

ASPRA

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 5th September 2018 8-10pm Small Hall St Mildred's

1. Apologies

Gill & Dave Lee, Jane Walsh, Jan Rutter, Bob Sleeman, Mary Alexander, Jonas Cradock, Mike Foster, Jeet Bains, Bill Callow, Claire Brialey

2. Introductions

In addition to ASPRA Members attending were Cllr Maddie Henson & Councillors for Shirley North Ward: Gareth Streeter, Richard Chatterjee & Sue Bennett.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Amendment to: 12. Councillors' Update, para 2 – should be John, not “Jo” Morrall.
Plus one other amendment (clarification needed?)
Otherwise read & accepted.

4. Chairperson Update

Blackhorse Road zebra crossing & roundabout – concerns about illegally parked cars. Maddie had been on a walkabout of area to investigate.

Temporary toilets/portaloos placed on pavements: e.g. Outside Domino's in Fernhurst Road.

Health & Safety in Park: locked gates & broken gates – why do they take 6 weeks to repair? Letter from Jeet had said that Council were due to start work on Fryston Road damaged gate on 3rd Sept., lasting x3 days, but no sign of any work so far. It is the contracted gardeners that damaged the gates & this is the 7th time that it has happened in recent years. During this time the grass cannot be cut nor rubbish properly emptied. Dave Lee has suggested preventative measures for future which should be put forward.

Complaints about speeding: Council employees, dustmen etc have been seen exceeding 20mph on numbers of occasions. Maddie suggests if culprits could be identified they could perhaps be fined. Longbridge Gardens, Gareth Streeter saw lorries speeding in Shirley North Ward & received complaints from residents. Advised to take photos/videos as evidence to report where possible

A cab driver had stated that the 20mph signs were “not legal”, just signs, but the speed limit was thought to be enforceable on a London-wide level.

There was still much speeding in Bingham Road with one Mercedes thought to be driving at about 60mph. If such cases can be proved they could be reported.

Steve had recently nearly been run over by a push bike on the pavement. There are increasing cases of this. A man on an electric scooter has also been seen several times speeding on the pavements.

5. ASPRA Vacancies

As at the last meeting, once again there is 100% coverage of Road Representatives.

Sadly, it was reported that Angela, wife of Steve Callow (3 Harriet Gardens) had recently passed away. A motion to send flowers from ASPRA was proposed & passed, with Nicola Corbishley kindly offering to arrange this.

6. Magazine Update &

7. Adverts Update

Next issue is scheduled to go to print on weekend of 6th October, to include Jumbletrail news from 30th September. Draft covers were passed around for approval. There will be 48 pages, with ratio of advertisements to editorial remaining the same. There are several new advertisers, including 4 full pages, & it is still possible that this may increase to 6 full pages (so 52 pages in all). These would need to be equalled by 6 new pages of editorial, so contributions are invited. Maddie & other Councillors present (5 in all) offered to write articles but the Editor declined this offer preferring that the magazine remains independent.

The closing of Wyvale Nurseries in Shirley (14th September) was discussed – it may become flats.

The Allotment Society could be asked for write-up – their Annual Show Day is on Sunday, 9th September.

The Editor said that a theme for the magazine was not normally established in advance but tended to grow “organically” as it started to build. This time it will be around “Addiscombe Remembers” as it is planned to go out at the end of October/beginning of November so will include the Royal British Legion’s poppies on lamp-posts & the “Silent Soldier” sculpture in Addiscombe.

There will also be photos of what old Addiscombe used to look like & some letters from 1969. Many houses in Addiscombe date from the early 1900’s. There will also be articles on Halloween, Bonfire Night, the Old Crocs Race & the Christmas Lights.

R F Delderfield was mentioned, but his time in Addiscombe has already been covered in the magazine. The 2 books on Addiscombe published in 1989 by the Canning & Clyde Road RA were recommended.

LMB is back in the magazine.

It would be good to be able to report what has happened with recent planning issues.

The Whitgift Estate is trying to invoke covenants to appeal the development at 114 Addiscombe Road – that there should only be one property to each plot. Gerry Meredith Smith is trying to organise a barrister, with each household paying £400-£1,000 to raise the necessary £57,000.

Other developments at 144 & 146 Addiscombe Road were mentioned. A question was raised as to Parish tithes, which are payable in Compton Road.

There are apparently existing covenants on properties in some ASPRA roads, including Selwood Road, Ashburton Avenue & others, but it is not known if these can be enforced.

If Whitgift can prove their legal restrictions, then it will establish Case Law which can be applied elsewhere.

Covenants have often not been tested. There were some in place at Ashburton Hall.

8. Website & Social Media

Report attached.

