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MADSTONE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT, 1899

Scheme for the Regulation  
and Management of

"THE LIES" COMMON  
IN THE PARISH OF YALDING  
IN THE COUNTY OF KENT

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# MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## COMMONS ACT, 1899

Scheme for the Regulation and Management of

### "THE LEES" COMMON IN THE PARISH OF YALDING IN THE COUNTY OF KENT

Description of Common and Management by District Council.

1.—The piece of land with the ponds, streams, paths and roads thereon, commonly known as "THE LEES," situate in the Parish of Yalding in the County of Kent, and hereinafter referred to as "The Common," as the same is delineated in a plan sealed by and deposited at the Office of the Rural District Council of Maidstone, 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 by resolution of the Council be vested in the Council.

Appointment of Officers.

2.—The powers of the Council generally as to appointing or employing officers and 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.

Protection and Improvement of Common.

3.—The Council may execute any necessary works of drainage, raising, levelling or other works for the protection and improvement of the Common and may for the prevention of accidents, fence any quarry pit pond stream or other like place on 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 and recreation. Save as hereinafter provided, the Council shall do nothing that may otherwise vary or alter the natural features or aspects of the Common or interfere with free access to any part thereof, and shall not erect upon the

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Common any shelter, pavilion, drinking fountain, convenience or other building without the previous consent of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (in this Scheme referred to as "the Minister"). The Minister, in giving or withholding his consent, shall have regard to the same considerations and shall, if necessary, hold the same enquiries as are directed by the Commons Act, 1876, to be taken into consideration and held by the Minister before forming an opinion whether an application under the Inclosure Acts, 1845 to 1882, shall be acceded to or not.

**Against Encroachments.** 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.

**Public Right of Access and Recreation.** 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.

**Maintenance and Construction of Paths and Roads.** 6.—The Council shall have power to repair and maintain the existing paths and roads on the Common other than highways repairable by the inhabitants at large, and to set out, construct and maintain, or authorise the construction and maintenance of 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.

**Games, etc.** 7.—The Council may set apart for games any portion or portions of the Common as they may consider expedient, and may form grounds thereon for cricket, football, tennis, bowls, and other games, and may allow such grounds to be temporarily enclosed with any open fence, so as to prevent cattle and horses straying thereon; but such grounds shall not be so numerous or extensive as to affect prejudicially the enjoyment of the Common as an open space or the lawful exercise of any right of common, and shall not be so near to any dwelling house or road as to create a nuisance or an annoyance to the inhabitants of the house or to persons using the road.

**Parking Places.** 8.—The Council may with the consent of the Minister temporarily set apart and fence such portion or portions of the Common as they may consider expedient for the parking of motor and other vehicles, and may make such charges for the use of such part as they may deem necessary and reasonable provided that any area so set apart shall not be so near to any dwelling house as to create a nuisance or be an annoyance to the inhabitants of the house. The Minister, in giving or withholding his consent, shall have regard to the same considerations and shall, if necessary, hold the same enquiries as are directed by the Commons Act, 1876, to be taken into consideration and held by the Minister before forming an opinion whether an application under the Inclosure Acts, 1845 to 1882, shall be acceded to or not.

**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 placing or depositing and leaving on the Common, without lawful authority of road-sand, materials for repair of roads, wood, glass, china, earthenware, tin, carton, paper or other rubbish so as to create or tend to create a litter.

(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.

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(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, shelters, pavilions, drinking fountains, fences, notice-boards, rubbish receptacles or any works erected 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, erections or notice-boards on the Common.

(f) For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from bird catching, setting traps or nets, 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 the drawing, driving or placing without lawful authority upon the Common of any carriage, cart, caravan, truck, motor cycle or other vehicle, or any aircraft (except in the case of accident or other sufficient cause): or camping or the lighting of any fire thereon.

(h) For prohibiting or in the case of a fair lawfully held for regulating, the placing on the Common of any show, exhibition, swing, roundabout, or other like thing.

(i) For prohibiting or regulating the firing or discharge of firearms or the throwing or discharge of missiles on the Common

(j) For regulating games to be played and other means of recreation to be exercised on the Common and assemblages of persons thereon.

(k) For regulating the use of any portion of the Common temporarily enclosed or set apart under this scheme for any purpose.

(l) For prohibiting or regulating the driving exercising or breaking in of horses without lawful authority on any part of the Common.

(m) For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from turning out or permitting to remain on the Common any cattle, sheep, or other animals.

(n) For prohibiting any person from bathing in any pond or stream on or from the Common save in accordance with the byelaws.

(o) Generally, for prohibiting or regulating any act or thing tending to injury or disfigurement of the Common or to interference with the use thereof by the public for the purposes of exercise and recreation.

(p) For authorising any officer of the Council, after due warning, to remove from the Common any vehicle or animal drawn, driven or placed, or any structure erected or placed thereon, in contravention of this Scheme or of any byelaw made under this Scheme, or to exclude from the Common any person who within his view commits or whom he reasonably suspects of committing, an offence against any such byelaw or against the Vagrancy Acts.

(q) 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 byelaw made thereunder.

Publication of  
Byelaws on  
Common.

10.—All byelaws made under this Scheme shall be published on notice-boards placed on such parts of the Common, not less than three, as to the Council may appear desirable.

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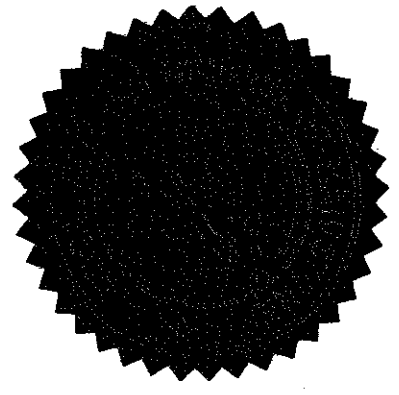
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Saving of Rights,  
etc., in the  
Soil and  
Highways.

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.

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 MAIDSTONE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL was hereunto  
affixed at a meeting of the Council held on the  
24th day of MAY  
1949 by direction of the Council in the  
presence of

*A. P. Weaver*

Presiding Chairman.

*Geo. G. Letchford*

Clerk of the Council.

Approved by Order of the Minister  
of Agriculture and Fisheries this  
twenty-seventh day of May, 1949.

*W. Morrison*

AUTHORISED BY THE MINISTER.

*W.*