

## EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday 26 September 2016 at 6.00 pm

Committee Room 1 - Epsom Town Hall

The members listed below are summoned to attend the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Committee Members

Councillor Liz Frost (Chairman)

Councillor Jean Steer

Hugh Craddock, British Horse Society

Simon Durrant, Epsom Downs Racecourse

Alex Stewart, Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society

Nigel Whybrow, Training Grounds Management Board

Representatives invited to attend

Roger Marples, Epsom Downs Model  
Aircraft Club

Caroline Baldock, Epsom Equestrian  
Conservation Group

Richard Balsdon, College Ward  
Residents' Association

Teresa Cass, Woodcote Residents'  
Association

Angela Clifford, Epsom Civic Society

Andrew Cooper, Epsom Downs  
Racecourse

Bob Eberhard, Epsom and Ewell Cycle  
Action Group

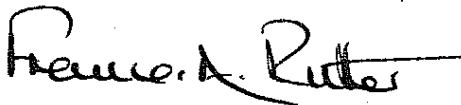
Nick Harrison, Tattenhams Residents'  
Association

Mark Harvey, Epsom Golf Club

David Lambert, Epsom Downs Model  
Aircraft Club

Conor Morrow, Lower Mole Countryside  
Management Service

Yours sincerely



Clerk to the Conservators

For further information, please contact Tim Richardson, 01372 732122 or  
trichardson@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

## **AGENDA**

### **1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 10)**

The Committee is asked to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 March 2016 (attached) and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

### **2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING (Pages 11 - 12)**

The Committee is asked to note the current situation on issues raised previously.

### **3. REPORT OF THE HEAD DOWNSKEEPER**

A verbal report will be given to the Committee with regard to recent events and works on the Downs.

### **4. ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE CONSERVATORS (Pages 13 - 26)**

This report provides the Committee with a summary of items of interest considered at the meetings of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators held on 13 April and 15 June 2016, and the Minutes of those meetings.

### **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE DERBY RACE MEETING**

The Committee is invited to provide its views on the arrangements for the 2016 Derby Race Meeting.

### **6. ISSUES RAISED BY THE HACK RIDERS REPRESENTATIVES**

To discuss any issues raised by Hack Riders Representatives, including the following:

- repair and maintenance of the sand track
- use of downs including hack areas for parking on non-race days
- condition of the afternoon hack ride up 6 Mile Hill from Langley Vale
- sign posting and grass length of eastern part of 'hatched' area at the foot of Walton Downs
- access to Lonsdale enclosure on non-race days
- missing marker posts along valley hack track below Rubbing House towards Beech Wood junction
- parking in Derby Stables Road
- scrub clearance at top of Rifle Butts Alley

## **7. ISSUES RAISED FOR CONSIDERATION**

To discuss any issues raised by representatives to the Committee, including the following:

- Signs for dog walkers – Eastern routes onto the Downs (requested by Caroline Baldock, Epsom Equestrian Conservation Group),

## **8. DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2017**

The Committee has previously requested that its future meetings be held in advance of a meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators. It is suggested that the Committee agrees to hold its meetings in 2017 on two of the following dates:

Monday 13 or Monday 20 March 2017 at 18.00 hours

Monday 11 or Monday 18 September 2017 at 18.00 hours

*Note: The dates for meetings of the Conservators for 2017 have not yet been set, but it is anticipated that they will be in January, April, June and October.*

## **9. ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CONSERVATORS**

To identify any items which the Committee wishes to be brought to the attention of the Conservators at their next meeting, and nominate a spokesperson to present them if appropriate.

