

MITCHAM COMMON CONSERVATORS

A meeting of the Conservators was held at Mill House Ecology Centre
Windmill Road Mitcham on 31 January 2006 when there were present:

Mr P Harper (Chairman)
Dr D Coleman
Councillor Maria Gatland
Councillor T Godfrey
Mr A W Hodge
Councillor C Mansell
Councillor M Whelton
Mr G J Norris – Consultant

1. Apologies for Absence Received from Councillors Bailey, Cole
and Hall

2. Minutes The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 December 2005
were approved and signed by the Chairman

3. Windmill Trading Estate Further to Minute No 7 of the last
meeting the Consultant reported that it had now been ascertained that the
Public Inquiry into the Appeal by the owners of the Estate consequent upon
Merton Council's failure to make a determination on the owners' planning
application was likely to be held in 9 – 12 months time and was estimated to
last for about 5 days

He submitted a report recommending that having regard to the Board's
considerable interest in the final determination of the application resulting
from the Public Inquiry, Counsel should be engaged to represent the Board
and that arrangements in that respect should be put in hand accordingly

RESOLVED that

- (1) planning Counsel be retained to present the Board's case at the
Public Inquiry and in the meantime to advise on evidence required
in support
- (2) the Chairman be authorised
 - (i) after enquiry, to select Counsel for this purpose

- (ii) to authorise the procurement of such evidence as Counsel may advise, including the engagement of expert witnesses
 - (iii) to approve the amounts and subsequent payment of all professional fees incurred in the conduct of matters pertaining to the Appeal and all other expenses in his judgment properly incurred
 - (iv) generally to issue such day to day approvals and decisions as may be necessary to facilitate presentation of the Board's representations at the Public Inquiry
- (3) progress/situation reports be submitted to subsequent meetings of the Board, to include details of Chairman's interim action and including, if practicable, financial approvals and commitments incurred

4. Clerkship (1) Further to Minute No 12 of the last Meeting the Chairman reported that following a frank and amicable discussion relative to the apprehensions previously voiced by him, Mr J W E Leach had resigned from the Clerkship with effect of this date. The Board's appreciation of his services during his period of tenure in the office, was expressed to Mr Leach (present)

(2) Acting Clerk RESOLVED that the Board's Consultant, Mr G J Norris, be additionally appointed Acting Clerk from 1 February 2006 on the existing terms and conditions applying to the substantive appointment, pending a permanent appointment

(3) RESOLVED that

(i) the Job Description relating to a permanent appointed, now submitted, be approved

(ii) the permanent appointment be advertised as soon as may be

(iii) a committee of the Board comprising

The Chairman
Councillor Gatland
Dr Coleman (deputy Councillor Mansell)

be empowered to consider any applications received, to authorise re-advertisement of the post if considered necessary, to select a shortlist and to make the appointment

5. City of London – Representative Reported that Mr Kevin Everett has been appointed as the Corporation’s representative on the Board, in place of Mr J E Haynes (resigned)

6. Mitcham Common Education Trust RESOLVED that Mr Kevin Everett be nominated as a Trustee in place of Mr J E Haynes (resigned)

7. Mitcham Common Environmental Trust RESOLVED that Mr Kevin Everett be appointed a Trustee in place of Mr J E Haynes (resigned)