seats - Resolved - That the erection of new seats in the positions referred to in the Surveyor's report be approved.

8. CHRIST CHURCH SCHOOL - PLAYING AREA. - The Surveyor reported that he had received a request from the Headmaster of Christ Church School for a play area to be created between the Queen's Grove and Wellington Rocks suitable for use by the children whilst maintenance work was being carried out on the Lower Cricket Ground.

The Surveyor's action in clearing the area was approved.

9. BRIGHTON LAKE - POWER DRIVEN BOAT. - The Surveyor reported that he had received a request for permission to sail a diesel driven boat on the Brighton Lake.

Resolved - That permission be not granted for this or powered model craft of any kind which might pollute the water or cause injury to the birds on the lake.

10. ENTRANCE TO ST. PAUL'S CHURCH AND RUSTHALL SCHOOL. - Further to Minute 10 of the meeting held on the 4th April, 1967, the Clerk reported that the Parochial Church Council and Kent Education Committee would be in some difficulty if posts were erected and vehicles restricted to the width of the carriageway. The estimated cost of providing a turning bay for large vehicles was £95, but both Authorities had intimated they were unable to make any contribution, it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor discuss a solution with the respective Authorities and report further to the next meeting of the Conservators.

11. CARS ON THE COMMON NEAR TOAD ROCK. - The Clerk read a letter from Mr. A.J. Scholar of 24 Upper Street, concerning the destruction by cars of the turf on that part of the Common facing Nos. 22-27 Upper Street and it was

Resolved - That the condition of the Common in this area be examined and views expressed on what action should be taken at the next meeting.

12. FOOTPATH FROM SUNNYSIDE ROAD TO RUSTHALL HIGH STREET. - The Surveyor read a letter from Mr. W.H. Hatton of 17 Sunnyside Road, requesting that the track which runs a few feet away from the boundary fences of the cottages in Sunnyside Road to the High Street, which is in poor condition and apt to flood, and has been used increasingly since development locally by the Council, should be improved by being gravelled. It was

Resolved - That a decision be deferred until the next meeting to enable the Conservators to inspect the site.

13. PARKING ON THE COMMON - INNER LONDON ROAD. - Further to Minute 5 of the meeting held on the 4th October, 1966, the Clerk reported that the Watch Committee had at today's date received no objections to the inclusion of the Inner London Road (between Church Road and London Road) as a one-way street, for traffic travelling from north to south, in the Consolidated Traffic Order.

14. ROSE HILL SCHOOL SITE. - It was reported that the Contractors' vehicles working at this site had caused some damage to the Common in the Inner London Road and it was

Resolved - That the Contractors be asked to make a substantial contribution towards reinstatement of the Common.

15. RUSTHALL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION. - The Clerk read a letter of appreciation for improvements which have been carried out on Rusthall Common.

16. THE COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT, 1965. - Further to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 4th April, 1967, the Clerk reported that the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons had been registered on behalf of the Commons Conservators as a "Town or Village Green", and that a formal copy of the registration was lodged in his Office for public inspection. An application had also been made on behalf of the Lord of the Manor to register the freehold interest.

The Common has already been registered by a third party, as "Common Land" and the registrations, therefore, conflict. To that extent each has to be treated as an objection to the other and the registers have been so noted.

Resolved - That at the appropriate time the Clerk be authorised to take all such action as may be necessary to safeguard the registration on behalf of the Commons Conservators.

17. ACCESS TO NEVILL PARK. - A Conservator reported that the grass along the edge of the road on the corners where Nevill Park joins the main road was being worn away by vehicles running over the edge when turning, it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised to place a large stone at each corner to prevent this erosion.

18. LINDEN PARK CRICKET GROUND. - The Clerk reported that he had received a request from the Secretary of Linden Park Cricket Club, for permission to use the Linden Park Cricket Ground for hockey and it was

Resolved - That in accordance with Byelaw No. 22, which states that "no person shall upon any part of the Commons specially set apart for cricket, play or take part in any game of football, quoits, or ~~hockey~~, or any other game likely to injure the turf", permission be not granted.

19. MOUNT EDGCUMBE HOTEL. - The Clerk reported that the Tenant of the Mount Edgcumbe Hotel had asked for a tree to be felled as it was interfering with the foundations of the Hotel.

It was agreed that this tree was dangerous, but that as it was on private ground attached to the Hotel the Conservators were not concerned in any action which might be taken.

20. ROAD IMPROVEMENTS. - (1) ROAD JUNCTIONS. - The Clerk reported that the Works Committee of the Town Council had considered a letter from the Agents of the Lords of the Manor concerning certain acute road junctions on Rusthall Common which in their opinion are in need of improvement. The Borough Surveyor had been instructed to prepare a survey of the junctions concerned, with a view to provision for improvements being included in the rate estimates, together with his recommendations as to priority for the work.

(2) HARMONY STREET - The letter also requested that a white line be placed in the centre of the road to indicate that the road is used for two-way traffic.

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting of the Watch Committee instructions were given for a central white line to be provided in Harmony Street at its southern end.

21. PANTILES ROUNDABOUT. - A Conservator enquired whether the Council would consult the Conservators concerning any future proposals to acquire land for future road improvements in connection with the reclassification of the A.26.

The Clerk reported that the Lord of the Manor had been consulted about the proposal to build a Roundabout at the junction of London Road/Nevill Street and that although the Town Council had compulsory powers to acquire land, if the proposal had been accepted the Conservators would have been given full opportunity to express their views.

L. B. Barles
MAYOR.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1967.

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Income</u>	
<u>1965/66</u>	<u>1966/67</u>	<u>1965/66</u>	<u>1966/67</u>
£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
<u>Salaries and Allowances</u>		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation - Contribution for Year	
		4569.13.11.	4582.14.10.
91.16. 0.	Clerk 92.13. 0.		
70. 4. 0.	Surveyor 70.17. 0.		
48.12. 0.	Treasurer 49. 1. 0.		
48.12. 0.	Allowances for expenses 49. 1. 0.		
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Charges</u>			
9. 6. 6.	Printing, Stationery and Postages. 8.13. 4.		
6.15. 9.	Public Liability and Fire Insurance 5.13. 6.		
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>			
3546. 0. 9.	General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department 3663.18. 7.		
233. 5. 1.	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals - Seats 187.12. 5.		
- - -	Notice Boards 8. 8. 4.		
37.10. 0.	Fences and Posts 48.14.10.		
28. 4. 5.	Depot and Toolshed - - -		
- - -	Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake 20. 3. 2.		
200. 0. 0.	Clearing Undergrowth 200. 0. 0.		
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>			
133.18. 8.	Provision of grass cutting machine - - -		
115. 8. 9.	Replacement of Notice Boards 62.13. 2.		
- - -	Measures to prevent parking on Common 115. 5. 6.		
<u>£4,569.13.11.</u>	<u>£4,582.14.10.</u>	<u>£4,569.13.11.</u>	<u>£4,582.14.10.</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1967.

<u>Liabilities</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
<u>1965/66</u>	<u>1966/67</u>	<u>1965/66</u>	<u>1966/67</u>
£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
Sundry Creditors -		Debtor -	
1230. 3. 11.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	
- - -	Others	for balance of Contribution	1367. 4. 10.
		Postage Stamps in Hand	1. 0. 11.
		Cash in Hand	804. 6. 4.

<u>£1,230. 3. 11.</u>	<u>£1,230. 3. 11.</u>	<u>£2,172. 12. 1.</u>
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D. L. COPEMAN, F.I.M.T.A.

15th June, 1967.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 30th JUNE 1967

Grass Cutting

This has been hampered by the wet weather in May but has followed the usual pattern in Bishops Down, Mount Ephraim and London Road. The verges of Eridge Road and the large area at Lower Green, Rusthall have also been cut.

Gravel Paths

The paths from Mount Edgecumbe to the Wellington Hotel and from the junction of Castle Road and Mount Edgecumbe Road towards Fonthill on the eastern side of Castle Road have been re-gravelled.

Various other paths on Tunbridge Wells Common and Rusthall Common have been lightly topped with gravel.

Weeds and Brambles

Various places along Mount Ephraim, the verges of Major Yorks Road, Fir Tree Road, Hungershall Park and Bishops Down Road and the areas on Rusthall Common on either side of Nevill Park entrance have been sprayed with 'Tricoxone' to keep down weeds and brambles and encourage the grass to grow.

Notices

Three notices re the defacing of rocks allowed for in last year's estimates have been delivered. It is recommended that two be placed in the vicinity of the Wellington Rocks and one by the Toad Rock.

Seats

Twelve seats have also been provided out of last year's estimates and have been erected as follows:-

Seats with backs: Brighton Lake - 2, opposite Montacute Road - 1, south of Hungershall Park - 1, north of Higher Cricket Ground - 1, Happy Valley - 2, and Langton Road opposite Rusthall Road - 1.

Seats without backs: Rusthall Cricket Ground - 3, Higher Cricket Ground - 1.

Two seats that were continually being interfered with were removed from "the Bumps" and sited at Lower Green, Rusthall, following requests for more seats in that area.

Workmen's Shelter

The old convenience off Fir Tree Road has been adapted as a workmen's shelter.

Some five or six elm saplings growing on the roof of the shelter should be removed before their weight and roots damage the masonry and brickwork. This can be done without affecting the screen of trees on the Fir Tree Road side of the shelter.

Apsley Street

The Mayor and Mr. Card inspected the guard stones erected in the vicinity of the Toad Rock Tavern to reduce the amount of parking on the Common. They approved those erected opposite the Tavern but decided that two on the same side as the Tavern should be removed. This has been done. Parking now occurs only immediately in front of the Tavern.

Lime Trees, Eridge Road

The lower branches of the trees in front of the houses in Eridge Road have been pruned as agreed by the Conservators at the last meeting.

H. G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

4th October, 1967 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor Mrs. L.E. Bowles, J.P.)
(Chairman)
Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Aldermen C.J. Gange, N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage,
Messrs. J.I. Berry, R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke,
B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler and A.H. Witt.

- 1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
- 2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,420. 2. 4. were passed for payment.
- 3. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's report was received and arising therefrom:-

Notices - It was observed that one of the notices relating to damage and disfigurement of rocks had been wrecked within forty-eight hours of erection. The Notice has since been removed for repair.

- 4. CAR PARK - TOAD ROCK TAVERN. - Further to Minute 7(4) of the meeting held on the 27th June, 1967, it was reported that the Town Council had reconsidered the application to use land opposite the Toad Rock Tavern as a Car Park, but that the application had been disapproved as the use would be injurious to the amenity of this area.
- 5. ENTRANCE TO ST. PAUL'S CHURCH AND RUSTHALL SCHOOL. - Further to Minute 10 of the meeting held on the 27th June, 1967, the Surveyor reported that he had met a representative of the Rusthall Parochial Church Council on site and discussed the possibility of implementing a more modest scheme to provide turning facilities at a cost of £25/30. The Church Council are prepared to meet their part of the cost of removing turf and providing a hard surface over an area 20 ft. in depth by 15 ft. in width and it was

Resolved - That if the Kent Education Committee agree to bear their part of the cost of implementing this scheme the work be put in hand.

- 6. HUNGERSHALL PARK - CUTTING BACK OF VERGES. - The Clerk reported that following a case of indecent exposure in the vicinity, a resident in Hungershall Park had requested that the bushes bordering the road be cut back from the road for a distance of 3 to 4 yards in an endeavour to eliminate a recurrence.

The Committee had been informed and given instructions that no immediate action be taken, but that the verges of the road be trimmed for a depth of 3 or 4 yards as soon as the grass cutting programme is completed.

Resolved - That the action of the Committee be approved.

- 7. CARS ON THE COMMON NEAR TOAD ROCK. - Further to Minute 11 of the meeting held on the 27th June, 1967, the condition of the Common facing Nos. 22-27 Upper Street had been examined. Vehicles had encroached on the Common and the turf worn bare for a distance of about 40 feet.

The Conservators expressed the opinion that the parking of vehicles was inevitable in a residential area, but that they should be kept on the track and the tarmacum footpath should remain unimpeded for the use of pedestrians and not be used as a turning space for vehicles.

Resolved - That such posts be erected as may be necessary to preserve pedestrian use of the tarmacum footpath leading across the Common from the track.

- 8. FOOTPATH FROM SUNNYSIDE ROAD TO RUSTHALL HIGH STREET. - Further to Minute 12 of the meeting held on the 27th June, 1967, the Conservators having examined the track and bearing in mind its poor condition and ever-increasing user, it was

Resolved - That the 3 ft. wide track be gravelled at a cost for materials of approximately £15 and that the work be carried out as soon as possible.

9. RUSTHALL CHURCH WALL. - A Conservator reported that the wall surrounding the Churchyard, alongside the footpath over the Common, had become overgrown with weeds and ivy, and it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to draw the attention of the Church Wardens to the condition of the wall.

10. NORTH LODGE, NEVILL PARK. - It was reported that a complaint had been received from Miss Kilbride that the Yew trees between Nevill Park and the entrance to St. Paul's Church were damaging the fence surrounding her property.

Resolved - That the Surveyor investigate the position of these trees and report back to the next meeting of the Conservators.

11. LANGTON ROAD. - It was reported that the bushes on both sides of the footpath leading from St. Paul's Church to the bus stop on Langton Road had become overgrown and obstructed the view of pedestrians waiting to cross the road.

Resolved - That the Surveyor investigate the position and take such action as may be necessary.

12. FAIRGROUND - CAR PARK. - It was reported that letters had been received concerning the future use of the Fair Ground as a permanent Car Park, and it was

Resolved - That the future of the Fair Ground be considered at the meeting of the Conservators to be held in March, 1968.

L. E. Bowles.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER 1967.

Grass Cutting: Grass cutting has continued throughout the quarter in the normal areas and the final cutting should finish at the end of the month.

Gorse: Fires have occurred in two or three areas on the Commons and the burnt gorse will be cleared during the coming winter.

Rusthall Church & School Entrance: A representative of the Rusthall Parochial Church Council was met on the site and he is reporting to his Council on the possibility of a more modest scheme being carried out to provide turning facilities at a cost of £25/30. The Church Council is also in touch with the Kent Education Authority to secure its co-operation.

Hungershall Park: Following complaints from residents in Hungershall Park, the verges of the road will be trimmed for a depth of 3 or 4 yards as soon as the grass cutting programme is complete.

Notices: The notices in respect of damage and disfigurement of rocks have been erected at the Wellington Rocks (2) and by the Toad Rock (1).

Nevill Park; Langton Road Junction: The guardstones have been placed on the corners of the grass triangle at this junction in order to prevent the encroachment of vehicles.

Vandalism: There has been further vandalism on both Commons during the past three months, the workmen's shelter near the Higher Cricket Ground was broken into when a roof light was levered from its base by breaking the concrete bedding and the shelter was entered by climbing down through this roof light opening. A certain amount of damage was done to the heating stove and various tools and ropes were stolen. Some of these were subsequently found on the Common and have been recovered.

On Rusthall Common stone steps were dislodged on those leading down to Happy Valley and 3 or 4 seats were damaged, including one which was completely smashed when it was dragged some 150 yards and dropped over the rocks onto the footpath some 20' below. The Police and the local paper were informed in the hope that some publicity might lead to a lessening of the damage.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

2nd January, 1968 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor Mrs. L.E. Bowles, J.P.)
(Chairman)

Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Aldermen C.J. Gange and N.L. Glanfield,
Messrs. J.I. Berry, H.T. Clarke,
B.H. Fountain and C.R. Harler.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,142. 5. 11. were passed for payment.
3. ESTIMATES. - Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year were approved in the sum of £5,105.
4. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's report was received and arising therefrom:-

- (1) Trees - The Surveyor reported that during the gale in October, one of the Lime trees forming the Charter Group was extensively damaged. The tree has since been felled and cleared away. It seems unlikely that a young tree would thrive in the centre of the Group and it was agreed, therefore, that replanting should not take place.

At the same time the Conservators were informed that some of the trees in this Group showed signs of fungoid growth and diseased bark, and it was accordingly

Resolved - That the advice of an expert be sought as to the correct treatment for preserving this group of trees and also the Hornbeam tree at the end of Nevill Park.

- (2) Harmony Street - Defective Steps - The Surveyor reported that a flight of steps on the Common by the general shop, No. 35 Harmony Street, was in a very poor and dangerous condition.

Resolved - That the provisional amount of £162 included in the estimates for 1968/69 be approved and authority given for the necessary work to be carried out.

- (3) Paths - The Surveyor reported that the condition of some of the tracks across the Common could be improved by gravelling and it was

Resolved - That as and when funds become available within the estimates, the track leading from Rusthall Church to a point opposite Lower Green Road be gravelled.

5. CARS ON THE COMMON NEAR TOAD ROCK. - Further to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 4th October, 1967, the Surveyor reported that the concrete posts had been erected to prevent cars encroaching on the tarmacadum footpath in Upper Street and additional soil deposited at the side of the track to prevent vehicles trespassing on the Common.
6. FOOTPATH FROM SUNNYSIDE ROAD TO RUSTHALL HIGH STREET. - Further to Minute 8 of the meeting held on the 4th October, 1967, it was reported that the widening and gravelling of this footpath had been completed and that the improvement had been much appreciated by the residents in this area.
7. NORTH LODGE, NEVILL PARK. - Further to Minute 10 of the meeting held on the 4th October, 1967, the Surveyor reported that the Yew tree on the Common did not appear to be damaging the fence of this property and it was therefore

Resolved - That no further action be taken.

8. LANGTON ROAD. - Further to Minute 11 of the meeting held on the 4th October, 1967, and a letter from the Rusthall Residents Association, the Surveyor reported that the undergrowth had been cleared to improve the line of visibility.
9. PARKING ON THE COMMON - INNER LONDON ROAD. - Further to Minute 13 of the meeting held on the 27th June, 1967, the Clerk reported that the Consolidated Traffic Order came into force on the 1st January, 1968, making the Inner London Road a one-way street, for traffic travelling from north to south.

It was reported that some vehicles were still encroaching on the Common when trying to pass a line of parked vehicles or in making deliveries to adjoining premises.

Resolved - That no immediate action be taken, but that the condition of the Common along this part of the Inner London Road be kept under observation and a report made at the next meeting.

10. LINDEN PARK CRICKET GROUND. - Further to Minute 18 of the meeting held on the 27th June, 1967, the Clerk read a letter from the Linden Park Cricket Club requesting that Byelaw 22, which states that "no person shall upon any part of the Commons specially set apart for cricket, play or take part in any game of football, quoits, or hockey, or any other game likely to injure the turf", be repealed to allow hockey to be played during the winter months.

The Surveyor expressed the opinion that it would only be possible to provide a pitch of minimum size on the lower part of the Cricket Ground, where it is very wet, and the cost of maintenance to preserve the ground for Cricket would be high.

The Conservators were not in favour of other games being played on this part of the Common which has been set aside as a Cricket Ground for very many years. It was accordingly

Resolved - That the request be not approved and no action be taken to repeal the existing Byelaw No. 22.

11. TOAD ROCK - SEATS. - The Clerk read a letter from the Rusthall Residents Association concerning the provision of seats around Toad Rock. Seats are provided on the opposite side of Harmony Street and children crossing the road between the Toad Rock and these seats create a danger to themselves and motorists.

Resolved - That the position of these seats and others in this area be examined and views expressed on what action should be taken at the next meeting.

12. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS. - Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held at 2.45 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:-

2nd April, 1968
25th June, 1968

1st October, 1968
7th January, 1969.

L. E. Bowles.

MAYOR

2ND APRIL 1968

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

EXPENDITURE	ESTIMATE 1967/68		REVISED EST. 1967/68		ESTIMATE 1968/69	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Salaries</u>						
Clerk	93		96		97	
Surveyor	71		75		76	
Treasurer	49		51		52	
Allowances for expenses	<u>49</u>		<u>51</u>		<u>52</u>	
		262		273		277
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>						
Printing, Stationery, Postages and Advertising	10		10		10	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	<u>6</u>		<u>6</u>		<u>6</u>	
		16		16		16
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	4076		4076		4135	
Repairs, maintenance and renewals - Seats	200		200		200	
Notice Boards	25		25		25	
Fences and posts	40		40		40	
Depot and Toolshed	10		10		10	
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake	40		40		40	
Clearing undergrowth	<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>	
		4591		4591		4650
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Reconstruction of steps by 35, Harmony Street.	-		-		162	
Measures to prevent parking on Common - London Inner Road	88		88		-	
Harmony Street and Apsley Street	-		21		-	
Conversion of public conveniences into Common Depot	<u>100</u>		<u>101</u>		<u>-</u>	
		188		210		162
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u> £						
	5,057		5,090		5,105	

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1967

1. Cutting back of roadside verges. The bushes and undergrowth bordering both sides of Hungershall Park have been trimmed. The normal trimming has also been carried out in London Road; Eridge Road; Major York's Road; Castle Road; Fir Tree Road; and Bishops Down Road. (Minute 6 - 4.10.67)
2. Rusthall Church Wall. The attention of the Rusthall Church Authorities has been drawn to the condition of the boundary wall between St. Paul's Churchyard and the Common. At a meeting on the site, one of the Church Wardens said that work to remove the Ivy and other weeds on the wall and the repair of the masonry would be carried out in the very near future. He asked that as far as possible the growth on the Common at the base of the wall should be cut and this will receive attention very shortly. (Minute 9).
3. North Lodge, Nevill Park. The Yew Trees between the entrance to Nevill Park and St. Paul's Church have been inspected but it does not appear that the Yew tree on the Common is damaging the fence of the above property. (Minute 10).
4. Langton Road. The bushes in the vicinity of the bus stop on Langton Road near the footpath leading to St. Paul's Church, have been trimmed in order to improve the line of visibility. At the same time the whole of the undergrowth between the above footpath and Rusthall Place has been cleared. (Minute 11).
5. Footpath, Sunnyside Road to Rusthall High Street. The widening and gravelling of this footpath is in hand and should be completed before the meeting in January 1968. (Minute 8).
6. Cars parking on the Common. Upper Street. Concrete posts have been erected to prevent cars encroaching on the tarmacadam footpath and at the same time the sides of the track have been cleared and additional soil deposited to prevent cars trespassing on to the Common. Advantage has been taken of a supply of free soil to form banks at places in Castle Road; Hungershall Park; Harmony Street; and near the War Memorial by Rusthall Church where cars were parking on the Common.
7. Damage to trees by gale. During the gale in October one of the Lime trees at the junction of Major York's Road and Fir Tree Road was extensively damaged and has been felled and cleared away. This tree forms one of a group recorded as having been planted in 1889 and is labelled on the map as the Charter Group. Damage was also done to certain smaller trees and bushes on various parts of the Common, and these will receive attention shortly.
8. Harmony Street, Defective steps. A flight of steps by the general shop, No. 35 Harmony Street, and giving access to Nos. 38 to 43 Harmony Street, and the rear of Nos. 17, 19 & 21 Rustwick, is in a very poor and dangerous condition. These steps are on the Common and unless dealt with by the Conservators it is difficult to see who else would undertake the responsibility for their condition. A provisional sum has been included in the annual estimates for 1968/69 and a decision can be reached at the next meeting as to whether this work shall be carried out.

H.G. Tucker.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

2nd April, 1968 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor Mrs. L.E. Bowles, J.P.)
(Chairman)

Mrs. G.K. Kentner
Aldermen C.J. Gange, N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage
Messrs. J.I. Berry, R.W. Card, B.H. Fountain,
C.R. Harler and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,038. 1. 5. were passed for payment.
3. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received and arising therefrom:-

Brighton Lake - The Surveyor reported that an N.S.P.C.A. Inspector rescued an injured duck and not knowing its ownership placed it in the care of Mr. Armstrong of the Animal Food Stores, Chapel Place, who has cared for it under the local voluntary Organisation for the care of wild birds known as "Wild Wings". The duck is likely to be in their charge for some months and it was

Resolved - That a contribution of Three Guineas be made to the Wild Wings Organisation as a token of the Conservators appreciation.

4. PARKING ON THE COMMON - INNER LONDON ROAD. - Further to Minute 9 of the meeting held on the 2nd January, 1968, the Surveyor reported that vehicles were still encroaching on the Common. It was

Resolved - That no action be taken at present, but that this part of Inner London Road be kept under observation.

5. TOAD ROCK - SEATS. - Further to Minute 11 of the meeting held on the 2nd January, 1968, the Conservators having examined the position of the seats in the Toad Rock are, it was

Resolved - That one additional seat be placed near the Toad Rock.

6. FAIRGROUND - CAR PARK. - Further to Minute 12 of the meeting held on the 4th October, 1967, the Surveyor referred to the previous use of the Fairground and reported that the hardcore surface had been extended in area to facilitate its use as a temporary car park. There would appear to be a need for additional car parking space in this part of the Town, but no part of the Common has previously been used as a permanent car park and it was

Resolved - That a decision in this matter be deferred.

7. WATER TAP, TOAD ROCK. - The Clerk reported that the Waterworks Committee of the Town Council had received a request for a water tap to be installed near the Toad Rock, to enable picnickers to obtain water in the Summer months without troubling nearby residents. The Waterworks Committee had approved an estimate for laying a supply pipe and providing a tap and drainage near Toad Rock, subject to the approval of the Commons Conservators and consent being obtained from the Manorial Authorities.

Resolved - That approval be given to the carrying out of the above work.

8. SEATS ON THE COMMON. - (1) The Surveyor reported that he had complied with a request for one of two seats already existing on the short length of path between London Road and Mount Ephraim, to be placed at the top end of the path, to enable elderly pedestrians to rest after the steep climb and it was

Resolved - That these two seats be left in position, but that an additional seat be provided to replace the one recently moved.

(2) The Surveyor reported that he had received an offer from Miss F. Smith of 149 Stephens Road, Tunbridge Wells, to purchase a seat in memory of her Father, Maurice, who was hairdresser to Queen Mary, and it was

Resolved - That Miss Smith's offer be accepted with thanks and the seat be placed in position above the Higher Cricket Ground.

9. LANGTON ROAD - 'BUS STOP. - The Clerk reported that the Watch Committee of the Town Council had received a request from the Rusthall Residents Association for the resiting of a 'bus stop in Langton Road. The Committee had felt unable to resite the 'bus stop, but subject to the approval of the Commons Conservators the Borough Surveyor had been instructed to extend a footpath in order to give access thereto.

Resolved - That approval be given to this extension of the footpath.

10. HORSE RIDING ON THE COMMONS. - Further to Minute 10 of the meeting held on the 29th March, 1966, a complaint from the Rusthall Residents Association, about the riding of horses on the Commons during the Winter months was considered and it was

Resolved - That in the Autumn the Clerk should again write to all Riding Stables in the area, reminding them that horses should not be taken across the Commons during the months of November to March.

11. OVERHANGING TREES - THE COTTAGE, RUSTHALL PLACE. - A complaint was received from Wing Commander E.H.B. Martin of The Cottage, Rusthall Place, that due to the overhanging branches of trees adjoining his property, the growth of plants in his garden had been impeded and the light cut out from his house. Attention was also directed to the risk of falling branches during high winds and it appeared that a number of holly bushes had encroached on the property.

Resolved - (a) That permission be given for the holly bushes to be cut down to the level of the fence, approximately 4 feet high.

(b) That the Surveyor be authorised to make arrangements for the branches of the trees overhanging the house to be lopped on Mr. Martin's side of the fence, up to a height of about 12 feet.

12. WELLINGTON ROCKS - VANDALISM. - The Clerk read a letter from Mrs. S.F. Gibb of Highbury, The Common, Tunbridge Wells, complaining of vandalism and the danger to children through broken glass littering the sand around the Wellington Rocks, which are a natural playground, and requesting that this area be better maintained and supervised.

The Surveyor reported that two men had cleared the sand of broken glass and that more attention would be given to this area and around the Toad Rock, during the Summer months. The cost of providing permanent supervision would, however, be very considerable.

13. PARKING ON THE COMMON NEAR RUSTHALL PARK. - It was reported that rock climbers' vehicles had been parked on the Common near Rusthall Park and it was

Resolved - That marker stones be placed in position to deter parking on the Common at this point.

Mayor,

25th June, 1968.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH 1968

Clearing: Following damage by wind and snow a number of trees, mainly birch, have been felled or lopped and damaged bushes cleared. Damaged gorse and undergrowth at the scenes of two or three fires have also been cleared.

Report on Trees: The lime trees north-east of the junction of Major Yorks Road and Fir Tree Road and the hornbeam at the junction of Major Yorks Road and Nevill Park have been inspected by a Forestry Expert, Mr. Taylor, and his report is awaited.

Overhanging Tree - Langton Road: Representations were received from the owner of Nos. 5 & 7, Langton Road that the branches of a lime tree on the Common were overhanging and damaging the tiled roof of these houses. An inspection showed that this could be so and arrangements were made to lop the branches.

Paths: The western end of the path from the rear of Hungershall Park leading to the Pantiles has been regravelled.

On Rusthall Common a new gravel path has been laid along the track from Langton Road opposite Lower Green Road leading to Rusthall Church.

Parking on Common - Inner London Road: Vehicles are continuing to encroach on and damage the Common along this road between Church Road and Vale Royal.

The erection of marker stones or any other measures to prevent encroachment will create a traffic problem as the roadway is only wide enough for two vehicles. Thus when there is a continuous line of parked cars along the kerb any vehicle which stops, such as a taxi or delivery van, completely blocks the road and following vehicles are unable to pass.

Railings - Mt. Ephraim: The replacement of the oak posts with concrete posts has been completed in the section running southward from Mount Ephraim Road and that running northwards from Boyne Park. The centre section by St. Helena and Belle Ville has been repaired where necessary and should stand for some time.