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE held on 9 March 2016**

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**PRESENT -**

Councillor Liz Frost (Chairman); Simon Durrant (Epsom Downs Racecourse), Alex Stewart (Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society) and Nigel Whybrow (Training Grounds Management Board)

In Attendance: Caroline Baldock (Epsom Equestrian Conservation Group), Richard Balsdon (College Ward Residents' Association), Teresa Cass (Woodcote Residents' Association), Angela Clifford (Epsom Civic Society), Andrew Cooper (Epsom Downs Racecourse), Bob Eberhard (Epsom and Ewell Cycle Action Group), David Lambert (Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club), Roger Marples (Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club) and Conor Morrow (Lower Mole Countryside Management Service)

Absent: Councillor Jean Steer, Hugh Craddock (British Horse Society), Nick Harrison (Tattenhams Residents' Association) and Mark Harvey (Epsom Golf Club)

Officers present: Frances Rutter (Chief Executive) (Items 11 b) - 17 only), Sam Beak (Downs Manager), Bob Harding (Head Downskeeper), Tim Richardson (Democratic Services Officer), Samantha Whitehead (Streetcare Manager) and Simon Young (Head of Legal and Democratic Services) (Items 10 - 11 b) only)

**10 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee held on 28 September 2015 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**11 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING**

The Committee received and noted a report providing updates on matters raised previously. The following items were noted:

- a) Car parking for events. The Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services provided the Committee with a summary of the legal situation regarding car parking on the land adjacent to the Derby Arms Public House which was designated as a Hack Area upon the Signed Map for the Epsom and Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984 (the Act), and coloured with yellow-hatching in the Deposited Map for the same Act.

The Committee was informed that there were provisions within the Act to enable the area to be utilised by the Racecourse for parking for racing events. The Act did not provide specific provisions to enable parking on the area for non-racing related events, but the Committee was informed that this did not mean that such use could not be permitted.

The Committee was informed that use of the area for car parking could be permitted by the Council if the use related to Section 17.2 of the Act, or by the Conservators under Byelaw 2(i)(f) for other uses.

The Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society representative requested that in future, requests for the use of the area for car parking be considered via the appropriate procedure prior to it taking place.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed the Committee that due to the location of the area (being adjacent to Derby Stables Road, Downs Road and the B290) not being ideal as a Hack Area, it could be argued that the impact of its occasional use for car parking had not been significant.

- b) Dog control. The Committee received an update on dog control on the Downs, following the Conservators' agreement that all dogs should be held on a lead whilst on the Downs prior to noon, daily. The Streetcare Manager informed the meeting that the new arrangements were working well.

Following a question from a representative, the Committee was informed that dogs were requested to be held on a lead prior to noon on Sundays (on which Training hours finished at 9.30am) to enable a more concise, simple to understand message to be made.

- c) Surface of Walton Road – satisfaction of Highways Authority to works. The Committee noted that the Highways Authority was satisfied with the works.
- d) Fixed-point photography for the Downs. The Committee noted that Officers hoped that a local camera club would be willing to undertake the photography.
- e) Access to Tattenham Corner Road crossing for pedestrians walking from Tattenham Corner Station. The Committee noted the comments of the Highways Authority, and that the recent works to reverse the railings, undertaken by the Racecourse had significantly improved access.
- f) Cars advertised for sale on the Downs. The Woodcote Residents' Association representative reported that cars containing 'for sale' signs were being parked on the Downs. It was further reported that there appeared to be a number of vehicles being parked on the Downs all day for the sole purpose of advertising. The Woodcote Resident's Association representative asked whether any action could be taken to restrict these

activities from happening. It was noted that the Downs Manager would discuss the matter with the Council's Planning Enforcement Officer.

- g) Hack Sand Track. The Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society representative noted that the Conservators had been due to receive a report regarding the Hack Sand Track at the foot of Walton Downs at their two most recent meetings, but that in both cases, the report had been postponed, and was now due for their meeting on 15 June 2016. The representative enquired whether the Hack Rider representatives could be involved in its content, due to the time which had elapsed since they had last held a meeting with officers regarding the matter.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the report had been delayed due to the volume of workload faced by Officers.

- h) Post Derby clean-up – number of skips utilised. The Epsom Civic Society representative informed the Committee that she had received enquiries from local residents as to whether less skips had been utilised for the 2015 Derby clean-up. Simon Durrant informed the Committee that these comments had been noted.

