



# Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents Association

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## Minutes of ASPRA Zoom Meeting on 2 September 2020 7.30pm for Committee, Road Reps and Councillors

Apologies received from Nicola C Social Media, Mary A Vice Chair, Bob S, Annie S Webmaster, Lorna E, Jenny T. Unfortunately, Richard C and Margaret G were unable to join as their link request was received after the meeting started.

### 1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising from February 2020

### 2. Update by Chair on 2 committee meetings held during lockdown

Steve W Chair, advised he did not have copies of these or the agenda to hand and he would be leaving the meeting at 8pm as he had a social engagement.

He confirmed Festive Lighting had been paid that day. He confirmed we were happy with his decision he had put in an email to John Algar, not to have a switch on but just to be lit once the lights are up. This is in line with all previous year's arrangements. The lights now appear to be sorted.

Colin G Adverts Manager then explained that, in the committee meeting the previous week, we had decided (as we were quorate) that financial details were not to be put on the website where everyone could read them. Steve W advised he was happy with this decision.

A discussion followed on the best ways of keeping members informed and how interested they are in the detail. Dave L Membership and Postmaster has email addresses for approx. 70% of members. He also said most Road Reps were happy to run off the occasional page of information to put through the doors of those without email and TD print could produce copies if there is more volume. He explained the GDPR compliant spreadsheets he sent out to Road Reps enabled them to identify those without email, and the next day he emailed a version of the spreadsheet to the committee as Steve W was concerned. He can now see how this works. Jenny C thought most people aren't bothered with the detail and only interested in supporting and having the magazine. She also said information can be shared by putting it in the magazine and if any other information is needed members could contact their Road Reps.

Steve W would like to apply for a local person to receive an MBE and would like ASPRA to support this application. Colin G advised that you apply for the person to be recognised, not for a specific such as OBE, MBE etc. Cllr Maddie H Croydon Mayor asked to be emailed the details so she can consider endorsing as Mayor and possibly get the support from the deputy lieutenant. Cllr Maddie H says this needs to be kept quiet as there are secrecy rules. A discussion and agreement as to who else to approach to endorse the application followed. Steve W's motion was carried. Steve W also asked for Colin G and Phil P Editor to interview this person for the magazine.

### 3. Councillor's update

Cllr Jeet B has helped with the local food bank at St Mildred's which is closing the following day.

Planning application for 4 Cheyne Walk to be turned into 5 flats was turned down. 2 Cheyne Walk has bought some of the back garden of number 4 and Jeet B didn't object to the application for a bungalow as it is not as bad as flats. 4 Cheyne Walk has now applied for approval for 4 flats and Jeet B will be speaking out against this at the meeting next week. Croydon's Planning Department only consider planning law and the covenants saying can't build on or change is property law not planning law.

114 Addiscombe Road had 9 flats approved but the Whitgift Estate raised funds, hired a solicitor and was able to prevent the build due to the covenants. The property was sold on and the new owner received planning permission for two 7-bedroom houses. The property is once again on the market.

34 Northampton Road has reportedly applied for side and back extensions. Investigation after the meeting revealed that this was enlargement/ add on to the property that already has planning permission to be built in the back garden of 34.

The fence at 40 Northampton Road which sides onto the park has disintegrated and it is unclear who owns it. The owner of the property had the fence removed and is using the bin store to serve as a fence. This has already blown over and blocked the park entrance. The council will look into who owns the fence.

Dave L brought up the issue he has raised previously where the developer for a property to be built at the rear of 30 Northampton Road claims to live at the property but everyone is aware this is not the case. Does giving a false address have any legal implications regarding the planning application. Cllr Maddie has said that she will chase this up again.

Cllr Jeet B mentioned a meeting he has arranged at St Mildred's on Friday 4 September to discuss names in our public realm relating to East India Conservation area in light of the current climate. This is fully booked but is being streamed live on Facebook.

Cllr Maddie H provided a councillor report and a Jumble Trail one. Cllr Maddie H would like to arrange an Addiscombe weekend in June 2021 which would include the Big Lunch, Jumble Trail and other events in Ashburton Park and Addiscombe Recreation Ground. She thought a meeting in January to start planning would be good. This is all dependant on the Covid-19 situation. Phil P felt that with current restrictions it was a non-starter to plan anything although there was general support for the January meeting. Colin G said there would be a lot of work involved for just two people to be arranging the Jumble Trail.

Cllr Maddie H mentioned the success of her Reading Road show with 300 people turning up across the four road shows and having socially distanced picnics. This was especially good as it was done at short notice. Sarah congratulated Maddie.

