Meeting of the BANSTEAD COMMONS CONSULTATIVE GROUP to be held on
Tuesday 14th July 2026 7.30pm – 9pm
at
Banstead Community Centre (SM7 2BQ)

MINUTES

	Item	
1.	Apologies for absence Graham Cotten, Butterfly monitoring (GC) Karl Tarratt, Ornithologist (KT) Mary Matthews, Wildlife Monitor (MMt) Attendees: David Hatcher, Chair (DH) Miriam Maxim, Commoner (MM) Peter Taylor-Medhurst, Visitor - Banstead Downs (PTM) Lucy Shea, Clerk and General Manager (LS) Lisa Traynor, BCC Office Manager (LT) Jane Davies, Equestrian (JDv) Alan Matthews, Wildlife Monitor (AM) Jonathan Cooper, Cycling (JC) Ian Mockford, volunteer and drone pilot (IM) John Darter, Arborist (JD) Rachel Barnes, Conservator & Toad Patrol WoTH (RB) Amanda Smith, Volunteer (AS) Absent Damien Midgely, Volunteer (DM) Gina Kitchener – Equestrian (GK)	DH
2.	Welcome and introductions	DH
3.	Minutes of the last BCCG Quarterly Meeting (Apr 2026) Not part of the last QM but some important news to share. RBBC have signed off on a funding agreement for 4 years providing security during the transition period to the unitary council.	DH
4.	Discussions from around the table JD – what are the BCC's provisions for incursions? LS - Bunds are everywhere and all our entrances have chicanes, so access is extremely difficult. We recently replaced a bund on Mill Road that had lapsed.	DH

	Breeding red kites (2 young) and woodlarks on Banstead Heath. LS – we have ceased all bracken management as a result. But we need to conduct surveys for the areas that are earmarked for bracken management next near if anyone would be keen to help with this? *Action – members who would be interested to help with this please let LT know.* PTM – what are the rules on BBQ's on the commons? DH – it is illegal on the Commons. It is against our byelaws. MM – I have seen individuals turning up on Mill Road with a full-sized Weber BBQ. PTM – we do need signage on Banstead Downs for horse riding. There are some young riders being quite unpleasant when being challenged. *Action – LS to erect signage for the Summer months.* *Action – LS contact SCC to update all our finger posts.* LS – CIL grant has enabled us to install a new office and toilet which is going to make a huge difference to our operations team. We will shortly be recruiting for a new keeper following a retirement within the staff team. AS – I recently noticed young people camping on the Downs. If we see them making a fire, what should we do? LS – call the fire brigade. Especially at this time of year and with the current weather conditions, they will come out. Provide a w3w. AS – off-road bikes have reappeared on the Downs, what do we do? LS – call the police phoning 999. The police need the call stats to be able to allocate resources so always call. It comes under Surrey Police (not the Met). They will attend the scene if they have the resource, but they do have to prioritise. They can also send PCSO's to patrol more regularly. MM – what happens with ownership of the commons when the unitary council becomes active? LS – we will transfer to ESC MM – will they notify the commoners? *Action – LS to check the legal obligation of the council to contact the commoners.* JDv – the bushes in Chapel Road need to be cut back. *Action – LS & BCC operations to cut back* RB – where are we with the toad fencing? LS – we can put temporary fencing up but RB to find out from Surrey Highways what H&S mitigations would be put in place. RB – the toad fencing serves to corral the toads which is helpful for the volunteers who patrol very late at night and in heavy rainfall. LS – we support this and will make sure it happens but perhaps it will only be in sections. JC – worth checking in with WH Primary about tree safety in light of some trees that have come down locally in the high winds and as a result of the dry weather. *Action – LS/LT to follow this up* *Action – LS bike ramps notices/signage for H&S*	
5.	Any other business JDv – Chinthurst school /Tower road junction needs strimming to enhance vision for drivers. LT - Thank you to MM who promoted BCC at her open garden event for the Kingswood Walton & Tadworth Horticultural Society. Not only was she able to fundraise for us at this event but also she took the time to promote our work using our information board and by distributing leaflets. Thank you.	DH

	RB – do we ever put out water for wildlife? No we do not interfere.	