## 12 REPORT OF THE HEAD DOWNSKEEPER

The Committee received and noted the report of the Head Downskeeper. The following matters were discussed:

- a) Hack posts review. The Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society expressed his thanks for the improvements made to hack posts by the Downskeepers. It was noted that a meeting would be arranged with the Hack Rider Representatives to discuss 'no access' hack rider posts.
- b) Winter work programme – coppicing. The Lower Mole Countryside Management Service representative expressed his congratulations for the work undertaken to re-establish coppicing on the Downs, which had been very successful.
- c) Byelaw Boards for the Downs. Following a question, the Committee was informed that a sign audit for the Downs had been completed, and that further byelaw signs would be considered by Officers alongside this.

## 13 ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE CONSERVATORS

The Committee received a report providing a summary of items of interest considered at the meetings of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators held on 7 October 2015 and 20 January 2016. The following item was noted:

- a) Hatched Area at the foot of Walton Downs. The Epsom Downs Riders Protection Society representative requested that in future information be given as to why the Hatched Area was not suitable for hack riding, what

action was needed to make it suitable for hack riding, and who's responsibility it was to undertake such works.

#### 14 THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY BEACON

The Committee received a report with information regarding a proposed beacon lighting ceremony and supporting event on Epsom Downs on 21 April 2016 to commemorate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Officers anticipated that it would be a smaller-scale event than that held for the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2012 and that attendee numbers would be much lower. The Borough Council had purchased a commemorative gas-fuelled Beacon for the celebration, and this would be available for use at future events. The availability of public toilet facilities was being considered, and Officers would also speak to the Rubbing House and Derby Arms Public Houses regarding the matter.

It was noted that Epsom Golf Club had been consulted on the proposed event, and was happy with the proposal.

Following consideration of the report, the Committee didn't identify any suggestions or concerns regarding the proposed Beacon lighting ceremony on Epsom Downs on 21 April 2016.

#### 15 ISSUES RAISED BY THE HACK RIDERS REPRESENTATIVES

No items were raised for consideration by the Hack Rider representatives.

#### 16 ISSUES RAISED FOR CONSIDERATION

The following items were raised by representatives to the Committee:

- a) Planning permissions for advertising on the Downs. Following a question regarding the planning permissions granted to the Racecourse for advertising signs on the Downs, Simon Durrant informed the Committee that the Racecourse was able to use small advertising signs for its race day events. The Committee was informed that if signs were found on the Downs outside of these periods, they could be reported to the Racecourse for investigation and removal.
- b) Equestrian crossing of Downs Road near the horse margin. Following a question regarding whether an equestrian crossing would be installed on Downs Road, the Committee was informed that this location was within the District of Mole Valley, and outside the boundary of the Downs. It was also noted that transport infrastructure arrangements for the Woodland Trust's neighbouring Centenary Wood site were yet to be put in place, and that these would likely be the Highway Authority's priority for the area.
- c) Restoration of Chalk Downland – success of scrapes on the Downs. The Lower Mole Countryside Management Service representative informed



the Committee that scrapes undertaken last year had been successful in enabling kidney vetch to grow there. It was hoped that this would encourage a population of Small Blue butterflies to use the area to lay their eggs.

**17 ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CONSERVATORS**

The Committee felt that no items from the meeting would require verbal representation to the Conservators.

*The meeting began at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.50 pm*

COUNCILLOR LIZ FROST (CHAIRMAN)

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## **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING**

<u>Report of the:</u>	Clerk to the Conservators
<u>Contact:</u>	Tim Richardson
<u>Annexes/Appendices (attached):</u>	None
<u>Other available papers (not attached):</u>	Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 March 2016

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

**The Committee is asked to note the current situation on the following issues raised previously.**

#### **1 Hack Sand Track, foot of Walton Downs – Minute no.11 g)**

1.1 The Committee will receive a verbal update regarding this matter.

#### **2 Hatched area, foot of Walton Downs – Minute no. 13 a)**

2.1 The comments made by the Hack Rider Representative at the last meeting of the Committee were reported to the Training Grounds Management Board (TGMB), for its consideration.

2.2 At the last meeting of the Conservators (15 June 2016), the Conservators were informed that the TGMB had created a small group to look into the matters relating to the area.

2.3 At the meetings of the Conservators held on 13 April and 15 June 2016, the Conservators noted that the TGMB continued to consider the area as unsuitable for hack riding after midday. See Item 04 of this agenda for further information.

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## **ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE CONSERVATORS**

<u>Report of the:</u>	Clerk to the Conservators
<u>Contact:</u>	Tim Richardson
<u>Annexes/Appendices</u> (attached):	<u>Annexe 1</u> - Minutes of the meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators held on 13 April 2016 <u>Annexe 2</u> - Minutes of the meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators held on and 15 June 2016.
<u>Other available papers</u> (not attached):	None

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

**This report provides the Committee with a summary of items of interest considered at the meetings of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators held on 13 April 2016 and 15 June 2016, and the Minutes of those meetings.**

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of any items of interest considered by the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators at their meetings of 13 April 2016 and 15 June 2016. The Minutes of those meetings are attached at the Annexes to this report for information.

#### **2 Hatched area, foot of Walton Downs – Minutes Nos. 36 a) and 4 b)**

- 2.1 The Conservators noted that the TGMB continued to consider the area as unsuitable for hack riding after midday. See also Item 02 of this agenda.

#### **3 Hack Sand Track, foot of Walton Downs – Minutes No. 39 and 5 b)**

- 3.1 The Conservators received the updates detailed.

#### **4 Events on the Downs – Minute No. 42**

- 4.1 The Conservators approved and noted the events listed.

#### **5 Minutes of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee – Minute No. 43**

- 5.1 The Conservators received and noted the Minutes of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee held on 9 March 2016.

**6 Matters of interest arising from the Derby Race Meeting – Minutes No. 6 and 8**

6.1 The Conservators noted the matters listed.

## Minutes of the Meeting of the EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSERVATORS held on 13 April 2016

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### PRESENT -

Councillor Liz Frost (Chairman); Andrew Cooper (Epsom Downs Racecourse) (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Rekha Bansil, Councillor Lucie Dallen, Simon Durrant (Epsom Downs Racecourse), Councillor Robert Foote, Councillor Jan Mason and Nigel Whybrow (Epsom Downs Racecourse)

#### In Attendance:

Absent: Simon Dow (Horserace Betting Levy Board) and Councillor Clive Woodbridge

Officers present: Frances Rutter (Clerk to the Conservators), Sam Beak (Downs Manager), Bob Harding (Head Downskeeper), Tim Richardson (Democratic Services Officer), Samantha Whitehead (Streetcare Manager) and Simon Young (Head of Legal and Democratic Services)

### 34 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declaration of interest was made with regard to an item of business considered at this meeting:

Proposed Events on the Downs

Councillor Robert Foote, Other Interest: Councillor Robert Foote declared in the interests of openness and transparency that he was a member of the Epsom Downs Model Aircraft Club.

### 35 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators held on 20 January 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 36 ITEMS OF INTEREST DISCUSSED BY THE TRAINING GROUNDS MANAGEMENT BOARD (TGMB)

The Conservators received a report providing an update on items considered by the Epsom and Walton Downs Training Grounds Management Board (TGMB). The following matters were considered:

- a) Hatched Area at the foot of Walton Downs. The Conservators noted that the TGMB had considered that it had no reason to change its stance with regard to the Hatched Area, and had reconfirmed that it could not authorise the use of the Hatched Area for hack riding. The Conservators also noted that the Hack Rider representatives had requested further information regarding the Hatched Area at the last meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee, and that this would be reported to the next meeting of the TGMB for its consideration.
- b) Dogs on leads. The Conservators noted the thanks of the TGMB with regard to the work undertaken to introduce a restriction on dogs being walked 'off-lead' whilst on the Downs before noon.
- c) Polytrack extension. The Conservators noted that works to extend the Polytrack were progressing well.
- d) Trainer's news. The Conservators were pleased to hear that the Trainer Ralph Smith had returned to train on the Downs.

