

Minutes of ASPRA Road Representatives Meeting
Wednesday 14th June 2017

- 1) Apologies – Gill & Dave Lee, Sarah Hills, Myra Rand, Shashi Kotecha, Mike Rothon, Andrew Rendle, Maddie Henson, Claire Binnie.
- 2) Introductions of those present were made.
- 3) Minutes of last meeting & matters arising approved.
- 4) Chairperson update: Steve said that the Bingham Park garden was looking very nice & that someone from the Council would be coming there to approve the fence. The willow fence was admired.

Though ASPRA is non-political, the Chairman expressed sadness that Gavin Barwell had lost his seat & others agreed.

Lorna had 2 subs from Peabody Close, but said there had previously been 4 members. One had dropped out after seeing the photo with Gavin Barwell in the magazine, protesting that ASPRA was supposed to be non-political. It was said that Cllr Stephen Mann was also in the photo, & that our MPs & Councillors, once elected, are supposed to represent us all, but probably to no avail.

- 5) ASPRA Vacancies: There is a new member in Lower Addiscombe Road but not yet a Road Representative. A volunteer from outside the ASPRA area might be considered. Mary Alexander volunteered to be Road Rep. For Craigen Avenue.
- 6) Magazine update: Congratulations were expressed on the last issue. Phil is still waiting for some Road Reps to collect copies & still has about 200 copies. Steve will distribute to Lower Addiscombe Road & Mary to Craigen Avenue.

Bob confirmed that magazines go to all advertisers. Change of timing of AGM/subs collection from Sept. to April was explained to recent members.

Phil is aiming to go to next print 1st week in October, so copy should be in by 20th September. Asked if everyone was happy with the varied gaps between issues: October, February & May & this was thought OK. 4 issues each year had been considered but would mean more expense & work, & contents might be diluted.

- 7) Website update: Bob has more time now to update website. Croydon Parks are under review & he will be reporting progress.
- 8) Social Media update: Facebook page has had over 100 likes from people in area, members & non-members, & a few messages. Nicola is updating for gardens, web-site, jumble trail etc. There have been 1249 views, & she is hoping that more people will join ASPRA. There have been requests for advertising on page, so people are engaging with it.

The next magazine will have a social media piece pointing to the Facebook page, & it is hoped that in the future Nicola may set something up on Twitter.

9) Finance update:(See Fred's report & accounts attached). This was well received. It was thought that the magazine costs at £610 were good value. The shortage of advertising revenue was raised & Bob said that he had not collected any. Volunteers to do this were requested but no one was confirmed. Some subs have not yet been paid.

10) Projects update: (please see attached report) Suggested that a photo of the Addiscombe Village Noticeboard might be used for the next magazine. A meeting date for the Trade Association formation has yet to be confirmed – there has been some interest & Bob knows of someone willing to participate.

11) Membership update: (please see attached report) About 800 members are expected this year.

12) Councillor's update: Stephen expressed further congratulations on magazine. Mentioned that a new MP would be representing the area & that Sarah Jones would be setting up her constituency office & arranging meetings to discuss local issues, perhaps in August during the Westminster recess.

Gavin Barwell had been a well-respected MP, & this view was conveyed from Residents' Associations in the area.

He had seen the gardening group at work, with Chairman Steve putting up new fencing. Expressed thanks & said that it had been well-received. Will continue to pursue information on opening times for Bingham Park, avoiding people getting locked in.

The Addiscombe Carnival in Ashburton Park had gone well, & many members had attended & given it support.

There will be further updates on the Old Library Building, which is hoped to open on 22nd July. Suggested possibility of tying this event in with the Unveiling of the Addiscombe Noticeboard, with a picnic in the park afterwards.

Work on the Blackhorse Lane Bridge is progressing, with possible opening in 2018. The ownership has been established & further briefing is awaited. There are hopes of reducing congestion & easing traffic with some road changes – there are winners & losers in the transport mix. There will be consultation over any proposed changes. Lebanon Road was mentioned, & there is currently a traffic survey in Canning Road.

Maddie is organising an Autumn competition/treasure hunt in Lower Addiscombe Road, hosted by 12-15 of the shops. Councillors will fund advertising & prizes.

2 parking spaces in Lower Addiscombe Road are currently being filled up with delivery bikes for take-aways. More restaurants have signed up for schemes. Stephen will investigate.

The Penge Food Co. Should be returning to the old plumber's premises after planning problems resolved.

Thanks for local submissions for the Boundary Reviews – results to be published on 11th July. Boundary Commission suspended due to hung parliament, but reporting back around October. Should be better for Shirley residents.

There is still some money left in the Ward Fund Budgets for any likely projects.

- 13) Jumbletrail update: (please see attached). 33 stalls have been booked to date. There were 47 last year but some were very late. Posters are available & Alan Heritage providing 50 boards (49 already allocated), meaning more money from them.

Some people will be sharing this year & a lady has offered her drive to take part. Information on Facebook page. There will be a leader board of roads with most stalls. Early car visitors expected. Coverage of area is good.

- 14) Addiscombe Recreation Ground update: (please see attached) The stone bird-bath had been knocked over recently, but was not broken & can be properly replaced. Watering can had also disappeared but found nearby. Mike thought that there were now enough plants, but Lyn thought some more could be welcome. An early evening gardening session was proposed as alternative to morning time. Probably not enough resources for suggested combining of Jumbletrail & Gardening. Waiting for decision on Steve's fencing, which was thought to be very innovative. Garden waste not yet collected, Stephen will chase up. Council can possibly supply compost.
- 15) Gates Opening in Addiscombe Rec: Timing is getting better but still not where it should be. Contractors should be on schedule – may have sub-contracted.
- 16) AOB: There will be a get-together commemorating Jo Cox in Whitethorn Gardens & a cricket match.

The planning application for the corner of Northampton Road & Carlyle Road has been turned down. Councillors put in objection.

Residents have complained of garage between 2 houses in Carlyle Road being used to store business equipment. Stephen will try to get something sorted.

Mike Rother sent apologies - subs collection is going well & several new people joined. In March a resident lost her dog; Dave emailed residents & her dog was recovered. Recommends that all members supply email addresses as it is such an effective facility on such occasions.

Bob is involved with an extensive review of parks, including people, activities, climate, heritage, food, education, revenue etc. & has been asked to consider Lloyd Park – will publish report.

Stephen has links with Parks Master Plans. Flood problems etc. Plans to re-open pond in Ashburton Park (Spring Lane). Opening times, review of current contracts.

Stephen confirmed Addiscombe Tram Stop is run by TFL. Lyn said that it had become very overgrown & littered with debris. Stephen agreed that Tramlink were not very proactive about this.

Meeting ended.