Brighton Lake: An N.S.P.C.A. Inspector rescued an injured duck and not knowing its ownership placed it in the care of Mr. Armstrong of the Animal Food Stores, Chapel Place. He has cared for it under the local voluntary Organisation for the care of wild birds known as "Wild Wings". It is suggested that consideration be given to making a donation to this Organisation as the duck is likely to be in their charge for some months.

H. G. Tucker

H. G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

25th June, 1968 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Alderman K.J.G. Morrison, J.P.)
(Chairman)

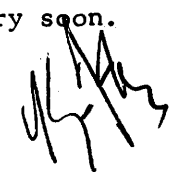
Aldermen C.J. Gange and N.L. Glanfield,
Messrs. J.I. Berry, R.W. Card,
B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,353. 9s. 11d. were passed for payment.
3. REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1968. - The Treasurer submitted the audited Revenue Account for the year ended 31st March, 1968, which was 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, 1969:-

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman K.J.G. Morrison)
Aldermen C.J. Gange, N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage.
5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE. - Resolved - That the Mayor, Aldermen N.L. Glanfield, D. Savage, Messrs. J.I. 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 N.L. Glanfield and Mr. B.H. Fountain be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
7. APPOINTMENT OF SURVEYOR TO COMMONS CONSERVATORS. - The Clerk read a letter from Mr. H.G. Tucker seeking approval to continue his appointment as Surveyor to the Commons Conservators after he retires from his post as Deputy Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer on the 1st October next.

Resolved - That Mr. Tucker continue his appointment as Surveyor to the Commons Conservators after the 1st October, 1968, on a year to year basis.
8. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received and arising therefrom the Committee were informed that the injured duck cared for by "Wild Wings" had died, but that Organisation has provided another bird (Minute 3 of the meeting held on the 2nd April, 1968 refers).
9. SEATS ON THE COMMON. - Further to Minutes 5 and 8 of the meeting held on the 2nd April, 1968, the Surveyor reported that two additional seats had been placed in position, one near the Toad Rock and the other near Belle Ville.
10. PARKING ON THE COMMON NEAR RUSTHALL PARK. - Further to Minute 13 of the meeting held on the 2nd April, 1968, the Surveyor reported that marker stones had now been placed in Rusthall Park to prevent parking on the Common.
11. GRASS CUTTING. - The Clerk referred to a letter from Mr. T. Raistrick of 5 Somerset Road, requesting that immediate action be taken to preserve the usual tidy appearance of the grass, in the interest of both the residents and visitors.

The Surveyor reported that the grass cutting programme had been hampered because the Corporation's tractor-driven mower had not been available and by shortage of staff following the retirement of one of the workmen, but it was hoped that additional labour would be available very soon.



12. TREES AND UNDERGROWTH ON THE COMMON NEAR BULL'S HOLLOW COTTAGE. - The Clerk read a letter from Mr. T.F. Tucker, the owner of Bull's Hollow Cottage, in which he expressed concern regarding the fire hazard created by the growth of bracken and tree saplings around the cottage.

The Surveyor reported that the undergrowth had been trimmed to a minimum of 20 feet around the boundary of the cottage, but in previous years the distance had been greater.

Resolved - That in future the area be trimmed for a minimum distance of 30 feet around the boundary of the cottage.

13. EPHRAIM LODGE. - The Clerk referred to correspondence with Mr. Peter Snell, the owner of Ephraim Lodge, seeking agreement to the cutting down of one lime tree in front of his house. At the same time he wished, subject to Planning Permission being granted, to lay a proper forecourt to the garages and create a roadway leading up to the private drive connecting the Mount Edgecumbe Hotel and Mount Edgecumbe Cottage with Mount Ephraim.

A difference of opinion has arisen as to whether the land immediately adjoining the house upon which the tree stands is in fact part of the Common, the Lord of the Manor's Solicitors having contended that the area has been surrounded by dwarf wooden posts linked by a rope, for the last sixty years, and that full acts of ownership have been exercised thereover.

The Conservators examined the original map deposited in connection with the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, which defines the extent of the Commons, and heard a report from the Surveyor that the tree in question tends to exclude both light and air from Ephraim Lodge. In all the circumstances and without prejudice to the strict position, it was

Resolved - (a) That no objection be raised to this one tree being cut down provided Mr. Snell pays a sum of money to cover the planting of a replacement on another part of the Common and

(b) That, subject to Planning Permission being granted, permission be given for the bulldozed area to be surfaced with gravel or tarmac, subject always to the works being carried out to the approval of the Surveyor.

(Note - In view of their interest the representatives of the Lord of the Manor refrained from voting on this matter).

14. FAIRGROUND - CAR PARK. - Further to Minute 6 of the meeting held on the 2nd April, 1968, the Clerk reported that the Watch Committee of the Town Council expressed the opinion that upon the cessation of the use of the Fairground as a temporary public car park, this part of the Common should then revert to its previous use.

15. RABBITS ON THE COMMON. - The Clerk read a letter from Mr. J.W. Springett of 37 Tunnel Road, requesting permission to catch rabbits on the Commons and to act as an unpaid keeper.

The Surveyor reported upon the standing arrangement with a Mr. Baker for the clearance of rabbits on the Commons and it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor ask Mr. Baker if he wishes to continue to catch rabbits on the Commons and that a decision in this matter be deferred until a reply has been received.

16. PLAY AREA - BRET LAND ROAD. - A Conservator enquired if an area could be cleared near the corner of Bretland Road, as a play space for small children, and it was

Resolved - That as alternative play spaces in the area are available, no action be taken.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1968.

<u>1966/67</u> £ s d	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1967/68</u> £ s d	<u>1966/67</u> £ s d	<u>Income</u>	<u>1967/68</u> £ s d
	<u>Salaries and Allowances</u>				
92.13. 0.	Clerk	96. 2. 9.	- - -	Sale of byelaws	1. 0.
70.17. 0.	Surveyor	74.11. 3.			
49. 1. 0.	Treasurer	51. 5. 3.	4582.14.10.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -	4952. 0. 7.
49. 1. 0.	Allowances for expenses	51. 5. 3.		Contribution for Year	
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>				
8.13. 4.	Printing, Stationery and Postages.	9.16. 8.			
5.13. 6.	Public Liability and Fire Insurance	6.18. 6.			
- - -	Rates	4.19. 2.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>				
3663.18. 7.	General Maintenance by Corporation				
	Works Department	4093. 0. 9.			
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -				
187.12. 5.	Seats	180. 1. 1.			
8. 8. 4.	Notice Boards	1. 6. 4.			
48.14.10.	Fences and Posts	28. 8. 7.			
- - -	Depot and Toolshed	17. 4. 3.			
20. 3. 2.	Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	14.10. 0.			
200. 0. 0.	Clearing Undergrowth	200. 0. 0.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>				
62.13. 2.	Replacement of Notice Boards	- - -			
115. 5. 6.	Measures to prevent parking on Common	21. 0. 0.			
- - -	Conversion of convenience into Depot	101.11. 9.			
<u>£4,582.14.10.</u>		<u>£4,952. 1. 7.</u>	<u>£4,582.14.10.</u>		<u>£4,952. 1. 7.</u>

M. J. Harrison
MAYOR
1st OCTOBER, 1968

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1968.

<u>Liabilities</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
<u>1966/67</u> £ s d	<u>1967/68</u> £ s d	<u>1966/67</u> £ s d	<u>1967/68</u> £ s d
Sundry Creditors -		Debtor -	
2041.16. 1.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation 2246. 8. 2.		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation
130.16. 0.	Others 142. 8. 6.	1367. 4.10.	for balance of Contribution 2383. 5. 5.
		1. 0.11.	Postage Stamps in Hand 4. 3.
		804. 6. 4.	Cash in Hand 5. 7. 0.
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
£2,172.12. 1.	£2,388.16. 8.	£2,172.12. 1.	£2,388.16. 8.
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

12th June, 1968.

92.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 30th JUNE 1968.

Grass Cutting: has been proceeding in the usual areas in Mount Ephraim, London Road, Eridge Road, Lower Green Road and Langton Road, but has been hampered because the Corporation's tractor-driven mower has not been available and by the staff being one man short following the retirement of one of the workmen. There is a great shortage of labour but it is hoped to obtain a replacement shortly.

Clearing: Prior to the commencement of grass cutting the remaining storm damaged trees and areas of burnt gorse were cut and cleared.

Vandalism: Recent instances of wanton damage have been:

- (a) the smashing of a seat by the Shelter near Bishops Down and the use of the slats to seriously damage the wooden shingle roof of the shelter;
- (b) the uprooting and dumping of a seat into Happy Valley; and
- (c) the hacking of bark off the trunks of two trees. One tree, an oak of 12" diameter will die as the trunk was completely laid bare.

Seats. Eight new seats have been provided from the funds provided in 1967/68 and placed as follows:

Mount Ephraim (Snakey Path); Major Yorks Road/Hungershall Park junction; Major York's Road/Bishops Down junction; the Racecourse east of Major York's Road; the Racecourse south of Nevill Park; the "Bumps" off Rusthall Road and two by the Higher Cricket Ground.

References from previous Minutes:

Seats An additional seat has been placed near Belle Ville, Minute 8, (2.4.68), and also near the Toad Rock, Min. 5 (2.4.68).

Marker Stones have been placed in Rusthall Park to prevent parking on the Common. Min. 13 (2.4.68).

Brighton Lake. The injured duck being cared for by "Wild Wings" has now died, but that organisation is providing another. Min. 3 (2.4.68).

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

1st October, 1968 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Alderman K.J.G. Morrison, J.P.)
(Chairman)

Mrs. G.K. Kentner
Aldermen N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage
Messrs. R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke,
B.H. Fountain and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,223. 14. 6d. were passed for payment.
3. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS. - The Clerk reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Mr. J.I. Berry, which had been accepted as at the 1st October, 1968.

Resolved - That Mr. D.I. Lloyd Roberts having been duly nominated by the Lords, Lord or Lady of the Manor of Rusthall for the time being, be appointed a Conservator to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Berry's resignation.

4. INSURANCE POLICIES - REVISION. - The Treasurer reported that the existing Policies would expire on 31st March, 1969. It was

Resolved - That the Treasurer be authorised to negotiate suitable insurance cover for another five years in conjunction with the tenders being invited by the Corporation.

5. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - Arising out of the Surveyor's report:-

- (1) Rat Infestation - It was reported that more rats had been seen on the Common near Castle Road and the Surveyor was requested to keep the area under observation.
- (2) Rabbits on the Common - Further to Minute 15 of the meeting held on the 25th June, 1968, the Surveyor reported that Mr. Baker wished to be allowed to continue to catch rabbits on the Common.

Resolved - That the existing arrangement with Mr. Baker be continued and that the request by Mr. J.W. Springett be declined.

- (3) Encroachment - Tunbridge Wells and Counties Club. - The Surveyor reported that an area in front of the Club premises, used for the parking of cars for some considerable time, had recently been surfaced and wooden posts erected along the outer boundary without the Conservators' authority. A small part of the surfaced area and the wooden posts are on the Commons as defined by the official map.

Resolved - That the Club be informed that the Conservators do not approve the enclosure and that they be required to remove the posts as they form a hazard to the general public.

(Note - Representatives of the Lord of the Manor refrained from voting in this matter).

- (4) Rusthall Elms. - It was

Resolved - That the consent given by the Commons Conservators Committee for work to proceed on the improvement of the drive to Rusthall Elms, involving its widening to ten feet, together with the provision of a passing bay and a bellmouth junction with Langton Road, be approved subject to all works being carried out to the entire satisfaction of the Surveyor and disturbance to the Common, especially the trees, being kept to a minimum.

6. ASH TREE NEAR ROMANOFF LODGE. - The Surveyor reported that a branch of a large Ash tree, near Romanoff Lodge, had split and was a potential danger.
- Resolved - That the Committee be asked to inspect the tree and recommend whether the branch should be cut or the tree felled with a view to replanting at the appropriate time.
7. PARKING ON THE COMMON - COMMON VIEW. - The Surveyor reported that the portion of the Common opposite Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Common View was becoming disfigured by vehicles being parked on the grass.
- Resolved - That marker stones be erected in order to prevent this encroachment.
8. FLOWERING CHERRY TREES. - The Surveyor reported that one of the flowering cherry trees in Mount Edgecumbe Road had blown down and two more trees were dying.
- Resolved - That three replacement trees be planted.
9. LANGTON ROAD - FOOTPATH. - The Surveyor reported upon the need for a footpath on the South side of Langton Road between the bus stop and Rusthall Place, where an elderly lady had recently fallen on the rough ground.
- Resolved - That a three feet wide gravel footpath be formed for the use of pedestrians from the bus stop to Rusthall Place.
10. HAPPY VALLEY. - It was reported that at a recent meeting of the Rusthall Residents Association complaints had been made that the view from the top of Happy Valley was obscured by trees and that the path along the bottom of the Valley had become overgrown.
- The Surveyor reported that from time to time a certain amount of clearance of holly bushes etc. had been carried out at Happy Valley in order to improve the view looking towards Ashdown Forest and that the pathway was at present clear of undergrowth giving access to the whole length of the footpath along the bottom of the Valley.
- Resolved - That no action be taken.
11. EPHRAIM LODGE. - Further to Minute 13 of the meeting held on the 25th June, 1968, in reporting that the central Lime tree had been removed in accordance with the permission granted at the last meeting, the Surveyor indicated that the two adjacent Lime trees had also been severely lopped.

He also drew attention to foundation works now being carried out adjoining this property, including brick work for a raised terrace or patio and the base course of a concrete block wall. Rubble is also being deposited over a larger area.

The Conservators expressed some concern that all these operations are apparently being carried out on the Commons, as recorded on the deposited map referred to in the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, which it is their duty to maintain free from all encroachment (Section 168 of the Act refers, together with Byelaw 15).

Resolved - That the matter be deferred until the next meeting to enable the Clerk and Surveyor to inspect the site and examine all such plans of the property as may be available. The Clerk was also instructed to write to Mr. Snell immediately informing him of the position as outlined above.

Mayor, *[Signature]*
7th January, 1969.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER 1968.

Grass cutting has been proceeding in the usual areas in Mount Ephraim, London Road and Eridge Road, and also in Apsley Street, Bulls Hollow and Mount Edgumbe.

Rat infestation. An extensive infestation of rats was discovered in the area of Castle Road between Mount Edgumbe and Romanoff Lodge. The Rodent Operator was called in and under his direction a large area of undergrowth was cut so that he could more effectively gas the rats in their holes. This work has now been completed but the area will be kept under observation to ensure that all rats have been exterminated. The trouble arose because certain ladies were putting down copious supplies of food for the birds and squirrels. These ladies have been advised to feed the birds elsewhere.

Rabbits on the Common. Mr. Baker has been contacted and has expressed the wish to be allowed to continue to catch the rabbits on the Common. As he has done this for a number of years it is recommended that he be allowed to continue. (Minute 15 - 25.6.68).

Ephraim Lodge. The central lime tree has been removed by the owner of the above in accordance with the approval of the Conservators, and the two adjacent lime trees have been rather severely lopped without any request for permission.

The foundation works, including brick work for a raised terrace or patio have been commenced and also the base course of a concrete block wall. Both these erections are on the Commons and outside the area shown attached to Ephraim Lodge and excluded from the Commons as shown on the official map.

Tunbridge Wells & Counties Club. An area in front of the Club which has been used for the parking of cars for some considerable time has recently been surfaced and wooden posts have been erected along the outer boundary. Part of the surfaced area and the wooden posts are on the Commons as defined by the official map. The attention of the Chairman of the Club has been drawn to this matter and he is awaiting the outcome of the decision of the Conservators at the forthcoming meeting.

Seats. The seat presented by Miss Smith in memory of her father has been erected on the Race Course at a point northeast of Major York's Road. A further wooden seat on Rusthall Cricket Ground has been smashed by vandals.

Spraying. Further spraying of brambles, stinging nettles and other weeds has been carried out in Mount Ephraim, Fonthill and Langton Road adjoining the entrance to Nevill Park.

Rusthall Elms. The County Architect submitted a scheme for the improvement of the drive to Rusthall Elms involving its widening to 10 feet, the provision of a passing bay and a bellmouth junction with Langton Road. The approval of the Committee of the Conservators was obtained individually and the County Architect informed that the work could proceed, subject to it being carried out to the satisfaction of the Conservators, to the disturbance to the Common, and especially to trees, being kept to a minimum and to the original entrance onto Langton Road being reinstated satisfactorily.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

7th January, 1969 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Alderman K.J.G. Morrison, J.P.)
(Chairman)

Mrs. G.K. Kentner

Aldermen C.J. Gange and N.L. Glanfield,

Messrs. R.W. Card, B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler,

D.I. Lloyd Roberts and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,157. 17. 2d. were passed for payment.
3. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS. - The Chairman welcomed Mr. D. I. Lloyd Roberts to the meeting.
4. ESTIMATES. - Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year were approved in the sum of £5,031.

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 £5,031 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

5. INSURANCE POLICIES - REVISION. - Further to Minute 4 of the meeting held on the 1st October, 1968, the Treasurer submitted tenders for the Public Liability, Employer's Liability, Fire and Aircraft, and Grasscutting Machines Risks of the Conservators for five years from 1st April, 1969. It was

Resolved - That the following tenders be accepted:-

General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation Limited

(a) Public Liability - Nett Annual Premium £1. 5. 6d.

(b) Employer's Liability - " " " £1. 5. 6d.

Municipal Mutual Insurance Limited

(a) Fire and Aircraft - Nett Annual Premium £1. 18. 3d.

(b) Grasscutting Machines - " " " £2. 17. 9d.

6. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's report was received and arising therefrom:-

- (1) Ash Tree near Romanoff Lodge - Further to Minute 6 of the meeting held on the 1st October, 1968, the Surveyor reported that the Committee had inspected this tree and recommended that it should be felled as it was over-mature and a potential danger.

A subsequent offer by Mr. A. du Gard Pasley of Romanoff Lodge to meet the cost of obtaining an independent report on the condition of the tree and to pay for tree surgery if this should be recommended as a practical alternative to felling, was considered and it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor obtain a second opinion as to the condition of this tree and that the offer by Mr. Pasley be left in abeyance until a decision is made at the next meeting.

- (2) Langton Road - Footpath - Further to Minute 9 of the meeting held on the 1st October, 1968, the Surveyor reported that the formation of a 3 ft. wide gravel footpath from the bus stop to Rusthall Place had been completed.

- (3) Rusthall Elms - Further to Minute 5(1) of the meeting held on the 1st October, 1968, the Surveyor reported that under a revised plan for the new road the two trees at the bellmouth entrance would now be left untouched.
- (4) Seats on the Common - The South of England Building Society has offered to provide a seat for the use of office workers who picnic on the Common.

Resolved - That the Society be thanked for its kind offer and that the seat be placed on that part of the Common forming a basin below St. Helena.

- (5) Birch and Sycamore Trees on the Common near Romanoff Lodge - The Surveyor read a letter from Mr. A. du Gard Pasley of Romanoff Lodge, requesting permission to remove at his own expense, three Birch trees (one dead) and a Sycamore tree, which make the house dark and damp, and to bear the cost of planting replacements.

Resolved - That permission be granted for the removal of these trees upon condition that replanting is carried out on the Common to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

7. RUSTHALL COMMON - PICNIC AREA. - The Conservators considered a proposal for the provision of a picnic area on Rusthall Common, which would be screened from the road by trees. The piece of open land concerned is on the North side of the entrance to Rusthall Elms and the new bellmouth access to that property would make the entrance safe for vehicles. It was

Resolved - That the proposal be approved in principle and that all Conservators be invited to inspect the site and consider its suitability as a picnic area before the next meeting when a further detailed report from the Surveyor will be considered.

8. TREES IN MAJOR YORK'S ROAD. - Further to Minute 4 of the meeting held on the 2nd January, 1968, the Surveyor read a report from Mr. G. Taylor on his inspection of the Charter Group of Lime trees at the junction of Major York's Road and Fir Tree Road.

The trees are generally vigorous and healthy, but the largest has several wounds, possibly caused by fire about twenty years ago, which have been treated with preservative and unusual growth has resulted. There are no other signs of unusual insect or fungal growth and it is not considered that the Group constitutes a danger at this stage. The centre tree had been badly damaged during a gale and subsequently felled. It is not recommended that a replacement be planted in the centre of the Group because lack of light would preclude reasonable development.

Resolved - That in accordance with Mr. Taylor's recommendation, no action be taken to replace the centre tree in the Charter Group.

9. HORNBEAM TREE AT NEVILL PARK/MAJOR YORK'S ROAD JUNCTION. - Further to Minute 4 of the meeting held on the 2nd January, 1968, the Surveyor read a report from Mr. G. Taylor on the Hornbeam tree growing on the island at the junction of Nevill Park with Major York's Road.

Mr. Taylor recommends that the tree should be felled as its condition is dangerous and branches may fracture and fall at any time.

Resolved - (a) That Mr. Taylor's advice be accepted and that an estimate from Messrs. Westguard and Son in the sum of £15. for felling the tree and grubbing out the root, burning the top wood and leaving the site clean and tidy, be accepted with a view to the work being put in hand immediately.

(b) That two Hornbeam trees be purchased and planted well back from the edge of the road, one on each side of the entrance to Nevill Park.

10. EPHRAIM LODGE. - Further to Minute 11 of the meeting held on the 1st October, 1968, the Clerk reported that he had attended a site meeting with the Surveyor and Mr. Snell, who had subsequently submitted a Statutory Declaration by the previous owner of Ephraim Lodge as to the extent of the area maintained as part of the garden of Ephraim Lodge.

Mr. Lloyd Roberts reported that he had made a search in the County Archivist's office and found a Lease dated 17th May, 1873 and another dated 4th March, 1881, both of which referred to the posts and chains which bounded a piece of land adjoining Ephraim Lodge.

Mr. Snell has now submitted a case to Counsel for consideration and it was

Resolved - That the matter stand deferred pending receipt of Counsel's Opinion.

11. PANTILES JUNCTION - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS. - Further to Minute 21 of the meeting held on the 27th June, 1967, the Clerk reported that the Watch Committee of the Town Council had approved a revised scheme for the renewal of the traffic lights at the London Road/Nevill Street junction, with minor improvements to kerb lines and traffic lines, which involved utilising a strip of land forming part of the Common, and it was

Resolved - That, subject to adequate provision being made for pedestrians, no objection be raised to the acquisition by the Corporation of a strip of land forming part of the Common, approximately 11 ft. in depth at its widest point, and for works to reduce the slope to be carried out affecting a further average width of 8 ft. of Common land.

12. REDIFFUSION (SOUTH EAST) LIMITED - UNDERGROUND CABLE. - Rediffusion (South East) Limited seek the approval of the Commons Conservators to the laying of an underground cable for a total length of approximately 925 yards from Bretland Road at its junction with Cranwell Road, along Bretland Road thence along Woodside Road terminating near Rusthall Park. The Corporation will be responsible for reinstating the footpath.

Resolved - That no objection be raised to the laying of this cable by Rediffusion (South East) Limited.

13. TREES AND UNDERGROWTH ON THE COMMON - UPPER STREET. - The Clerk read a petition signed by a number of residents in Upper Street, Rusthall, concerning the uncontrolled growth of the trees on the Common which obscure light and air, and cause dampness in their homes, which are in a low-lying position.

The Surveyor reported that the Ash underwood, Birch and Holly trees, and other saplings could be thinned out, but the lower growth afforded a safety barrier for children. It was

Resolved - That the Surveyor, Alderman Glanfield, Dr. Harler and Messrs. Card and Witt inspect the site and authorise the Surveyor to take such action as may appear to them to be necessary.

14. THE COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT, 1965. - Further to Minute 16 of the meeting held on the 27th June, 1967, the Clerk reported that the recommended scale for the map accompanying the original registration had proved to be too small to show in detail the areas excluded from the registration. In order to avoid any possible doubt in the future he recommended that a revised registration be made by reference to the large-scale plan deposited with the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, a copy of which is also deposited with the Clerk of the Kent County Council.

Resolved - That a further registration on the lines now recommended be approved.

15. HORSE RIDING ON THE COMMONS. - Further to Minute 10 of the meeting held on the 2nd April, 1968, a Conservator reported that horse riding was taking place on the Race Course.

The Clerk reported that he had written to all the Riding Establishments in the area, reminding them that horses should not be taken across the Commons during the months of November to March and could only assume that private owners of horses were the present offenders.

Resolved - That if names of offenders can be ascertained, the Clerk be instructed to write to them immediately, drawing attention to the Byelaws.

16. RAT INFESTATION. - It was reported that rats had been observed near the litter-bin beside Snaky Path on Rusthall Common and the Surveyor was requested to keep the area under observation.

17. TREES ON THE COMMON. - The Clerk submitted a Police Report about the alleged cutting down of trees by a local resident on the 13th October, 1968.

No approach had been made to the Commons Conservators for the trees to be trimmed and it is an offence under Byelaws 10 and 12 to destroy or injure trees, bushes, gorse, heather, plants, or grass on the Commons without consent.

The Surveyor reported that he had inspected the site with the person concerned who admitted that he had cut the trees as he claimed they were overhanging his property.

A few branches still overhang the drive, which obstruct high vehicles, and could reasonably be removed.

Resolved - (a) That the Clerk be instructed to write to the person concerned informing him that the Commons Conservators strongly disapprove of his action in cutting down trees without consent, and that, although the Conservators will not necessarily accept responsibility for the trimming of any tree on the Common adjoining his property, special application should in future be made so that the request may receive detailed consideration.

(b) That the Surveyor be authorised to make arrangements for the trees overhanging the drive to be lopped.

18. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS. - Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held at 2.45 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:-

1st April, 1969

30th September, 1969

24th June, 1969

6th January, 1970.

H. J. G. G. G. G.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

EXPENDITURE	ESTIMATE 1968/69		REVISED EST. 1968/69		ESTIMATE 1969/70	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Salaries</u>						
Clerk	97		100		101	
Surveyor	76		77		77	
Treasurer	52		53		54	
Allowances for expenses	<u>52</u>		<u>53</u>		<u>54</u>	
		277		283		286
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>						
Printing, Stationery, Postages and Advertising.	10		10		10	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	6		7		7	
Rates	<u>-</u>		<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>	
		16		22		22
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	4135		4135		4198	
Repairs, maintenance and renewals - Seats	200		200		200	
Notice Boards	25		25		25	
Fences and posts	40		40		40	
Depot and Toolshed	10		10		20	
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake	40		40		40	
Clearing undergrowth	<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>	
		4650		4650		4723
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Reconstruction of steps by 35, Harmony Street.	162		116		-	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£	5,105	5,071	5,031		

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REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1968.

Roadside verges. The normal programme of cutting bracken, brambles, etc., along the roadside verges has been carried out on both Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons.

Harmony Street - Steps. The defective flight of steps near No. 35 has been replaced using old stone kerbing and tarmacadam in accordance with the item included in this year's Annual Estimates. (Min. 4 - 2.1.68).

Tunbridge Wells & Counties Club - Posts. The posts which had been erected on the Common in front of these premises have now been removed in accordance with the Conservators' request. (Min.5 - 1.10.68).

Ash Tree near Romanoff Lodge. The Committee inspected this tree and recommended that it should be felled on the grounds that it was a potential danger and that tree surgery would be unsatisfactory and expensive. (Min.6 - 1.10.68).

Mount Edgcumbe Road - Cherry Trees. The three dead or dying cherry trees have now been replaced. (Min.8 - 1.10.68).

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

1st April, 1969 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Alderman K.J.G. Morrison, J.P.)
(Chairman)

Aldermen C.J. Gange and D. Savage,
Messrs. R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke, B.H. Fountain,
C.R. Harler, D.I. Lloyd Roberts and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,126. 13. 10d. were passed for payment.
3. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received and arising therefrom:-

- (1) Hornbeam Tree at Nevill Park/Major York's Road Junction. - Further to Minute 9 of the meeting held on the 7th January, 1969, the Surveyor reported that the tree had been felled and two replacement trees planted, one on each side of the entrance to Nevill Park.

The Clerk read a letter from the Honorary Secretary of Nevill Park Road Limited, requesting that another Hornbeam tree or some shrubs be planted on the grass triangle at the road junction.

The Conservators considered that the planting of a replacement Hornbeam tree within 15 feet of the main road would create a potential hazard when the tree became full-grown and the density of growth of shrubs would obstruct the view of motorists. It was

Resolved - That the previous decision of the Conservators to leave the grass triangle as an open space, be confirmed.

- (2) Trees and Undergrowth on the Common - Upper Street. - Further to Minute 13 of the meeting held on the 7th January, 1969, the Surveyor reported that the Sub-committee had inspected the site and authorised a limited amount of clearance to improve light and air to nearby houses. The authorised work has since been carried out.
- (3) Steps on the Common - London Road. - The Surveyor reported receipt of a letter from Mrs. M.J. Bellenger of Bromley, who had sustained a bruised and strained back after falling down a flight of steps leading from the Common between Rawson's and Stevenson's Garages in London Road, during the frosty weather. It was

Resolved - That in order to obviate any possible danger to pedestrians using these steps in the future, a handrail be provided in a suitable position.

4. RUSTHALL COMMON - PICNIC AREA. - Further to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 7th January, 1969, the Surveyor gave details of two alternative schemes for providing a picnic area on a site adjoining the new access road leading to Rusthall Elms.

- (1) A natural picnic area could be formed, incurring only minimum expense by the initial formation of access, clearance of the site, and the provision of litter bins. Improvements could be carried out, in the future, if desired, according to the degree of user. Alternatively, the Conservators would be in a position to restrict facilities or terminate seasonally, if necessary. This type of site would tend to benefit local people who would gradually become aware of the facility.
- (2) A full-scale picnic area could be formed, with directional signs and amenities, including an all-weather surface and the provision of water supply. At a later date public conveniences and other

amenities might be added with the aid of some grant from the Countryside Commission, but the expenditure would nevertheless be considerable. Planning permission would also be required owing to the extent of the constructional works and conditions might be onerous.