**37 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

- a) Dog control on the Downs. The Conservators noted that the introduction of the request that dogs be held on a lead whilst on the Downs before noon daily had been highly successful. The Streetcare Manager informed the meeting that the next anticipated busy period for providing information to Downs visitors would be the school summer holidays. It was felt that information leaflets about the restriction would not be appropriate, as they could lead to littering. Dog waste bags printed with information about the restriction would be handed to dog walkers instead, and had been successful at other sites (such as Nonsuch Park) when running similar campaigns.

The Chairman had received correspondence from a local resident enquiring about the restriction on dogs being allowed 'off the lead' whilst on the Downs on Sundays prior to noon, as Racehorse training finished at 9.30am. The Conservators considered this issue, but noted that by requesting that dogs be held on leads until noon every day, a very simple and clear message could be given to Downs users. This significantly assisted the Downskeepers and provided a very easy to understand arrangement for all Downs visitors. It was noted that there were some existing signposts on the Downs which contradicted the before noon restriction on Sundays, but that they were due to be removed.

Following consideration, the Conservators supported the current restrictions (that dogs be held on leads until noon daily).

- b) The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Beacon. The Conservators noted that arrangements for the Beacon lighting event were progressing well. Officers anticipated that the event would be much smaller in scale than



the Golden Jubilee Beacon in 2012. The Conservators were informed that portaloos would be provided for the event.

- c) Replacement of steel posts at access points to the Downs. The Conservators were informed that replacement posts and gates had been ordered following an incident in which a racehorse had received significant injuries. These would be installed following the racing on the Downs on 20 April 2016.

### 38 REPORT OF THE HEAD DOWNSKEEPER

The Conservators received and noted the report of the Head Downskeeper.

### 39 HACK SAND TRACK, FOOT OF WALTON DOWNS

The Conservators received a report considering the position in relation to the Hack Sand Track on Walton Downs. This report had been listed as 'to follow' in the agenda and was circulated at the meeting.

The Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services introduced the report. The Conservators were informed that concerns about the condition of the Hack Sand Track at the foot of Walton Downs had been considered by the Conservators and Borough Council 3 years ago, and that at this time it had been decided to further investigate the legal responsibility for repairing and maintaining the track.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed the Conservators that following investigation of the arrangements for the track, and correspondence with the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB), who held a 999 year lease for Walton Downs, he was satisfied that maintenance responsibility for the track belonged to the HBLB, and not the Conservators.

The Conservators were informed that there was an undertaking made by the HBLB to the Opposed Bills Committee of the House of Commons during the enactment of the Epsom and Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984 to maintain the track. In correspondence to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the HBLB had expressed that it felt that this responsibility had been passed to the Conservators as a condition of a grant for improvements to horsewalks made by the HBLB in 2000. The conditions of this grant had included that future maintenance of certain horse walks on the Downs would be accepted by the Conservators or Training Grounds Management Board (TGMB).

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed the Conservators that maintenance responsibilities for the horsewalks to be adopted were identified on a map agreed with the grant, but unfortunately neither the Council nor HBLB still held a copy of this map. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed the Conservators that he was confident that the Hack Sand Track was not included within those adopted by either the Conservators or TGMB. The Vice Chairman informed the meeting that he agreed with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services' opinion on the terms of the grant, and that his recollection was that it did not relate in any way to the Hack Sand Track. He informed the

Conservators that to his recollection, the grant from the HBLB related to horsewalks utilised by Racehorses accessing the gallops. The Vice Chairman also informed the meeting that it was possible that he might still have a copy of the relevant map, and that if he did, he would provide it to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

The Conservators were informed that presently, the Downskeepers undertook a weekly harrow and occasional stone-picking of the sand track, following requests from Hack Rider Representatives to the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee. The Conservators discussed the condition of the track, and potential health and safety concerns if it were used at speed by horse riders. The Conservators also noted that there were powers within the Epsom and Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984 to temporarily close rides on the Downs to enable works to be undertaken to them. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services emphasised that these were designed to be used on a temporary basis, and not permanently.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services recommended that the Conservators should not accept responsibility for the maintenance of the Hack Sand Track, and should instruct the Downskeepers not to continue to undertake any works of maintenance to it, in light of this. The Conservators were informed that they did not own the land on which the Track was located, and did not have any maintenance responsibility for it under the Epsom and Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services also recommended that if the Conservators received any future requests for works to be undertaken to the Hack Sand Track, these should be referred to the HBLB.

