



## **Minutes of 31<sup>st</sup> ASPRA AGM**

**Meeting by Zoom on Thursday 29 April 2021 at 7:30pm**

### **1. Apologies**

Maureen Reene, Nicola Corbishley and Richard Chatterjee

### **2. Introductions to committee and Road Reps**

### **3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 25 April 2019 were agreed.

The AGM for 22 April 2020 was cancelled due to Covid.

### **4. Introduction to Ballot**

### **5. Ballots**

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

1.3 One additional committee post – Webmaster

2. Furlong Close to be added to roads included

4.2 The accounts are held at Barclays Bank. Three members of the Committee, (Treasurer, Adverts, and Membership Secretary) to have access to the bank accounts.

The above were agreed.

#### **b. Election of Committee Members:**

- i. Chairperson (Steve White nominated for re-election)
- ii. Vice-Chairperson (Mary Alexander nominated for re-election)
- iii. Treasurer (Claire Brialey nominated for 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)
- viii. Postmaster (Dave Lee nominated for re-election)
- ix. Social Media Coordinator (Nicola Corbishley for re-election)
- x. Webmaster (Annie Salter for election)

The above were all voted in with Fred Law becoming ASPRA's auditor.

Colin said that he and Dave had spent a lot of time with Claire on finance matters and she will be a brilliant treasurer.

At this point Dave was thanked for organising the Zoom meeting.

## **6. ASPRA Vacancies**

**Planning Officer** – to monitor and advise on planning applications within or affecting the ASPRA area.

Nobody at the meeting offered to take on the role. There was a brief discussion on the proposed Blackhorse development (adding an additional floor to the block of flats).

**Projects Manager** – to manage current projects and take forward any new projects.

No volunteers have been found to take on this role.

It was mentioned that it would also be good to have a **social secretary**.

## **7. Chairman's Annual Report for 2020**

Steve referred to his report which had recently been submitted and is now on the website.

Please note his report refers to this meeting as the second online AGM whereas the committee took the decision last year to cancel the AGM due to Covid restrictions.

## **8. Treasurer's Annual Accounts and Report for 2020**

Claire advised that Fred had provided a full set of accounts for last year and these are available on request. A summary report is on the website. The good news is that at the end of 2020 ASPRA had a surplus of nearly £5800 which is remarkably healthy considering all the trials and tribulations of the past year. This is partly due to lack of hall hire as meetings in person could not take place and other payments being deferred to this year, together with the support of our councillors Maddie and Jeet supporting the cost of the summer issue of the Addiscombe magazine; a very big thank you to them.

Steve asked Claire to explain the ASPRA bank account system. ASPRA has four accounts: she said: a current account, an account for committed spend, an account reserving the money to cover the big spends, and an account for other projects including the gardening group etc. There is just over £4000 in the current account and sufficient in the committed spend account for this year, which we hope will see us through.

## **9. Magazine Editor's Annual Report for 2020**

The report mentions how difficult last year was. We produced our first Addiscombe magazine in collaboration with HOME and Blackhorse Residents Association (BRA). The delay due to the situation we were in meant that our autumn magazine came out at Christmas and the February one has slipped to May. All road reps are asked to pick up the May magazine from Phil as soon as possible.

## **10. Adverts Annual Report for 2020**

Highlight of the year was the summer issue which linked up with HOME and BRA which Colin and Phil co-produced. The four pages allocated to BRA gave a good picture of what they do as a residents' association whilst HOME chose to use their pages to highlight their traffic issues. BRA were delighted with the issue. It is a great shame that nothing more came out of this collaboration. This issue of the magazine would not have been possible without the support of our councillor, Maddie and Jeet, for which we are very grateful. Maddie said she is very happy to support us as it is remarkable what ASPRA do.

Jane (RR) mentioned that she had a member in her road who wished to pass on her thanks and let us know how much she enjoys the magazine, hanging baskets and Christmas lights and would miss them if they were not there.

Jeet said that the magazine is really, really good and members look forward to receiving it.