The Conservators authorised the formation of a natural picnic area at this stage, following completion by the Kent County Council of all the works on the new access road to Rusthall Elms.

5. ASH TREE NEAR ROMANOFF LODGE. - Further to Minute 6(1) of the meeting held on the 7th January, 1969, the Surveyor reported that he had obtained a second opinion on the possibility of tree surgery, but had been advised that no degree of surgery would reduce the potential danger to a reasonable level. The sub-committee having also inspected the tree, it was

Resolved - That Mr. Pasley's offer be not accepted and the tree be felled.

6. ERIDGE ROAD, CASTLE ROAD AND MOUNT EDGE CUMBE ROAD - DAMAGE TO VERGES. -

The Surveyor reported:-

- (1) Eridge Road - That the Common along Eridge Road was being badly damaged by the parking of vehicles. In view of the hazard to traffic, particularly near the bend in the road, the opinion was expressed that the erection of marker stones would be undesirable.

Resolved - That "No Parking" notices be erected.

- (2) Castle Road and Mount Edgecumbe Road - That cars in these roads are often double banked so that the third line of traffic is forced to cross onto the Common. The Town Council is at present considering proposals for a one-way traffic system to be imposed on these roads in the fairly near future and it was therefore

Resolved - That no action be taken pending the Council's decision on the one-way system.

7. COMMON VIEW AND RUSTHALL ELMS. - The Clerk reported that at the meeting of the Works Committee of the Town Council held on the 19th February, 1969, a petition from a number of residents in Common View had been considered, concerning the condition of the roadway, and that in view of the fact that a further access was needed to Rusthall Elms, negotiations were proceeding with the Kent County Council about the possible making up of Common View.

The Conservators raised no objection to the proposed making up of Common View.

8. LINDEN PARK CRICKET CLUB - HENRY TURNER MEMORIAL - SCOREBOX. - The Clerk read a letter from the Honorary Secretary of the Linden Park Cricket Club, seeking the approval of the Conservators to the erection of a Scorebox as a memorial to Henry Turner. Planning permission has been granted and the consent of the Lord and Lady of the Manor obtained. It was

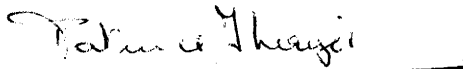
Resolved - That permission be granted for the erection of the new scorebox.

9. RUSTHALL COMMON - FOOTBALL PITCHES AT "THE BUMPS". - The Clerk read a letter from Councillor R.G.G. Woodland concerning the possible conversion of the piece of land on Rusthall Common, known as "The Bumps", into football pitches.

The Surveyor reported that the area is at present kept clear of bracken and long grass and is used for unorganised games, mainly football.

The area is too small for a regulation sized pitch and it would be uneconomic to clear the undergrowth, regrade the playing area and provide changing and washing facilities in such an isolated position. It was

Resolved - That no action be taken and the area be maintained for unorganised games.



Mayor.

24th June, 1969.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH 1969.

Hornbeam Tree - Nevill Park/Major York's Road junction.

This potentially dangerous tree has been felled and grubbed and two young hornbeam trees planted; one on each side of the junction, leaving the grass triangle clear. (Min. 9 - 7.1.69).

Trees & Undergrowth on the Common - Upper Street.

The Sub-Committee appointed by Min. 13 - 7.1.69 inspected the above and authorised a limited amount of clearance to improve light and air to nearby houses.

The work authorised has been carried out.

Undergrowth.

General clearance of storm damaged trees and bushes and of undergrowth has been proceeding on Tunbridge Wells Common in the Major York's Road/Hungershall Park area and also in Bishops Down. In this latter area the clearing was more thorough to enable rabbits to be dealt with as it was alleged they were damaging neighbouring gardens.

The area at the junction of Rusthall Road and Apsley Street on Rusthall Common has also been partially cleared.

Gravel paths.

All gravel paths have been edged and the popular path from Tea Garden Lane to Happy Valley is being re-shaped and gravelled from money available in the current Annual Estimates.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

HGT/BS
P1/4A

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

24th June, 1969 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger, T.D.)
(Chairman)

Aldermen C.J. Gange, and N.L. Glanfield.

Mrs. G.K. Kentner.

Messrs. R.W. Card, B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler,

D.I. Lloyd Roberts and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,004. 5. 4d. were passed for payment.
3. REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1969. - The Treasurer submitted the audited Revenue Account for the year ended 31st March, 1969, which was 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, 1970:-

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger)
Aldermen C.J. Gange, N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage.
5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE. - Resolved - That the Mayor, Aldermen N.L. Glanfield, D. Savage, Messrs. D.I. Lloyd Roberts, 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 N.L. Glanfield and Mr. B.H. Fountain be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
7. APPOINTMENT OF SURVEYOR TO COMMONS CONSERVATORS. - The Clerk referred to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 25th June, 1968, recording the decision of the Conservators that Mr. Tucker be appointed Surveyor to the Commons Conservators on a year to year basis and it was

Resolved - That Mr. Tucker continue his appointment as Surveyor to the Commons Conservators for a further term of one year from the 1st October, 1969.
8. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received and noted.
9. ASH TREE NEAR ROMANOFF LODGE. - Further to Minute 5 of the meeting held on the 1st April, 1969, the Surveyor reported that this tree had now been felled. Mr. du Gard Pasley had paid for two young ash trees which had been planted as replacements and had also offered to plant a weeping ash and some wild cherry trees in the same vicinity. It was

Resolved - That Mr. du Gard Pasley be thanked for his offer, which is accepted.
10. ENCROACHMENT - 13 ERIDGE ROAD. - The Clerk reported that the owners of 13 Eridge Road sought approval to enclose a small part of the Common, build a retaining wall and pave an area in front of the building for casual parking by customers. It was

Resolved - (a) That the owners be informed that the construction of a retaining wall is not considered necessary, but that the Conservators would raise no objection to the temporary surfacing of the area to provide parking for private cars only.

(b) That the Surveyor arrange a site meeting to discuss the construction of a surfaced parking area.

11. FAIRGROUND CAR PARK - ACCESS FROM ERIDGE ROAD. - The Surveyor reported receipt of an application by Messrs. Blundells for a more permanent surface to be laid on the track leading from the Fair Ground to the flight of steps opposite Union House.

The Conservators considered that the limited view of on-coming traffic at the steps was a potential danger to the increased number of pedestrians using this exit from the Fair Ground Car Park.

It was accordingly suggested that the existing flight of steps be taken away and the path diverted under the chestnut trees, forming an exit for pedestrians to cross the road by the forecourt to the Swan Hotel Garage. It was

Resolved - That the Surveyor negotiate with Messrs. Blundells to see whether they would be willing to make a contribution towards the cost of making up a diverted path and that the Conservators should examine the site with a view to making a decision at the next meeting.

12. LITTER ON THE COMMON. - The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Mr. A.H. Witt concerning the dumping of rubbish on the Common and suggesting that action might be taken against the person whose name appeared on an item amongst the rubbish. The Surveyor reported that he had been unable to contact the person concerned, but the rubbish had been cleared.

Resolved - That no further action be taken.

13. WELLINGTON ROCKS - VANDALISM. - Further to Minute 12 of the meeting held on the 2nd April, 1968, the notice of the Conservators was drawn to public concern which had been expressed in the Press recently at the quantity of broken glass around the Wellington Rocks.

The Surveyor assured the Conservators that the area received regular attention.

The Press were asked to bring to the notice of the public the potential danger created by children throwing bottles against the rocks and leaving the broken glass in the sand, and seeking public co-operation in stopping this type of vandalism.

14. NEW HOUSES AT REAR OF 1 LANGTON ROAD. - It was reported that a request had been received for the erection of a notice board on the Common at the entrance to these houses, indicating no parking in the access road.

The Surveyor reported that other similar requests had been refused. It was

Resolved - That in view of the precedent which would be created, no action be taken, but if any nuisance occurs the matter be reconsidered.

15. TREES ON THE COMMON. - The Surveyor referred to the two Lime trees near the Spa Hotel, which had been felled early in 1965. In view of the erection of new houses in the vicinity no replacements were planted at that time. It was

Resolved - That a Beech tree now be planted, at the Conservators expense, on the Northern side of the entrance to the new houses at the rear of 1 Langton Road.

Patricia Thayer

Mayor.

30th September, 1969.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1969.

<u>1967/68</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1968/69</u>	<u>1967/68</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>1968/69</u>
£ s d		£ s d	£ s d		£ s d
	<u>Salaries and Allowances</u>				
96. 2. 9.	Clerk	99.15. 3.	1. 0.	Sale of byelaws etc.	2.18. 6.
74.11. 3.	Surveyor	76.18. 2.	- - -	Planting tree - Ephraim Lodge	5. 0. 0.
51. 5. 3.	Treasurer	53. 3. 6.	4952. 0. 7.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -	
51. 5. 3.	Allowances for expenses	53. 1. 7.		Contribution for Year	4504. 4. 6.
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>				
9.16. 8.	Printing and other office expenses.	15.15.10.			
6.18. 6.	Public Liability and Fire Insurance	6.18. 6.			
4.19. 2.	Rates	5. 9. 4.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>				
4093. 0. 9.	General Maintenance by Corporation				
	Works Department	3821.12. 4.			
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -				
180. 1. 1.	Seats	62. 1. 6.			
1. 6. 4.	Notice Boards	- - -			
28. 8. 7.	Fences and Posts	22. 4.10.			
17. 4. 3.	Depot and Toolshed	10. 0.11.			
14.10. 0.	Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	- - -			
200. 0. 0.	Clearing Undergrowth	200. 0. 0.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>				
- - -	Reconstruction of Steps - Harmony Street	85. 1. 3.			
21. 0. 0.	Measures to prevent parking on Common	- - -			
101.11. 9.	Conversion of convenience into Depot	- - -			
<u>£4,952. 1. 7.</u>		<u>£4,512. 3. 0.</u>	<u>£4,952. 1. 7.</u>		<u>£4,512. 3. 0.</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1969.

<u>Liabilities</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
<u>1967/68</u> £ s d	<u>1968/69</u> £ s d	<u>1967/68</u> £ s d	<u>1968/69</u> £ s d
Sundry Creditors -		Debtor -	
2246. 8. 2.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	2383. 5. 5.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation
142. 8. 6.	Others		for balance of Contribution
		4. 3.	Postage Stamps in Hand
		5. 7. 0.	Cash in Hand
			10. 1.
			1263. 2. 6.
<u>£2,388.16. 8.</u>	<u>£2,128. 2. 6.</u>	<u>£2,388.16. 8.</u>	<u>£2,128. 2. 6.</u>

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

11th June, 1969.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 30th JUNE 1969.

Rusthall Common. The new access off the entrance road to Rusthall Elms has been formed to allow motorists to picnic on the Common and a limited area is being kept clear of bracken. (Min. 4 - 1.4.69).

Ash tree near Romanoff Lodge. This tree has now been felled. Mr. du Gard Pasley has paid for the two young ash trees that have been planted as replacements and has also offered to plant a weeping ash and some wild cherry trees in the same vicinity. (Min. 5 - 1.4.69).

Post Office Telephone Cables. The Telephone Manager has given an assurance that all damage caused to the surface of the Commons by the laying of cables and the storage of materials will be made good on completion of the work now in progress.

Grass Cutting. This has now been in progress for some weeks in the usual areas along Mount Ephraim, London Road, Eridge Road and also at Lower Green Road, Rusthall.

Labour. Work has been hampered by the normal complement of four men being one short due to the retirement of one man and difficulty in replacing him. A fourth man has now been engaged and it is hoped to give work to two students during the holiday period.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

30th September, 1969 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger, T.D.)
(Chairman)

Mrs. G.K. Kentner.

Aldermen C J. Gange, N.L. Glanfield and
D. Savage.

Messrs. R.W. Card, B.H. Fountain,
D.I. Lloyd Roberts and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,246. 17. 7d. were passed for payment.
3. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received and noted.
4. SEATS ON THE COMMON. - The Surveyor reported that an oak seat presented by Mrs. F. Dyer had been erected on the Common between the Inner and Outer London Roads.
5. ENCROACHMENT - 13 ERIDGE ROAD. - Further to Minute 10 of the meeting held on the 24th June, 1969, the Surveyor reported that a meeting with the owners of 13 Eridge Road had been arranged to discuss the formation of the car park and it was

Resolved - That the Committee be authorised to make a decision on any proposals which may be made before the next meeting of the Conservators.

6. FAIRGROUND CAR PARK - ACCESS FROM ERIDGE ROAD. - Further to Minute 11 of the meeting held on the 24th June, 1969, the Surveyor reported that he had received a written offer from Messrs. Blundells to make a contribution of £10. towards the direct cost of making up a path between the Car Park and the existing gravel path adjacent to Eridge Road, and it was

Resolved - (a) That Messrs. Blundell's offer be accepted and that a 4 foot wide gravel path extending approximately 60 yards in length be constructed between the Fairground Car Park and Eridge Road.

(b) That the flight of steps opposite Linden Park Road be dismantled and the existing gravel path be extended with a new exit to enable pedestrians to cross Eridge Road by the forecourt to the Swan Hotel garage.

7. NEW HOUSES AT REAR OF 1 LANGTON ROAD. - Further to Minute 14 of the meeting held on the 24th June, 1969, the Clerk reported that he had received a further letter from Messrs. Berry & Berry requesting reconsideration of the Conservators' decision not to erect any additional notices on the Common.

Observation had been kept on the drive and only on one occasion was a car seen parked there.

Resolved - That no action be taken at present but that the matter be kept under review.

8. HORNBEAM TREE AT NEVILL PARK/MAJOR YORK'S ROAD JUNCTION. - Further to Minute 3(1) of the meeting held on the 1st April, 1969, the Clerk read a letter from the Honorary Secretary, Nevill Park Road Limited, requesting that some form of barrier be erected around the grass triangle at the junction of Nevill Park and Major York's Road, in order to prevent the parking of cars thereon.

It was also requested that the "Nevill Park" sign be placed on a post in the centre of the triangle. The Surveyor reported that the erection of a sign indicating "Nevill Park" was a matter for consideration by the Borough Council and would be referred to the appropriate Committee.

Resolved - That in the first instance a bank be formed around the edge of the grass triangle to act as a deterrent to motorists.

9. GRAZING OF ANIMALS ON THE COMMON. - The Clerk referred to correspondence which he had received from a resident in Rusthall Road concerning the grazing of horses and donkeys on Rusthall Common. It was reported that the horses were tethered but could cause obstruction to the footpaths and that the noise made by the donkey might cause some disturbance to residents in the vicinity. It was

Resolved - That a letter be written to the owner of the animals, requesting him to cease the practice of grazing horses and donkeys on the Common.

10. RABBITS ON THE COMMON. - The Clerk referred to a letter from the Secretary of Linden Park Cricket Club complaining of serious damage caused by rabbits on the Cricket field. It was

Resolved - That the Surveyor visit Mr. Baker to explain the present position and ask him to renew his efforts to reduce the number of rabbits on the Common.

11. BRIGHTON LAKE - FISHING. - The Clerk read a letter suggesting that a board be erected prohibiting fishing in the Brighton Lake.

The Conservators felt that this pastime gives a great deal of pleasure to young people. It was accordingly

Resolved - That no action be taken.

12. CYCLING ON THE COMMON. - It was reported that children were often seen cycling on the Common and it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor consider the matter and report to the next meeting.

13. COMMONS, OPEN SPACES AND FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY. - An enquiry was made as to whether consideration had been given to joining this Society and the Clerk reported that the Conservators had no statutory power to pay subscriptions to such Associations.

14. TREES ON THE COMMON. - It was reported that the self-sown saplings had become too numerous on the open play area between the Queen's Grove and Mount Ephraim.

Resolved - That the saplings be removed during the winter months.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER 1969.

Grass Cutting has been proceeding in the usual areas on Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons and will be continued as long as the weather and state of the ground permits.

Two students were engaged on this work during the holiday period and the large grass cutting machines operated by the Corporation were used whenever available.

13 Eridge Road (Min. 10 - 24.6.69) Representatives of the Owner of this site have agreed to discuss the proposals for forming a car park on the Common in front of the above and have agreed to postpone operations pending these discussions.

Fairground Car Park - Access from Eridge Road (Min. 11 - 24.6.69). Messrs. Blundells have verbally agreed to make a contribution towards the cost of surfacing the present grass track with gravel and written confirmation is awaited.

Rats: A further infestation of rats has been reported in the vicinity of Mount Edgcumbe and measures are being taken to deal with it in co-operation with the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Harice Thayer
H.G. Tucker.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

6th January, 1970 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger, T.D.)
(Chairman)

Mrs. G.K. Kentner.
Aldermen N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage.
Messrs. R.W. Card, C.R. Harler,
D.I. Lloyd Roberts and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,567. 0. 6d. were passed for payment.
3. ESTIMATES. - Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year were approved in the sum of £5,546.

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 £5,546 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

4. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received and arising therefrom:-

- (1) Litter Bins. - An item having been included in the Estimates amounting to £50 for the purchase of new type litter bins to be placed on the Common, it was

Resolved - That, as an experiment, two concrete litter bins for use with paper sacks inside be purchased at a cost of approximately £5. each and the Surveyor be requested to report on their success at the next meeting.

- (2) Encroachment - 13 Eridge Road. - Further to Minute 5 of the meeting held on the 30th September, 1969, the Surveyor indicated that the formation of a car park had been completed. It was noted that there had been a substantial improvement in appearance.

5. CYCLING ON THE COMMONS. - Further to Minute 12 of the meeting held on the 30th September, 1969, the Surveyor submitted a report upon the condition of "No Cycling" notices and the possible erection of additional notices on paths across the Common. It was

Resolved - (a) That any of the notices which are in poor condition be renewed, missing notices replaced and additional notices be erected prohibiting cycling on the following paths:-

- (i) Tarred footpath from Hungershall Park eastwards to Major York's Road by the Fairground.
- (ii) Gravel path from the lane rear of Hungershall Park ("Cabbage Stalk Lane") eastwards to The Pantiles.
- (iii) Gravel path from Rusthall Road at Lower Green south westwards towards Langton Road terminating by Rusthall Elms.
- (iv) Gravel path across the loop on the southern side of Rusthall Road opposite Bretland Road junction.

(b) That as soon as the notices have been erected, the Clerk be instructed to write to the Divisional Education Officer requesting that children be warned not to cycle on the footpaths across the Common.

6. MAINTENANCE OF THE COMMON. - The Conservators expressed their appreciation of the work carried out by the Surveyor and the several workmen on the Commons.

7. THE COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT, 1965. - The Clerk reported upon the present position under the Commons Registration Act.

8. SAND BIN NEAR LONDON ROAD/MOUNT EPHRAIM JUNCTION. - The Clerk reported that complaints had been received concerning the site of a sand bin on the Common near the London Road/Mount Ephraim junction and it was

Resolved - That no objection be raised to the Corporation re-siting the sand bin on the west side of London Road near its junction with Mount Ephraim.

9. CLEARING OF UNDERGROWTH ON THE COMMON. - The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Witt on behalf of the Rusthall Residents Association, offering the services of selected members of the Association to help clear the undergrowth on part of Rusthall Common. It was

Resolved - That the Association be thanked for their kind offer and that, assuming the volunteers would work in close liaison with the Surveyor to the Commons Conservators, no objection be raised thereto.

10. FOOTPATH - RUSTHALL CHURCH TO HIGH ROCKS LANE. - The Clerk read a letter of complaint from Mrs. E.M. Featherstone concerning the state of the path leading from Rusthall Church to High Rocks Lane.

The Surveyor reported that the accumulation of leaves would be cleared at an early date.

11. EPHRAIM LODGE. - (1) The Clerk reported that on the 23rd October, he and the Surveyor to the Commons Conservators, accompanied by a member of the Committee, had visited the site of Ephraim Lodge where workmen were found cutting a holly tree on the Common. The Clerk read a letter of apology and reported upon subsequent correspondence which he had received from Mr. F.G.T. Manners a Landscape Gardener. Permission was now sought to carry out a planting programme in the Mount Edgumbe area.

Resolved - (a) That Mr. Manners' apology be accepted and that he be allowed to carry out limited pruning of the holly tree on the Common in a manner to be agreed on site with the Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

(b) That as all the work proposed (Numbered 1-50 on the plan attached to Mr. Manners' letter) appears to be on Common land as shown on the plan which accompanied the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 and now registered both as Common Land and/or a Town or Village Green under the Commons Registration Act, 1965, consent be not given to the proposals, it being the Conservators policy to maintain the whole of the Common Land in its natural state so far as possible.

(Mrs. Kentner, Mr. Card and Mr. Lloyd Roberts took no part in the discussion of this matter and did not vote thereon).

(2) It was reported that Mr. Snell had requested permission to erect a notice "Private Road to Ephraim Lodge only" on the track leading from Castle Road to Ephraim Lodge.

In view of the Conservators' policy of reducing the number of signs on the Common, it was

Resolved - That permission be not granted.

12. ONSLow HOUSE - LANDSCAPING. - The Surveyor reported that an area of the Common adjoining this property had been paved beyond the precincts.

The Agent for the Lord of the Manor confirmed that part of the Common had been sold on condition that it be not enclosed and remained open to the public. It was

Resolved - That the owners of the properties Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 Onslow House be invited to seek the Conservators consent to the work which they propose to carry out on Common Land.

13. THE TOAD ROCK AREA. - The Surveyor reported upon a letter received from the Toad Rock Sports and Social Club, expressing concern at the amount of broken glass in the sand and pointing out that the trees and bushes around the Toad Rock were becoming overgrown, so detracting from the natural beauty of the area.

Resolved - (a) That the trees and bushes be maintained as a barrier against vandals, but that the growth be cut down to a height of about 3 feet.

(b) That the Surveyor inspect the area with a view to clearing the glass from the sand.

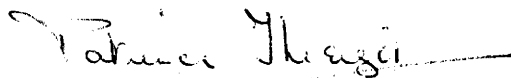
14. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS. - Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held at 2.45 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:-

31st March, 1970

29th September, 1970

23rd June, 1970

5th January, 1971.



MAYOR

31st March, 1970.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

EXPENDITURE	ESTIMATE 1969/70		REVISED EST. 1969/70		ESTIMATE 1970/71	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Salaries</u>						
Clerk	101		103		104	
Surveyor	77		78		79	
Treasurer	54		55		56	
Allowances for expenses	<u>54</u>		<u>56</u>		<u>57</u>	
		286		292		296
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>						
Printing and other office expenses	10		10		10	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	7		9		9	
Rates	<u>5</u>		<u>6</u>		<u>6</u>	
		22		25		25
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation						
Works Department	4198		4310		4670	
Repairs, maintenance and renewals -						
Seats	200		200		200	
Notice Boards	25		25		25	
Fences and posts	40		40		40	
Depot and Toolshed	20		20		20	
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake	40		20		20	
Clearing undergrowth	<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>	
		4723		4815		5175
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Provision of new Litter Bins ...	-		-		50	
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u> £						
		5,031		5,132		5,546

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1969.

Roadside Verges. Following the end of grass cutting which continued into October, the clearing of bracken and brambles from the roadside verges on both Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons has been completed.

Gravel Footpaths. Work on clearing the verges and cutting back the edges of gravel paths is in hand at the moment.

Major York's Road/Nevill Park junction. The level of the grass triangle at this junction has been raised with soil and the surface re-seeded. Up to date no further cars have been parked here. Min. 8 - 30.9.69.

13 Eridge Road. The developers readily agreed to amend their proposals for a car park in front of these premises to avoid the construction of a retaining wall on the Common. The work has been completed so that the new surface is flush with the surrounding ground and the fence which enclosed the site has been removed. Min. 5 - 30.9.69.

Lime Tree, Langton Road. Following a report from the Proprietor of Petronella's Café that the roots of a lime tree were penetrating his cellar wall the Committee of the Conservators made an inspection and authorised the removal of the tree. Quotations were obtained and that of Mr. E. Theobald has been accepted in the sum of £40.

Seats. A complete check on all seats on the Commons shows that, of a total recorded number of 281, there are 17 in need of repair, that 3 are beyond repair and that 26 are missing. The latter will have been removed because of their dangerous condition due to age, vandalism or a combination of both.

Funds are available in the current estimates to carry out the repairs and to replace 10 of the missing seats. The number of 16 then missing compares with 20 in 1965 indicating that the funds available for replacements are about adequate to keeping pace with depreciation.

Rabbits on the Commons. Mr. Baker has agreed to increase his efforts to catch rabbits on the Commons but has pointed out that his task is made difficult by the restrictions on the methods he can use in the interests of public safety and also by the presence of rats in certain areas. Min. 10 - 30.9.69.

All possible assistance is being given to the Rodent Operator to deal with the rats.

Cycling on the Commons. The following paths have "No Cycling" notices at the moment:-

- (1) Gravel path running eastwards from the Spa Hotel to the south side of the Higher Cricket Ground and then along the south east side of the Lower Cricket Ground to Church Road/London Road.

There are 4 notices:- One near the Spa Hotel, one by the Higher Cricket Ground, one on the west side of Castle Road and one at the N.E. end of the Lower Cricket Ground. The Corporation has erected a barrier on this path on the western edge of Fir Tree Road.

- (2) Gravel path round the Brighton Lake. There are two notices, one at each end of the Lake and they require renewal.
- (3) Tarred path from Langton Road opposite footpath to St. Pauls Church to Rusthall Road, near Lower Green Road ("Tarry Path").

One notice near Langton Road but the one which used to be at the Rusthall Road end is missing.

- (4) Tarred path from Lower Green Road to Rusthall High Street.
A notice exists at each end of the footpath.
- (5) Tarred footpath from Woodside Road through Still Green to Hurstwood Pumping Station.
- (6) A notice by St. Pauls Church prohibits the driving or riding of any vehicle, including a bicycle, in the area bounded by Tea Garden Lane, Langton Road and the road leading from Langton Road to St. Pauls Church.

There is a notice at each end of this path and the Corporation has erected a barrier across the path about mid-way along the path.

Occasional cycling occurs on many paths across the Commons but not sufficiently to warrant consideration of special measures.

On the following paths however it is fairly persistent and the erection of "No Cycling" notices could well be considered:

- (a) Tarred footpath from Hungershall Park eastwards to Major York's Road by the Fairground.
- (b) Gravel path from the lane rear of Hungershall Park ("Cabbage Stalk Lane") eastwards to The Pantiles.
- (c) Gravel path from Rusthall Green south westwards towards Langton Road terminating by Rusthall Elms.
- (d) Gravel Path across the loop on the southern side of Rusthall Road opposite Bretland Road junction.

Observation indicates that notices and even barriers are ineffective in preventing cycling. The footpath across Still Green is an outstanding example. It would seem necessary to seek the assistance of the Police in enforcing the prohibition.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

31st March, 1970 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger, T.D.)
(Chairman)

Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Aldermen N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage.
Messrs. R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke, B.H. Fountain,
C.R. Harler, D.I. Lloyd Roberts and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,315. 8s. 9d. were passed for payment.
3. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received and arising therefrom:-

(1) Encroachment of Vehicles on the Commons

(a) Eridge Road

The Surveyor reported that the edge of the Common was being eroded between Charlton's Nursery and Broadwater Lane partly by vehicles misjudging the bend as they approached the Town after passing under the Railway bridge and partly by vehicles parking on the Common in defiance of the official notice erected on the spot.

Resolved - That pending a decision on the possible future temporary use of this part of the Common, action be deferred for the time being.

(b) Common View, Rusthall

Further to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 1st April, 1969, it was reported that the surface of the Common is being extensively damaged by vehicles turning and parking at the south-western end of this private street cul-de-sac and by vehicles turning into an entry leading to lock-up garages between Nos. 27 and 28 Common View. Contributory factors are the narrowness of this private street, the increasing size of delivery vehicles and the increasing number of cars.

The only long term solution would be to make up Common View and it was

Resolved - That the Town Council be requested to continue their efforts to obtain financial assistance from the Kent County Council towards the making up of Common View.

- (2) Rusthall Elms - Resolved - That no objection be raised to the erection of a "No Through Road" notice at the entrance to Rusthall Elms.

- (3) Oak Tree near Ephraim Lodge - The Surveyor reported that he had received a letter from Mr. F.T. Manners offering to carry out tree surgery to an Oak tree in the vicinity of Ephraim Lodge at Mr. Snell's expense, and it was

Resolved - That the offer be accepted.

- (4) Race Course - It was reported that one post at the entrance to the Race Course by Nevill Park had been snapped off and it was suggested that the erection of a modified line of posts nearer to the road would prevent encroachment by cars.

Resolved - That the repositioning of the posts be agreed.

- (5) Litter Bins - Further to Minute 4(1) of the meeting held on the 6th January, 1969 the Surveyor was unable to report as delivery of the bins is still awaited.
4. EPHRAIM LODGE. - Further to Minute 11(2) of the meeting held on the 6th January, 1970, the Conservators considered a further letter from Mr. Snell and upon reconsideration it was
- Resolved - That in view of the fact that the notice replaces an existing board permission be granted for the new notice board to remain in position.
5. ONSLow HOUSE - LANDSCAPING. - Further to Minute 12 of the meeting held on the 6th January, 1970, the owners of the properties Nos. 1 and 4 Onslow House have sought the Conservators' consent to carry out a small amount of work on common land adjoining their properties and it was
- Resolved - That permission be granted in the first instance for a period of five years to the occupiers of Nos. 1 and 4 Onslow House to maintain such part of the Common as lies between the portion of their premises excluded from the Commons by the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 and a line parallel with and 90 feet distant from the western boundary of Castle Road.
6. FOOTPATH ON MOUNT EPHRAIM. - It was reported that the retaining wall was breaking away from the footpath along Mount Ephraim, opposite Boyne Park, and the footpath has become dangerous. The Surveyor agreed to examine the footpath and take any necessary action to remedy the defects.
7. GIBRALTAR COTTAGE. - The new owner has asked for the undergrowth to be cut around the cottage and it was agreed that the Surveyor arrange for the area to be cleared.