The Conservators considered how to best inform Downs users if it were agreed that the Sand Track was not going to be maintained by the Downskeepers. It was considered that the Hack Rider Representatives to the Consultative Committee should be informed.

Following consideration, the Conservators:

- (1) Agreed to instruct the Downskeepers not to continue to undertake any works of maintenance to the hack sand track;
- (2) Agreed to ask the Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services to write to the Horserace Betting Levy Board to confirm that the Conservators did not accept that they are responsible for maintaining the track, and that they decline to do so.

It was noted that the Vice Chairman would look into whether he was able to access a copy of the map agreed alongside the HBLB grant for renovation of horsewalks on the Downs, and provide this to the Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services if possible.

**40 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSAL TO ERECT ADVANCE WARNING SIGNS ON ASHLEY ROAD**

The Conservators received a report presenting a request from Surrey County Council to erect new advance warning signs for the equestrian crossing on Ashley Road.

Following consideration, the Conservators:

- (1) Approved the proposal from Surrey County Council to erect new advance warning signs on Ashley Road near to the equestrian crossing.

**41 EPSOM GOLF CLUB - PROPOSAL FOR STEPS NEAR 16TH GREEN**

The Conservators received a report presenting a request from Epsom Golf Club to erect new steps leading from the 16<sup>th</sup> Green of the golf course.

The Conservators noted that this application had been submitted by the Golf Club due to health and safety concerns, but requested that in future, applications for works be provided within in an annual programme of works where possible, rather than on an ad-hoc basis. It was requested that this annual programme of works be presented to the Conservators once per year in the future. It was noted that the Downs Manager would discuss this with the Golf Club.

Following consideration, the Conservators:

- (1) Approved the proposal from Epsom Golf Club to erect a new set of steps leading from the 16<sup>th</sup> Green.

**42 PROPOSED EVENTS ON THE DOWNS**

The Conservators received a report providing details of requests submitted to hold events on the Downs. It was noted that as the events requested had all been held on the Downs for several years without problems, the Head Downkeeper and Trainers Representative had not been directly consulted prior to the meeting. The Head Downkeeper confirmed that he did not have any concerns regarding the events proposed.

Following consideration, the Conservators:

- (1) Granted approval to the following events on the Downs:
  - a. EDMAC Cloud Tramp Event (Saturday 6 August 2016)
  - b. OMNI Terrier Derby (Sunday 28 August 2016)
  - c. Epsom College Cross Country Event (Thursday 24 November 2016)
  - d. Tadworth 10 (Sunday 8 January 2017)

(2) Noted the Calendar of Events for 2016/17.

(3) Noted the fees and charges to be applied to each event.

**43 EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Conservators received and noted the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee held on 9 March 2016. The following item was considered:

a) Minute 11 f) – Cars advertised for sale on the Downs. The Conservators were informed that the Council's Enforcement Officer had looked into the issue and reported that not enforceable.

**44 OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

The Conservators received and noted the position of their outstanding references to officers.

**45 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Conservators agreed that it was not necessary to pass a resolution to exclude the public from the meeting.

**46 EPSOM GOLF CLUB UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT**

This item had initially been marked as 'to follow' on the agenda for the meeting, but no report was presented for consideration, and it was not discussed by the Conservators.

