



Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents Association

www.theaspra.org.uk

**Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 25 April 2019 at 8pm in
St Mildred's Church, 30 Bingham Road**

1. Apologies

John and Sharon Collins, Phil Poole, Prunella Glaisher, Glenn Morfill, Joy Morral, Jeet Bains, Sarah Hills, John Aitken, Margaret and Alfred Menezes, Chris Facey, Fred Law, Janice Rutter, Sarah Jones MP and Mark Henson.

2. Introductions to committee and Road Reps

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

No matter arising. The minutes were adopted.

4. Councillor's Report

Maddie Henson apologised for missing the last couple of meetings due to health issues. She advised us of the good news that she will be Deputy Mayor from 20 May and to let her know if there are any events/meetings we wish her to attend. She has started to arrange a lot more community events such as the Addiscombe Christmas Carnival and the recent Easter Egg Hunt. The swing park in Ashburton Park is to be revamped using crowd funding and yellow donation pots can be found around the place including some of our shops.

Janet Ambrose asked about the repeated dumping of rubbish in Addiscombe Recreation Ground and can we get any feedback. Maddie advised that the person had been issued with the standard penalty notice and encouraged everyone to use the "Don't mess with Croydon" app which is not as quick as she would like as it does have a middle man.

Janet also mentioned the incident of a person who drove their car into Addiscombe Recreation Ground unloading their car and having a picnic. Whilst no damage was done, concerns are this could be followed by caravans entering the park.

5. Croydon's Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Chair of Croydon's NHW Brian Udell gave a talk on this national organisation. He is responsible for Croydon's 363 active co-ordinators. Attached the document about the aim of NHW and encourages us to join. NHW aims to reduce the volume of crime and the fear of crime. Members receive a twice-yearly newsletter either by email or as a hard copy.

Most of those present had been on the receiving end some kind of scams. We were made aware to be very careful when receiving a scam phone call as scammers stay on the line and pretend to be the bank or whoever we think we are phoning to check verification and they get our details that way. We should all report scams and this may lead to prosecution. It is difficult to measure how successful NHW is as working out how many times members have not been conned is not readily available. NHW have asked councillors to provide funding for literature and using a professional delivery service to ensure each household receives the information.

James Maloney said that when he recently made an insurance claim he was asked if he was in NHW and assumed he wasn't as he had received no literature for the past five years. If you claim to be a member of NHW and you are not, this has serious consequences for your insurance claim. James has volunteered to be the rep for his half of Bingham Road (the other end already has Jenny as their rep).

Young families moving into the area are seen as targets and NHW wish to raise their profile. Maddie Henson has offered some of her community budget to assist NHW with their literature and professional distribution. ASPRA's offer of help was politely refused. Like most organisations NHW is careful of GDPR restricting the information they can provide but below is a list of roads which include ASPRA ones (those highlighted) for information on which roads already have a co-ordinator. The aim is to get as many roads as possible in NHW If you are interested in becoming a NHW co-ordinator either contact nhw@cbnwa.com or visit their website at www.cbnwa.com.

WatchName
Addiscombe Avenue
Ashurst Walk
Bingham Road 1/2!
Capri Road
Compton Road
Craven Road
Dalmally Road
Everton Road
Fernhurst Road
Grant Road
Harriet Gardens
Highbarrow Road
Nicholson Road
Northampton Road
Outram Road
Pagehurst Road
Teevan Close
Teevan Road
Tenterden Gardens
Tenterden Road
Windermere Road

6. ASPRA Vacancies

The road reps are fully covered again following Sheilagh stepping back for the time being and Anton taking over for the even numbers side of Parkview Road.

Our other vacancy is for a planning officer. If anyone is interested please contact the secretary@theaspra.org.uk.

Our Projects Consultant has other commitments this year so anyone interested in helping or taking over please contact Hilary at projects@theaspra.org.uk.

7. Magazine Editor's Report

A report was sent out with the agenda.

Colin Gamm covered both the Magazine Editor's report and Advertisement Manager's reports as Editor Phil Poole was unfortunately unable to attend. He said that a main concern of theirs is while putting pressure on themselves and TD Print to do a timely job, some road reps then do not pick up the magazine very quickly. Phil has taken to dropping off the magazine to the very slow road reps and hopes they do in fact deliver. Everyone at the meeting confirmed they had been receiving the magazine.

While the success of advertising intake is good news financially, the downside is that it has to be balanced by an increase in editorial pages, which means more work for them. The last issue, the largest so far, had 64 pages. The pagination would not be increased further.

The next issue of ASPRA's magazine is due out in early June time so the deadline for articles, by agreement with the editor, is mid-May.