R. G. Woodland

Mayor
23rd June, 1970

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH 1970

Fairground Car park. (Min. 6 - 30.9.69)

The new gravel path from the Fairground to London Road by the Swan Hotel garage forecourt has been completed, the steps opposite Linden Park Road have been removed and the existing gravel path extended to connect with the above path.

Ephraim Lodge (Min. 11 - 6.1.70)

Holly Tree. The pruning of the holly tree has been completed on lines agreed with the Landscape Gardener and a standard Beech has been planted as an agreed replacement for the removal of a Lime tree (Min. 13. - 25.6.68).

Notice Board - Castle Road. Mr. Snell has rejected the refusal of the Conservators to grant permission for the erection of a notice "Private Road to Ephraim Lodge only" on the track from Castle Road to Ephraim Lodge for the following reasons given in his letter of the 16th January 1970:-

- " 1. I am the owner of the driveway and continue to use it for vehicular access to my property.
2. A notice is necessary to prevent vehicles being parked at the bottom of the drive which has happened on a number of occasions during the summer months.
3. The notice board is not an additional notice board, but a replacement of one which existed previously.
4. The notice board will be erected on land of which I am the owner, and in these circumstances, I dispute the right of the Conservators to object to the notice board. "

The notice board has been erected.

The Toad Rock Area. (Min. 13 - 6.1.70).

Gorse and other growth in the vicinity of the Toad Rock have been trimmed and the area including the sand cleared of broken glass and other litter.

Clearance of undergrowth.

(a) Still Green. The undergrowth has been trimmed and about a lorry load of litter collected and removed.

(b) Burnt Gorse. Patches of burnt gorse on Tunbridge Wells Common in the vicinity of Castle Road and on Rusthall Common in the Langton Road/Old Coach Road area have been cleared.

Seats.

Six new seats with backs have been erected as replacements in various places on Tunbridge Wells Common and four without backs as replacements around Rusthall Cricket Ground.

Encroachment of vehicles on the Commons.

(a) Eridge Road. The edge of the Common is being eroded between Charlton's Nursery and Broadwater Lane partly by vehicles misjudging the bend as they approach the town after passing under the Railway bridge and partly by vehicles parking on the Common in defiance of the official notice erected on the spot.

(b) Common View, Rusthall. The surface of the Common is being extensively damaged by vehicles turning and parking at the southwestern end of this private street cul-de-sac and by vehicles turning into an entry leading to lock-up garages between Nos. 27 and 28 Common View. Contributory factors are the narrowness of this private street, the increasing size of delivery vehicles and the spreading ownership of cars.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

23rd June, 1970. PRESENT - The Mayor (Alderman R.G.G. Woodland) (Chairman)
Alderman N.L. Glanfield,
Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger,
Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Messrs. R.W. Card, H.T. Clarke, B.H. Fountain,
C.R. Harler, D.I. Lloyd Roberts, N.J. Lurcook
and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,173. 1s. Od. were passed for payment.
3. REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1970. - The Treasurer submitted the audited Revenue Account for the year ended 31st March, 1970, which was approved.
4. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS. - (a) BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS -
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, 1971:-

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman R.G.G. Woodland)
Aldermen N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage, and
Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger.

- (b) MANOR OF RUSTHALL - The Clerk reported the appointment of Mr. N.J. Lurcook as a Conservator nominated by the Lady of the Manor to fill the existing vacancy, and he was welcomed to the meeting.
5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE. - Resolved - That the Mayor, Aldermen N.L. Glanfield, D. Savage, Messrs. D.I. Lloyd Roberts, 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 N.L. Glanfield and Mr. B.H. Fountain be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
 7. APPOINTMENT OF SURVEYOR TO COMMONS CONSERVATORS. - The Clerk referred to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 24th June, 1969, recording the decision of the Conservators that Mr. Tucker be appointed Surveyor to the Commons Conservators on a year to year basis and it was
Resolved - That Mr. Tucker continue his appointment as Surveyor to the Commons Conservators for a further term of one year from the 1st October, 1970.
 8. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received.
 9. CLEARING OF UNDERGROWTH ON THE COMMON. - Further to Minute 9 of the meeting held on the 6th January, 1970, the Surveyor reported that the assistance of members of the Rusthall Residents Association had been effective in clearing the undergrowth on parts of Rusthall Common and it was
Resolved - That the Clerk write to the Association expressing the Conservators' appreciation of the help given in clearing the undergrowth.
 10. LONDON ROAD/NEVILL STREET JUNCTION. - Further to Minute 11 of the meeting held on the 7th January, 1969, the Town Council have submitted a plan indicating the extent of the Common to be thrown into the highway together with proposals which would allow improved facilities for pedestrians to cross London Road from the Common public footpath on the north side of Fonthill Conveniences. A second public footpath and flight of steps discharge onto London Road to the south of the toilet block at places where no crossing facility exists and in order to reduce the risk of accidents it is suggested:-

(a) That the flight of steps be removed and

(b) That at such time as an alternative footpath be provided from west of the toilets to discharge at Castle Road, part of the existing footpath be closed.

Resolved -

(a) That the Corporation be asked to retain the flight of steps on historical grounds, and

(b) That no objection be raised to the closure of part of the existing footpath so soon as an alternative footpath is created.

11. GIBRALTAR COTTAGE. - The Clerk referred to correspondence with Messrs. Berry and Berry the Solicitors acting for Bycundwell Limited who propose to purchase from the Lord of the Manor, Gibraltar Cottage, which is expressly excluded from the Common under the 1890 Act, together with an area of land adjoining the cottage which they would like to have included with the property to facilitate their redevelopment proposals and so improve the architectural design and amenities of the area as a whole.

In the absence of detailed plans it was

Resolved -

(a) That a decision be deferred until the next meeting but in the meantime the Clerk be requested to direct the Solicitors' attention to the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act of 1890 and in particular the duty of the Conservators to preserve the Common free from all encroachments, and

(b) That the Surveyor be authorised to examine the detailed plans when available and report in detail to the Conservators at their next meeting.

12. PARKING ON THE COMMON OPPOSITE THE CRICKET GROUND. - The Clerk referred to two letters of complaint which had been received concerning the encroachment of vehicles on the Common beyond the area set aside for parking in the vicinity of the Higher Cricket Ground, and it was

Resolved - That a shallow ditch and low bank be created to form a barrier and so deter the encroachment of vehicles.

13. HORSE RIDING ON THE COMMONS. - Further to Minute 15 of the meeting held on the 7th January, 1969 the Rusthall Residents Association have requested that a Notice be erected in Happy Valley prohibiting the riding of horses in the area during the Winter months.

Resolved - That two Notices be erected in suitable positions.

14. GUIDES AND SCOUTS HEADQUARTERS. - A request having been received for permission to erect notices indicating the direction of the new Guides and Scouts Headquarters adjoining St. Paul's Church, Rusthall, it was

Resolved - That no objection be raised to the erection of two small Notices subject to the siting being approved by the Surveyor.

Mayor.

29th September, 1970.

R Woodland

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 30th JUNE 1970.

Grass Cutting.

This commenced early in May and the usual areas on both Commons are receiving attention.

Race-Course.

The posts across the entrance to the Race-Course by Havill Park have been re-sited along the road edge to prevent encroachment by cars. (Min. 3(4) - 31.3.70).

Footpath on Mount Ephraim.

The defects in the footpath and remaining wall opposite Loyne Park have been dealt with by the Corporation as part of the public highway. (Min. 6 - 31.3.70).

Gibraltar Cottage.

The undergrowth surrounding this property was cut and cleared and the area has since been sprayed to restrict fresh growth. (Min. 7 - 31.3.70).

Cycling on the Commons.

All the "No Cycling" notices approved in M n. 5 - 6.1.70 have now been erected.

Rusthall Elms.

The attention of the County Council has been drawn to the low standard of reinstatement along both sides of the entrance road and an assurance has been received that the necessary work will be carried out.

Litter Bins.

One of the new litter bins has been erected as an experiment at the junction of Mount Ephraim and Fir Tree Road. (Min. 4(1) - 6.1.70).

Brambles & Weeds.

Certain limited areas, mainly along the sides of roads, have been sprayed to restrict the encroachment of brambles and unsightly weeds.

H.S. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1970.

<u>1968/69</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1969/70</u>	<u>1968/69</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>1969/70</u>
£ s d		£ s d	£ s d		£ s d
	<u>Salaries and Allowances</u>		2.18. 6.	Sale of byelaws etc.	6. 0.
99.15. 3.	Clerk	103. 0. 0.	5. 0. 0.	Planting tree - Ephraim Lodge	- -
76.18. 2.	Surveyor	78. 6. 8.	- - -	Contribution towards cost of new path	
53. 3. 6.	Treasurer	55. 6. 8.		from Fairground	10. 0. 0.
53. 1. 7.	Allowances for expenses	56. 0. 0.	4504. 4. 6.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -	
				Contribution for Year	5290.14. 5.
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>				
15.15.10.	Printing and other office expenses	14. 8. 7.			
6.18. 6.	Public Liability and Fire Insurance	8. 9. 2.			
5. 9. 4.	Rates	5.13. 4.			
- - -	Registration fee, Rusthall Common	5. 0. 0.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>				
3821.12. 4.	General Maintenance by Corporation				
	Works Department	4354. 9. 2.			
	<u>Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -</u>				
62. 1. 6.	Seats	346. 2. 2.			
- - -	Notice Boards	22. 1. 0.			
22. 4.10.	Fences and Posts	8.15.10.			
10. 0.11.	Depot and Toolshed	- - -			
- - -	Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	43. 7.10.			
200. 0. 0.	Clearing Undergrowth	200. 0. 0.			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>				
85. 1. 3.	Reconstruction of Steps - Harmony Street	- - -			
<u>£4,512. 3. 0.</u>		<u>£5,301. 0. 5.</u>	<u>£4,512. 3. 0.</u>		<u>£5,301. 0. 5.</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1970.

<u>Liabilities</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
<u>1968/69</u> £ s d	<u>1969/70</u> £ s d	<u>1968/69</u> £ s d	<u>1969/70</u> £ s d
Sundry Creditors -		Debtor -	
1983.15. 0.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	2473. 4. 4.
144. 7. 6.	Others	for balance of Contribution	
- - -	Cash Overdrawn	Postage Stamps in Hand	1.11. 6.
		Cash in Hand	- - -
<u>£2,128. 2. 6.</u>	<u>£2,474.15.10.</u>		<u>£2,474.15.10.</u>

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

11th June, 1970.

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

29th September, 1970 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Alderman R.G.G. Woodland) (Chairman)
~~Aldermen N.L. Glasfield~~ and D. Savage,
Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger,
Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Messrs. C.R. Harler, D.I. Lloyd Roberts,
N.J. Lurcook and A.H. Witt.

1. MINUTES. - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS. - Accounts amounting to £1,428 16s. 11d. were passed for payment.
3. SURVEYOR'S REPORT. - The Surveyor's Report was received and arising therefrom:-

- (1) Swans, Brighton Lake - A letter from the local Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. was considered and in view of the risk of harming the swans when the lake is used for fishing, it was

Resolved -

- (a) That the remaining swan be offered to the Corporation for transfer to the lake at Dunorlan, and
- (b) That two additional ducks be acquired to help keep down the growth of weed in the lake.

- (2) Gorse, Mount Ephraim - It was agreed that most of the gorse along Mount Ephraim be cleared during the Winter and allowed to regenerate.

- (3) Notice Board - The Notice Board in Tea Garden Lane, prohibiting the driving, riding or parking of any vehicle on that part of the Common, being in a poor condition and having become obsolete, it was

Resolved - That the Notice Board be removed.

4. GIBRALTAR COTTAGE. - Further to Minute 11 of the meeting held on the 23rd June, 1970, it was reported that planning permission had not at present been granted for the redevelopment of Gibraltar Cottage.
5. COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT, 1965 - HIGHWAYS. - The Clerk reported that the Town Council had registered an objection to the registration of the highways over the Commons as "Town or Village Green".

In view of the advice given to Local Authorities by the Ministry of Transport in this connection, the Conservators raised no objection to the amendment of the registration entries so as to exclude the highway land.

6. RUSTHALL COMMON PROVISION OF SNOW-TIPPING AREA. - The Works Committee of the Town Council have asked for permission to use part of the quarry near Rusthall Church as a snow-tipping area and to construct an unobtrusive entrance from the main road. It was

Resolved - That the Town Council's proposal be approved subject to the Corporation taking measures to prevent flooding due to melting snow and ensuring that water supplies will not be contaminated by salt.

7. ACCESS TO NEVILL PARK AND RUSTHALL CHURCH DRIVE. - Further to Minute 17 of the meeting held on the 27th June, 1967, the Clerk read a letter from the St. Paul's Parochial Church Council regarding the erosion of the verge on either side of the access and it was

Resolved - That additional stones be placed in position to prevent further erosion.

8. COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT, 1965 - ONSLOW HOUSE. - The Clerk read a letter from the Clerk of the County Council concerning objections lodged by two of the occupants of Onslow House to the area of land shown as excluded from the Commons in respect of Onslow House and its curtilage on the plan attached to the application for registration of the Tunbridge Wells Common as "Town or Village Green", and it was

Resolved -

- (a) That the area of the Tunbridge Wells Common provisionally registered as Town or Village Green under the Commons Registration Act, 1965 be varied so as to exclude all land within the curtilage of Onslow House now registered at H.M. Land Registry and as shown on the 1960 edition of the 1/1250 scale Ordnance Survey Map.
- (b) That the Surveyor carry out a detailed survey of the boundaries of all properties on the Common to ascertain if any encroachments outside the areas shown as excluded from the Commons on the plan deposited with the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 appear to have taken place.

Tatiana Yhergei

Deputy MAYOR

5TH JANUARY, 1971

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER 1970.

Grass Cutting.

This has been the main task of the men assisted for a few weeks by three students, and will continue probably into early October, depending on the weather.

Rat Infestation.

Areas of undergrowth on the south east side of the Lower Cricket Ground, north west of London Road by "Highbury", and on both sides of Castle Road between Mount Edgecumbe and Romanoff Lodge have been cleared to enable the Rodent Operator to deal with rats.

Swans, Brighton Lake.

One of the two swans died in August and according to a Veterinary Surgeon's report the cause was lead poisoning. A lead weight of the type used by anglers was found in its stomach.

The local Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. has reported that he has been called out frequently to attend to swans for the removal of fish hooks or fishing lines. Each visit entails one to two hours of his time. He feels that there will always be trouble if fishing and birds are allowed in such a restricted area of water.

I think this is the second swan which has died from injury which can be linked with fishing.

Apart from the interest and attraction which the swans have for the general public they have also been successful in keeping down the growth of weed in the lake.

Gorse, Mount Ephraim.

Most of the gorse along Mount Ephraim has become very unattractive due to age and I recommend that it be cleared during the Winter and allowed to regenerate.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

5th January, 1971 - PRESENT - Alderman N.L. Glanfield,
Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger,
Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Messrs. H.T. Clarke, B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler,
D.I. Lloyd Roberts, N.J. Lurcook and A.H. Witt.

1. CHAIRMAN - In the absence of His Worship the Mayor it was

Resolved - That Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger be appointed to act as Chairman of this meeting.

Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger in the Chair.

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

3. RESIGNATION OF MR. R.W. CARD AS CONSERVATOR - The Clerk reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Mr. R.W. Card, who had served as a Conservator since 1947. It was

Resolved - That the Clerk write to Mr. Card expressing appreciation of his valuable assistance over the past 23 years.

4. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £1,174 6s. 11d. were passed for payment.

5. ESTIMATES - Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year were approved in the sum of £6,364.

Resolved - That the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year of an amount of £6,364 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

6. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's Report was received and arising therefrom:-

- (1) Langton Road/Nevill Park Junction - Further to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 29th September, 1970, guard stones have been erected and a further request has now been received for the stones to be painted white. It was

Resolved - That no action be taken.

- (2) Litter Bins - The new type of litter bins had proved satisfactory and the Surveyor was requested to purchase as many additional bins as possible out of the £50 provided for this purpose in the annual estimates.

- (3) Trees - A number of trees had died and some had suffered damage during the recent wintry weather. It was

Resolved - That a Contractor be engaged to assist with the work involved.

7. PARKING AT RUSTHALL CHURCH - A request had been received for additional parking space to be provided at Rusthall Church and it was

Resolved - That the matter be deferred until the next meeting to allow the Conservators to have the opportunity to inspect the area which it is suggested could be used for this purpose.

8. GIRL GUIDES - CAMP TRAINING - The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Division Commissioner of the Tunbridge Wells Division Girl Guides requesting the Conservators' permission for the Guides to

use part of the Common near the Guides and Scouts Headquarters at Rusthall for supervised camp training, and it was

Resolved - That permission be granted under Section 168 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, for the activities to take place on the area of Common west of St. Paul's Churchyard overlooking Happy Valley, subject to the limitations set out in the Division Commissioner's letter dated 4th November, and upon the understanding that there will be no interference with bushes or trees, and that no activities take place or tents remain in position between sunset and sunrise.

9. LINDEN PARK CRICKET GROUND - FENCING - The Clerk read a letter from the Hon. Secretary of Linden Park Cricket Club suggesting that barbed wire be used to assist in protecting the pitch against vandalism.

The Conservators considered that it was undesirable to use this form of protection in view of the potential danger to children and instructed the Surveyor to consult the Club to endeavour to find a solution to the problem.

Resolved - That the Clerk reply to the Club to this effect.

10. COMMON VIEW - ERECTION OF POSTS - The Clerk read a letter from a resident in Common View requesting permission to erect posts to form a pathway free from cars along the frontage of the cottages, and it was

Resolved - That no objection be raised to the erection of concrete posts or guard stones to form a barrier between the roadway and the pathway.

11. GIBRALTAR COTTAGE - (1) ENCLOSURE - Further to Minute 4 of the meeting held on the 29th September, 1970, the Clerk reported that the Developers of this site had requested permission to erect a fence to preserve the owner's property and to prevent further damage to the amenity in the area arising by reason of unauthorised use of the premises by undesirable persons.

In view of the vandalism which had taken place, no objection was raised provided:-

- (a) The temporary fence was of uniform materials of reasonable appearance to the satisfaction of the Surveyor to the Commons Conservators;
- (b) The fence was removed on completion of the redevelopment works or at the request of the Commons Conservators;
- (c) The fence was erected within the limits of the freehold except on the south-west side where it will terminate immediately south-west of the protruding rocks where the freehold narrows in at the north-eastern end of the entrance drive.

A six foot fence topped by barbed wire had been erected and it was

Resolved - That the action taken by the Clerk be approved but that the Developers be requested to ensure that the fence is of a temporary nature and the barbed wire is placed on the inside of the fence to obviate danger to persons using the Common.

(Note: The barbed wire has since been removed from the outer edge of the fence).

- (2) THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1968 - PART V - The Clerk reported that the County Council as Local Planning Authority had received an application for listed building consent under Part V of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1968, in respect of alterations to Gibraltar Cottage.

The proposals for development covered by applications No. SW/1/70/466 and SW/1/70/467 indicate two encroachments beyond the area originally excluded from the Commons and also the intention to purchase the freehold of additional land over which Common rights are enjoyed.

One very small encroachment in respect of lavatory and cloakroom accommodation could be deemed to be a technical infringement which would not interfere with the public's enjoyment of the Commons as the land involved has been covered by buildings for many years.

The second encroachment concerned the provision of a garage and would involve the removal of a substantial block of natural sandstone, and might interfere with an attractive tree, thus affecting the existing amenities of the site.

The purchase of additional freehold was to afford improved access to the site and turning space for vehicles.

An objection had been lodged on behalf of the Conservators on the grounds that under Section 151 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 the Conservators are required by statute to maintain the Commons free from all encroachments and that the map deposited with the Clerk of the Peace clearly defines the extent of the Common land and the area of Gibraltar Cottage which is excluded therefrom. It was

Resolved - That the action taken be approved.

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

30th March, 1971	28th September, 1971
22nd June, 1971	4th January, 1972.

R. G. Woodland

MAYOR

30TH MARCH, 1971

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

EXPENDITURE	ESTIMATE 1970/71		REVISED EST. 1970/71		ESTIMATE 1971/72	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Salaries</u>						
Clerk		104		114		117
Surveyor		79		87		89
Treasurer		56		62		63
Allowances for expenses		<u>57</u>		<u>60</u>		<u>63</u>
		296		323		332
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>						
Printing and other office expenses		10		15		18
Public Liability and Fire Insurance		9		12		12
Rates		<u>6</u>		<u>6</u>		<u>7</u>
		25		33		37
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation						
Works Department		4670		4930		5485
Repairs, maintenance and renewals -						
Seats		200		200		200
Notice Boards		25		25		25
Fences and posts		40		40		40
Depot and Toolshed		20		20		20
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake		20		20		25
Clearing undergrowth		<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>
		5175		5435		5995
<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>						
Provision of new Litter Bins		50		50		-
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u> £						
		5,546		5,841		6,364

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1970.

Brighton Lake.

Swan. The Parks Superintendent felt unable to accept the remaining swan at Dunorlan as the existing swans already there would probably reject it. (Minute 3 - 29.9.70).

Arrangements have been made with the R.S.P.C.A. to put it on the Medway at Tonbridge with the consent of the Parks Superintendent there.

General. The lake itself and the surround have been cleared of rubbish, walls repaired and encroaching undergrowth cleared.

Gravel Footpaths.

General. Existing gravel paths are being edged and a minor improvement has been carried out on a path near Mount Edgecumbe to avoid erosion by flood water.

Suggested New Paths.

(a) On Rusthall Common. An existing path from Tea Garden Lane terminates at the top of the steps at Happy Valley. A suggestion has been made that this path should be linked with the path from Langton Road/Coach Road junction to Rusthall Church.

(b) On Tunbridge Wells Common a path between Rawsons Garage, Fonthill and the junction of London Road/Castle Road would provide a useful link and avoid pedestrians having to walk along London Road where there is no footpath on the north western side.

It is recommended that both these paths be constructed and that as much as possible be done in this year with the labour and funds available and any balance be completed next year.

Langton Road/Nevill Park junction.

Guard stones have been erected to avoid encroachment on the Common. (Minute 7 - 29.9.70).

Still Green.

The annual clearance of undergrowth and rubbish has been completed.

Litter Bins.

The experimental paper sack in a galvanised holder on a concrete stand by the Higher Cricket Ground has been a success. It is easier to clear, tidier and free from interference by dogs and birds compared with the open basket type.

It is recommended that six more be purchased out of the provision made in the Annual Estimates.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

30th March, 1971 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Alderman R.G.G. Woodland) (Chairman)
Alderman Savage,
Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger,
Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Messrs. H.T. Clarke, B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler,
D.I. Lloyd Roberts and N.J. Lurcook.

1. MINUTES - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £1562.57 were passed for payment.
3. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's Report was received and arising therefrom:-

- (1) Birch Trees adjoining Onslow House - The Surveyor reported upon his inspection of birch trees adjoining Onslow House and it was

Resolved -

- (a) That permission be granted for the removal of the tree leaning towards No. 4 Onslow House which is a potential danger to the property and that the offer, made by the owner to plant a Prunus in its place, be accepted.

- (b) That two branches be lopped from an adjacent birch tree.

- (2) Birch Tree in Castle Road - An offer to replant having been received from Mr. and Mrs. Winter, it was

Resolved - That the offer be accepted and a Weeping Willow be planted.

4. ENCROACHMENTS - Further to Minute 8(b) of the meeting held on the 29th September, 1970, the Surveyor submitted a detailed report upon his investigation into encroachments on the Common and it was

Resolved - That the Committee be requested to make a tour of inspection of the properties involved and report upon their findings by the September meeting.

5. NOS. 1-4 ONSLOW HOUSE - Further to Minute 5 of the meeting held on the 31st March, 1970, the Clerk reported that agreement had been reached with the present owners of these properties that the area of the Tunbridge Wells Common provisionally registered as Town or Village Green under the Commons Registration Act, 1965 may be varied so as to exclude all land within the curtilage of Onslow House now registered at H.M. Land Registry and as now shown on the 1960 Edition of the 1/1250 scale Ordnance Survey Map.

Part of the Common at the rear of the premises has been terraced and planted beyond the area of land now excluded from the Commons and requests have been received for Licences to be granted for this area to be maintained by the owners of 1-4 Onslow House.

It was

Resolved - That a Licence be granted to the owners of these four properties in the following terms:-

"To maintain the area between the boundary of the Common at the rear of the premises and a line parallel with and 50 feet from the rear wall of Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4 Onslow House free from brambles, bracken and weeds, to cut the grass and to maintain the existing plants, shrubs, terraces and steps but not to plant further shrubs or trees nor erect any fences, hedges or other obstructions nor carry out any further landscaping, excavation or levelling on this area without the consent of the Conservators."

6. ROMANOFF LODGE - ENCROACHMENT - The Clerk submitted a request for consent to carry out proposed works at Romanoff Lodge to form a terrace and basement garage which will entail a small encroachment on to the Common.

Resolved - That no objection be raised to the use of two small pieces of land on either side of the porch or the construction of an access way into the garage, any works being carried out to the reasonable satisfaction of the Surveyor.

7. SPRING BANK HOLIDAY CARNIVAL AND FETE - The Carnival Committee having submitted detailed proposals for their Carnival and Fete to be held on the Lower Cricket Ground during the Spring Bank Holiday, it was

Resolved - That permission be granted to make a temporary enclosure on the Lower Cricket Ground, subject to the conditions imposed by the Agents to the Lord of the Manor set out in their letter of the 17th March, 1971 and to strict compliance with additional terms and conditions now agreed. (Subsequently set out in the Clerk's letter dated 8th April, 1971).

8. LINDEN PARK CRICKET CLUB - EXTENSION OF PAVILION - The Clerk submitted plans by the Linden Park Cricket Club for an extension of their existing pavilion to provide two downstairs changing rooms and shower facilities, and an extension of the lounge area.

The Lord of the Manor having agreed to grant a Licence determinable on three months notice, it was

Resolved - That permission be granted subject to the terms imposed on behalf of the Lord of the Manor which will also preserve the Conservators' position.

9. PARKING AT RUSTHALL CHURCH - Further to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 5th January, 1971, the Surveyor read a letter from the Church Warden at St. Paul's Church, Rusthall, concerning the creation of a parking area on land adjoining the driveway to the Church. It was

Resolved - That the matter be adjourned pending further discussion and consultation with the Lord of the Manor's Agent and the Surveyor to the Conservators.

10. NORTH LODGE, NEVILL PARK - The owners of North Lodge, Nevill Park having submitted a proposal to form an access over Common land to a garage on their property, it was

Resolved - That no objection be raised to the formation of the access to the garage, subject to the work being carried out to the reasonable satisfaction of the Surveyor.

11. COMMON VIEW - ERECTION OF POSTS - Further to Minute 10 of the meeting held on the 5th January, 1971, the Surveyor read a letter from Mrs. Hawkins dated 24th March, 1971, requesting permission to cut into the Common opposite Nos. 28 to 30 Common View for a width of about 3 feet in order to allow for the reservation of a footpath and leave space for vehicles to pass.

Resolved - That no objection be raised to this request subject to the undertaking given in the above-mentioned letter.

12. COMMON VIEW - PLAYING FACILITIES - The Surveyor read a letter from Mr. A.E. Goode dated 28th March, 1971, requesting that the play area on open ground adjoining Common View be improved by eradicating the bumps and filling in a number of large holes to make a more even surface. A number of boys who use the pitch have expressed their willingness to help with the improvements.

The Conservators raised no objection in principle to any improvements which could reasonably be made and it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised to hold a site meeting and investigate the possibility of enlisting the aid of the Rusthall Residents Association with any necessary work.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH 1971.

New Gravel Footpaths.

The new footpath from Happy Valley to link with the existing path near Rusthall Church is in hand and work on the new footpath from London Road (by Rawson's Garage) to Fonthill will follow the completion of the above.

Seats.

Four new seats have been erected as replacements on Tunbridge Wells Common and three on Rusthall Common.

Roadside Verges.

The clearing of brambles and bracken along the roadside verges of roads on Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons has been completed.

Clearance of Undergrowth.

Various patches of burnt undergrowth have been cleared on Tunbridge Wells Common near Castle Road and on Rusthall Common near the Old Coach Road.

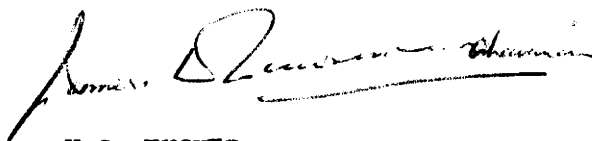
The work of clearing the old patches of gorse and brambles along Mount Ephraim and Bishops Down is well in hand.

Birch Tree - Onslow House.

The tenant of No. 4 Onslow House has drawn attention to a birch tree at the rear of No. 4 and asks the Conservators to decide whether it is dangerous and should be felled. Although the tree has no obvious defects it is fairly mature and if blown down would probably damage No. 4. Under the circumstances it would be advisable to remove it.

Trees.

In accordance with the authorisation given at the last meeting arrangements have been made for the removal of certain dead, fallen and dangerous trees. Mr. E. Theobald has undertaken the work.



H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS.

REPORT ON ENCROACHMENTS.

The Commons are defined by the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act 1890 and are shown on the map accompanying the Act.