*The meeting began at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.50 pm*

COUNCILLOR LIZ FROST (CHAIRMAN)

## Minutes of the Meeting of the EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS CONSERVATORS held on 15 June 2016

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### PRESENT -

Councillor Liz Frost (Chairman); Andrew Cooper (Epsom Downs Racecourse) (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Rekha Bansil, Simon Dow (Horserace Betting Levy Board), Simon Durrant (Epsom Downs Racecourse), Councillor Robert Foote, Councillor Jan Mason, Nigel Whybrow (Epsom Downs Racecourse) and Councillor Clive Woodbridge

In Attendance: Conor Morrow (Lower Mole Countryside Management Service)

Absent: Councillor Lucie Dallen

Officers present: Sam Beak (Downs Manager), Bob Harding (Head Downskeeper), Tim Richardson (Democratic Services Officer), Michael Smith (Chief Accountant), Samantha Whitehead (Streetcare Manager) and Simon Young (Head of Legal and Democratic Services)

### 1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was resolved that Councillor Liz Frost be appointed Chairman of the Conservators to hold office until the first meeting of the Conservators held after the Annual Meeting of the Borough Council in May 2017.

### 2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was resolved that Mr Andrew Cooper be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Conservators to hold office until the first meeting of the Conservators held after the Annual Meeting of the Borough Council in May 2017.

### 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators held on 13 April 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment (highlighted in **bold and underline**) to the first sentence of Minute 37 a) of that meeting.

“The Conservators noted that the introduction of the **request** that dogs be held on a lead whilst on the Downs before noon daily had been highly successful.”

4 ITEMS OF INTEREST DISCUSSED BY THE TRAINING GROUNDS MANAGEMENT BOARD (TGMB)

The Conservators received a report providing updates on items considered by the Epsom and Walton Downs Training Grounds Management Board (TGMB). The following matters were considered:

- a) Number of horses in training on the Downs. The Conservators were informed that there were currently around 150 horses in training on the Downs, but that in the view of the TGMB a total of 200 were required for long-term sustainability of the training facilities. A steering group had been created by the TGMB to consider the issues surrounding the use of the Downs for racehorse training, and to identify actions to address them.
- b) Hatched area at the foot of Walton Downs. The Conservators noted that the TGMB had found no reason to change its view that the hatched area was not currently suitable for hack riding, but had set up a small group to further look at the matter.
- c) Cars on the roadway outside the Rubbing House. Cars parked on the road outside the Rubbing House were creating difficulties for some racehorse trainers using the Downs. The Conservators noted that a previous planning application by the Rubbing House to alter the parking arrangements in the area had been refused by the Borough Council. It was noted that Epsom Downs Racecourse would contact the Borough Council's Planning department to discuss the issue further.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- a) Dog control on the Downs. The Conservators received a written update on dog control on the Downs, and considered a proposal to provide custom printed dog waste bags to dog walkers on the Downs, to further strengthen the request that dogs be held on a lead prior to noon daily.

Following consideration, the Conservators approved the purchase of 10,000 custom printed dog waste bags, at a cost of £300.

- b) Hack sand track, foot of Walton Downs. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed the Conservators that further contact with the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) had not been received. The Vice Chairman informed the Conservators that following the discussion of the matter at the last meeting, he had not been able to locate a copy of the map which accompanied the HBLB grant for renovations to horse walks on the Downs. It was noted that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services would continue correspondence with the HBLB with regard to the track.

## 6 REPORT OF THE HEAD DOWNSKEEPER

The Conservators received and noted the report of the Head Downskeeper. The following matters were considered:

- a) Post Derby clean-up. The Conservators were informed that the post-Derby clean-up had been very successful, and an improvement on previous years. A new contractor had been used by the Racecourse to manage glass collection, and had been very effective.
- b) Anti-social behaviour in the woods adjacent to the Derby gypsy site and other anti-social activity reported during the Derby festival. The Conservators expressed significant concern at the reported anti-social behaviour which had occurred during the Derby Festival. The woods adjacent to the Derby gypsy site had again been used as a toilet during the Derby period by some members of the gypsy and traveller community. Racehorse trainers had reported that dogs had been tied to the fencing of the gypsy site adjacent to a main access route onto the Downs for racehorses, which created a significant health and safety risk for riders. Other issues had also been reported by local residents, including 3 abandoned/burnt-out cars.

The Council's Streetcare Manager and Head of Operational Services had met with the Gypsy and Traveller Site Manager with regard to these issues as soon as they became apparent. This had resulted in the dogs being moved from where they were being held, and some other matters being resolved.