The campaign for the new swing park in Ashburton Park was on hold due to Covid-19 but it was all looking very positive and Cllr Maddie H hoped to have an update for our next meeting.

Phil P asked why the council had allowed the fair in Ashburton Park to go ahead and people had noticed there was little regard for social distancing. Cllr Maddie H had visited the fair and was not aware of any problems.

Colin G was concerned there was another survey about green spaces and what did this mean. Cllr Maddie H said the latest one related to how the parks were used during Covid-19. It was noted that Addiscombe Recreation Ground was not on the lists of parks. Cllr Jeet B's view on the survey differed and advised caution with any data being collected and to do all we can to protect our green spaces.

Dave L attended a planning meeting related to the planned UK wide changes to planning law and was concerned about the interesting categories on densification etc. Cllr Maddie H doesn't like to sound negative but her and Cllr Jeet B's power could be lost due to the national policy situation

#### **4. ASPRA Vacancies**

Furlong Close Road Rep – since the meeting a volunteer (Mo R) has come forward. Sheila N asked if any residents from Furlong close had joined ASPRA and Dave L advised no-one yet.

Projects post remains vacant with Gill L covering, except for the lights that Steve W is managing.

Thoughts were that Projects could also include Social as Colin G and Phil P were very aware of the Blackhorse RA putting on lots of social events for their residents and would like ASPRA to do similar. Cllr Maddie H was interested in covering the role after her mayoral year finishes but could understand if this was not possible due to her political links. Cllr Maddie H mentioned how very sociable Sherwood Road is with various events having been put on.

There is also a planning role to fill.

## **5. Magazine Editors update**

Phil P provided a report. Blackhorse RA were pleased with the joint magazine; nothing has been heard from HOME. Thank you to Cllr Maddie H and Cllr Jeet B for their contribution towards costs as there was no advertising revenue. The next magazine will be out in November. There was a vote of thanks to the Road Reps for collecting them from Phil P's porch in record time. Jenny C thanked Phil and Colin for the excellent magazine which has involved a lot more work as it included two other resident association and was during the pandemic.

## **6. Adverts update**

Colin G provided a report. He advised that having published the spring edition of the magazine it did not seem right to chase advertisers for payment until the summer issue has come out. Those outstanding he has spoken with today or left messages and the payments should be received shortly.

A vote was taken resulting in unanimous agreement for continuing to call the it the Addiscombe Magazine with the by-line ASPRA.

Bob S was unable to attend the meeting but passed on his sympathies to Colin G as he knows the agonies of collecting advertising monies.

## **7. Website update**

A report has been provided. Jenny C thanked Dave L for greatly improving the website. Dave explained that, having set up the website Annie S now manages it, with occasional technical input from him.

## **8. Social Media update**

A report has been provided. Colin G and Cllr Maddie H complimented Nicola C and Annie S on doing a fantastic job seamlessly putting up the right bits.

Bob S asked to pass on his vote of thanks to Annie S and Nicola C for picking up the work load and doing it better than he did.

## **9. Treasurer's Accounts and update**

No report provided and Fred L Treasurer did not attend. Concerns were expressed and a comment made that this role was not supporting the proactively of the association.

## **10. Projects update**

### **i. Hanging Baskets**

Gill L advised CJS Plants could provide hanging baskets next year for the same price we paid this year. The vote unanimously agreed for hanging baskets next year. Cllr Maddie H has offered a donation from her community budget which is much appreciated.

### **ii. Silent Soldier**

Agreed it would be nice to have up again especially as this year is 75 years since the end of the second world war.

### **iii. Poppies**

Agreed and the date for putting them up will be 26 September

### **iv. New Festive Lighting contract**

Steve W covered this at the beginning of the meeting

Discussion was held on financing the projects and that many people are still not aware that ASPRA are the organisers. The outcome is to arrange a large notice for baskets and lighting similar to last year's lighting one.

#### **11. Membership and Postmaster update**

A report has been provided. Subscriptions have been better than expected in this current climate and the additional projects donation has been a great success which is really encouraging.

#### **12. Jumble Trail update**

A report has been provided and addition information covered in Cllr Maddie H's councillor report.

#### **13. Addiscombe Recreation Ground update**

Lyn S is planning to arrange a gardening event soon. Questions were raised as to the current situation with the sakura cherry trees and Lyn S is going to look into this and update us.

#### **14. Chairman update**

As above covered at the start of the meeting.

#### **15. AOB**

Cllr Maddie H wished to express her appreciation of all the hard work involved and the response to the food drop off at St Mildreds.

#### **Dates of next meetings all at St Mildreds:**

- a. Wednesday 10 February 2021 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall