

Cookham Rural District Council.

COMMONS ACT, 1899.

The Moor & Odney Common, Cookham

SCHEME.

1. The pieces of land with the ponds, streams, paths and roads thereon, commonly known as The Moor and Odney Common, Cookham, situate in the parish of Cookham in the County of Berks, and hereinafter referred to as "The Common," as the same are delineated in a plan deposited at the office of the Rural District Council of Cookham, hereinafter called "the Council," and thereon coloured green, being a "Common" within the meaning of the Commons Act, 1899, shall henceforth be regulated by this scheme and the management thereof shall be vested in the Council.

Description
of Common
and manage-
ment by
District
Council.

2. The powers of the Council generally as to appointing or employing officers or servants and paying them under the general Acts applicable to the Council shall apply to all such persons as in the judgment of the Council may be necessary and proper for the preservation of order on and the enforcement of byelaws with respect to the Common, and otherwise for the purposes of this scheme, and the Council may make rules for regulating the duties and conduct of the several officers and servants so appointed and employed and may alter such rules as occasion may require.

Appoint-
ment of
Officers.

3. The Council may execute any works of drainage, raising, levelling or fencing or other work for the protection and improvement of the Common and shall preserve the turf, shrubs, trees, plants and grass thereon and for this purpose may, for short periods, enclose by fences such portions as may require rest to revive the same, and may plant trees and shrubs for shelter or ornament, and may place seats upon and light the Common and otherwise improve the Common as a place for exercise or recreation; but the Council shall do nothing that may otherwise vary or alter the natural features or aspect of the Common or interfere with free access to every part thereof, and shall not erect upon the Common any shelter, pavilion or other building without the previous consent of the person entitled to the soil of the Common.

Protection
and improve-
ment of
Common.

4. The Council shall maintain the Common free from all encroachments and shall not permit any trespass on or partial or other enclosure of any part thereof.

Against en-
croachments.

5. The inhabitants of the district and neighbourhood shall have a right of free access to every part of the Common and a privilege of playing games and of enjoying other species of recreation thereon, subject to any byelaws made by the Council under this scheme.

Public right
of access and
recreation.

Maintenance
and Con-
struction of
paths and
roads.

6. The Council shall have power to repair and maintain the existing paths and roads on the Common and to set out, make, and maintain such new paths and roads on the Common as appear to the Council to be necessary or expedient, and to take any proceedings necessary for the stopping or diversion of any highway over the Common.

Fencing of
quarries, &c.

7. The Council may, for the prevention of accident, fence any quarry, pit, pond or other like place on the Common.

Games, &c.

8. The Council may set apart for games any portion or portions of the Common as they may consider expedient and may form cricket grounds and may allow the same to be temporarily enclosed with an open fence so as to prevent cattle and horses straying thereon ; but such grounds shall not be laid out so near to any dwelling houses as to create a nuisance or be an annoyance to the inhabitants thereof and they may make provisions for the regulation of bathing from the Common and provided that the written consent of the Lord of the Manor or other owner of the soil of the Common has been first had and obtained they may in connection with bathing temporarily enclose and use such portions of the Common as are adjacent to the River Thames or backwaters thereof.

Byelaws.

9. The Council may, for the prevention of nuisances and the preservation of order on the Common, and subject to the provisions of Section 10 of the Commons Act, 1899, make, revoke and alter byelaws for any of the following purposes viz :—

- (a). For prohibiting the deposit on the Common, or in any pond thereon, of road-sand, materials for repair of roads, dung, rubbish, wood, or other matter.
- (b). For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from digging, cutting or taking turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay or other substance on or from the Common and from cutting, felling or injuring any gorse, heather, timber, or other tree, shrub, brushwood, or other plant growing on the Common.
- (c). For regulating the place and mode of digging and taking turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay, or other substance, and cutting, felling and taking trees or underwood on or from the Common, in exercise of any right of common or other right over the Common.
- (d). For prohibiting the injury, defacement, or removal of seats, fences, notice-boards, or other things put up or maintained by the Council on the Common.
- (e). For prohibiting or regulating the posting or painting of bills, placards, advertisements, or notices on trees or fences or notice-boards on the Common.
- (f). For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from bird catching, setting traps or nets, or liming trees or laying snares for birds or other animals, taking birds' eggs or nests and shooting or chasing game or other animals on the Common.
- (g). For prohibiting or regulating the drawing without lawful authority upon the Common of any carriage, cart, caravan, truck or other vehicle, and the erecting or permitting to remain on the Common, without the consent of the Council or other lawful authority, any building, shed, tent, fence, post, railing or other structure, whether used in connection with the playing of games or not, and for authorising an officer of the Council to remove from the Common any vehicle drawn upon the Common and any structure erected thereon in contravention of any such byelaw.
- (h). For prohibiting (except in the case of a fair lawfully held) or regulating the placing on the Common of any photographic cart, or of any show, exhibition, swing, roundabout, or other like thing and for authorising an officer of the Council to remove from the Common anything placed upon the Common in contravention of any such byelaw.
- (j). For prohibiting or regulating the lighting of any fire on the Common.

- (k). For prohibiting or regulating the firing or discharge of firearms or the throwing or discharge of missiles on the Common.
- (l). For regulating games to be played and other means of recreation to be exercised on the Common and assemblages of persons thereon.
- (m). For prohibiting or regulating bathing from the Common.
- (n). For regulating the use of any portion of the Common temporarily enclosed or set apart under this scheme for any purpose.
- (o). For prohibiting or regulating horses being exercised or broken in without lawful authority by grooms or others on the Common.
- (p). For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from turning out or permitting to remain on the Common any cattle, sheep, or other animals ; and for authorising an officer of the Council to remove from the Common any cattle, sheep or other animal being upon the Common in contravention of any such byelaw.
- (q). Generally for prohibiting or regulating any act or thing tending to injury to disfigurement of the Common or to interference with the use thereof by the public for the purposes of exercise and recreation.
- (r). For authorising an officer of the Council, after due warning, to remove or exclude from the Common any person who within his view commits, or whom he reasonably suspects of committing an offence against any byelaw made under this scheme or against the Vagrancy Act, 1824.
- (s). For prohibiting the hindrance or obstruction of an officer of the Council in the exercise of his powers or duties under this scheme or under any byelaws made thereunder.

10. All byelaws made under this scheme shall be published on notice-boards placed on such parts of the Common (not less than two) as to the Council may appear desirable.

Publication of Byelaws on Common.

11. Nothing in this scheme or any byelaw made thereunder shall prejudice or affect any right of the person entitled as Lord of the Manor or otherwise to the soil of the Common or of any person claiming under him which is lawfully exercisable in, over, under, or on the soil or surface of the Common in connection with game, or with mines, minerals or other substrata or otherwise, or prejudice or affect any rights of the Commoners in or over the Common or the lawful use of any highway or thoroughfare on the Common, or affect any power or obligation to repair any such highway or thoroughfare.

Saving of rights, &c., in the soil & highways.

12. Printed copies of this scheme shall at all times be sold at the office of the Council to all persons desiring to buy the same at a price not exceeding threepence each.

Copies of Scheme.

The Common Seal of the Cookham Rural District Council was hereunto affixed this 27th day of June, 1923, in the presence of

WM. WEALL, Chairman.

T. W. STUCHBERY, Clerk.

The Seal of the Cookham Rural District Council.

Approved by Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, this 27th day of July, 1923.

C. W. SABIN,

Authorised by the Ministry.

The Seal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.