Investigations into possible encroachments have been concerned with:-

- (a) those premises surrounded by the Commons but expressly excluded from them by the Act and described in Schedule IV of the Act and distinctively coloured brown on the map; and
- (b) premises not mentioned in the Act and which, with one exception, abut on the boundary of the Commons.

The map incorporated in the Act is apparently based on an Ordnance Survey dated about 1867 and by the time the Act was passed in 1890 it is reasonable to assume that in some respects the map was out of date.

Evidence of this exists in that certain premises and enclosures shown on the map as being on the Commons are not referred to in the Act indicating that they had disappeared by 1890. In the same way other enclosures could have come into being between 1867 and 1890. In fact some of the features and enclosures reported below as encroachments in relation to the Act of 1890 may have been in existence before 1890 and certainly were by 1897 as they appear on the Ordnance Survey Maps published in that year.

An instance where this could well be true exists in Bishops Down where the enclosed front garden of premises known as "Ashburnham House" in 1867 and now known as "Westering" and "Ashburnhams", was coloured in 1890 as being part of the Commons. It seems reasonable to assume that this was an error, otherwise surely the newly appointed Commons Conservators would have required the illegal enclosure to be terminated by the removal of the fences, whereas the enclosure appears to have remained virtually unaltered from 1867 to the present day.

Because of the doubtful origin in time and circumstances of many of the encroachments and because in many cases they would not diminish the amenities available to the general public to any appreciable degree, it is recommended that in considering each premises regard be had to the boundaries and the physical features as shown on the 1960 edition of the 1/1250 maps of the Ordnance Survey. This principle would be in line with that adopted by the Conservators when considering the extent of the site of Nos. 1 to 4 Onslow House to be excluded from registration as Commons.

It must be pointed out however that the position in respect of differences between the areas now registered under the Commons Registration Act 1965 and the original areas defined by the Act of 1890 is a matter for a legal opinion.

The recommendations shown in the schedule of encroachments have been made to form a basis for the Conservators consideration of each case but the subject is so important and certain cases so complex that inspections of the sites by the Conservators are considered to be essential in some instances, e.g. The Mount Edgecumbe area.

The most recent cases of encroachment are concerned with the provision of car parking facilities, paved and unpaved, adjacent to premises on or abutting on the Commons. In these cases it is considered that the areas affected should continue to be part of the Commons and be registered accordingly.

If the Conservators decide to exclude from registration certain areas now enclosed but not originally excluded from the Commons in 1890 then presumably the converse will apply in respect of those premises in that area originally excluded but not now enclosed will be registered as Commons.

When the Conservators have reached a decision in each case consideration should be given to notifying each owner of the decision reached in order to avoid objections at a later stage. Subsequently steps would be taken in conjunction with the Kent County Council to amend the original registration.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

SCHEDULE OF ENCROACHMENTS.

(a) Areas excluded by the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act 1890.

[illegible]

Reference in Schedule IV Tunbridge Wells Improve- ment Act 1890.	Present Description.	Observations on inspection.	Recommendations.
No. 5. CONTINUED		(c) a slight pro- jection of a recently erected garage on the south-east side; and (d) an unenclosed turning & parking space authorised by the Commons Conservators Min.13 25.6.68. A small portion of excluded area extends beyond the enclosed area on the south- east side.	
No.6 - O.P No. 1011 Romanoff Lodge	"Romanoff Lodge" Dwelling House.	Small encroachment on eastern side compris- ing enclosed gardens on either side of front porch (partly of recent origin).	Omit from registration the premises as shown on the 1960 edition of the 1/1250 O.S. i.e. Allow encroachments to remain apart from the recent extension on the north corner.
No.7 - O.P No. 1013 Onslow House.	Onslow House site. Four Dwelling Houses.	Substantial encroach- ment on the northern, southern & eastern sides. Enclosed until recent redevelopment & now unenclosed and extended as garden area.	Omit from registration the premises as shown on the 1960 edition of the 1/1250 O.S. and grant renewable licences for mainte- nance of extended area as garden.
No.8 - - Exeter Villa	"Highbury" Dwelling House (Two units)	Substantial encroach- ment on the western & southern sides enclosed by fence & including part of the dwelling house. Unfenced flower border on northern side is within original "excluded" area. Small portion of excluded area extends beyond enclosed area.	Omit from registration the premises as shown on the 1960 edition of the 1/1250 O.S. but register unenclosed excluded area.
No.9 - O.P No. 1018 Star Mews	Nos.12/16 London Road. Stevenson's Garage.	Encroachments comprise:- (a) Small fenced enclosure at north- eastern end as access to upper floors. (b) Substantial paved area with canopy on south- eastern side.	Omit from registratio the premises as shown on the 1960 edition o the 1/1250 O.S. and a now occupied includin the paved forecourt between the building and London Road.
No.10 - O.P No. 1018 Lewis Place.			

Reference in Schedule IV Tunbridge Wells Improve- ment Act 1890.	Present Description.	Observations on Inspection.	Recommendations.
No. 11 - O.P. No. 1018) Sion Prospect) No. 12 - O.P. No. 1018) Kentish Hotel Stables.)	No. 11 London Road Rawson's Garage.	Encroachments comprise:- (a) A small fenced area on north-west- ern side. (b) A small fenced area, a small build- ing & a small unenclosed paved area on the south- western side; and (c) A substantial fenced area and a large paved area with canopy on the south-eastern side. Two small portions of excluded area extend beyond enclosed area on the north-eastern side.	Omit from registration the premises as shown on the 1960 edition of the 1/1250 O.S. & as now occupied including the paved forecourt between the building and London Road.
No. 13 - O.P. No. 1020 Fonthill	"Fonthill" Public shelter & conveniences.	Small encroachments on the southern and eastern sides. Portions of the excluded area extend beyond the built on area on all sides.	Omit from registration the premises as shown on the 1960 edition of the 1/1250 O.S. but register the unoccupied excluded area except the sub- stantial area in the enclave on the north western side.
No. 14 - O.P. No. 1016) Hand & Sceptre Stables) No. 15 - O.P. No. 1016) Booty's Warehouse) No. 16 - O.P. No. 1016) Cottage adjoining)	Messrs. Andris Warehouse	Encroachments on north eastern, north western & south western sides & tar- paved unenclosed area on south east- ern & south-western sides used for vehicles. A notice board reads:- "Private Car park For the use of Andris Customers only". Small portions of excluded area extend beyond the built on area on the north- eastern side.	Omit from registration the premises as shown on the 1960 edition of the 1/1250 O.S. but register part of the tar-paved area & the unenclosed excluded area.

Reference in Schedule IV Tunbridge Wells Improve- ment Act 1890.	Present Description.	Observations on Inspection.	Recommendations.
No. 17. - O.P. No. 1021 Swan Hotel Stables	Swan Hotel garages	Encroachments comprise:- (a) An enclosed garden on the south- west side; (b) A concrete paved car- park on the south- east side with notice reading:- "Car Park 10p Patrons free"; & (c) An unmetalled car-park on the north east side.	Omit from registration the building as shown on the 1960 edition of the 1/1250 O.S. also the enclosed garden but register the paved & unpaved car parks.
No. 18 - O.P. No. 1021 York Cottage & small cottage adjoining.	York Cottage Dwelling House.	No encroachments	Omit from registration the original excluded area.
No. 19. - O.P. No. 794 Cottages on Rusthall Common.	Bulls Hollow Cottage. Dwelling House.	Small encroachments on north-eastern & north-western sides.	Omit from registration the premises as shown on the 1960 edition of the 1/1250 O.S. but register any unenclosed excluded area.

(b) Other encroachments on the Commons.

Premises	Description of Encroachment	Observations	Recommendations
Tunbridge Wells & Counties Club, 40 London Road.	Unenclosed tar-paved car park.		Include in registration
No. 43 Vale Road (Unoccupied)	Part of paved area at side of premises.		Omit from registration.
No. 36 London Road (Chiesman's Garage)	Part of paved forecourt.		Omit from registration.
No. 35 London Road. (Goodrich - Bookmaker)	Part of paved forecourt.	A notice board reads:- "Private No Parking".	Omit from registration.
No. 34 London Road (The Children's Salon).	Part of paved forecourt.	A notice board reads:- "Private Forecourt. Parking for Customers only".	Omit from registration.
Vale Royal Methodist Church, London Road.	Part of forecourt with gravelled surface & post & chains.	A notice board reads:- "Church Car Park only".	Omit from registration.
Harewood Hotel, London Road.	Part of unenclosed forecourt; part tar - paved & part landscaped.	Hotel sign & various notices displayed.	Omit from registration.
Castle Hotel, London Road.	Unenclosed tar-paved forecourt.	Hotel sign bears a notice board:- "Patrons only. Trespassers prosecuted".	Omit from registration.
2 The Pantiles (Barclays Bank)			
2a The Pantiles (Andris)			
4 The Pantiles (Boots Ltd)	Unenclosed paved forecourt.		Omit from registration.
No. 46 The Pantiles, London Road.	Enclosed forecourt		Omit from registration
Kibby's Supermarket, 11 Union Square, Eridge Road.	Tar paved car park, mainly unenclosed but with guard rails at top of banks.	A notice board reads:- "Free Car Park Union Square Shoppers".	Include in registration.
Lord Cornwallis Inn, Eridge Road.	Enclosed tar-paved car park with boundary posts & chains.	A notice board reads:- "Parking Patrons only".	Include in registration.
Plant & Tools (Tunbridge Wells) Ltd. 13 Eridge Road.	Unenclosed tar-paved car park (Av.depth 14')	Authorised by Commons Conservators Min.10 - 24.6.69	Include in registration.
"Grange Cote", Bishops Down Road	Enclosed grass plot.		Include in registration.

Premises	Description of Encroachment	Observations	Recommendations
"Westering" Bishops Down Road.	Enclosed front garden.		Omit from registration the front garden as shown on the 1960 edition of the 1/1250 O.S.
Ashburnhams", Bishops Down Road.	Enclosed front garden.		Omit from registration the front garden as shown on the 1960 edition of the 1/1250 O.S.
Higher Cricket Ground, Fir Tree Road. (Note: These premises are situated on the Commons).	An unpaved enclosed car park opposite the Cricket Ground.	The car park is used only during the cricket season.	Include in registration.
Beacon Hotel, Tea Garden Lane, Rusthall.	Tar paved car park with post & rail guard fence at end and rear.		Include in registration.
"Morning Star" P.H. Common View, Rusthall.	Unenclosed tar-paved car park.	A notice board reads:- "Morning Star car park Private Customers Only".	Include in registration.
Shadwell House, 65 Lower Green Road, Rusthall.	Yard & building.		Omit from registration the premises as shown on the 1960 edition of the 1/1250 O.S.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

22nd June, 1971 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor James W. Lawrence) (Chairman)
Alderman N.L. Glanfield,
Messrs. C.R. Harler, D.I. Lloyd Roberts and
N.J. Lurcook.

1. MINUTES - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £1,638.39 were passed for payment.
3. REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1971 - The Treasurer submitted the audited Revenue Account for the year ended 31st March, 1971, which was approved.
4. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS - BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS - 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, 1972:-

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor James W. Lawrence)
Aldermen N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage, and
Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger.

5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE - Resolved - That the Mayor, Aldermen N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage, Messrs. D.I. Lloyd Roberts, N.J. Lurcook and H.T. Clarke be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year (three to form a quorum).
6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS - Resolved - That Alderman N.L. Glanfield and Mr. B.H. Fountain be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
7. APPOINTMENT OF SURVEYOR TO COMMONS CONSERVATORS - The Clerk referred to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 24th June, 1969, recording the decision of the Conservators that Mr. Tucker be appointed Surveyor to the Commons Conservators on a year to year basis and it was

Resolved - That Mr. Tucker continue his appointment as Surveyor to the Commons Conservators for a further term of one year from the 1st October, 1971.
8. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's Report was received.
9. SPRING BANK HOLIDAY CARNIVAL AND FETE - Some concern was expressed about the organisation of the activities on the Common during the Spring Bank Holiday and the erection of fencing outside the strict terms of the consent given by the Conservators.

The Surveyor reported, however, that no serious damage had been done to the Lower Cricket Ground and he expected that the ground would recover naturally in the present weather conditions.

In all the circumstances the Conservators concluded that no further action should be taken in the matter.

10. LINDEN PARK CRICKET CLUB - (1) HOCKEY ON THE HIGHER CRICKET GROUND - The Clerk referred to a letter dated 3rd June, 1971 from the Linden Park Cricket Club together with a report referred to therein, copies of which had been circulated to the Conservators prior to the meeting, seeking permission for hockey to be played during the winter on the outfield and for Byelaw No. 22 to be amended.

Resolved - (a) That no objection be raised to the playing of hockey on the outfield of the Higher Cricket Ground as suggested by the Club, and

(b) (i) That Byelaw No. 22 be repealed and new byelaws made in accordance with the schedule attached to these Minutes.

- (ii) That the Clerk take all necessary steps to obtain confirmation of the new byelaws and the repeal of Byelaw 22 by the Secretary of State

(2) SECURITY OF TENURE - The existing licence for the Club to play cricket on the Higher Ground can be determined on six weeks notice. This is disadvantageous to the Club as it is thereby precluded from obtaining grants from various bodies which require evidence of a reasonable security of tenure.

In principle the Conservators raised no objection to a longer term licence being granted to Linden Park Cricket Club provided it is not assignable to any other organisation, and it was

Resolved - That the Clerk liaise with the Solicitors acting for the Lord of the Manor to negotiate suitable terms which will preserve the interests of the Conservators.

11. PARKING AT RUSTHALL CHURCH - Further to minute 9 of the meeting held on the 30th March, 1971, the Surveyor reported that the application for a parking place on the Commons had been withdrawn on behalf of the St. Paul's Church, Rusthall.

12. TUNBRIDGE WELLS ARTS LAB - The Clerk read a letter from Mr. R. Deller requesting permission to hold performances of music, experimental theatre and open air art exhibitions on the Common. It was also asked that consideration be given to the use of the caves beneath the Common for similar activities.

The Conservators felt unable to approve activities of this nature on the Commons.

13. THE COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT, 1965 - The Clerk referred to the provisional registration made by Mr. W.J. Smith of 28 Salisbury Road, Rusthall, of his right to graze two horses on the Common. In view of the fact that no evidence has been produced to substantiate this right, it was

Resolved - That formal objection be made to this registration.

14. LAYING OF SEWER UNDER THE COMMON, ERIDGE ROAD - The Clerk reported that he had received a notice from the Royal Tunbridge Wells Borough Council of its intention to lay a sewer under the Common parallel with Eridge Road in connection with a southern drainage scheme. The Conservators were assured that compensation would be payable at the statutory rate and that the area involved would be reinstated.

The Surveyor referred to Minute 3 of the meeting held on the 31st March, 1970, concerning the encroachment of vehicles on that part of the Common now under discussion and it was

Resolved - (a) That no objection be raised to the laying of the sewer.

(b) That any surplus soil which becomes available after reinstatement be formed into a bank 18 inches to 24 inches high to form a barrier so as to prevent traffic eroding the edge of the Common.

15. TUNBRIDGE WELLS EIGHTEEN PLUS GROUP - PRAM RACE - Permission is sought to hold an afternoon pram race on Sunday, 5th September, on an area of the Common near the fairground.

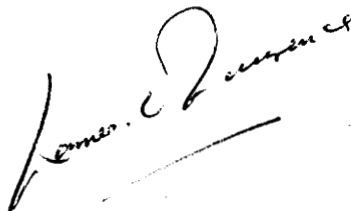
The Conservators granted permission for the pram race provided there is no interference with bushes or trees and subject to reinstatement of any damage which may be caused.

16. PART-TIME ASSISTANCE ON THE COMMON - A letter having been received from the Careers Master of Swaylands School requesting that one of the boys be allowed to undertake unpaid work on the Common in order to gain experience under normal working conditions, it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised to make suitable arrangements.

17. ENCROACHMENTS - Further to minute 4 of the meeting held on the 30th March, 1971, it was agreed that the Committee of the Conservators should meet at the Town Hall, at 2.45 p.m. on Friday, 23rd July, to make a tour of inspection.
18. "WHITE HART" PUBLIC HOUSE, LOWER GREEN, RUSTHALL - An application was received from the Proprietor, Mr. Warman, for permission to place a table and chairs on the Common in front of the above premises for the benefit of his customers.

Resolved - That Mr. Warman be informed that the Conservators regret they cannot grant this request.



MAYOR

28th September, 1971

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THE SCHEDULE

BYELAWS 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.

1. Throughout these byelaws the expression "the Conservators" means the Conservators nominated and appointed for the time being under the provisions of Section 152 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890; the expression "the Commons" means the Commons as defined by Section 151 of the said Act.

2. No person shall upon any part of the Commons specially set apart for cricket and/or hockey, play or take part in any game of football, quoits, or any other game likely to injure the turf.

3. Every person who shall offend against the foregoing byelaw shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two pounds.

The foregoing byelaws were framed by the Conservators, at a meeting held at the Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells, on Tuesday, this Twenty-second day of June, One thousand nine hundred and seventy-one.

Byelaw No. 22 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 22nd day of June, 1971.

Signed James W. Lawrence

N.L. Glanfield

D. Lloyd Roberts

Countersigned M.J.H. Girling

Clerk to the Conservators

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1971.

<u>1969/70</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1970/71</u>	<u>1969/70</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>1970/71</u>
£ s d		£	£ s d		£
	<u>Salaries and Allowances</u>				
103. 0. 0.	Clerk	114.00	6. 0.	Sale of byelaws etc.	-
78. 6. 8.	Surveyor	87.00		Contribution towards cost of new path	
55. 6. 8.	Treasurer	62.00	10. 0. 0.	from Fairground	-
56. 0. 0.	Allowances for expenses	60.00	5290.14. 5.	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -	
				Contribution for Year	5805.16
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>				
14. 8. 7.	Printing and other office expenses	14.07			
8. 9. 2.	Public Liability, Vehicle and Fire Insurance	11.71			
5.13. 4.	Rates	6.27			
5. 0. 0.	Registration fee, Rusthall Common	-			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>				
4354. 9. 2.	General Maintenance by Corporation	4834.15			
	Works Department				
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -				
346. 2. 2.	Seats	243.92			
22. 1. 0.	Notice Boards	1.57			
8.15.10.	Fences and Posts	49.37			
- - -	Signs	32.97			
43. 7.10.	Repairs and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	19.23			
200. 0. 0.	Clearing Undergrowth	200.00			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>				
- - -	Provision of new Litter Bins	68.90			
<hr/> £ 5,301. 0. 5. <hr/>		<hr/> £ 5,805.16 <hr/>	<hr/> £ 5,301. 0. 5. <hr/>		<hr/> £ 5,805.16 <hr/>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1971.

<u>Liabilities</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
<u>1969/70</u> £ s d	<u>1970/71</u> £	<u>1969/70</u> £ s d	<u>1970/71</u> £
Sundry Creditor -		Debtor -	
1169.18. 4. Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	1634.69	2473. 4. 4. Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation for balance of Contribution	1634.38
1304.17. 6. Cash Overdrawn	-	1.11. 6. Postage Stamps in Hand	-
		- - - Cash in Hand	0.31
<u>£ 2,474.15.10.</u>	<u>£ 1,634.69</u>		<u>£ 1,634.69</u>

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

10th June, 1971.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 30th JUNE 1971.

Birch Trees - Onslow House Site.

The tree at the rear of No. 4 has been felled and an adjacent tree lopped in accordance with Minute 3 - 30.3.71.

Common View - Playing Facilities.

Soil from the road improvement affecting the Common in London Road has been tipped at Common View to extend the playing area and improve the surface. At a site meeting Mr. Goode undertook to organise volunteers to spread the soil. (Min. 12 - 30.3.71).

New Paths.

(a) The new gravel path from Rawson's Garage to Fonthill has been completed.

(b) A new path is being constructed by the Corporation from Fonthill to London Road/Castle Road junction. This will replace the path between Fonthill and London Road which is being discarded in the interests of public safety.

Clearance of Undergrowth.

The brambles and unsightly gorse have been cleared along Mount Ephraim and Bishops Down.

Grass Cutting.

This work commenced in May and the usual areas will be cut in rotation.

Brighton Lake.

Two additional ducks of the mallard type have been supplied free of charge by Mr. Armstrong of the Animal & Food Stores, Chapel Place. (Min. 3 - 29.9.70).

Litter Bins.

Eleven new bins of the paper sack type have been purchased and some have already been put into use.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

28th September, 1971 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor James W. Lawrence)
(Chairman)
Alderman N.L. Glanfield,
Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Messrs. H.T. Clarke, B.H. Fountain,
D.I. Lloyd Roberts and N.J. Lurcock.

1. MINUTES - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £1,750.91 were passed for payment.
3. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's Report was received and arising therefrom:-

Elm Trees on the Common - In view of the signs of early leaf fall from certain Elm trees on Rusthall Common and on the Tunbridge Wells Common near the Mount Edgecumbe Hotel, it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor obtain the advice of an expert and that the Committee be authorised to sanction any recommended course of action.

4. ENCROACHMENTS - Further to Minute 17 of the meeting held on the 22nd June, 1971, the Clerk reported that the Committee recently made an inspection of various properties on the Common and would report in full to the next meeting the result of a conference to be held with a representative from the Department of the Environment on the schedule of encroachments and the Committee's findings during the tour of inspection.

5. GIBRALTAR COTTAGE - EXTENSION OF ACCESS ROAD - The Surveyor reported that Gibraltar Cottage had now been converted into two units of accommodation with two approaches and the Developers had submitted a plan showing the amended access to the house. During the recent tour of inspection the Committee had inspected the site and recommended that permission be granted.

Resolved - That no objection be raised to the construction of the access as approved by the Committee.

6. ERIDGE ROAD - LAYBY - A letter was read from Mrs. P.S. Baldock of Eridge Road, making an application for permission to erect a layby for parking vehicles along the edge of the Common opposite Nos. 35/41 Eridge Road.

In view of the precedent that would be established, the risk of misuse and potential danger in crossing the road to the layby, it was

Resolved - That permission be refused but that the Surveyor write to the applicant drawing attention to the various alternatives discussed by the Conservators.

7. CONDITION OF FOOTPATHS ON RUSTHALL COMMON - The Surveyor referred to a recent letter from the Rusthall Residents Association drawing attention to the overgrown condition of the Tarry Path from Langton Road to Rusthall Road and the pathway leading to Rusthall Church from Rusthall Place, and requesting that the Autumn leaf-fall receive prompt attention to avoid any possible danger to pedestrians.

The footpaths mentioned are public footpaths maintained by the Corporation as Highway Authority and the matter has been referred to the Cleansing Superintendent for prompt attention.

8. PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS BETWEEN LONDON ROAD/CASTLE ROAD AND THE COMMON - The Clerk submitted a plan showing the small piece of land required at the junction of London Road and Castle Road for the proposed siting of new pedestrian crossings across London Road and Castle Road, and the siting of a proposed handrail to the steps opposite Nevill Street. It was

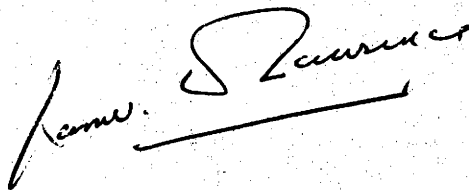
Resolved - That no objection be raised to these proposals.

9. WELLS RECENTLY UNEARTHED ON THE COMMON - It was reported that the results of research had established that whilst one of these structures is a chalybeate spring, that which is nearer to London Road is a "cold bath".

The Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Town Council, being mindful of the historical importance of these discoveries to the Town, and to the need to effect preservation works before the onset of frosts, had resolved that, subject to the approval of the Lord of the Manor, the Borough Surveyor be authorised to carry out the proposed preservation and landscaping work as soon as possible, at an estimated cost of £650.

10. TOAD ROCK RETREAT P.H. - It was reported that the land adjoining the boundary of these premises was in need of attention and it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor inspect the land and report to the next meeting of the Conservators.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'James S. Lawrence', with a horizontal line underneath.

MAYOR

4th January, 1972.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER 1971

Grass Cutting

The men have been almost exclusively engaged on grass cutting since the last meeting, assisted by two students and by the use of tractor driven machines from the Works Department.

The final round of cutting in the usual areas is now in progress.

Brighton Lake

A quantity of rubbish has been removed from the lake and the surround has been tidied up.

A more extensive clearance of the lake will be undertaken during the late Autumn after leaf-fall.

Elm Trees, Rusthall Common

A number of a group of Elm trees on the north side of Rusthall Road by the entrance to Rusthall Grange have shed their leaves and could be dead or dying.

I recommend that an expert should be engaged to report on these trees in view of the prevalence of Elm disease.

At the same time a group at the junction of Langton Road and Tea Garden Lane should be inspected as at least two show signs of early leaf-fall.

H. G. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

4th January, 1972 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor James W. Lawrence)
(Chairman)

Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger,
Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Messrs. H.T. Clarke, B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler,
D.I. Lloyd Roberts and N.J. Lurcook.

1. MINUTES - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £1,927.28 were passed for payment.
3. ESTIMATES - Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year were approved in the sum of £7,521.

Resolved - That the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year of an amount of £7,521 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 and Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

4. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's Report was received and arising therefrom:-

- (1) Langton Road - Fallen Tree - The Surveyor reported that a tree on the rocky bank on the south west side of Langton Road practically opposite Rusthall Road junction was recently blown down bringing with it part of the bank and some masonry.

The map of the Commons tends to show that this bank is not part of the Commons but as an immediate measure and in order to safeguard the highway, the Corporation has shored up the bank with timbers.

The Conservators expressed the opinion that the bank does not form part of the Commons and it was therefore

Resolved - That the adjoining owner be informed that as the land is not controlled by the Conservators he must be held responsible for the cost of the work which has been carried out by the Corporation and for future reinstatement.

- (2) Elm Trees - Resolved - That the Chairman be empowered to authorise any urgent work that may be required in any future outbreak of Dutch Elm Disease on the Commons.

- (3) Trees on the Common - The Surveyor reported that the Corporation had a number of Poplar trees in its Nursery which were surplus to requirements and it was

Resolved - That approximately twelve trees be planted along Common View and in the Lower Green area of Rusthall, and that the Rusthall Residents Association be asked to assist with the protection of the trees from vandals.

5. ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, RUSTHALL - SURROUND TO WAR MEMORIAL - The Surveyor reported that the Parochial Church Council of St. Paul's Parish Church, Rusthall, sought the Conservators' permission to erect in silver grey rough Cornish granite a curbing, seven inches high and four inches thick, to enclose the small forecourt following a line immediately inside the public footpath, and to lay inside the curbing a concrete bed to be covered with washed beech pebbles.

Resolved - That permission be granted.

6. ENCROACHMENTS - Further to Minute 4 of the meeting held on the 28th September, 1971 the Clerk and Surveyor submitted a report upon an

informal conference with a representative from the Department of the Environment together with a Schedule indicating the Committee's findings during the recent tour of inspection. Consideration of the report was deferred until the next meeting and in the meantime the Surveyor is to conduct informal negotiations with a number of owners whose properties are affected.

7. THE COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT, 1965 - Commons Commissioners are now being appointed to deal with disputes concerning Common land and the Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Clerk of the Kent County Council dated 17th December, 1971 stating that the Solicitors to the Freehold Tenants of the Manor of Rusthall had indicated that they were content for the Commons to remain registered as town or village greens only. Their provisional registration as common land has therefore been cancelled with the agreement of all parties who originally sought their registration in that category and formal notices of the cancellations had been issued.

The registration of the Commons as town or village greens has now become final and the conflicting registration is, therefore, resolved.

8. SEATS ON THE COMMON - It was reported that a seat had recently been damaged on the Common between Mount Ephraim House and the Post Office and had not yet been replaced.

The Surveyor reported that delivery of concrete ends for seats was awaited and as soon as these were to hand damaged seats would be repaired or replaced.

9. VANDALISM - The Conservators' attention was drawn to the shelter on the Common between Fir Tree Road and the Spa Hotel which had recently been badly damaged.

The Surveyor reported that the necessary repairs would be effected by the early Spring.

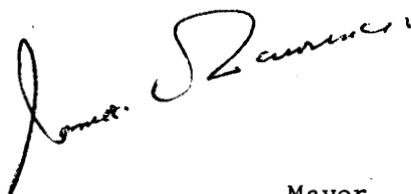
10. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS - Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held at 2.30 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:-

11th April, 1972

3rd October, 1972

27th June, 1972

2nd January, 1973.



Mayor
11th April, 1972.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

EXPENDITURE	ESTIMATE 1971/72		REVISED EST. 1971/72		ESTIMATE 1972/73	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Salaries</u>						
Clerk	117		123		125	
Surveyor	89		93		95	
Treasurer	63		66		67	
Allowances for expenses	<u>63</u>		<u>66</u>		<u>69</u>	
		332		348		356
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>						
Printing and other office expenses	18		18		20	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	12		12		12	
Rates	<u>7</u>		<u>8</u>		<u>8</u>	
		37		38		40
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation						
Works Department	5485		5810		6560	
Repairs, maintenance and renewals -						
Seats	200		200		250	
Notice Boards	25		25		25	
Fences and posts	40		40		40	
Depot and Toolshed	20		20		25	
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake	25		25		25	
Clearing undergrowth	<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>	
		5995		6320		7125
 TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£	6,364		6,706		7,521

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1971.

Gravel Paths. The edges of all gravel paths have been cut back, drainage channels cleared and low overhanging branches cut away.

Road Margins. Work is in progress on trimming bracken and brambles on the sides of roads; London Road, Eridge Road and Castle Road have already been completed.

The Race Course has been dealt with in the same way.

Toad Rock Retreat F.H. (Min. 10 - 28.9.71) The Works Department of the Corporation has repaired the surface of Upper Street adjoining these premises and laid kerbing to support the roadway. At the same time the surface of the Common was restored at the expense of the Conservators.