The new website proposals have been sent out, with the structure all done. There will be updates on recent matters. While George establishes the new site, Bob will continue updating the old one. Reviews & feed-back on the new proposals will be asked for. There is a lot of data on the old site to go through, but for the launch only the most recent data will be included & historic items can then be added at a later date or discarded.

The question was raised that some material could be archived somewhere, but some is no longer relevant.

George will be liaising with Bob over hosting – whether to use existing arrangements or new ones - & logistics. It is hoped that the new site will be up & running this year but the timescale is not yet known.

Maddie offered help, also from husband Mark, & Colin also offered to review templates.

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The ASPRA Facebook page now has 262 followers, up from 195 at previous meeting. There are notices of missing cats & dogs, news about the Jumbletrail & area information. Nicola asked for more information to be forwarded to her for updates, & asked for Poppies & Silent Soldier details (Hilary to send).

There is an Addiscombe Mums' Facebook page.

It would be good to keep feeding our Facebook page regularly. Nicola is liaising with ASPRA Secretary. The page can be seen by those who are not signed up to Facebook but in this case interaction is not possible.

9. Finance Update

Not available. Nothing received.

10. Projects Update

Report attached.

The Noticeboard was again praised by members.

The x50 large (16"/40cm diameter) Royal British Legion poppies for lamp-posts were shown to members. As this is their busiest time, Skanska could not help to put them up until October. However, as Selsdon, South Norwood & Shirley are reported to have their poppies already on display, it was thought generally that ASPRA should put them in Addiscombe soon, particularly as this is the Centenary year & the schools etc. are receiving lead-in information for the commemorations. Skanska have given us

permission for this work as long as we carry out the proper health & safety measures which they have advised. (We must use step-ladders held at base, not leaning on lamp-posts & take care while volunteers are working on the public highway) We can collect high vis jackets from their S. Croydon depot next week.

The date of Saturday 22nd September was established as best for most people, & Nicola, Jonas, Maddie, Terry, Lyn & Hilary volunteered to meet at the ASPRA Noticeboard at 10.30am to carry out the installations. The Councillors thought that Cllr Jeet might also wish to join the party. Nicola has a safety ladder she can bring.

As it was our ex-Cllr Stephen Mann's Ward Fund budget that paid for the poppies, it was wished that he was still with us to help put them up as he is so tall! The poppies must be placed at a minimum height of 2.3m from the ground, not cause any obstructions etc.

It was proposed that Postmaster Dave should be asked to circulate details of this date for the poppy installing, & that we should let our neighbouring RAs know & invite them to attend/help if they wish.

We are advised today by the Royal British Legion that, due to very high demand, the "Silent Soldier" figure will not be delivered for at least 4 weeks.

Updates on these & other projects should in future be sent to Nicola for Facebook.

11. Membership & Postmaster Update

Report attached.

Figures & report were noted & it was said that there were some new subscriptions still to be recorded, from Colin & elsewhere, so this year's membership should eventually be higher than last.

12. Councillors' Update

Comments on the new boundaries review – Gareth had found that many people felt that the new wards were better matched to the areas where they lived than formerly.

As the ASPRA area crosses both Addiscombe East & Shirley North wards we are in the fortunate position of having 5 Councillors who can represent us which was thought to be advantageous in championing any causes.

On the new rubbish bins, the Conservative Councillors generally thought they were a hassle but they were co-operating with the Council over them. It was emphasised that the Council will listen to reasoning on the new system.

Many members complained about the size of the new bins & the space they took up on their frontages, in some cases blocking them completely. Many people now have 4 large bins, & some converted houses have 8 or 12 to contend with. It was said that there had been no consultation over these bins & that they had not been asked for, just imposed on people. Generally they were not welcomed.

Richard mentioned the “Intensification of Suburbs” Special Planning Document SPD2 & the public consultation that are taking place on these – there will be a number of public road shows this month – there is one at Christchurch Methodist Church on Tuesday 2nd October at 7.45pm.

Maddie will forward email on this subject (Please see these documents separately).

Questions were raised about planning decisions & where they were made – they were said to be a combination of central Government, London & Croydon directives, implemented as they were passed down the lines to where the allocations should be.

There were concerns about planning & particularly conversions in the area, as they are frequently badly executed & poorly maintained. There were some good new developments in Lower Addiscombe Road (perhaps because they were in the East India Conservation area) ASPRA was not successful in its bid for Local Heritage Area status (except for the few houses in Bingham Road near Addiscombe Tram stop) so does not have the same protection.

There were very poor conversions mentioned: of the shop in Lower Addiscombe Road near the Tram stop & the house in Northampton Road, where planning provisions were obviously breached & there is unfinished work, rubbish, weeds etc.

Phil mentioned the first time buyer markets & the buy to rent markets, where there is often poor building work carried out & maintenance is neglected by careless landlords/owners. There are currently worrying proposals for 3 houses in Northampton Road about which he has written to the Council & Councillors but had no replies. Maddie asked that he let her know about his concerns.

