Meeting of the BANSTEAD COMMONS CONSULTATIVE GROUP to be held on
Tuesday 6th Oct 2026 7.30pm – 9pm
at
Banstead Community Centre (SM7 2BQ)

M I N U T E S

	Item	
1.	Apologies for absence Graham Cotten, Butterfly monitoring (GC) David Hatcher, Chair (DH) Ian Mockford, volunteer and drone pilot (IM) Jonathan Cooper, Cycling (JC) Attendees: Miriam Maxim, Commoner (MM) Peter Taylor-Medhurst, Visitor - Banstead Downs (PTM) Lucy Shea, Clerk and General Manager (LS) Lisa Traynor, BCC Office Manager (LT) Karl Tarratt, Ornithologist (KT) Jane Davies, Equestrian (JDv) John Darter, Arborist (JD) Gina Kitchener – Equestrian (GK) Rachel Barnes, Conservator & Toad Patrol WoTH (RB) Amanda Smith, Volunteer (AS) Absent Damien Midgely, Volunteer (DM) Mary Matthews, Wildlife Monitor (MMt) Alan Matthews, Wildlife Monitor (AM)	LS
2.	Welcome We are hoping to connect with Maia Wellbelove – RBBC Countryside Officer (MW)	LS
3.	Minutes of the last BCC Quarterly Meeting (July 2026) Members report that Horse riding signage has helped, particularly on Banstead Downs We have contacted the council to query ESC making contact with Commoners and we are awaiting a response.	LS

	Cutting back near Chapel Road has happened but more to be done with our volunteer work party in November.	
4.	Matters Arising Discussed the removal of silt from Chapel Road Pond – JD offered to bring in machinery to conduct dredging whilst it is dry. *Action: LS to arrange a suitable day with JD to carry out the work* JD – There are around 5 cherry laurels the area of woodland between Chapel Road and hedge corner. LS – the volunteer team are doing so well clearing Withybed corner but we need to concentrate their work in areas where there's lots to do in a small space. The cherry laurel that is spread further apart will be done by the staff team.	
5.	Discussions from around the table LS shared the Quarterly Report from the BCC Quarterly Meeting on 3.10.26 KT – lots of stonechats passing through Surrey. Success with Red Kite nesting on Banstead Heath – we counted 2 chicks. LS managed to take a photo of the parent kites doing a food pass in flight to the fledglings! RB – shared details of the toad fencing that we are planning from Mere pond in Walton-on-the-Hill to support the collection of amphibians during Toad Patrol season. In a 5 week season this year we took 8000 amphibians across the road. The toad patrol fencing is not only about improving success of toad collection, it supports the safety of the volunteers who conduct the patrols. Delivery of 20 pallets of fencing likely to be delivered on Friday 30 October – we will need some help with offloading. Fence installation is scheduled for 6/9/10/11 November - we will also be appealing for volunteers for help with installation. LS - Toads are in rapid decline due to habitat fragmentation so this work is so important. JD – reports GCN in his pond at home. LS shared details about ARC and the importance of recording sightings Report your sightings! | Amphibian and Reptile Conservation JD – raised the presence of ivy on trees. LS – only time we cut ivy is on trees along highways to enable us to do tree inspections. KT – commented that the ivy is vital for birds, particularly in the winter. MM – raised the issue of multiple desire lines appearing on Banstead Heath. LS – we plan to create dead hedges to prevent desire lines from crossing glades, particularly those where we have reptiles. PTM – query birch tree and gorse presence around the grazing sheep enclosure on Banstead Downs.	LS

	LS – The sheep keep a low sward on the chalk grassland but they don't touch the woody scrub so we will be using the machines. On 28 October we will have 'robomower' and Leatherhead Youth Project coming out to help with clearance SB1 application with NE can help us to fund scrub removal.	
6.	Any other business JDv – not directly related to Banstead Commons but the owner of the field in Ebbisham Lane is cutting down huge trees in preparation for planning permission. RB - There is due to be a scoping consultation for residents to share their thoughts very soon. MM – a bumper year for hummingbird hawk moths.	LS

Meeting concluded at 9pm