## **11. Website Annual Report for 2020**

Annie came onboard nearly a year ago to maintain and update the website with Dave having the technical role. The new website ([www.aspra.uk](http://www.aspra.uk)) has had a lot of updates over the last year. It is easy to access and works closely with the magazine and social media. Annie encouraged members to get in touch with us and let us know what they think of it and also let us know of any events happening. Dave added that there is only a small cost connected to the website, there have been a few issues, but you get what you pay for!

Colin mentioned that Doug who has been producing cartoons for the magazine has given a lot more to him and Phil and it would be good to have a website page; then Nicola could "steal" any that she may wish to use. Annie agreed with this and said it was easy to do. Dave volunteered to scan and email the cartoons to Annie. Jenny C (RR) advised that when making these available we need to be careful of ownership/copyright. Maddie advised that Croydon library may like copies of these as part of their record of Covid which will also ensure they are preserved.

## **12. Social Media Annual Report for 2020**

Nicola was unable to attend however her report is on the website.

## **13. Projects Annual Report for 2020**

- i. Poppies and Silent Soldier
- ii. Festive Lighting
- iii. Hanging Baskets

The committee are covering the projects role until they are able to find a volunteer for this, with the secretary covering the [projects@aspra.uk](mailto:projects@aspra.uk) email account.

Unfortunately, the silent soldier was damaged so the decision was made not to replace him.

Colin explained the poppies were more difficult to put up since the lampposts have the hanging basket brackets but it is now working well with one poppy on each lamppost facing the traffic. He is about to order 40 more poppies to replace those that are showing wear and tear.

This year a deposit has been paid for the Christmas lights and the good news is that no individuals on the committee need to underwrite the costs, unlike when we had the original contract. This year is a one off and the committee will be looking at options for future years.

Money has been set aside for the hanging baskets, Gill advised that these should go up at the end of May or early June.

## **14. Membership and Postmaster Annual Report for 2020**

It has not been an easy year and we have lost more memberships than usual but due to the difficult times unsubscribed members have not been removed from the mailing list.

Colin mentioned the generosity of the members who have given between £1 and £30 in extra contributions as a donation to ASPRA projects. Dave said the best way to make the payment is by bank transfer each year so any additional donation can be added, or in the subscription envelope which will shortly be coming through everyone's letterbox in the ASPRA area. Standing orders don't work so well as people tend to forget about them.

Jenny C (RR) said that the donations more than counter the increase in subs which Steve had previously suggested.

Ken told us he is providing a £50 donation this year but feels that the subs should go up to £5 and Steve thanked him very much.

Sheila felt the subs should not increase as everyone is having a difficult time with the pandemic.

Mary said surely we should put it up to £5.

Claire said that ASPRA is in a comfortable financial position after such a strange year and we should be able to do everything committed with our current projects but maybe not fund new projects this year.

Colin reminded us of the good support ASPRA receives through our councillors, advertisers, local businesses and members

Dave reminded us that potentially we have five councillors supporting us.

Steve proposed the subscription remains at £4 for this coming year, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

## **15. Review of Annual Subscriptions**

See above

## **16. Councillors' Annual Report for 2020**

Maddie mentioned what an absolute pleasure it was to have come along to the recent gardening session and seen people in person. Croydon has just lost its one thousandth person to Covid so the community has been badly hit. She mentioned that there is no training or any way of preparing for this pandemic and everyone is learning as they go along. She reminded us that the Addiscombe Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group is still going and is a voluntary organisation working with the Salvation Army. Maddie recently held a community Zoom meeting to gauge the views of residents about events starting up again. The outcome was to plan for a picnic in the park in late summer.

Maddie mentioned the council's financial difficulties and that at her last meeting as Mayor the Section 114 notice was withdrawn. There is a Croydon plan to make sure the same mistakes are not made again.

She also mentioned how well Addiscombe has pulled together in these difficult times.

Jeet said it was good to see everyone and he referred to his report which had recently gone up on the website.

The additional floor for Blackhorse flats is a permitted development but objections can be submitted.

Development at 30 Northampton Road has caused a lot of upset. The council are looking at everything and we are waiting to hear from them.