Councillors mentioned that the Planning Committee Meetings are now webcast, & Richard spoke of the value in watching these either live or on camera, to find out about how decisions are made.

Maddie said that the idea of these webcasts is to involve people in local issues. Webcasts are also being made of the Scrutiny Meetings, & of Council Meetings & those for Licensing. (A recent Scrutiny Committee Meeting on Bins & the Environment was said to have been cancelled).

These Meetings (& their webcasts) can be very useful for finding out about wider community issues.

Terry suggested that the most important issues for most people were those that directly affected them.

As a case in point, it was further stated that the new rubbish bins were an eyesore, not wanted, & that residents had not been consulted about them beforehand. There were too many bins.

Maddie & Gareth said that they would get in touch on the subject & present feed-back to the Council.

Gareth is on the Planning Committee & said that the merit of each application is measured on policy.

The Shirley North Councillors challenge Planning Applications. “Policy is for guidance & not adherence”.

Janet from StMildred’s Court was formerly a Planning Officer in Beckenham & commented on some procedures.

It was emphasised that if we want help we should get in touch with our Councillors. Maddie has been ill recently & in hospital so apologised if she had not responded to some letters, but she is now back to work.

Shirley Vine raised the issue of the lack of street cleaning in Ashurst Walk, & a blocked drain that had not been attended to, despite complaints. Maddie promised to find out about these concerns.

13. Jumbletrail Update

There are already 26 bookings for this year, but both Lyn & Jenny have been on holiday. Alan Heritage have changed their marketing but Hyde & Rowe estate agents will now be sponsoring the advertising boards.

The Jumbletrail this year will cover a wider area, including the neighbouring residents’ associations. Leaflets have been put through every door, for which a big thank you was given out to all the volunteers who kindly carried out this work.

LMB paid for the printing & production of the leaflets & there are also some larger posters in a similar format for stallholders’ windows & elsewhere. CHASE RA will be putting some up & various community organisations have also offered.

As the original Jumbletrail website has now closed down, booking forms can be delivered to the Cafe Adagio or the Alarm Shop opposite.

So far, there are 2 bookings from HOME RA, 2 from Blackhorse RA, 2 from CHASE RA & 19 from ASPRA. More should be signing up as 30th September approaches. Lyn & Jenny are emphasising to the groups who have not taken part before that the more people who participate, the better it works for everyone.

The Addiscombe Jumbletrail will feature on the “Inside Croydon” website, & the Councillors offered to mention it on their blogs – there is a Shirley North Blog & Maddie also has a Facebook page.

Posters & fliers will also be put up locally where it is possible to do so.

14. Addiscombe Recreation Ground Update

Report attached.

Sheila & Maddie objected to the new tennis charges that are being imposed . John Mann etc. represent GLL that have taken over.

Jeet & Maddie had discussed the provision of toilet facilities, but this had not been resolved. Historically the toilets had been “put to other uses” than intended so were discontinued.

Members expressed the great need that was felt for toilets in the Rec., especially for users of the sports facilities & the childrens’ playgrounds – currently people are having to make use of the bushes & trees, which is unpleasant & unsanitary.

Concerns were expressed that GLL might also start charging for use of the childrens’ playground in the future.

It was said that the new tennis surfaces were much improved, but also that the charges to use them were too high – for example, a family group attending (as they often do) would not be able to afford to pay £3.50 or £5.50 each for a session, so this would be prohibitive.

Extra rubbish bins were requested for the park, & that they can be emptied more frequently. They were especially needed in the basketball courts.

Maddie will speak to the Cabinet Member in charge of these things.

Janet objected to the bark chippings that had been put down in the park entrance flower beds, which pervaded her flat with their smell & she felt were not ecological.

Somebody regularly throws raw rice in the Bingham Road entranceway, perhaps for the birds, but this might be poisonous to them, remains there for a long time & probably constitutes a health hazard. Some people also like to tie bags of dog faeces to trees, plants, fences & railings & leave them there.

Janet also mentioned that a lady from the Council told her that a supply of Japanese cherry trees might be available, & asked where they could best be placed in the park. Maddie also knew about this, & is meeting with the lady on 16th September. She suggests that those who wish to support the cherry trees idea should write to her before then.

15. AOB

In the meantime, it was suggested that we might like to think about where to place the cherry trees in Addiscombe Rec./Bingham Park.

Maddie has been speaking to other RAs about having some sort of pic-nics, where the Council could supply tents & games could be organised. A Community Day which could maybe take place next summer.

16. Dates of next meeting at St Mildred’s

The next meeting will be on 6th February, 2019.

Chairman Steve is looking into the idea of possibly using the Shirley Park Bowling Club for meetings. He thinks it may be cheaper & there is a bar there.

Other members thought that this was too far away.