



# Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents Association

[www.theaspra.org.uk](http://www.theaspra.org.uk)

**Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 26 April 2016 at 8pm**

**in The Pavilion, St Mildred's, 30 Bingham Road**

## **1. Welcome and apologies.**

Steve White, acting chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting

- i. Alan and Joyce Easterbrook, Frederick Law (Treasurer) Lyn Simmons, Ian & Ages Walker, Gill Lee, Kiff Paddon, Cllr Stephen Mann, Paul Pinder, Sharon & John Collins, Margaret Grimsley, Claire Binnie,
- ii. Gavin Barwell will not now be able to attend the AGM this evening as he has to be at No. 10 for a meeting which has been called at short notice. He does apologise and if there are any issues that arise that you would like his input on please do let me know.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising.**

The minutes were approved, there were no matters arising

## **3. Magazine Editor's Report**

The report was circulated prior to the meeting, as the current Editor is stepping down there was a wide ranging discussion about the magazine and its production and frequency. It was suggested that it would be beneficial if there was a small magazine committee formed to take on the creation and publication, this was formally proposed and accepted by the meeting. There were no volunteers for these roles at the meeting. Liz confirmed that she is currently working on the subscription edition of the magazine and would be happy to support the new editor whilst they find their feet.

## **4. Advertising Manager & Webmaster's Report.**

The report was circulated prior to the meeting, Advertisers are still keen to support ASPRA, revenue is down as expected because of the number of magazine issues published. The website continues to attract some 2000 visits per month. The Webmaster would like to step away from the role, a keen IT literate individual to take on the website upkeep and development would be most welcome, Bob is happy to support them whilst they settle in to the role.

## **5. Treasurer's Report.**

The Treasurers commentary to the accounts and the figures were circulated prior to the meeting. In response to a question from the floor regarding the Social and hall hire costs, the meeting secretary confirmed that these costs cover an 18 month period, due to the change to the ASPRA accounting year, and that ASPRA's success means that a larger hall is needed to hold meetings. It was suggested that perhaps the Catholic church hall could be used for some ASPRA meetings. The ASPRA secretary has sought information on several occasions with no response, they will be contacted again seeking availability and prices. Addiscombe has a thriving and wide range of community activities and hall availability is often an issue, ASPRA is currently booking 1 year in advance.

## **6. Postmaster and Membership Report.**

The Postmaster endeavours to balance the need to circulate information amongst members with the need to keep unwanted messages to a minimum. As a result of the Council decision to 'prefer' online replies to the current 20mph consultation, 300 paper consultation forms and envelopes were obtained, these have been overprinted with ASPRA information and the road reps are delivering these to those members with no email address. Membership figures

(previously circulated) show that membership for the year ended at 680, which is up from the previous year. It is expected that the Festive Lights and other events such as the recent JumbleTrail will raise awareness of ASPRA and encourage membership.

There was a wide ranging, and lively, discussion about the role of road reps, general ASPRA publicity and awareness and how to try and encourage members to fill road rep vacancies for the roads they live in. (After meeting, membership secretary advised that only 8 roads of 39 have reps that do not live in the road) It was mooted that a group of members should focus on one road at a time and 'door knock' all households to encourage membership. It was generally agreed that this option should be considered later in the year after the initial subs collection activity, but that reps would be circulated and asked for their views and if they would like to participate at the appropriate time. Vince to provide a form of words for this email to road reps.

The Membership secretary will continue his process of circulating, as appropriate, members in roads with vacancies to volunteer to become a road rep.

The issue of knowing who in a road were members, if members wished to encourage others to join was raised. It was suggested that "are you a member of ASPRA, if not then please join us, our rep is ..... " would be an appropriate form of words to use.

## **7. Project's Report.**

The report was circulated prior to the meeting, the successful first year (of the current 5 year contract) for the Festive Lights was particularly welcome, and the significant contributions made by our councillors from their Ward Budgets towards the costs gratefully acknowledged. It was agreed that contact with the 'chain' businesses along the Addiscombe Village parade should begin soon, in order to get into the relevant financial planning cycles and hopefully gain more sponsorship.

## **8. Acting Chairperson's Report.**

The report was circulated prior to the meeting and generally accepted.

The Chairman proposal that the subs be increased was the subject of a lively debate, including points raised about no real understanding of fixed and variable costs, no obvious benefits to members if subs increased and increased awareness of ASPRA in the area which should follow through to additional members.

The proposal was put to the vote, the meeting overwhelmingly voted to leave the subscriptions at the current £4.

## **9. BALLOTS**

### **a. Proposed Changes to Constitution:**

#### **i. Clarifications of boundaries, update to financial matters, changes to committee members**

Various typographical and organisational changes were agreed to the constitution, in addition it was agreed that the Postmaster and membership Secretary role should become a committee post. The Treasurer role was updated so as not to include any membership responsibilities.

It was confirmed during this stage of the meeting that additional committee members would be added to the banking signatories list in order to better understand the finances.

### **Election of Committee Members:**

- b. Chairperson (Steve White acting chair).
- c. Vice-Chairperson (Mary Alexander acting vice chair).
- d. Treasurer – (Frederick Law nominated for re-election) and independent auditor.
- e. Secretary - (Gill Lee nominated for re-election).
- f. Magazine Editor (VACANT).
- g. Advertising Manager – (Bob Sleeman nominated for re-election).

It was suggested that a vote 'en bloc' all those committee members who were happy to continue in post would be appropriate.. This was agreed by the Chairman and posts b through e and g were voted in. The magazine editor role (currently vacant) would remain as a committee post.

### **Unelected, Non-Committee roles:**

- h. Webmaster - Bob Sleeman  
Bob confirmed his wish to stand down from his role as Webmaster, no volunteers came forwards at the meeting, Bob agreed to continue in the role for the time being
- i. Postmaster - Dave Lee

- j. Membership Secretary – Dave Lee
- k. The above 2 roles are now full committee positions, as per the constitutional changes agreed, Dave is content to continue in this role.
- l. Projects Consultant – Hilary Chelminski is happy to continue in this role.
- m. Road Representative – Vacancies

Liz advised the meeting that one of our road reps, Sharon Rees, had died recently, leaving a husband and small children. She was a busy person and well known locally.

Addiscombe Road (275-393)  
 Cheyne Walk  
 Craven Road  
 Fryston Avenue  
 Greencourt Gardens  
 Lower Addiscombe Road (194-362)  
 Sefton Road  
 Peabody Close

A number of volunteers came forwards, either to become a full road rep or to provide temporary 'delivery only' cover until a permanent road rep could be identified. Some roads with temporary cover now have agreed road reps, the updated and amended list of reps will be published in the 'subscription' issue of the ASPRA magazine and on the website.

## 10. Councillors Report

This report had been circulated prior to the meeting, Cllr Rendle outlined the main points and then took questions from the floor. A number of items were raised, including:-

The Post office re-delivery office in Factory Lane and proposals to move it to a more convenient location. There was no positive news on this, various members already have their non-delivery items left at the Wickham Road sub post-office. It was unclear how this could be arranged.

The St Mildreds' crossing provision and the lack of a zebra crossing at this point was raised. Changes in law mean that, although existing crossings may be situated in similar positions this is not now possible.

The Green Garden waste collection dates had proved to be very difficult to obtain, the Council Website did not function properly. An Email directly to the council had proved to be successful, (subsequent to the meeting the ASPRA website was updated and now has the information.

Small Electrical Recycling facilities were requested, the original site at the rear of 'the Coop' is no longer in use.

The old Ashburton Library is now being commercially advertised, the Friends of Ashburton Park (FOAP) website is a useful source of information.

The Croydon Local Plan, Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ), 20mph speed limit and Bingham Road speeding were also discussed, both during the Councillors Report questions and during the specific agenda items that followed.

The Councillors were asked:

- if there was a published plan for further road resurfacing in the ASPRA area.
- to convey the annoyance of residents about the lack of a diary for the subscription green waste collection.
- about planning issues in Fernhurst Road and more generally about lack of regulation and planning creep.

## 11. Croydon Local Plan

Councillors confirmed that the creation of the Local Plan, and the identification of suitable locations for significant residential development were a requirement from Central Government. Sites identified were possible locations, not probable. Bob, who has been carrying out a lot of the work on the local Plan in conjunction with neighbouring associations, outlined the difficulties placed before any organisation wanting to comment on the plan, including information being available online only, even to the extent of hundreds of pages, the refusal to allow any extension to the consultation period and the re-numbering of much of the documentation resulting in considerable reworking to understand what had and had not changed. Cllr Rendle advised that he is performing a mini-review of some of the issue raised, including visits to Brighton where a new approach to the provision of traveller sites (a legal requirement) is reportedly working well.

Bob reported that ASPRA has supported the group organised by the Whigift Estate Residents' Association to oppose plans to build a Brighton relief railway along the tram track at Addiscombe via Uckfield & Lewes. The alternative proposal is to provide two extra platforms at East Croydon station and track widening through Windmill Bridge.

## **12. Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ), 20mph speed limit and Bingham Road speeding**

Prior to the meeting additional information on the CPZ consultation was circulated. It had been put back due to the mayoral elections, but should start 'soon' with completion expected before the end of July. It was confirmed that only Sherwood road outside of the planned CPZ would be included in the consultation. Councillors preferred option is some form of short period during the day for residents only, thus stopping commuter and long term parking. It was noted that the issue of parking across dropped kerbs and the mass movement of local residents cars to neighbouring streets would still be a major issue.

There was general support for the 20mph proposals, members were reminded of the need to take part in the consultation, and that paper copies and reply envelopes had been obtained by ASPRA for distribution to those members with no computer access. In reply to a question regarding the relative accident statistics of roads within the zone and the main roads, it was identified that the statistics are not always collected collated or published for the smaller roads, hence the statistics do not reflect known accidents.

The changes to road junctions with Bingham Road were generally felt to have had a positive impact, although some junctions were now felt to be more dangerous as there was a need to pull further out across the junction to be able to see clearly. Parking near to junctions, especially of large commercial vans, made the problem worse.

There were requests to redesign the junction and traffic light sequencing for Shirley Road/Lower Addiscombe Road & Long Lane to encourage traffic to stick to the main roads rather than using Bingham Road.

## **13. AOB**

Jenny Crook, one of the 3 JumbleTrail champions, described the successful event that had just occurred, with 49 stalls across the area. £138 from JumbleTrail, as the ASPRA share of the stall fees, had been received and also £100 from Allens the Estate Agents who had provided advertising boards across the ASPRA area. This was to be put towards the ASPRA Festive Lighting fund. Given the success of the event it is highly likely that a similar event will be held again, dates to be agreed.

Date of next meetings:

'Road Reps – all welcome - Meeting Small Hall on Wednesday 22nd June 2016

'Road Reps – all welcome - Meeting The Pavillion Tuesday 27th September 2016.

'Road Reps – all welcome - Meeting Small Hall on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017

## **AGM The Pavillion Thursday 27 April 2017**

Meeting finishes at 10:10pm.