With Maddie's help the development at 4 Cheyne Walk is no longer going ahead; there is an appeal in, but the understanding is a family have now bought the property for their own use.

Sarah Jones MP had a meeting with HOME as there is a need for a proper solution to their traffic problems. Steve was concerned that ASPRA had not been invited and asked that we be involved. Jeet assured ASPRA that any solutions will involve us. Steve asked that our concerns be passed on.

Steve asked why the Blackhorse development had a planning number if it was going through anyway. Jeet will check on this.

Croydon Council have had a lot of senior staff changes and there will be by-elections in wards where local councillors have stood down.

Jenny C (RR) asked, with Croydon's financial situation and the issue of notice s.114 notice, how they could finance complete roads being resurfaced and new trees being planted. The answer is that tree planting was arranged before the s.114 notice and road surfacing comes from a totally separate budget. The Croydon spending review is challenging every spend so there should be no bad practice. The council has legal duties with statutory requirements and there is an inspector that reviews roads.

Colin referred to the development at the rear of 30 Northampton Road, where three lorries had delivered concrete, the material for the footings which are now in, and there are concerns that these may be the start of flats. There is also concern about the lime tree which is near to the footings. Jane (RR) mentioned tree preservation orders and that she thinks if the footings are too near the tree they can stop water getting to the roots. Steve thought the building will go ahead and retrospective planning permission will be granted. Planning control could stop this but a Section 45 notice has not been issued in Croydon for at least 15 years.

## **17. Jumble Trail Annual Report for 2020**

Maddie's Zoom meeting (mentioned earlier) also covered the possibilities of running another Jumble Trail. There were reservations due to the amount of interaction required, so it was felt it was a bit early to think of running one but this will be reviewed later on.

Jenny (RR) mentioned that several months ago Shirley held a Jumble Trail and this must have gone well as they are about to hold another one. Maddie is interested to find out how it works for them.

Sue agreed it was best to wait and be cautious.

## **18. Addiscombe Recreation Ground Annual Report for 2020**

Lyn said that since writing her report she was delighted to say that the first gardening session of the year had been held and our three-year-old volunteer (Maddie's son) enjoyed digging for treasure!

Only one gardening session was able to take place last year but individuals have watered, cared for, and generally looked after the gardens so they are looking OK.

Our Cherry Tree contact at the council has found funding for the planting to go ahead later this year.

Colin asked who looks after the Fryston Road entrance gardens as they look great but Lyn did not know.

## **19. AOB**

Jenny C (RR) is a volunteer at the Wilderness Garden and mentioned that the open day on 30 May was fully booked but there will be more events planned over the next few months. Dave will contact the individuals who missed out when the new dates are available.

Maddie mentioned her next funding raising event which is a murder mystery on line. Please come along.

Sarah (RR) let us know her book boxes in Shirley Park Road have been going for a year and continue to be put out usually about 10.30am weather permitting.

Sarah (RR) also said there had recently been an upside-down van blocking traffic outside Tesco in Shirley Road and wondered what speed it had been doing to cause that. Generally, the traffic has got faster since lockdown. Shirley Road night time traffic is very fast and Claire (RR) agreed with this. Steve will see if he can get another area to provide volunteers to do speeding checks (you can't apparently do this for your own area).

Annie said that the random litter in her road is driving her mad and are there any litter groups she could join. Maddie runs community clean up groups and Jenny T (RR) has involvement with a litter group and they agreed to take this forward outside of the meeting. Jeet mentioned the council will provide bags, gloves, grabbers and collection.

Claire proposed a vote of thanks (seconded by Colin) to Fred for all his previous work as Treasurer and the ongoing support during the hand over period.

Maddie wished a general thank you to ASPRA for keeping things going.

### **Dates of next meetings:**

- a. Monday 21 June 2021 ASPRA Meeting by Zoom
- b. Wednesday 8 September 2021 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- c. Thursday 10 February 2022 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- d. Tuesday 26 April 2022 ASPRA AGM in the Pavilion