The next magazine goes to every household in the ASPRA area with the sole intention of increasing our membership. Approximately 2000 magazines will be distributed.

Lyn Simmons proposed a vote of thanks to Colin, Phil and their editorial team for their excellent work.

8. Advertisement Manager's Report

A comprehensive report was sent out with the agenda.

See above for additional information.

9. Website Report

A report was sent out with the agenda. Further reports to give the picture for the year are available on the website.

Bob Sleeman took over managing the website at James' request and has kept it ticking over but it does need an overhaul and a fresh look. George Orlebar has been developing our new website and apologised that this has been slower than he hoped due to taking on additional role of carer for a family member. He is about half way there and needs to speak with Dave Lee and then he will not be far off doing the transfer with Bob. They were thanked for taking on the website.

Colin Gamm asked if the charts showed more or fewer people looking at the website. Bob replied it was hard to tell as this includes people from the USA and hackers but the impression is of a steady audience. Councillors have kindly given funds for the development of ASPRA's website.

10. Social Media Report

A report was sent out with the agenda.

It's the second anniversary of our Facebook page. Nicola Corbishley would like more ideas and feedback. She gets messages and tries to post something every week, but not the rants. For ASPRA's 30th anniversary Nicola is posting under the hashtag "#theaspra30" a useful list consolidating what ASPRA does and has done in the past and would appreciate any information to add to that she already has. She was reminded of the rubbish collection rounds which was a real encouragement for people to join. This is no longer appropriate as you can now pay the council to come and collect items you leave outside.

74% of followers are women so come on men!

Colin Gamm was pleased with the scale of the useful content of our page and mentioned a new Instagram site AddiscombeVillage.

11. Treasurer's Annual Accounts and Report

Report and accounts circulated before the meeting.

The accounts were adopted.

Subscriptions are due from the date of this meeting.

Colin Gamm reminded us that by maintaining the subscription price last year we had hoped to increase membership but this had not happened.

In Fred Law's commentary he suggested the magazine could be available on-line only to save print costs. Whilst there is an electronic version on the website it was agreed that advertisers and readers prefer a paper

version to be distributed and it gives the road reps the opportunity of contact with the members. It was agreed that we will continue with the paper copy.

12. Projects Report

A report was sent out with the agenda.

Hilary Chelminski took us through her report.

A vote was taken on whether to reuse the poppies and it was agreed to reuse them on our lamp posts and Hilary will arrange permission for us to do this.

A vote was taken on the reuse of the silent soldier. To reuse, the plaque at the base needs to be covered up. There is also a second soldier which arrived damaged but could be made use of. The vote agreed the displaying of silent soldier/s this year.

Hilary explained that the Festive lighting contract finishes this year and we will need to look at options and she reminded everyone that the current contract had only been made possible by three committee members, Fred Law, Bob Sleeman and Gill Lee who underwrote the £12000 cost of the five-year contract. A vote was taken later in the meeting as to whether to continue with Christmas lights and it was unanimously agreed to do so.

Hilary had a picture of this year's lights which had been chosen by ASPRA members and Colin did a good job of describing them to everyone.

A planting scheme/hanging baskets etc. for the area of the Lower Addiscombe Road covered by our Christmas lights, was previously agreed, and now needs taking forward so a volunteer is required for this.

Hilary let us know that due to other commitments she is no longer able to fulfil the role and has asked if anyone is interested in the role.

She updated us on the efforts to gain Addiscombe a Christmas tree (conifer type to replace the existing tree by the Addiscombe Village noticeboard) and has written to a new contact who is involved with our local trees but has not had a response yet. Maddie has offered to help with this.

Steve White thanked Hilary for all her hard work.

13. Membership and Postmaster Report

A report was sent out with the agenda.

Membership is up by four on last year and we have gained approximately 100 new members whilst losing almost as many.

Subscriptions are now due and envelopes will be distributed with the magazine.

Between Nicola's Facebook role and Dave's postmaster role they have recovered cats and dogs but not any of the cars yet.

14. Jumble Trail Report

A report was sent out with the agenda.

An update from when the report was written is that LMB are producing the booking form which is due to be ready in the next couple of weeks. The leaflet will be distributed in June and will also be available on-line.

I Love Addiscombe Facebook will be taking on the social media role.

Local Estate Agent Hyde & Rowe need to know the number of advertising boards by August and the minimum requirement is 30. You can display a board without having a stall.

15. Addiscombe Recreation Ground Report

A report was sent out with the agenda.

Dates for community gardening have been set for the remainder of the year and these have been sent to Dave and Nicola to publicise. We would also like to emphasize that any help/contributions when walking through the park are much appreciated.

