

COMMONS ACT, 1899.

Seal Chart, Fawke Common, Bitchet Common, Bitchet Green, Godden Green, and lands at Blake's Green and Stone Street, in the Parish of Seal, Wicket Common, and Common Land adjoining Oak Lane, and other Common Lands in the neighbourhood thereof, and Common Lands at the sides of the public road adjoining Bayley's Hill and Pitfield Wood, in the Parish of Sevenoaks Weald, Kent.

SCHEME FOR Regulation of the Commons

Sealed by the Sevenoaks Rural District Council on the Seventeenth day of September, 1925, and approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Sixth day of October, 1925.

Sevenoaks Rural District Council.

COMMONS ACT, 1899.

Seal Chart, Fawke Common, Bitchet Common, Bitchet Green, Godden Green, and lands at Blake's Green and Stone Street, in the Parish of Seal; Wicket Common, land adjoining Oak Lane and other Common lands in the neighbourhood thereof, and Common land at the sides of the public road adjoining Bayley's Hill and Pitfield Wood, in the Parish of Sevenoaks Weald.

S C H E M E .

1. The pieces of land, with the ponds, paths and roads thereon, situate in the Parishes of Seal, and Sevenoaks Weald, in the County of Kent, that is to say :—

(a) **In the Parish of Seal.**

the Commons known as Seal Chart, Fawke Common, Bitchet Common, Bitchet Green, Godden Green, and lands at Blake's Green and Stone Street.

(b) **In the Parish of Sevenoaks Weald.**

the Common known as Wicket Common, a strip of land adjoining Oak Lane, and other Common Lands in the neighbourhood thereof, and Common Lands at the sides of the Public road adjoining Bayley's Hill and Pitfield Wood, and

hereinafter referred to as "the Commons," as the same are delineated in a plan deposited at the Office of the Rural District Council of Sevenoaks hereinafter called "the Council" and thereon coloured green, being "Commons" 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.

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 Commons 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.

3. The Council may execute any works of drainage, raising, levelling, or fencing, or other works for the protection and improvement of the Commons, 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 Commons and otherwise improve the Commons 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 Commons or interfere with free access to every part thereof, and shall not erect upon the Commons any shelter, pavilion, or other building without the previous consent of the person entitled to the soil of the Commons.

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

5. The inhabitants of the District and neighbourhood shall have a right of free access to every part of the Commons 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.

6. The Council shall have power to repair and maintain the existing paths and roads on the Commons, and to set out, make, and maintain such new paths and roads on the Commons 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 Commons.

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

8. The Council may set apart for games any portion or portions of the Commons 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.

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

For prohibiting the deposit on the Commons or in any pond thereon, of road-sand, material 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 Commons and from cutting, felling, or injuring any gorse, heather, timber, or other tree, shrub, brush-wood, or other plant growing on the Commons;
- (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 Commons in exercise of any right of Common or other right over the Commons ;
- (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 Commons ;
- (e) For prohibiting or regulating the posting or painting of bills, placards, advertisements, or notices on trees or fences or notice-boards on the Commons ;
- (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 Commons ;
- (g) For prohibiting or regulating the drawing ^{or permitting to remain} without lawful authority upon the Commons of any carriage, cart, caravan, truck or other vehicle, and the erecting or permitting to remain on the Com-
^{mon, 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 Commons any vehicle drawn upon the Commons, and any structure erected thereon in} ^{contravention of any such bye-law ;}
- (h) For prohibiting (except in the case of a fair lawfully held) or regulating the placing on the Commons 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 Commons anything placed upon the Commons in contravention of any such bye-law ;

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- (j) For prohibiting or regulating the lighting of any fire on the Commons ;
- (k) For prohibiting or regulating the firing or discharge of firearms or the throwing or discharge of missiles on the Commons ;
- (l) For regulating games to be played and other means of recreation to be exercised on the Commons, and assemblages of persons thereon ;
- (m) For prohibiting or regulating bathing from the Commons ;
- (n) For regulating the use of any portion of the Commons 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 Commons ;
- (p) For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from turning out or permitting to remain on the Commons any cattle, sheep, or other animals and for authorising an officer of the Council to remove from the Commons any cattle, sheep, or other animal being upon the Commons in contravention of any such bye-law ;
- (q) Generally, for prohibiting or regulating any act or thing tending to injury or disfigurement of the Commons 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 Commons any person who within his view commits or whom he reasonably suspects of committing, an offence against any bye-law 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 bye-laws made thereunder.

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

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Sevenoaks Rural District Council.

11. Nothing in this scheme or any bye-law made thereunder shall prejudice or affect any rights of the person entitled as Lord of the Manor or otherwise to the soil of the Commons or any of them or of any person claiming under him which is lawfully exercisable in, over, under, or on the soil or surface of the Commons 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 Commons or the lawful use of any highway or thoroughfare on the Commons, or affect any power or obligation to repair any such highway or thoroughfare.

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 sixpence each.

The Common Seal of the Sevenoaks Rural District Council was hereunto affixed in pursuance of a Resolution duly passed at a Meeting of the Council duly convened and held on the seventeenth day of September, One Thousand nine hundred and twenty-five, in the presence of :

C. E. PYM,
Chairman.

F. H. VIBERT,
Clerk.

Approved by Order of the
Ministry of Agriculture and
Fisheries this Sixth day of
October, 1925.

P. W. MILLARD,
Authorised by the Minister.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEME to amend the Scheme for the Regulation of Seal Chart and other Commons in the Parishes of Seal and Sevenoaks Weald made by the Sevenoaks Rural District Council in pursuance of their powers under the Commons Act, 1899 on the 17th September, 1925, and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on 6th October, 1925.

THE SCHEME dated the 17th day of September 1925 made by the Council for the Rural District of Sevenoaks (hereinafter called the "the Council") and approved by Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries on the 6th day of October, 1925, for regulating the pieces of land with ponds, paths and roads thereon, commonly known as Seal Chart and other common lands situate in the Parishes of Seal and Sevenoaks Weald in the County of Kent shall be hereby amended in pursuance of Section 9 of the Commons Act 1899 as follows :—

the pieces of land, with the ponds, paths and roads thereon, situate in the Parish of Westerham in the County of Kent, that is to say:- Crockham Hill Common, Farley Common and Hosey Common hereinafter referred to as "the Commons" as the same are delineated in a plan deposited at the office of the Rural District Council of Sevenoaks and thereon coloured green being "Commons" within the meaning of the Commons Act, 1899, shall henceforth be regulated by this Scheme and the management thereof shall be vested in the said Council.

and this 21st day of February, 1963.

The Common Seal of the Seven-
oaks Rural District Council was
hereunto affixed in pursuance of
a Resolution duly passed in that
behalf and the same was so affixed
in the presence of :

L.S.

J. STEVEN,
Chairman of the Council.

E. C. COX,
Deputy Clerk to the Council.

Approved by order of the
Minister of Agriculture, Fisher-
ies and Food this 29th day of
May, Nineteen hundred and
sixty-three.

L.S.

K. W. EVANS,
Authorised by the Minister.