London Road. Guard stones have been placed at the ends of paths across the Common by Rawsons Garage to prevent the parking of cars.

Langton Road. A tree on the rocky bank on the south-west side of Langton Road practically opposite Rusthall Road junction was blown down bringing down part of the bank and some masonry. It is not clear from the map of the Commons whether this bank is part of the Commons and enquiries are proceeding. Meanwhile the bank has been shored with timbers to prevent further damage which may affect the adjoining private property, which is "The Cottage", Rusthall Place.

Elm Trees (Min. 3 - 28.9.71)

Rusthall Common. Mr. C. Taylor B.Sc, a Forestry Consultant confirmed the presence of Dutch Elm Disease in certain trees in Tea Garden Lane and near Pretland Road and subsequently another outbreak was noted by the "Tarry Path" off Langton Road. He also inspected the Mount Edgecumbe and Bishops Down areas on Tunbridge Wells Common but found no indication of the disease.

The Committee of the Conservators authorised immediate action, a tender was obtained from Westguard & Sons in the sum of £68.25 for felling and disposing of the affected trees, but the work was entrusted to them on agreed day-work prices as being a fairer basis to both sides in view of the indeterminate amount of work involved.

In due course the number of trees and saplings felled was as follows:-

Tea Garden Lane:	2
Pretland Road:	29
Langton Road:	14
Total:	<u>47</u>

The actual cost on a day-work basis was £58.50.

In conjunction with the Borough Council's specially appointed officer observation will be kept on elm trees on the Commons, especially in the coming Spring, and it is suggested that the Chairman should be empowered to authorise any urgent work that may be required.

H.S. TUCKER

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

11th April, 1972 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor James W. Lawrence)
(Chairman),
Aldermen N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage,
Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger,
Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Messrs. B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler,
D.I. Lloyd Roberts and N.J. Lurcook.

1. MINUTES - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed,
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £1,576.61 were passed for payment.
3. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's Report was received and arising therefrom:-

Romanoff Lodge - Access Drive - The Surveyor reported that following the erection of a garage the owner asked for permission to adjust his access drive from Castle Road to make it safer and more convenient. No additional area of common land was involved and the Mayor had given permission to enable the work to proceed.

Resolved - That the action taken be approved.

4. ENCROACHMENT OF VEHICLES ON THE COMMON - ERIDGE ROAD - Further to Minute 14 of the meeting held on the 22nd June, 1971, it was reported that the formation of a bank to create a barrier so as to prevent traffic eroding the edge of the Common along Eridge Road, had apparently become a potential danger to traffic and recently two vehicles, having misjudged the bend, had overturned after hitting the bank. The matter is being referred to the Watch Committee of the Town Council and it was also

Resolved - That the Surveyor keep the situation under observation and, if necessary, take further instructions from the Commons Conservators Committee.

5. LANGTON ROAD - FALLEN TREE - Further to Minute 4(1) of the meeting held on the 4th January, 1972, it was reported that examination of the title relating to "The Cottage, Rusthall Place" had shown that the rocky bank did not appear to be within the ownership of this property.

Resolved - That as the land does not appear to form part of the Common nor part of the land belonging to the owner of The Cottage, Rusthall Place, the matter be referred to the Council's Works Committee as one involving a piece of land adjacent to the highway in unknown ownership.

6. LINDEN PARK CRICKET CLUB - HOCKEY ON THE HIGHER CRICKET GROUND - Further to Minute 10 of the meeting held on the 22nd June, 1971, the Clerk reported that the new Byelaws had now been confirmed by the Secretary of State and will come into force on 1st May, 1972.

7. HORSE RIDING ON THE COMMONS - Further to Minute 15 of the meeting held on the 7th January, 1969, the Clerk read two letters of complaint which had been received concerning horse riding on the Commons during the Winter months.

The Clerk reported that all the riding establishments in the area had been reminded that horses should not be taken across the Commons during the months of November to March and it could only be assumed that private owners of horses were the present offenders.

Resolved - That in the Autumn the Clerk should again write to all riding stables in the area, reminding them that horses should not be taken across the Commons during the months of November to March and that if offenders can be ascertained, the Clerk be instructed to

write to them immediately, drawing attention to the byelaws.

8. TUNBRIDGE WELLS EIGHTEEN PLUS GROUP - PRAM-O-CROSS - Permission is sought to hold a Pram-O-Cross on the Common on the 21st May, 1972. Full details of the event are awaited. It was

Resolved - That permission be granted, subject to the details of the route being approved by the Clerk and the Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

9. RUSTHALL CRICKET GROUND - A letter had been received from the Rusthall Cricket Club expressing grave concern at the misuse of the ground by unauthorised persons playing football on the outfield and the digging of holes inside the roped off area where wickets are pitched.

Resolved - That the ground be kept under observation in an endeavour to ascertain the offenders and that two Notices be erected warning offenders that their action is liable to prosecution.

10. RABBITS ON THE COMMON - Further to Minute 10 of the meeting held on the 30th September, 1969, it was reported that the rabbit population appeared to be increasing on the Commons and it was

Resolved - That the Surveyor ask the rabbit catcher to renew his efforts to reduce the number of rabbits on the Common.

11. MOUNT EPHRAIM - During the recent road works along Mount Ephraim the Contractors have driven vehicles and equipment on the Common, blocking footpaths and damaging the grass.

The Surveyor was asked to contact the Borough Surveyor's Department with a view to this practice being stopped and the surface of the Common being reinstated.

12. LITTER BINS - It was

Resolved - That an additional litter bin be placed near "Belleville" to cope with the litter left by lunch-time picnickers.

13. UNAUTHORISED PARKING ADJACENT TO YORK COTTAGE - It was reported that there was a growing tendency for unauthorised vehicles to be parked on the Common adjacent to York Cottage and for cars to be driven from the Fairground Car Park across the grass onto London Road. It was

Resolved - That guard stones be placed in position to prevent cars passing over this part of the Common.

14. HELICOPTER LANDING ON THE COMMON - The Clerk reported that a helicopter had recently made an unauthorised landing on the Common.

A landing site is reserved for emergency use, subject to Police supervision, and it was

Resolved - That the Civil Aviation Authority be requested to remind operators and pilots that the landing space on the Common is intended for emergency use only.

C. H. R. Hall

MAYOR

27TH JUNE, 1972

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH 1972.

Road Margins.

The trimming of bracken and brambles on the sides of Major York's Road, Bishops Down Road, Hungershall Park, Fir Tree Road and Tea Garden Lane has been completed.

Poplar Trees - Min. 4(3) - 4.1.72

Twelve poplar trees have been provided from the Corporation Nursery at Pembury Waterworks and have been planted in groups of three in the Lower Green and Common View area at Rusthall.

Still Green.

This area has been cleared of litter and rubbish deposited by the public.

Seats.

Three new seats have been provided as replacements; one on Bishops Down and two in Rusthall Road.

Gravel Paths.

A limited amount of making-good to gravel paths has been carried out at the Brighton Lake, near Hungershall Park, by Mount Edgecumbe and the Higher Cricket Ground and at Lower Green and Tea Garden Lane on Rusthall Common.

Ivy on trees.

A start has been made to clear ivy growing on trees and the work will be continued until grass cutting commences.

Depot by Higher Cricket Ground.

The two sets of double doors have been renewed and provided with stouter fastenings in an effort to prevent "break-ins" by vandals.

St. Paul's Church, Rusthall - Surround to War Memorial.

The work authorised by Min. 5 - 4.1.72 has been carried out satisfactorily although the kerb is slightly lower than originally proposed.

Romanoff Lodge - Access drive.

Following the erection of a garage the owner asked for permission to adjust his access drive from Castle Road to make it safer and more convenient. No extra area of the Common was involved and the Mayor gave permission to enable the work to proceed. The Conservators are asked to endorse the action taken.



H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

27th June, 1972 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor G.J.R. Slater) (Chairman),
Alderman N.L. Glanfield,
Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Messrs. H.T. Clarke, B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler
and D.I. Lloyd Roberts.

1. MINUTES - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £1,331.39 were passed for payment.
3. REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1972 - The Treasurer submitted the audited Revenue Account for the year ended 31st March, 1972, which was approved.
4. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS - (1) BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS - 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, 1973:-

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor G.J.R. Slater)
Aldermen N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage, and
Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger.

(2) FREEHOLD TENANTS - The Conservators' attention was drawn to the fact that a replacement had not yet been nominated to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Witt.

The Clerk confirmed that he had asked for one of the freehold tenants to be nominated as a representative on the Commons Conservators and would write again to the Agents reminding them of the vacancy.

5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE - Resolved - That the Mayor, Aldermen N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage, Messrs. D.I. Lloyd Roberts, N.J. Lurcook and H.T. Clarke be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year (three to form a quorum).
6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS - Resolved - That Alderman N.L. Glanfield and Mr. B.H. Fountain be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
7. APPOINTMENT OF SURVEYOR TO COMMONS CONSERVATORS - The Clerk referred to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 24th June, 1969, regarding the appointment of Mr. Tucker as Surveyor to the Commons Conservators on a year to year basis and it was

Resolved - That Mr. Tucker's appointment be extended with his consent for a further term of one year from the 1st October, 1972.
8. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's report was received and arising from a discussion about the Brighton Lake, it was

Resolved - That initially, and as an experiment, the lake be raked to remove as much as possible of the water weed and that a report upon the effectiveness of this action be submitted at a later meeting.
9. PATH TO SUNNYSIDE ROAD FROM LOWER GREEN ROAD - The Clerk reported that he had received several letters of complaint on behalf of residents in Rusthall Road concerning the condition in wet weather of the gravel footpath to Sunnyside Road from Lower Green Road and that the Surveyor had since taken steps to improve the surface.
10. LANGTON ROAD - FALLEN TREE - Further to Minute 5 of the meeting held on the 11th April, 1972, it was reported that as the ownership of the land is unknown the Works Committee of the Town Council had decided to meet the cost of removing the tree from the highway and had asked that the Conservators accept responsibility for the balance, amounting to £14.54, being the cost of shoring up the bank, plus the cost of removing the

shoring, estimated at £5.

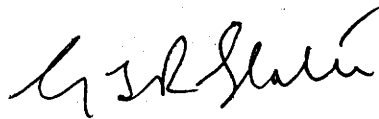
Resolved - That the cost of this work be met by the Conservators.

11. PARKING OF CARS ON THE COMMON ADJOINING THE TOAD ROCK RETREAT P.H. - It was reported that vehicles were parking on the Common adjoining the Toad Rock Retreat P.H. in Upper Street, Rusthall, and it was

Resolved - That guard stones be placed along the edge of the Common in order to prevent this practice.

12. STATIC DISPLAY BY ROYAL ARTILLERY - The Clerk reported that he had approved a proposed static display on the Common on the 3rd July next.

Resolved - That the action taken be confirmed.



Mayor

3rd October, 1972.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1972.

<u>1970/71</u> £	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1971/72</u> £	<u>1970/71</u> £	<u>Income</u>	<u>1971/72</u> £
	<u>Salaries and Allowances</u>			Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -	
114.00	Clerk	123.00	5805.16	Contribution for Year	6585.59
37.00	Surveyor	93.00			
62.00	Treasurer	66.00			
60.00	Allowances for expenses	66.00			
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>				
14.07	Printing and other office expenses	39.76			
11.71	Public Liability, Vehicle and Fire Insurance	11.70			
6.27	Rates	7.40			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>				
4834.15	General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	5821.16			
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -				
243.92	Seats	89.93			
1.57	Notice Boards	7.09			
49.37	Fences and Posts	21.72			
32.97	Signs	-			
-	Gates	38.83			
19.23	Repairing and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	-			
200.00	Clearing Undergrowth	200.00			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Special</u>				
68.90	Provision of new Litter Bins	-			
<u>£ 5,805.16</u>		<u>£ 6,585.59</u>	<u>£ 5,805.16</u>		<u>£ 6,585.59</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1972.

<u>1970/71</u>	<u>Liabilities</u>	<u>1971/72</u>	<u>1970/71</u>	<u>Assets</u>	<u>1971/72</u>
£		£	£		£
	Sundry Creditors -			Debtor -	
1634.69	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	2725.70		Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	
-	Others	178.00	1634.38	for balance of Contribution	2902.97
			0.31	Cash at Bank	0.73
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
£ 1,634.69		£ 2,903.70	£ 1,634.69		£ 2,903.70
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>

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

13th June, 1972. (60)

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REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH 1972.

Grass Cutting.

This work commenced in May and the usual programme for cutting areas on Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons is being followed.

Rusthall Cricket Ground - (Min 9 - 11.4.72)

Two existing notices prohibiting the playing of unauthorised games on this Ground are in good condition and one has been re-sited to better advantage.

Litter Bin (Min. 12 - 11.4.72)

An additional litter bin has been placed by the seats near "Belleville" as directed.

Unauthorised parking near York Cottage - (Min. 13 - 11.4.72)

Guard stones have been erected as authorised.

Rusthall Road/Bretland Road.

A line of concrete posts has been reinstated to stop cars being parked on the Common.

Brighton Lake.

A rather unsightly type of water weed is spreading over the bottom of the Lake, which also interferes with fishing and sailing small boats. Possibly the swans were effective in keeping it in check previously. The manufacturers of a weedicide known as "Caseron" recommend its use for controlling water weeds without detriment to fish, but a concentration sufficient to eradicate the weed would kill the fish. The alternative is to remove as much as possible by raking.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

3rd October, 1972 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor G.J.R. Slater) (Chairman),
Aldermen N.L. Glanfield and D. Savage,
Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger,
Mrs. G.K. Kentner,
Messrs. H.T. Clarke, C.R. Harler,
D.I. Lloyd Roberts and N.J. Lurcook.

1. MINUTES - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £1885.33 were passed for payment.
3. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's report was received and arising therefrom:-

Elm Disease - The Surveyor reported at length about the effects of Elm disease on the Commons and the large number of trees which had been destroyed. It was

Resolved - That in view of the additional expenditure involved in removing the diseased trees the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Town Council be asked to approve a supplementary estimate for £360 to cover the cost of the work in excess of the amount of £140 provided in the Estimates for contingencies.

Replanting - Victoria Grove - It was

Resolved - That 10 Lime trees be planted in Victoria Grove to replace trees which had been felled.

Tree Preservation in Tunbridge Wells - Report by Mr. A. du Gard Pasley -

Extracts from Mr. Pasley's report, relating to trees on the Common, were considered. It was thought undesirable to conceal the Fairground and Fonthill Shelter and it was

Resolved -

(a) That the following recommendations be made to the Town Council:-

- (i) The Fairground, Major Yorks Road - Two or more groups of Birches be planted along the frontage to Major Yorks Road in order to break the frontage line without complete concealment.
- (ii) Fonthill Shelter - Groups of trees be planted in the Fonthill area including some Horse Chestnut trees, as these would form a useful replacement against the time when the existing large Horse Chestnuts become over-mature.
- (iii) Eridge Road - The previous decision to replace the Lime trees in Eridge Road by Maples as and when this is necessary, be adhered to.
- (iv) Consideration be given to planting groups of trees at the eastern end of Tunbridge Wells Common to anticipate the time when existing trees become over-mature and that a sum be included in the Estimates for 1973/74 to cover the expenditure involved.

(b) That, if the above recommendations to replant trees on the Commons are to be implemented, the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Town Council be asked to include a sum in the Estimates for next year to cover the expenditure involved.

Proposed new road across the Common - A firm of Developers having submitted an outline plan to the Lord of the Manor's Agents showing the line of a proposed new road from Eridge Road across the Common to serve

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a residential development area on land bounded by Tunbridge Wells Common on the East, Hungershall Park to the North and the Railway line to the South. It was

Resolved - That permission be not granted to form a new link road across the Common from Eridge Road towards the rear of Hungershall Park.

4. HORSE RIDING ON THE COMMONS - Further to Minute 7 of the meeting held on the 11th April, 1972, the Clerk reminded the Conservators that in view of the frequent complaints received in recent years concerning horse riding on the Commons during the winter months, he would again write to all Riding Stables in the area, reminding them that horses should not be taken across the Commons during the months of November to March.

Resolved - That the Clerk take the action outlined above and that if offenders can be ascertained, the Clerk be instructed to write to them immediately, drawing attention to the byelaws.

5. CHRISTIAN WITNESS RALLY - The Clerk reported that he had approved the use of the Lower Cricket Ground on the evening of the 30th September, for a Christian Witness Rally.

Resolved - That the action taken be confirmed.

6. CARS ON THE LOWER CRICKET GROUND - A request had been received for action to be taken to stop picnickers parking their cars on the Lower Cricket Ground.

Resolved - That in view of the expenditure involved no action be taken for the time being but that the matter be kept under observation.

7. PARKING OF CARS IN APSLEY STREET - A resident in Apsley Street having written to ask if steps could be taken to stop indiscriminate parking of cars on Common land in that area. It was

Resolved - That the Surveyor keep the area under observation and action be deferred pending the receipt of further information concerning the ownership of the vehicles.

W. J. J. J.

PP Mayor

2nd January, 1973.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER 1972.

Grass Cutting. This work has proceeded continuously since the last meeting. The final round of cutting is now in progress.

Brighton Lake. (Min.8 - 27.6.72). The lake has been raked to remove water weed and quite a large quantity was taken out. The main difficulty arose through muddy water caused by the raking which meant that the men were working "blind" for most of the time.

It is suggested that a further effort be made during the Winter.

The ducks have now all disappeared and efforts are being made to replace them.

Parking of cars on the Common adjoining the Toad Rock Retreat P.N.

(Min.11 - 27.6.72). Guard stones have now been placed along the edge of the Common.

Elm Disease. In accordance with authority given at the last meeting steps are being taken to remove all trees affected by the disease.

Inspections have been made in conjunction with the Corporation's designated officer and the extent of the work agreed with him.

The outbreaks are more extensive than in 1971 and occur in Queens Grove, south of the Higher Cricket Ground, Bishops Down/Fir Tree Road junction, Eridge Road opposite Linden Park Road, and south of Hungershall Park on Tunbridge Wells Common and at Langton Road/Tea Garden Lane junction, Langton Road by the "Terry Path", Bretland Road/Rusthall Road junction and near Rusthall Elms on Rusthall Common.

The work of removal is being carried out by Messrs. Westguard Brothers on a day-work basis on the terms approved by the Conservators in 1971.

Re-planting - Victoria Grove. It is recommended that replacement trees be planted in Victoria Grove but not on other sites of elm disease as either there are still sufficient trees left or natural regeneration will make good the deficiencies.

The original trees in Victoria Grove were limes, sycamores and elms. If elms are ruled out for the present then limes would be the more attractive replacement, unless it was thought that one or two beeches would be an attractive substitution.

Tree Preservation in Tunbridge Wells - Report by Mr. A. du Gard Pasley.

Observations on references to the Commons.

- (1) The Fairground, Major Yorks Road, (P.3 para.4). The Fairground lessees and the operator of the car park are likely to object to measures which result in "... the park itself hidden by informal belts of holly, gorse, thorn, hazel and birch trees"

An alternative would be the planting of two or more groups of standard trees, say birches, to break the frontage line without complete concealment.

- (2) Fonthill Shelter, (P.3 para.4). Again it may be thought undesirable to conceal these premises and an improvement might be effected by groups of standard trees, which would also form a useful replacement against the time when the existing large horse chestnuts become over-mature.

- (3) Eridge Road, (P.3 para.5). The report says:- "The lime trees in the verge may need protection and further planting is needed"

The Conservators decided by Minute 7 - 2nd October 1962 that as losses occurred to replace these limes by maples, on the grounds that the limes tend to become hollow and dangerous with age, that they become very tall and darken the adjoining houses excessively leading to periodic expensive pollarding and that they exude an unpleasant sticky substance.

Four replacement maples were planted at that time but were recently removed during the construction of sewers and arrangements are now in hand to replant the four maples with Acer Campestre (the British Maple). This tree does not grow as high as the lime, has attractive red foliage in the Autumn and occurs naturally in Britain.

Note: No reference has been made to the eastern end of Tunbridge Wells Common where the trees are few in number relative to the rest of the Common. Most of them are quite mature so in order to maintain continuity consideration might well be given to the planting of about a dozen trees in a few isolated groups.

Oak, beech and pine would be suitable species to use.

H.C. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

2nd January 1973 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor G.J.R. Slater)
(Chairman)

Alderman N.L. Gleanfield

Mrs. G.K. Kentner

Messrs. H.T. Clarke, B.H. Fountain,
C.R. Harler, D.I. Lloyd-Roberts, and
N.J. Lurcock

1. MINUTES - The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £1,899.89 were passed for payment.
3. ESTIMATES - Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year were amended and approved in the sum of £8,427.

Resolved - That the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Corporation be requested to make provision in its Estimates for the next financial year of an amount of £8,427 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1895.

4. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's report was received and arising therefrom:-

(1) HIGHER CRICKET GROUND - TREES AND CAR PARK - A request having been received from the Linden Park Cricket Club for the lopping of trees at the southern end of the ground in order to alleviate the dampness of the soil, the Surveyor expressed the opinion that this was caused rather by the slope of the ground than by the shade of the trees. In the circumstances the Conservators decided that no action should be taken.

It was further reported that the Cricket Club were concerned at the possible winter use of the car park by the public as this might well cause damage to the surface. In the past the car park has been blocked off in the winter by means of a concrete post, but regular weekend use by hockey teams has now made this impossible. The Club were requesting the installation of a moveable bar.

Resolved - That, subject to the Club agreeing to pay for the bar, permission for its use be given.

(2) ONSLOW HOUSE - LOPPING OF TREES - A new resident at number 4, Onslow House, had requested permission to carry out limited lopping of two sycamore trees opposite his home.

Resolved - That, subject to the resident bearing the cost involved the necessary permission be given.

(3) TEA GARDEN LANE - LIME TREES - Resolved - That two lime trees which are in a potentially dangerous condition be felled and that replanting be undertaken in due course.

(4) DUTCH ELM DISEASE - The Corporation's Parks Superintendent has confirmed the withdrawal of Local Authorities Special Powers to compel the felling of infected trees. The hope is expressed however that the Conservators would pursue a policy of voluntary felling.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be asked to report again on this matter in the Spring.

(5) POST OFFICE ENGINEERING WORKS IN LONDON ROAD/MOUNT EPHRAIM - The Surveyor will ensure that any Common Land affected by these works is re-instated upon completion.

(6) CASTLE ROAD - Resolved - That the offer of Mr. & Mrs. Charles to provide a larch tree to be planted opposite Onslow House be accepted with thanks.

5. PARKING OF CARS IN APSLEY STREET - Further to minute 7 of the meeting of 3rd October 1972, the Surveyor reported on the difficulties experienced by residents in finding parking spaces in the area.

Resolved - That parking in front of the houses be discouraged and, if necessary, prevented by the formation of a bank on the verge, but that no objection be raised to parking on a portion which is not built up. The Surveyor would circularise the local residents informing them of this decision.

6. LAND AT NOS. 13 AND 14 ERIDGE ROAD - PROPOSED PETROL STATION - It was reported that planning permission had been given for a petrol-filling station on this site. The proposed access ways did not need the consent of the Conservators and a tar-macadamed area which at present constitutes a minor encroachment in front of No. 13 is to be returned to grass. Minor matters relating to drainage may require the formal consent of the Conservators.

Resolved - That such approval of these minor drainage matters as may be necessary be left to the Clerk and the Surveyor.

7. ENCROACHMENTS - (1) ANDRIS WAREHOUSE, MAJOR YORK'S ROAD - It was reported that posts and chains had been erected across a tar-macadamed forecourt which was an encroachment onto the Commons. A letter from the ~~owners~~ ^{tenant} of the property in question stated that the forecourt was needed for unloading which could not be carried out on the highway because of the danger of an accident and it seems that the space is used from time to time for parking by unauthorised persons.

Resolved - That the temporary encroachment by way of the tar-macadamed forecourt be permitted. The matter of the posts, which were considered to be a danger to pedestrians, was however deferred for further consideration.

(2) EPHRAIM LODGE - This matter was deferred until the next meeting.

8. DISABLED PERSON - APPLICATION TO STAND VEHICLE ON THE COMMON - An application having been received from a person suffering from developing paralysis, who is unable to park her vehicle near her home was considered and it was

Resolved - That in these exceptional circumstances a special parking bay be authorised on Common Land for exclusive use by this disabled person. The Surveyor was instructed to make all appropriate arrangements.

9. PARKING ON LOWER CRICKET GROUND - It was reported that a number of cars have been parked on this ground at various times.

Resolved - That the Commons Conservators Committee members present at this meeting attend a special site meeting on 9th January at 2.30 p.m. to investigate this problem and give any appropriate instructions to the Surveyor.

10. PLANS OF ENCROACHMENTS ONTO THE COMMON - Members noted that the Surveyor is preparing a book of plans, showing the position as revealed by a detailed survey during the year 1972.
11. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS - Resolved - That meetings of the Commons Conservators be held at 2.30 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:-

3rd April 1973
26th June 1973
2nd October 1973
8th January 1974

Asks
Mayor
3rd April 1973

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REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1972.

Clearance of Undergrowth.

Since the end of grass cutting in October work has been in progress on clearing brambles etc in Apsley Street, Bulls Hollow, Still Green and other small areas.

Other areas affected by fires have also been cleared.

Drainage.

Attention has also been given to clearing drainage channels especially in relation to footpaths.

Messrs. Andris' premises, London Road/Major York's Road junction.

The site of the buildings of these premises was excluded from the Commons by the Act of 1890, but the area covered by the existing buildings differs slightly from the originals.

There has, therefore, been a small encroachment on the Commons in respect of the buildings probably a long time ago, but a substantial tar-paved area on the south eastern and south western sides is a recent encroachment and the erection of dwarf posts and chains on the London Road frontage is even more recent.

The tar-paved area does not constitute a serious loss of amenity for the general public but the posts and chains are a definite obstruction and a potential danger to pedestrians.

Castle Road.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles of No. 2 Onslow House have offered to give a larch tree to be planted on the open space opposite their house and I recommend that the offer be accepted.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

3rd April, 1973 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Councillor G.J.R. Slater) (Chairman), Aldermen M.L. Glanfield and D. Savage, Messrs. H.T. Clarke, B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler, D.I. Lloyd-Roberts, and N.J. Lurcock.

1. MINUTES - The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, subject to the substitution of the word "tenants" for the word "owners" in the fourth line of minute No. 7.
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £2,604.10 were passed for payment.
3. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's Report was received and the Surveyor also reported as follows:-
 - (a) Replanting, Victoria Grove -

Ten lime trees had been planted in Victoria Grove to replace diseased elm trees (minute 3, 3rd October, 1972).
 - (b) Seats -

Six new seats had been provided by the Higher Cricket Ground as replacements for old defective seats.
4. DUTCH ELM DISEASE - Further to minute 4(4) of the meeting held on the 2nd January, 1973, the Surveyor indicated that since the condition of the normal spring growth was not yet apparent he would not be able to report on this matter until the next meeting.
5. ENCROACHMENTS - (1) - ANDRIS WAREHOUSE, MAJOR YORK'S ROAD - Further to minute 7(1) of the meeting held on the 2nd January, 1973, the Surveyor reported on the posts and chains which had been erected by the tenants in order to prevent unauthorised parking on the tar-macadamed forecourt and which constituted an infringement of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, and a danger to pedestrians.

Resolved - That permission for the posts and chains be not granted, but that no objection be raised to one or two notices of a type and in positions to be agreed by the Surveyor.

(2) EPHRAIM LODGE - The Clerk referred to the registrations made in the Register of Common Land in the Register of Town or Village Greens of a small piece of land adjoining "Ephraim Lodge", shown on the plan now produced. He submitted two objections to both registrations, together with evidence which had been provided. The Conservators, having considered at length the evidence together with additional information provided by Members present,

Resolved - (a) That the very small piece of land above referred to adjoining "Ephraim Lodge", Tunbridge Wells cannot fairly be regarded as part of the Tunbridge Wells Commons as defined by section 151 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890 and (b) That the Kent County Council as Registration Authority be requested to cancel both registrations.

(3) BOUNDARIES OF THE COMMON - Resolved - That an inspection of the Commons be made by the Surveyor every ten years, commencing in 1982, to keep a check on possible encroachments or infringements.
6. FAIRGROUND CAR PARK - The Surveyor submitted a letter from the licensee of this car park expressing concern at the damage caused to the turf, particularly at the entrance, by unauthorised vehicles when the attendants are not on duty. The licensee asks whether sufficient old kerbing stones could be provided for him to mark out the entrance in a manner which would prevent such damage. The Surveyor reminded Members of the effect which the proposed tree planting would have on the car park entrance.

Resolved - (a) That sufficient kerbing stones be provided, subject to the licensee being responsible for placing them in position to the satisfaction of the Surveyor
(b) That the matter be reviewed when the trees referred to have become established.

7. POST OFFICE WORKS, LONDON ROAD - The Clerk submitted a notification from the Telephone Manager of intent to undertake duct works in the east grass verge of London Road south of the junction with Mount Ephraim along that verge for a distance of approximately 266 metres southwards to a point at the junction with Church Road, as shown on the plan now produced.
- Resolved - That no objection be raised, subject to reinstatement being carried out to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.
8. LONDON ROAD - SIGHT LINE OPPOSITE VALL ROAD JUNCTION - The Surveyor submitted a plan showing land which the Borough Council had acquired from the Lord of the Manor for the improvement of the sight line and land, being part of the Common which it was required to grade and re-turf in order to provide the best possible effect.
- Resolved - That no objection be raised to the above proposal.
9. LONDON ROAD/VALE ROAD SLIP ROAD - Reference was made to damage caused to Common land at this point by Post Office Vehicles, and consideration was deferred pending the decision of the Borough Council on certain parking restriction proposals and upon the understanding that the Surveyor would keep the matter under review. The Postmaster has already undertaken to reinstate the damaged turf and discourage further encroachment.
10. SEAT - The Surveyor reported that Mrs. Dyer had asked to be allowed to remove to a position within the vicinity of her new residence a seat which she had provided on the Common in memory of her husband.