It was noted that a full review of the arrangements for the 2016 Derby festival and Gypsy site would be held by the Chairman and Clerk of the Conservators with Surrey Police and Epsom Downs Racecourse. This would consider the issues reported, and a report would be presented to a future meeting of the Conservators regarding actions for future years.

## 7 FINAL ACCOUNTS 2015/16

The Conservators received a report providing the final accounts for the financial year 2015/16.

The Conservators were informed that expenditure exceeded income by £8,595, leading to a reduction in the working balance of the same amount. Gross expenditure for the year had been £10,233 below the original budget, with the main savings being reduced grounds maintenance charges and no expenditure being incurred against ecological surveys. A working balance of £56,259 had been carried forward to the 2016/17 financial year.

Following consideration of the report, the Conservators:

- (1) agreed the final accounts for 2015/16 subject to external audit;

- (2) accepted the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement as set out in sections 1 and 2 of Annexe 3 to the report;
- (3) confirmed that the arrangements for internal audit as set out in the report were effective for auditing purposes;
- (4) authorised the Chairman and Clerk to sign the Statement of Assurance on their behalf.

## 8 ISSUES ARISING FROM THE DERBY RACE MEETING

The Conservators received a verbal report from Simon Durrant on matters arising from the 2016 Derby festival. The Conservators received an update on the following matters:

- a) Early arrival of contractor to build marquee near Tattenham Enclosure. It was noted that a third party contractor had arrived at the Tattenham Enclosure prior to the approved date to deliver and erect a marquee. Epsom Downs Racecourse had sought permission for the materials to remain on site until the approved date for construction, and this had been granted by the Conservators. However, the contractor had commenced construction of the marquee without consent.

Following intervention by the Conservators and the Race Course, construction halted and the site was secured until the agreed construction date. Simon Durrant thanked the Conservators for their understanding with regard to this matter and informed the meeting that the contractor had been strongly reprimanded regarding the issue.

- b) Success of the Derby. The Conservators were informed that Epsom Downs Racecourse viewed the Derby Festival as having been successful, and that most arrangements had gone very well. Simon Durrant informed the Conservators that a public disorder incident had occurred on the Hill, and that this would be reviewed with the Police. Epsom Downs Racecourse had also created a steering group to consider the future arrangements for the Hill, including ways to increase its use by families.

The Conservators received the update from Simon Durrant and requested that in future years, this item of business be renamed as “Matters of interest arising from the Derby Race Meeting”.

*Note: further matters relating to the Derby Race Festival 2016 are detailed in Minute number 6 above.*

## 9 OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

The Conservators received and noted the position of their outstanding references.

The following matters were considered:



- a) Habitat Management Plan. Conor Morrow informed the Conservators that soil scrapes to increase the habitats suitable for Small Blue Butterflies on the Downs had been successful in increasing their numbers. A recent survey by Sarah Jeffcote from Butterfly Conservation had recorded 50 Small Blue Butterflies on the Golf Course and 70 on the other parts of the Downs.
- b) Surface material of Golf Course pathways. The Streetcare Manager informed the Conservators that Epsom Golf Club had reported that the surface of the new pathways created near the 1st and 11th holes of the Golf Course had suffered during the continued heavy rain.

The Golf Course was considering alternative surface materials for the paths, and the Conservators agreed that the Streetcare Manager be authorised to agree a new material if a suitable proposal was submitted by the Golf Course.

- c) Memorial Policy. The Conservators noted that a report presenting a Memorial Policy for the Downs would be presented to their October meeting. This would present a Policy with regard to memorial benches and other items on the Downs for consideration. It was noted that the report would not present a full review of benches and seats on the Downs, but that if the Conservators considered that such a review should be undertaken, it could be done for a future meeting. It was agreed to consider the Memorial Policy at the next meeting prior to deciding whether a wider review of seating should also be undertaken.

*The meeting began at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.07 pm*

COUNCILLOR LIZ FROST (CHAIRMAN)

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