Colin Gamm is planning to hack the ivy from the large tree near the Bingham Road entrance of the park and would like help with this. Please contact him at adverts@theaspra.org.uk.

Hilary Chelminski mentioned that she is always hearing comments about how lovely the gardens look.

16. Chairman's Report

No report was sent out with the agenda.

Steve White attended two meetings regarding the one-way traffic issues near to East Croydon. The four resident associations are unable to agree on anything.

The positives to come out of this is the enforcement of the 7.5 ton weight limit and 20 mph speed limit.

Maddie Henson informed us that Jeet Bains has been pressuring TfL about this situation.

17. Review of Annual Subscriptions

The chairman proposed that subs should be raised to £5. After some discussion the vote was taken and it was agreed to keep the subs at £4. A further proposal was made that the option for members to make an additional voluntary contribution should include, with wording to be added to the subscription envelope "*you may wish to add an amount to your payment to support ASPRA projects, e.g. Festive Lighting*". This motion was approved by the majority.

Sonya Jones suggested fund raising for the Christmas lights with I love Addiscombe mugs to be sold to members and by local shops and cafes. She will get back to the committee on this.

18. Ballots

- a. Any Proposed Changes to Constitution
Two additional committee posts – Projects Consultant and Social Media Coordinator
Motion carried
- a. Election of Committee Members: (All volunteers)
 - i. Chairperson (Steve White nominated for re-election)
 - ii. Vice-Chairperson (Mary Alexander nominated for re-election)
 - iii. Treasurer (Frederick Law nominated for re-election)
 - iv. Secretary (Gill Lee nominated for re-election)
 - v. Magazine Editor (Phil Poole nominated for re-election)
 - vi. Advertisement Manager (Colin Gamm nominated for re-election)
 - vii. Membership Secretary (Dave Lee nominated for re-election)These were voted on block and the motioned carried unanimously.

19. Confirmation of Non-Committee (Unelected) roles:

- a. Webmaster – Bob Sleeman / George Orlebar (Volunteers)
- b. Postmaster - Dave Lee (Volunteer) this role was voted on to the committee at the 2016 AGM and reflected in the constitution.

20. Sid Hamilos - How do we stop this overdevelopment and the conversion of houses in our Road into 5 or 6 single bed flats?

Sid did not attend the meeting

21. Laura Mulligan - front hedges

Laura lives in Bingham Road and is a nurse working with lung disease. She explained to us the health risks of removing gardens and hedging and the need to maintain both high and low level vegetation. Whilst we can lobby councillors and MPs it is our responsibility as individuals and neighbours to look after our environment. Attached is some of the information she handed out.

Janet Ambrose mentioned that Addiscombe is very polluted with bonfires. Also someone is regularly burning industrial waste like tyres and oil and if anyone has information to identify the source so that it can be reported she would appreciate it.

22. AOB

Janice Rutter asked for an update on the offer of Japanese Cherry Trees for Croydon that had been mentioned in an earlier meeting. Maddie will look into this for us.

Janice also would like to know about the emissions charge the council is proposing to implement. Maddie will look into this for us.

Shirley Vine mentioned a white van that had not moved for a long time and Steve will report this.

Richard Chatterjee asked what was happening with ASPRA finding a planning officer and we advised that so far we had been unsuccessful. Please anyone who can help us get in touch.

Maddie Henson advised she is arranging a concert and dinner dance at Ashburton Hall and will be in touch with details once they have been confirmed so that we can advertise this community event.

Lyn Simmons mentioned the cutting back of vegetation at the tram stop and this would be a good place for additional planting. Maddie Henson to follow this up. Jenny Crook mentioned that a large area seen from the Beckenham tram has been similarly cut back.

Colin Gamm asked why our trees are being pruned again before they are even in leaf and Maddie Henson replied it was Addiscombe's turn.

Nicola Corbishley asked what everyone thought of the venue and it was agreed that it was not suitable for our needs. Despite being given microphones it was very difficult to hear anyone and wasn't particularly easy for the catering.

ASPRA struggled through the meeting as we had been asked to try out the newly revamped church as there were issues with the Pavilion that we had booked. The secretary reported back to St Mildreds the next morning and they were already aware as Eileen the church co-ordinator had reported back following conversations she had with people after the meeting.

Next year's AGM will be back in the Pavilion as detailed below.

Thank you to everyone for their patience throughout the meeting and a thank you to all those who got stuck in and helped to clear up quickly.

Dates of next meetings all at St Mildreds:

- a. Wednesday 12 June 2019 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- b. Thursday 5 September 2019 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- c. Wednesday 5 February 2020 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- d. Wednesday 22 April 2020 ASPRA AGM in the Pavilion