Resolved - That permission be granted.

L. H. Smith
Mayor, Chelmsford
26th June 1973

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH 1973.

Clearance of Undergrowth.

Various areas of gorse damaged by fire near Castle Road on Tunbridge Wells Common and off Lower Green Road and Rusthall Road on Rusthall Common have been cleared.

The roadside verges in London Road, Eridge Road, Major Yorks Road, Hungershall Park, Fir Tree Road and Bishops Down Road have also been cleared.

Trees.

Onslow House. Min. 4(6) 2.1.73.

The larch tree provided by Mr. & Mrs. Charles has been planted.

Romanoff Lodge.

A request by Mr. Liff, the occupier, that a small number of self-seeded sapling oaks that shade his house be cleared away and an offer to provide replacement trees, all at his expense, have been agreed by the Committee of the Conservators.

Arrangements for the work are in hand including the provision of four Maples, three Hollies and three Mountain Ashes.

Parking on the Lower Cricket Ground. Min 9 - 2.1.73.

The Committee decided at a meeting on site that a concrete post and galvanised tube railing with one removable section be erected at the Castle Road entrance to the ground to prevent unauthorised parking.

Arrangements for the work are in hand.

Eridge Road.

Following completion of the drainage work in the area Montacute Road to Charlton's Nursery a programme of work for reinstating the Common to be carried out by the Contractor has been agreed with the Borough Surveyor's representative.

The work includes clearing away all debris, regulating the surface, cultivation and sowing grass seed and the replacement of four Maple trees on the south side.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

26th June 1973 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Alderman N.L. Glanfield, J.P.) (Chairman)
 Mrs. G.K. Kentner
 Messrs. H.T. Clarke, B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler
 D.I. Lloyd Roberts and N.J. Lurcock

1. MINUTES - The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £1305.57 were passed for payment.
3. REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1973 - The Treasurer submitted the audited Revenue Account for the year ended 31st March 1973, which was approved.
4. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS - BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS - The Clerk reported that the Town Council had appointed the following as its representatives on the Commons Conservators until 31st March 1974:
 His Worship the Mayor (Alderman N.L. Glanfield, J.P.)
 Alderman D. Savage and
 Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger
5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE - Resolved - That the Mayor, Alderman Savage, Messrs. D.I. Lloyd Roberts, N.J. Lurcock and H.T. Clarke be appointed a Committee for the ensuing year (three to form a quorum).
6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS - Resolved - That Alderman N.L. Glanfield and Mr. B.H. Fountain be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts of the Conservators for the current financial year.
7. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS - (1) CLERK - The Clerk reported that he would be retiring from his appointment as Town Clerk of Royal Tunbridge Wells on 31st March 1974 and it was
Resolved - That Mr. M.J.H. Girling be asked to continue in his appointment as Clerk to the Commons Conservators after the 31st of March 1974 notwithstanding his retirement from the Town Clerkship of Royal Tunbridge Wells. Mr. Girling indicated that it would be a pleasure to retain this appointment for the time being.

 (2) TREASURER - The Clerk reported that Mr. D.L. Copeman would be retiring from his appointment as Borough Treasurer of Royal Tunbridge Wells on the 31st of August 1973, or such date as was permitted by the proposed regulations relating to the early retirement of Chief Officers and intimated that Mr. Copeman also wished to retire from the office of Treasurer to the Commons Conservators on the same date.
Resolved - (a) That the Commons Conservators do place on record their very sincere appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Copeman as Treasurer and extend to him their best wishes for his retirement;
 (b) That Mr. S.H. Martin be appointed as Treasurer to the Commons Conservators from the day following Mr. Copeman's retirement.
 (3) SURVEYOR - The Clerk referred to minute 7 of the meeting held on 24th June 1969, regarding the appointment of Mr. Tucker as Surveyor of the Commons Conservators on a year to year basis and it was
Resolved - That Mr. Tucker's appointment be extended, with his consent, for a further term of one year from the 1st October 1973.
8. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's Report was received and arising therefrom it was
Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to arrange for the felling in due course of a number of diseased and dead elm and other trees.
9. ERIDGE ROAD - The Clerk reported upon correspondence with the Kent County Constabulary regarding the parking of vehicles in Eridge Road.
10. UPPER STREET - The Committee felt unable, as a matter of policy, to grant permission to a resident of this road to park his vehicle on Common land.
11. LANGTON ROAD - LAND ADJOINING ALPINE ROSE RESTAURANT - Consideration was given to correspondence regarding the use of a small area of Common

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land by the proprietor of the Alpine Rose Restaurant as a dumping ground for rubbish.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to take this matter up with the owner of the restaurant.

12. GIBRALTAR COTTAGE - Resolved - That the owner be given permission to erect a small notice adjacent to his property in order to try to prevent cars parking across the entrance road.

13. TREES - Resolved - That an offer by the 1st Rusthall Company of Girl Guides to provide a small number of trees on the Common be accepted with thanks and that the Surveyor be authorised to make appropriate arrangements for planting on suitable sites.

14. ENCROACHMENTS - ANDRIS WAREHOUSE - MAJOR YORKS ROAD - Further to minute 5(1) of the meeting on the 3rd April 1973, the Surveyor reported that he had requested the ^{OCCUPIER} owner of this property to remove the posts and chains which he had erected but that so far no action had been taken in the matter.

Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to write to the ^{OCCUPIER} owner requesting the removal of posts and chains in question without further delay

[Handwritten signature]

MAYOR
2ND OCTOBER 1973

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1973.

<u>1971/72</u> £	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1972/73</u> £	<u>1971/72</u> £	<u>Income</u>	<u>1972/73</u> £
	<u>Salaries and Allowances</u>			Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation -	
123.00	Clerk	132.50	6585.59	Contribution for Year	7692.84
93.00	Surveyor	100.25			
66.00	Treasurer	70.75			
66.00	Allowances for expenses	73.50			
	<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>				
39.76	Printing and other office expenses	19.75			
11.70	Public Liability, Vehicle and Fire Insurance	15.87			
7.40	Rates	8.60			
	<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>				
5821.16	General Maintenance by Corporation Works Department	6392.67			
	Repairs, Maintenance and Renewals -				
89.93	Seats	247.78			
7.09	Notice Boards	-			
21.72	Fences and Posts	31.11			
-	Signs	17.37			
38.83	Gates	-			
-	Repairing and Cleaning - Brighton Lake	22.69			
200.00	Clearing Undergrowth	200.00			
-	Removing diseased trees	360.00			
<hr/> £ 6,585.59 <hr/>		<hr/> £ 7,692.84 <hr/>	<hr/> £ 6,585.59 <hr/>		<hr/> £ 7,692.84 <hr/>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1973.

<u>Liabilities</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
<u>1971/72</u> £		<u>1971/72</u> £	<u>1972/73</u> £
Sundry Creditors -		Debtor -	
2725.70	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation	3711.32	Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation
178.00	Others	192.00	for balance of Contribution
		2902.97	
		0.73	Cash at Bank
<u>£ 2,903.70</u>			
		<u>£ 3,903.32</u>	<u>£ 3,903.32</u>

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

7th June, 1973. (60)

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 30th JUNE 1973.

Grass Cutting: This work commenced in late April and will be the main task throughout the Summer.

Apsley Street: Min. 5 - 2.1.73.

A bank has been formed to restrict car parking and up to date motorists are confining themselves to the permitted area.

Caravans: Three caravans were noted on 11th June 1973 parked on the Commons; one in front of Common View and two on the race course on the north side of Hungershall Park.

The assistance of the Police has been sought to ensure their removal.

Elm Disease: The present indications are that the disease is much less evident on the Commons than at this time last year.

At the moment 14 small to medium size trees are definitely affected and 2 small and 5 large trees are suspect.

These trees are in London Road near the Pantiles, on the south side of Hungershall Park, on the south side of the Higher Cricket Ground, by the Queens Grove and on the north-east side of Langton Road near Rusthall Church.

Four other dead trees were noted during the inspection.

It is recommended that consideration be given to felling all dead and diseased trees later in the year when the effects of the disease will be more obvious.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

2nd October 1973 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Alderman N.L. Glanfield, J.P.)
(Chairman)

Councillor Miss P.E.F. Thesiger

Mrs. G.K. Kentner

Messrs. B.B. Fountain, D.I. Lloyd Roberts
and N.J. Lurcock.

1. MINUTES - The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed subject to the substitution of the word "occupier" for "owner" in the third and sixth line of Minute No. 14.
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £1,979.87 were passed for payment.
3. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's report for the quarter ended the 30th September, 1973 was received.
4. BRIGHTON LAKE - Further to minute 8 of the meeting held on the 27th June, 1972, the Surveyor reported his concern about the condition of this lake, particularly with regard to the quantity of weed. Raking has not proved satisfactory, and for weedicide to be effective its concentration would have to be such as would harm the fish. The two swans which had formerly habited the lake but which had not been replaced because of the risk to these birds from the activities of anglers, had apparently been instrumental in keeping down the weed.

Resolved - That the Surveyor be authorised to obtain two swans from the Corporation's Parks Department or, if this is not possible, from another source.
5. ELM DISEASE - Further to minute 8 of the last meeting, the Surveyor reported that it was now apparent that the disease is much more widespread than appeared to be the case in June, and detailed the areas in which some 100 trees of various sizes are affected, the most serious being the single specimen tree in front of Jordan House.

He also reported that Messrs. Westguard & Sons, whose quotation of £6.50 per day inclusive of all plant and tools for disposing of affected trees had been accepted in 1971, had been obliged to increase their rate to £8 per day plus V.A.T.

In response to a question the Surveyor indicated that the cost of inoculation would be £5 per tree and that initially it would have to be carried out annually, although it would appear that as the incidence of the disease waned inoculation would not need to be so frequent. The number requiring treatment would be in excess of 100.

Resolved - That the removal of the trees now detailed be approved with regret, Messrs. Westguard and Sons' quotation of £8 per day being accepted, and that the inoculation of suitable trees, if any, be left to the discretion of the Surveyor.
6. OFFENCE - The Clerk reported on the circumstances of an alleged offence which had been committed against Byelaw 14, but it was agreed that no further action be taken thereon.
7. FONTHILL REST SHELTER - The Clerk reported that the Corporation's Health Committee on receiving a request for permission to sell refreshments at this shelter, had asked for the opinion of the Conservators thereon, but at a subsequent meeting had resolved that it could not contemplate

a letting for such a purpose in the remaining life of the present authority.

Resolved - That, on balance, the Conservators would be opposed to any such suggestion in the future.

8. GIFT OF SEAT - The Conservators accepted with thanks an offer from Mrs. Hughes of Howard Cottage, Mount Sion, to give a standard type seat to be placed on the Common opposite King Charles Church in memory of her son, Sgt. M.W. Hughes, who died early this year.
9. ENCROACHMENT - ANDRIS WAREHOUSE, MAJOR YORK'S ROAD - Further to minute 16 of the last meeting, the Clerk submitted a letter from solicitors acting for the tenant of this property in which a compromise is suggested whereby their client would be responsible for the cost of constructing an earth bank adjoining the footpath in London Road co-extensive with the south-east side of the warehouse building, subject to the Conservators keeping it mowed, and the provision of collapsible posts in line with the back of the footpath from the bank to a point adjoining the footpath which leads north-westwards across the Common. The object would be to keep unauthorised vehicles from using the tenant's parking area whilst allowing pedestrian and authorised trade vehicles access to the parking area.

The Surveyor reported upon the merits of this proposal.

The Conservators, being mindful of the need to prevent unauthorised use of the area, upon which the tenant had been temporarily permitted to encroach,

Resolved - That the proposals outlined above be approved subject

- (a) to not more than five white painted collapsible locking posts, without chains, being provided in positions to be agreed by the Surveyor,
- (b) to the whole work being carried out to the satisfaction of the Surveyor,
- (c) to the Conservators being indemnified against any claims arising through injury, loss or damage caused by the posts,
- (d) to the Conservators reserving the right to revoke the permission given after the first year by six months' notice expiring at any time.

10. TREE PLANTING, 1973 - With reference to minute 3 of the meeting held on the 3rd October, 1972, the Surveyor referred to the provision of £228 in the current estimates for planting trees near the Fairground in Major York's Road, by Fonthill and at the eastern end of the Common, and reported that the Mayor had authorised the acceptance of a quotation from Coblands Nurseries Ltd. (the lowest of three) amounting to £147.85 plus V.A.T. for supplying and planting 41 trees. A few other trees would be obtained locally and planted by direct labour. He produced plans showing the proposed positioning of the trees.

Resolved - That the above action be approved.

11. GIFT OF TREE - The Clerk reported that Mr. and Mrs. H.R. Stewart of 66 Mount Ephraim, wished to plant a tree, preferably a lime, on the Common.

Resolved - That Mr. and Mrs. Stewart be thanked for their offer and the Surveyor be asked to arrange the matter with them.

12. UPPER STREET - PARKING FACILITIES - The Clerk submitted a petition signed by the residents of 17 dwellings in Upper Street seeking the provision of space on the Common for the parking of their cars. The Surveyor reported upon a meeting he had had with a representative of the petitioners. Reference was made to the possibility of the residents themselves providing space at the rear of some of the longer gardens of the properties involved for parking on a communal basis.

Resolved - That this request be not approved.

13. ROAD IMPROVEMENT, MAJOR YORK'S ROAD - The Clerk referred to certain road widening works on the northern side of Major York's Road, near to its junction with London Road, carried out for the benefit of turning traffic. A proper conveyance of the land had been taken but it would appear that the approval of the Conservators had not been sought.

Resolved - That the approval of the Conservators be granted.

14. UNAUTHORISED CAR PARKING - The Surveyor reported upon action he was taking to construct soil banks at the side of the road in Major York's Road to prevent parking on the Common, and was asked to investigate reports of such parking in Castle Road near its junction with Mount Edgcombe Road with the object of constructing similar banks of soil, and in the access from Mount Ephraim Road in front of 83-85 London Road.

15. DEFECTIVE HANDRAILS - The Surveyor was asked to deal with defective handrails in Mount Ephraim and at the side of "St. Helena".

16. VALE ROAD SLIP ROAD - With reference to minute 9 of the meeting held on the 3rd April 1973, the Surveyor reported upon correspondence about vehicles mounting the small area of Common between the slip road and London Road, in which the Head Postmaster suggests that, subject to the approval of the Conservators, the slip road might be widened by taking a strip of Common land about 115 feet long by 6 feet wide into the roadway. This would facilitate the manoeuvring of Post Office vehicles at the Sorting Office entrance and leave the width of the southern end of the slip road for about 75 feet unaltered.

Resolved - That it be left to the Surveyors to the Lord of the Manor and the Conservators to agree to a scheme which would be in the best interests of all parties, subject to posts being erected to prevent any further damage to Common land.

17. THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS IMPROVEMENT ACT, 1890, AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 - The Clerk reported upon the effect of the Local Government Act, 1972 on the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890.

18. SURVEY OF THE COMMONS - The Clerk referred to the recent survey of the Commons conducted by the Surveyor, which had resulted in the resolution of problems caused by a number of encroachments and the recording of the boundaries of the Commons with a considerably greater accuracy than is shown by the small-scale 1890 map. He reminded the Conservators of the extensive detailed work which the Surveyor had carried out to this end, and referred to the contingency sum of £100 which had been included in the current estimates for the purpose of the survey.

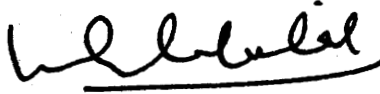
Resolved - That the Surveyor be paid the sum of £100 for this additional work.

19. LANGTON ROAD - LAND ADJOINING THE ALPINE ROSE RESTAURANT - With reference to minute 11 of the last meeting, the Conservators considered the report of the Surveyor on this matter from which it would appear that no action is required to be taken by the Conservators at the present time. The Surveyor was, however, instructed to keep the matter under

review and to request the proprietor of this restaurant to ensure that delivery vehicles are not driven on to Common land.

The Clerk reported upon correspondence concerning certain other matters with regard to the restaurant which would appear to be of private concern between the writer and the proprietor.

(Note: Mr. Lloyd Roberts declared an interest in the above item and did not vote thereon).

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'W. L. Roberts', written over a horizontal line.

MAYOR.

9TH JANUARY 1974

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS

Quarter ending 30th September 1973.

Grass Cutting. This work has continued along the normal routine but has been hindered by shortage of labour and the need to divert the men from time to time to deal with the increasing amount of litter.

Brighton Lake. The condition of the lake is a matter for concern due to the unsightly weed and the amount of litter. The lake has been raked two or three times but the reduction in the quantity of weed has not been fully satisfactory nor lasting.

Apparently the use of a weedicide would not be any more effective if regulated to avoid harm to the fish.

Consideration might well be given to having swans on the lake again as there was no weed until they were removed.

Elm Disease. It is now apparent that the disease is much more widespread than appeared to be the case in June. There are now about 20 large, 50 medium and 33 small trees affected in the following areas:-

- Eridge Road near Linden Park Road junction,
- Hungershall Park,
- Langton Road near Tarry Path,
- Tea Garden Lane,
- Rusthall Elms,
- Fir Tree Road by Bishops Down,
- South side of the Higher Cricket Ground, and
- Queens Grove.

The most serious loss however is the single specimen tree standing in front of Jordan House at the junction of Church Road and London Road.

Encroachments - Andris Warehouse, London Road. Min. 14 - 26.6.73. The posts and chains on the Common in front of these premises have not yet been removed.

Langton Road - Alpine Rose Restaurant. Min. 11 - 26.6.73. I have interviewed the proprietor and inspected the premises. The layout requires that certain stores should enter at the Major Yorks Road end, pass into the central kitchen and thence to the restaurant at the Langton end of the premises. This applies mainly to goods from a distance where the proprietor is unable to control the times of delivery. Goods from local suppliers are required to be delivered before the restaurant is open and are taken in through the restaurant entrance in Langton Road.

Vehicles stand for only a few minutes in Major Yorks Road and goods are not left by the window access from the Common for any longer time.

It is known that this access was used for goods many years ago when the premises were occupied by a builder.

Gift of a seat. Mrs. Hughes of Howard Cottages, Mount Sion has offered to give a standard type seat to be placed on the Common opposite King Charles Church in memory of her son, Sgt. M.W. Hughes, who died early this year.

Tree Planting 1973. Min. 3 - 3.10.72. The proposals of the Conservators for planting trees near the Fairground in Major Yorks Road, by Fonthill and at the eastern end of the Common were accepted by the Town Council and a sum of £228 was included in the current Estimates.

Quotations for supplying and planting 41 trees were obtained from three firms and on the authority of the Mayor the quotation of Coblands Nurseries Ltd was accepted in the sum of £147.85 plus V.A.T.

A few other trees will be obtained locally and planted by our own labour.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

9th January, 1974 - PRESENT - The Mayor (Alderman N.L. Glanfield, J.P.)
(Chairman)

Alderman D. Savage
Mrs. G.K. Kentner
Messrs. H.T. Clarke, B.H. Fountain,
C.R. Harler, D.I. Lloyd Roberts and
H.J. Lurcook.

1. MINUTES - The Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £1,889.81 were passed for payment, and an account for £100 paid was approved.
3. ESTIMATES - Estimates of the amount required for the purposes of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year were approved in the sum of £9,181.

Resolved - That the Amenities Committee of the Tunbridge Wells District Council be requested to make provision in its estimates for the next financial year of an amount of £9,181 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, the Public Health Act, 1875, and all its other statutory powers.

4. INSURANCE POLICY - The Treasurer reported upon quotations received for new Insurance policies with effect from the 1st April, 1974, and the Conservators approved the acceptance of the risk by the Municipal Mutual Insurance Limited involving a slight overall reduction in premiums.
5. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's report for the quarter ended the 31st December, 1973, was received.
6. ELM DISEASE - Further to minute 5 of the last meeting, the Surveyor reported that the Contractor had commenced felling the diseased elm trees but had been handicapped by shortage of petrol for his tractor and crane. The work has, however, now been completed.
7. GIFTS OF TREES - Further to minute 11 of the last meeting, the Surveyor reported that Mr. and Mrs. Charles had offered a beech tree to be planted between Castle Road and "Highbury".

Resolved - That the offer be accepted with thanks, and the Surveyor be asked to arrange accordingly.

8. REMOVAL OF DANGEROUS LIME TREES - Further to minute 8 of the meeting held on the 26th June, 1973 and minute 5 of the last meeting, the Surveyor reported that the Contractor had been unable to fell the two dangerous lime trees in Tea Garden Lane until recently and had submitted his account based on the quotation accepted under the above-quoted minute 5 instead of that ruling when the order for the removal of these trees was placed.

Resolved - That, in the circumstances now reported, the account be accepted and paid.

9. UNAUTHORISED CAR PARKING - Further to minute 14 of the last meeting, the Surveyor reported that the bank had been formed on the west side of Major York's Road and would be seeded in due course.

Reports were also received concerning unauthorised parking in the access

road to 83-85 London Road, in front of 25-27 Eridge Road, opposite Bretland Road, and adjacent to the top end of Major Yorks Road on one occasion with regard to which an apology had been received.

Resolved -

- (a) That the Surveyor be asked to supply details of offending vehicles in London Road to the Clerk with a view to letters being sent on the lines now indicated;
- (b) That the Surveyor be authorised to place kerb stones in positions to prevent the parking in Eridge Road;
- (c) That the apology with regard to the parking in Major York's Road be accepted.

10. VALE ROAD SLIP ROAD - Further to minute 16 of the last meeting, reports were received on arrangements which had been agreed in principle for the widening of the slip road for a length of 115 feet from its junction with London Road, which would involve the incorporation of a six feet wide strip of the Common for the whole 115 feet. Other improvement works, which had been agreed in principle with the Highway Authority, would provide an improved entrance to the Post Office Yard for the benefit of larger vehicles. On the approval of the above proposals the Post Office would provide, erect and maintain bollards along the slip road edge of the Common. The Local Authority would take action to prevent parking on the roadway.

Resolved - That the proposals be approved as far as the Conservators are concerned, subject to the bollards being erected for the whole length of the slip road and to the improvement to the yard entrance being effected within six months or such longer period as the Conservators shall approve.

11. PETROL FILLING STATION, 13/14 ERIDGE ROAD - Further to minute 6 of the meeting held on the 2nd January, 1973, the Surveyor suggested the replacement of two lime trees by two maple trees in slightly different positions as part of the improvement of the access to these premises already approved.

Resolved - That the Surveyor's suggestion be approved, and that the Developers be required to complete reinstatement of the site to the Surveyor's satisfaction.

12. RABBITS - In reply to a question, the Surveyor reported upon the present arrangements for the control of rabbits on the Commons.

13. ALDERMAN SAVAGE - The Mayor reminded those present that this would be the last meeting which Alderman Savage would attend as a Conservator appointed by the Local Authority, and it was

Resolved - That the Conservators' appreciation of his services as a Conservator over many years be recorded.

14. CHAIRMANSHIP - The Mayor, in referring to this last occasion on which a Mayor of the Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells would take the Chair as of right, expressed thanks to the Conservators for their support during his year of office.

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

2nd April, 1974
25th June, 1974
1st October, 1974
7th January, 1975.



CHAIRMAN

DRAFT.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

EXPENDITURE	ESTIMATE 1973/74		REVISED EST. 1973/74		ESTIMATE 1974/75	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Salaries</u>						
Clerk	135		142		144	
Surveyor	102		107		109	
Treasurer	72		76		77	
Allowances for expenses	<u>75</u>		<u>79</u>		<u>81</u>	
		384		404		411
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>						
Printing and other office expenses	25		25		25	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	12		16		16	
Rates	<u>8</u>		<u>9</u>		<u>9</u>	
		45		50		50
<u>Other Expenditure - Annual</u>						
General Maintenance by Corporation						
Works Department	7100		7100		7850	
Repairs, maintenance and renewals -						
Seats	250		250		250	
Notice Boards	30		30		30	
Fences and posts	40		40		40	
Depot and Toolshed	25		25		25	
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake	25		25		25	
Clearing undergrowth	200		200		200	
Removing diseased trees	<u>-</u>		<u>350</u>		<u>300</u>	
		7670		8020		8720
<u>Proposed Tree Planting</u>						
Major Yorks Road/Fairground	61		61		-	
London Road/Castle Road/Fonthill	85		85		-	
Mount Ephraim Road/London Road/Church Road	<u>82</u>		<u>82</u>		<u>-</u>	
		228		228		-
Preparation of up-to-date Survey of Commons		100		100		-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£ 8,427		8,802		9,181

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR TO THE COMMONS CONSERVATORS.

QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1973.

General.

Following the end of grass cutting the maintenance staff have been employed on clearing rubbish, edging gravel paths and trimming undergrowth on the sides of roads.

Note: Work has been hindered during the past three months owing to shortage of labour. Only two men have been available out of the normal full-time staff of four men. The shortage is general throughout the Corporation services. Meanwhile students are employed whenever they are available.

Trees.

(a) Elm Disease. The Contractor has commenced felling the diseased elm trees but has been handicapped by shortage of petrol for his tractor and crane.

(b) Gifts of trees. Mr. & Mrs. Stewart have agreed to give a lime tree to be planted between London Road and "Gibraltar Cottage" (Min. 11 - 2.10.73), and Mr. & Mrs. Charles have offered a beech tree to be planted between Castle Road and "Highbury".

Unauthorised Car Parking.

(1) Major York's Road. A bank to prevent parking has been formed on the west side and will be seeded in the Spring. (Min. 4 - 2.10.73).

(2) 83-85 London Road. Four or more cars plus a caravan are regularly parked in the access road to these properties and one or more cars continue to be parked on the Common in spite of the erection of posts at Lime Hill Road and Mount Ephraim Road (Min. 14 - 2.10.73).

Vandalism.

During the weekend of 3rd/4th November four seats were wrecked and two damaged on Rusthall Common in the vicinity of Rusthall Cricket Ground and at the same time seven saplings or poles were sawn off and left lying where they fell. The Police were informed but nothing official has come from them.

H.G. TUCKER.

Surveyor to the Commons Conservators.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

9th April 1974 - PRESENT - Councillors Glanfield, Mrs Streeten,
Miss Thesiger and Wolvey.
Mrs G K Kentner, Messrs H T Clarke,
B H Fountain, C R Harler, D I Lloyd Roberts
and H J Lurcook

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved - That Councillor Glanfield be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

Councillor Glanfield in the Chair

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

3. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £2,256.90 were passed for payment.

4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE -

Resolved - That the Chairman (Councillor Glanfield), Councillor Wolvey, Messrs D I Lloyd Roberts, N J Lurcook and H T Clarke be appointed as Committee for the ensuing year (Three to form a quorum)

5. ENCROACHMENT - Andris Warehouse, Major York's Road - Further to Minute 9 of the Meeting held on 3rd October 1973, it was reported that the works referred to in that Minute had not yet been carried out.

Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to write to the occupier informing him that the works must be completed not later than the 24th June 1974.

6. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's report for the quarter ended the 31st March 1974 was received.

7. RUSTHALL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION - The Surveyor submitted a letter from this Association drawing attention -

- (i) to the untidy nature of the area adjoining Toad Rock;
- (ii) to the need to clear saplings etc. on the rocks adjoining Upper Street and Apsley Street for the benefit of the occupiers of the properties in those Streets.
- (iii) to the need to clear the rubbish from the area known as Still Green at the rear of Grange Road and adjacent to Hurst Wood and also suggesting that seats might be provided on this land.

The Surveyor reported that there was a certain amount of clearing work to be done in the vicinity of Toad Rock and that this would be undertaken shortly. The area adjoining Grange Road was cleared at regular intervals.

Resolved -

- a) That the Committee be requested to view the area adjoining Upper Street and Apsley Street and to authorise the Surveyor to take such action as they may deem expedient.
- b) That one seat be provided on the land near Grange Road.

8. LOWER CRICKET GROUND -

(i) The Surveyor reported that, in consultation with the Clerk, permission had been granted to the Royal Naval Association to hold a Service on the Lower Cricket Ground on the 8th June 1974 to dedicate a new standard.

Resolved - That the action taken be confirmed.

(ii) The Agent to the Manorial Authorities reported that permission had been granted for a Dawn Service to be held on Easter Sunday.

9. FAIRGROUND CAR PARK, MAJOR YORK'S ROAD - The Clerk reported that a request was likely to be forthcoming from the Military Authorities for permission to station a tank on this Car Park in conjunction with a recruiting campaign.

Resolved - That permission be granted to park a stationary tank in this car park for a limited period of time on the clear understanding that the Military Authorities indemnify the Lord of the Manor and the Conservators against all claims howsoever arising, make good any damage occasioned, and leave the area in a clean and tidy condition at the conclusion of the exhibition.

10. RUSTHALL COMMON - Consideration was given to a request from The Boy Scouts Association to hold a fete on the 13th July 1974 on the grass area between Lower Green Road and Rusthall High Street and also in front of Common View.

Resolved - That permission be granted subject to the Organisers indemnifying the Lord of the Manor and Conservators against all claims howsoever arising from the use of the land, make good any damage occasioned, and leave the area in a clean and tidy condition at the conclusion of the fete.

11. RABBIT CLEARANCE - The Surveyor submitted a letter from a number of residents of properties on the Common regarding the Conservators policy of rabbit clearance and the methods used.

The present methods have been practiced for a number of years and, in view of the need to reduce the number of rabbits on the Common, it was

Resolved - That the complainants be informed that the Conservators regret that they are unable to vary their existing policy.

12. VALE ROAD SLIP ROAD - Further to Minute 10 of the meeting held on 9th June 1973, the Clerk reported upon the detailed proposals submitted by the Post Office to the Lord of the Manor for the improved entrance to the Post Office Yard and for the erection of bollards along the whole length of the slip road.

Resolved - That, subject to the Surveyor being satisfied as to the siting and type of bollards to be used, and to the Post Office agreeing to be responsible for their future maintenance, no further observations be raised on behalf of the Conservators.

13. LITTER - The Surveyor was instructed to provide at least one additional litter bin in the Mount Ephraim area.

14. CYCLING - The Clerk reported a complaint which had been received regarding cycling by children on the footpaths on Rusthall Common and it was agreed that the Police should be asked to patrol the area from time to time with a view to minimising this nuisance.
15. ELECTRICITY CABLES - The Agent to the Manorial Authorities reported that permission had been granted to the South Eastern Electricity Board to lay an underground cable between Fonthill and London Road to serve a number of new lamp standards which had recently been erected in London Road. Reinstatement will be carried out to the satisfaction of the Surveyor to the Conservators.
16. WATER MAINS -
- Resolved - That permission be granted to the West Kent Water Authority to lay water mains near to Rusthall Grange and at Still Green, subject to the work of reinstatement being carried out to the entire satisfaction of the Surveyor.
17. UNAUTHORISED CAR PARKING - Further to Minute 9 of the Meeting held on the 9th January 1974, the Clerk reported that he had written to the occupiers of Nos. 83 to 85 London Road regarding unauthorised car parking in front of those properties and submitted replies received.

It appears that to some limited extent the position may have been alleviated following the completion of improvement works to No. 83 London Road.

Resolved -

- a) That the matter be kept under review
- b) That the occupier of No. 84 London Road be requested to remove the caravan parked in front of these premises within the next three months
- c) That the Manorial Authorities be requested to write in support of a further letter to be addressed by the Clerk to the occupiers of the properties concerned.
18. INSURANCES - The Treasurer was instructed to review in detail, the Third Party Insurance Policy now maintained by the Conservators.
19. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS - Further to Minute 15 of the meeting held on the 9th January 1974, the Clerk reported that as a result of local government reorganisation accommodation would not now be available in the Town Hall for the proposed meeting of the Conservators on 1st October, 1974.

Resolved - That, in the circumstances, the meeting in question be held on the 8th October 1974.

[Handwritten signature]

Chairman

30 June 1974

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

25th June, 1974 - PRESENT - Councillor Glanfield (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs. Streeten & Wolvey
Mrs. G.K. Kentner, Messrs.H.T.Clarke,
B.H. Fountain, C.R. Harler,
D.I. Lloyd-Roberts and H.J.Lurcook.

1. MINUTES - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £1,658.31p were passed for payment.
3. INSURANCES - The Treasurer reported upon his correspondence with the Municipal Mutual Insurance Co. Ltd., regarding the Third Party insurance policy maintained by the Conservators from which it appeared that no revision was necessary at the present time.
4. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS - The Treasurer reported that the Conservators' bankers have now requested a new mandate in respect of the Conservators' banking account.

Resolved -

- (a) That an account be continued with Lloyds Bank Ltd. 82 Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells.
- (b) That the Bank be instructed to honour and debit to the account of The Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators whether in credit or overdrawn or becoming overdrawn in consequence of any such debit all cheques, drafts or other orders or receipts for money signed on behalf of the Conservators provided they are signed by the Clerk and two of the Conservators.
- (c) That the Bank be furnished with a copy of any Rules and Regulations of the Conservators, and also with copies of any resolutions amending them that may from time to time be passed, duly certified by the Clerk to the Conservators.
- (d) That the Bank be furnished with a list of the names of the Conservators, Clerk, and Executive Officers of the Conservators, and that the Bank be authorised to act on any information given by the Chairman or the Clerk as to any changes therein.
- (e) That these resolutions be communicated to the Bank and remain in force until an amending resolution shall be passed by the Conservators and a copy thereof, certified by the Clerk shall have been received by the Bank.

5. ACCOUNTS FOR 1973/74 - The Treasurer submitted the audited accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1974 which were approved.
6. RUSTHALL COMMON - NEW TREES. - The Clerk submitted a letter from the Rusthall Residents' Association regarding the damage to a number of newly planted trees near the junction of Lower Green Road and Rusthall Road.
- Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to replace the trees in question.
7. FAIRGROUND - MAJOR YORK'S ROAD -
- Resolved - That the Surveyor be instructed to investigate the possibility of planting additional trees near the fairground.
8. ENCROACHMENTS - ANDRIS WAREHOUSE, MAJOR YORK'S ROAD - Further to Minute 5 of the meeting held on the 9th April, 1974, the Clerk reported that the posts and drains referred to in Minute 14 of the meeting on the 26th June, 1973, had now been removed.
9. UNAUTHORISED CAR-PARKING - Further to Minute 17 of the meeting held on the 9th April, 1974, it was reported that the occupier of 84 London Road had now removed the caravan parked in front of those premises.
10. REGENCY NURSING HOME - 77 LONDON ROAD - The Surveyor submitted a request from this Home for permission to erect a sign 2-ft wide x 1-ft. 6-ins. high bearing the words "Nursing Home Entrance Keep Clear" adjacent to the entrance to the property in an attempt to prevent people from parking across the entrance to the Home.
- Resolved - That permission be granted.
11. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's Report for the quarter ended 30th June, 1974 was received.
- Arising from the report the Surveyor was instructed :-
- (a) to provide two additional litter bins near Toad Rock.
- (b) to express the Conservators' thanks to the volunteers who have cleared litter from the Denny Bottom area.
12. REMOVAL OF METAL OBJECTS FROM THE COMMON - Reference was made to the growing practice of a number of people who search the Common for buried metal objects with metal detectors. A number of instances of this have arisen and, in some cases, the Common has been dug up and a hole left which could be dangerous to persons walking on the Common.
- Resolved - That the Clerk be instructed to draw the attention of the police to this matter with a request that they should take any possible action to prevent persons from engaging in this practice.

13. SEAT-LONDON ROAD. The Surveyor reported that Mrs. Corke of 61 London Road had offered to provide a seat on the Common next to her property, in memory of her late mother.

Resolved - That the offer be received with thanks.

W. H. H. H. H.

W. H. H. H.

8th October 1974

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

8th October, 1974 - PRESENT - Councillor Glanfield (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs. Streeten and Miss Thesiger
Messrs. H.T. Clarke, C.R. Harler,
D.I. Lloyd-Roberts and N.J. Lurcock.

1. MINUTES - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £2,103.28p were passed for payment.
3. BRIGHTON LAKE
 - (1) Cleaning - The Surveyor reported that an offer had been received to clear the lake on four occasions during each year, subject to a payment of £12 per annum.
Resolved - That the offer of Aquaculturists (Live Foods) Ltd., as detailed in their letter of 16th September, 1974, be accepted and the Surveyor authorised to make the necessary arrangements.
 - (2) Swans - The Surveyor reported that two swans were to be provided for the lake later in the year.
4. OFFER OF TREES - The Surveyor reported an offer to provide five young English Yew Trees for planting on the Commons.
Resolved - That the offer be not accepted.
5. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's Report for the quarter ended 30th September, 1974 was received.

Arising from the report the Surveyor was instructed to:-
 - (a) arrange for the felling of a number of trees on the Commons affected by Dutch Elm Disease on the same basis as previously.
 - (b) arrange for the clearing of sucker growth adjacent to Baxterley Flats, Bretland Road, Tunbridge Wells.
 - (c) accept with thanks a seat offered by Miss Dennis in memory of her late Mother, to be placed near to Jordan House, London Road, Tunbridge Wells.
6. TEA GARDEN LANE - The Surveyor reported upon a complaint received regarding the damage caused by vehicles to the road side verge in Tea Garden Lane. The Conservators agreed that there was no immediate danger, but the Surveyor was instructed to arrange, in due course, for the banks on either side of the road to be built up with soil to prevent parking on the Common.
7. VALE ROAD - SLIP ROAD - The Surveyor reported that the work of widening this road and erecting bollards had been completed.

8. PROPERTY IN LONDON ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS - The Clerk submitted a letter from B.H. Fountain Flanagan Associates regarding the proposed use of a property in London Road as offices, involving the provision of parking space, and enquiring whether, in the circumstances, the Conservators would agree to the painting of double yellow lines on the built up side of the access road from Mount Ephraim Road and a single yellow line on the Common side in order to provide unobstructed access.

As the planning application for change of use of the premises has not yet been considered by the Tunbridge Wells District Council it was decided that consideration of this matter should be deferred.

9. SURVEYOR TO CONSERVATORS - The Chairman reported that Mr. H.G. Tucker had intimated that he wished to resign as Surveyor to the Conservators on the 31st March, 1975.

It was agreed that if at all possible the newly appointed Surveyor should take up his duties at least three months prior to Mr. Tucker's retirement. The Chairman was therefore authorised to make the appointment on the lines now indicated.

W. H. L. L. L.

Chairman

7th January 1975.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

EXPENDITURE	ESTIMATE 1974/75		REVISED EST. 1974/75		ESTIMATE 1975/76	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Salaries</u>						
Clerk	144		165		175	
Surveyor	109		125		133	
Treasurer	77		87		93	
Allowances for expenses	81		93		99	
Contingency provision	<u>-</u>		<u>200</u>		<u>100</u>	
		411		670		600
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>						
Printing and other office expenses ...	25		25		30	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance ...	16		15		15	
Rates	<u>9</u>		<u>17</u>		<u>20</u>	
		50		57		65
<u>Other Expenditure</u>						
General Maintenance by Council Works						
Department	7850		7967		10100	
Repairs, maintenance and renewals -						
Seats	250		250		250	
Notice Boards and Signs	30		30		30	
Fences and posts	40		40		40	
Depot and Toolshed	25		40		40	
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake ...	25		25		35	
Clearing undergrowth	200		200		200	
Removing diseased trees	<u>300</u>		<u>328</u>		<u>300</u>	
		8720		8880		10995
TOTAL EXPENDITURE £		9,181		9,607		11,660

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

7th January, 1975 PRESENT: Councillor Glanfield (Chairman)
 Councillors: Mrs. Streeten and Wolvey
 Mrs. Kentner
 Messrs. H.T. Clarke, C.R. Harler
 B. Fountain, D.I. Lloyd-Roberts and N.J. Lurcock

1. MINUTES - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £1,814.36p were passed for payment.
3. ESTIMATES - Estimates of the amount required for the purpose of the Commons Conservators for the next financial year were approved in the sum of £11,660.

RESOLVED - That the Amenities Committee of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council be requested to make provision in its estimates for the next financial year of an amount of £11,660 under the provisions of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act 1890, the Public Health Act 1875 and all its other statutory powers.

4. SURVEYOR TO CONSERVATORS - Further to Minute 9 of the last meeting the Chairman reported that he had appointed Mr. E.S. Couchman as Surveyor to the Conservators, and that Mr. Couchman would take up his duties with effect from the 7th January, 1975, in order to enable him to work with Mr. Tucker for three months prior to his retirement.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the Chairman's action be confirmed.
 - (b) That Mr. Couchman's remuneration for the period 7th January to 31st March, 1975, be at the same rate as at present paid to Mr. Tucker.
 - (c) That the Surveyor's remuneration from the 1st April, 1975 be in the sum of £150 per annum plus £65 travelling allowance.
 - (d) That a suitable presentation be made to Mr. Tucker upon his retirement.
5. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's Report for the quarter ended 31st December, 1974 was received.
 6. PROPERTY IN LONDON ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS - Further to Minute 8 of the last meeting, it was reported that this matter had now been withdrawn.
 7. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED - That Meetings of the Commons Conservators be held at 2.30 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:-

8th April, 1975
24th June, 1975
7th October, 1975
6th January, 1976

8. 83 LONDON ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS - Attention was drawn to the practice of a resident of one of the flats in this property in driving his vehicle across the Common to gain access to London Road.

RESOLVED - That the Surveyor be asked to investigate this matter in conjunction with the Agents to the Lord of the Manor.

9. CLERK

RESOLVED - That, with effect from the 1st April, 1975, the travelling allowance paid to the Clerk be increased to £50 per annum.

10. PARKING ON THE COMMON - The Clerk submitted a letter just received from a resident of Rusthall relating to parking on the Common near Bretland Road.

RESOLVED - That consideration of this matter be deferred in order that the Clerk may investigate the legal position and report further to the next meeting.

11. UPPER STREET - The Clerk submitted a letter from the Agent to the Lord of the Manor stating that it appeared that a considerable amount of water had drained off the Common on to a number of properties in Upper Street following the recent heavy rains.

The Surveyor reported that there appeared to be no evidence of excessive water flowing over the Common, but that he had drawn the attention of the Director of Technical Services to this matter in order that attention could be given to a ditch which ran along the edge of Upper Street and a drain which takes surface water from Rusthall Road.

12. LOWER GREEN ROAD - FOOTPATH - The Agent of the Lord of the Manor drew attention to the request which had been received for the making up of a footpath which led to No. 6 Lower Green Road. It appears that the path in question is a private path, and in the circumstances the Conservators felt unable to take any action in the matter.

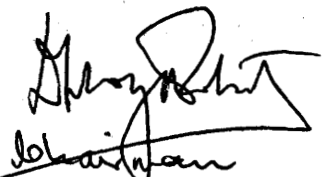
13. EASEMENT - The Agent to the Lord of the Manor reported the receipt of an application for an easement to the laying of an underground gas pipe from Harmony Street across the Common to the "Hobblies" in Rusthall Park.

RESOLVED - That no objection be raised to the proposed works provided re-instatement is carried out to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

14. BRIGHTON LAKE - SWANS

With reference to Minute 3(ii) of the last meeting, the Surveyor reported that the two swans which were to be provided for this Lake had not yet been delivered. A request has been received from the R.S.P.C.A. that, in view of the injuries sustained to wild life on the Lake from fishing tackle, etc. the Conservators decision might be reconsidered.

RESOLVED - That the request of the R.S.P.C.A. be acceded to and the Surveyor be instructed to cancel the arrangements made for the delivery of the swans.


8th April 1975.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

8th April, 1975 PRESENT: Councillors Mrs. Streeten, Miss Thesiger
and Wolvey
Mrs. Kentner
Messrs. H.T. Clarke, C.R. Harler, B. Fountain,
D.I. Lloyd-Roberts, and N.J. Lurcock.

1. CHAIRMAN -

RESOLVED - That, in the absence of the Chairman, (Councillor Glanfield),
Mr. D.I. Lloyd-Roberts be appointed Chairman of the meeting.

Mr. D.I. Lloyd-Roberts in the Chair

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

3. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £2,062.22 were passed for payment.

4. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's Report for the quarter ended 31st
March, 1975 was received.

5. ENCROACHMENT - The Surveyor reminded the Conservators that, in the
Report prepared in 1972, encroachments noted in respect of Mount
Edgumbe Private Hotel included an unenclosed garden on the
north-eastern side. He reported that this garden, together with the
approach to the back door of the hotel, had now been enclosed with
a low interwoven lap larch fence.

RESOLVED - That the tenant be required to remove the fence across the
approach to the back of the building.

6. WOODSIDE ROAD/STILL GREEN AREA - The Surveyor referred to his report
of June, 1974, and stated that he had now arranged with the Borough
Council for a container bin to be placed in the Woodside Road/Still
Green Area for the collection of refuse on a regular basis. It was
hoped that this would reduce the amount of litter scattered around
the area.

7. SEATS - The Surveyor reported that Miss D. Martin had offered to
provide a six foot teak seat of the approved type to replace one
missing near Mount Ephraim in memory of her mother who died in
February 1975 after living for many years near the hospital.

RESOLVED - That the offer be accepted with thanks and that the Surveyor
be instructed to make the necessary arrangements for the seat to be
placed in position.

8. TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND COUNTIES CLUB - The Surveyor reported that the
Borough Council's attention had been drawn to the marking of the
words "private" in several places along the frontage of the Tunbridge
Wells and Counties Club in London Road. These markings are on common
land but as they are also on the route of a footway the Borough
Council is taking the necessary action.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

9. PARKING ON THE COMMON - Further to Minute 10, the Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to the person responsible for parking on the Common near Bretland Road and it appeared that the practice had now ceased.
10. HORSE RIDING ON THE COMMON - The Clerk reported that a number of complaints had been received relating to the riding of horses on the Common and he had written to riding establishments in the vicinity drawing their attention to the byelaws and requesting them to inform all riders that they should exercise the greatest possible caution when riding on the Commons during the permitted period to avoid causing danger or inconvenience to pedestrians and damage to the Commons.
11. REVIEW OF INSURANCES -
RESOLVED - That the officers be instructed to review the various insurances and to take any action which they may consider necessary.
12. MAP OF COMMONS - Mr. Tucker presented to the Conservators plans which he had prepared showing the Commons and the various footpaths etc. thereon, together with notes of the encroachments existing at the time of his detailed inspection in the year 1972.
RESOLVED - That the very sincere thanks of the Conservators be expressed to Mr. Tucker and the records be preserved for future reference.
13. MR. H.G. TUCKER - The Chairman presented to Mr. H.G. Tucker a cheque on the occasion of his retirement as Surveyor to the Conservators and expressed very sincere thanks and appreciation of all the work which he had carried out to the benefit and improvement of the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons during the past 17 years.

Mr. Tucker suitably replied.

W. H. G. Tucker

Chairman

24th June 1975

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

24th June, 1975 PRESENT: Councillor Glanfield (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs. Bowles, Mrs. Streeten and Wolvey.

Mrs. Kentner.

Messrs. C.R. Harler and D.I. Lloyd-Roberts.

1. MINUTES - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
2. APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATORS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL -
The Clerk reported that the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council had appointed the following as its representatives to the Commons Conservators for 1975/76:

Councillors Mrs. Bowles, Glanfield, Mrs. Streeten and Wolvey.
3. COUNCILLOR MISS THESIGER - Reference was made to the fact that Councillor Mrs. Bowles had replaced Councillor Miss Thesiger as a Conservator appointed by the Local Authority.

RESOLVED - That the Conservators' appreciation of the services rendered by Councillor Miss Thesiger as a Conservator be recorded.
4. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £3,101.62 were passed for payment.
5. ACCOUNTS FOR 1974/75 - The Treasurer submitted the audited accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1975, which were approved.
6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS -

RESOLVED - That Councillor Glanfield and Mr. B.H. Fountain be appointed as Auditors of the Accounts for the Conservators for the current financial year.
7. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE -

RESOLVED - That the Chairman (Councillor Glanfield), Councillor Wolvey, Messrs. D.I. Lloyd-Roberts, N.J. Lurcock and H.T. Clarke be appointed as Committee for the ensuing year (three to form a quorum).
8. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's report for the quarter ended 30th June, 1975, was received.

9. CLEARANCE OF UNDERGROWTH AND GRAVELLING OF PATHS - The Surveyor reported that the usual programme of clearing undergrowth along roadside verges had been completed, which had included the clearance of areas damaged by fire. The gravelling of some paths had also been completed.
10. GRASS CUTTING - The Surveyor reported that the usual grass cutting programme had started on the 17th April with one machine only. The other two machines were still being overhauled at that time and it was not until the end of the month that a second machine had been returned. The third machine had been declared irreparable.
- RESOLVED - That the Surveyor, in consultation with the Treasurer, be authorised to purchase a replacement machine and to make appropriate arrangements for the future maintenance of the grass cutting machines, if necessary utilising a private contractor.
11. FAIRGROUND, MAJOR YORK'S ROAD - The Surveyor stated that various young trees planted during the past winter did not appear to have "taken".
- RESOLVED - That these trees be replaced with further young trees transplanted from other parts of the Common during the next season.
12. SEATS - The Surveyor informed the Conservators that the seat presented by Miss Martin had been erected and a letter had subsequently been received from her indicating her pleasure with the seat and the position in which it had been placed (opposite No. 67, Mount Ephraim).
13. LITTER - The Clerk and the Surveyor reported on complaints received regarding litter left by rock climbers and picnic parties in the Bulls Hollow area. An additional litter bin has since been placed in the area.
- RESOLVED - That the Surveyor take all appropriate steps to ensure that so far as possible rock climbers and picnic parties do not deposit litter in the Bulls Hollow area.
14. GRAZING ON THE COMMON - The Surveyor reported that in co-operation with the Police, difficulties concerning the grazing of a donkey on the Common had now been satisfactorily resolved.
15. ENCROACHMENTS -
- (a) Mount Edgecombe Private Hotel - Further to Minute 5 the Clerk reported that the tenant's Solicitors had suggested that the fence was effective in preventing vandalism at the above Hotel.

RESOLVED - That the Tenants be granted a temporary consent for a period of one year to enclose the garden on the North Eastern side of the Hotel by means of the existing fence, subject to it being clearly understood that the fence is personal to the Tenants and to their erecting a suitable notice drawing attention to the public rights over the land enclosed.

(b) London Road - The Clerk reported upon this complaint which has been referred to the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for detailed investigation.

16. DANGEROUS WALL - The Surveyor reported that the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council was taking action in respect of a dangerous wall adjoining the Common and belonging to No. 86 Mount Ephraim (Womens' Royal Volunteer Service Residential Club). A warning notice having been erected and the frontage roped off, the Club were advised that the responsibility for any injury or damage to persons or property on the Common rested with the owners of the wall.

17. PARKING ON THE COMMON - The Surveyor reported on further complaints received from the Occupier of 10 Rusthall Road, regarding unofficial parking opposite that property, suggesting that the provision of a bank as previously authorised would be insufficient, and that the erection of stones would be much more satisfactory. No soil was available at the present time.

RESOLVED - That stones be erected as a temporary measure until such time as soil is available to construct a bank.

18. HORSE RIDING ON COMMON - The Clerk reported on complaints received regarding the galloping of horses across the Common. The Byelaws did not permit riding during the winter months.

RESOLVED - That this matter be deferred until the next meeting when it is hoped that the Press will give appropriate publicity to this problem in advance of the winter season.

19. METAL DETECTORS - The Clerk referred to the practice of some members of the public in using metal detectors on the Common involving the digging up of the ground.

RESOLVED - That the Clerk inform the Press of the Conservators' concern regarding this practice of digging up any part of the Common and the Ranger be asked to take such action as may be possible to prevent the practice.

20. RELAY RACE - The Clerk read a letter from the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council stating that the local Sports Council wished to organise a relay race on Sunday 21st September, 1975, and

had suggested that this should be held on the Common on the site of the old race course. The event would be organised by the Lions Club and it was anticipated that suitable sideshows would be arranged. The Lord of the Manor was unlikely to agree to the provision of sideshows.

RESOLVED - That no objection be made to the proposed relay race subject to the organisers indemnifying the Conservators against any claims howsoever arising from the use of the land but permission to arrange sideshows be refused.

21. TREE - CHURCH ROAD/LONDON ROAD - The Surveyor reported that the rowan tree presented by Miss Dennis planted near the junction of Church Road and London Road had been damaged by vandals and he had now removed the tree except for the stump.

RESOLVED - That a replacement rowan tree be planted on the same site at the appropriate time of year.


Chairman

7th October 1975

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

7th October, 1975 PRESENT: Councillors Mrs. Bowles and Mrs. Streeten
Mrs. Kentner
Messrs. C.R. Harler and D.I. Lloyd-Roberts

1. CHAIRMAN - In the absence of the Chairman it was agreed that Mr. D.I. Lloyd-Roberts should take the Chair for the meeting.

MR. D.I. LLOYD-ROBERTS IN THE CHAIR

2. MINUTES - The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
3. ACCOUNTS - Accounts amounting to £2,816.45 were passed for payment.
4. SURVEYOR'S REPORT - The Surveyor's report for the quarter ended 30th September, 1975, was received.

Arising therefrom it was -

RESOLVED -

- (a) That no action be taken with regard to a suggestion that the paths around the perimeter of the Brighton Lake should be covered with macadam or surface dressed.
- (b) That the Surveyor be authorised to purchase six litter bins at an approximate cost of £6.12 each.
- (c) That the Surveyor be authorised to arrange for the felling and disposal of trees suffering from Dutch Elm Disease after consultation with the Council and tree specialist.
5. GYPSIES - CAMPING ON COMMON - The Clerk reported upon the circumstances in which gypsies had been found camping on the Common.

RESOLVED - That as the gypsies had now moved no action be taken to institute proceedings in this particular case.

6. HIGHER CRICKET GROUND - LINDEN PARK CRICKET CLUB - The Clerk reported upon the difficulties being experienced by this Club due to various persons playing on the cricket pitch area which is set aside for that purpose.

RESOLVED - That the Club be authorised to erect suitably worded signs drawing attention to the provisions of the Act or the byelaws made thereunder the wording of the sign to be agreed with the Clerk and the siting by the Surveyor.

7. HORSE RIDING ON THE COMMON - Further to Minute 18 of the last meeting, the Conservators gave further consideration to complaints received regarding the galloping of horses across the Common.

The byelaws do not permit the riding of horses over the Common during the winter months.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the Clerk be instructed to write to all known riding establishments in the area drawing their attention to the fact that riding on the Common is prohibited during the winter months.
- (b) That prior to next summer the Clerk be further instructed to write to all riding establishments drawing their attention to the danger to pedestrians from horses galloping on the Common.

8. HARMONY STREET - STEPS - The Clerk reported upon correspondence regarding the need to provide a handrail to the steps in Harmony Street to facilitate their use by handicapped persons.

The steps were reconstructed by the Conservators on a without prejudice basis during the year 1968 after it had proved quite impossible to ascertain the person or persons responsible for maintenance. The new steps are much less steep and safer than the original steps but a handrail was not included in the original scheme on grounds of expense and a potential liability for maintenance so often arising as a result of vandalism. Moreover the ramped approach from Harmony Street provided an easy alternative access for handicapped persons.

RESOLVED - That, in view of the position as set out above which, in the opinion of the Conservators, has not changed, no action be taken on the request.

9. FINANCIAL GUIDELINES - 1976/77 - The Treasurer reported that it seemed likely that the Borough Council would need to know the Conservators requirements for 1976/77 before detailed estimates were considered at the January Meeting. The position had also been discussed with representatives of the Borough Council and it was clear that there will be no room for extension or development of services during the coming financial year and that the Borough Council's estimates were being prepared on that basis - i.e. the same level of expenditure in real terms as was provided for in the current financial year. The Treasurer also stated he had discussed the position with the Surveyor and had prepared the following provisional estimates which at this stage included no provision for increases in future levels of pay or other costs:-

	Estimate 1975/76	Revised Estimate 1975/76	Estimate 1976/77 (at September 1975 rates)
<u>Provisional Estimates - Summary</u>			
Salaries and allowances for expenses	£ 600	£ 635	£ 660
Establishment and miscellaneous expenses	65	70	75

General Maintenance of Commons	10,100	10,100	10,100
Repairs, maintenance and renewals	895	910	905
Replacement of grass cutting machine	-	-	510
	<u>£11,660</u>	<u>£11,715</u>	<u>£12,250</u>

RESOLVED - That the foregoing provisional estimates be approved in principle.

10. INSURANCE - The Clerk reported with regard to the possible fire risk to buildings on the Common during the very dry summer weather and the Treasurer was instructed to discuss this matter with the insurers to ascertain whether or not this particular risk would be covered by the Conservators' Third Party Policy. If the risk was not included it was agreed that arrangements should be made to provide suitable cover and authority was given for the payment of any small increase in premium.

11. LITTER - The Clerk submitted a letter from Mr. B.H. Fountain regarding the amount of litter on the Common particularly in the vicinity of the ice-cream van which parked near to the Higher Cricket Ground.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the agent to the Lord of the Manor be asked to write to the Licensee requiring him to make suitable arrangements for the provision of portable litter bins and
- (b) That the Surveyor be instructed to provide some additional litter bins in the general area of the Higher Cricket Ground.

12. HUNGERSHALL PARK - The Surveyor reported that a firm of developers who were proposing to carry out development in Hungershall Park and needed to remove certain bushes and shrubs on a small area of the Common in order to obtain a satisfactory sight line to meet planning requirements.

RESOLVED - That the developers request be agreed subject to the Conservators not being included in any cost or liability whatsoever and also upon the condition that the owner and his successors in title should in no way obtain any legal estate in that part of the Common land which is to be kept clear of grass and vegetation in order to provide additional visibility to the entrance of West Flat, Hungershall Park.

W. H. L. L. L.
Chairman
6th January, 1976

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMONS CONSERVATORS

EXPENDITURE				ESTIMATE 1975/76		REVISED EST. 1975/76		ESTIMATE 1976/77	
				£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Salaries</u>									
Clerk	...	...	...	175		192		200	
Surveyor	...	...	...	133		173		179	
Treasurer	...	...	...	93		103		106	
Allowances for expenses	...	...	...	99		167		175	
Contingency provision	...	...	...	<u>100</u>		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	
					600		635		660
<u>Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenses</u>									
Printing and other office expenses	...			30		33		38	
Public Liability and Fire Insurance	...			15		15		15	
Rates	...	...	...	<u>20</u>		<u>22</u>		<u>22</u>	
					65		70		75
<u>Other Expenditure</u>									
General Maintenance by Council Works									
Department	...	...	...	10100		10660		11660	
Repairs, maintenance and renewals -									
Seats	...	...	...	250		250		300	
Notice Boards and Signs	...	...	...	30		30		30	
Fences and posts	...	...	...	40		60		50	
Depot and Toolshed	...	...	...	40		40		40	
Repairs and cleaning - Brighton Lake	...			35		30		35	
Clearing undergrowth	...	...	...	200		200		200	
Removing diseased trees and replanting	...			300		300		250	
Replacement of grass cutting machine	...			<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>		<u>510</u>	
					10995		11570		13075
TOTAL EXPENDITURE				...	...	...	£	11,660	12,275 , 13,810