



Minutes

Wednesday 8 September 2021

7.45pm for 8pm start in the Large Hall St Mildreds

1. Apologies and introductions

Maureen R, Lyn S, John A, Adrien S, Patricia R, Claire B

2. Minutes of 21 June 2021 meeting and matters arising

Adopted

3. Councillors' update

Maddie apologised that she had no capacity to organise a picnic in the park or a Jumble Trail. Subject to any Covid restrictions the Addiscombe Carnival will be going ahead the weekend of 4 December and will this year include stall holders from St Mildred's, as their usual Christmas event is not going ahead this year. The Safer Neighbourhood team will also there to take children's fingerprints.

Speeding traffic continues to be an issue. Volunteers can speed check and arrange for letters to be sent to the offender but they do not have the authority to issue fines. Bob said that previously we had been told that we could not do it in the area we lived and Steve added it had been quite specific that we could only go to Bromley etc to carry out this role but Alex from the Safer Neighbourhood team advised this is not the case. Steve collected a list of volunteers from the meeting and if anyone else is interested please contact him at chair@aspra.uk.

Maddie reminded us that the food bank is still going strong and encouraged our support.

Phill asked for an update on bus shelters that were promised for the autumn and there is no sign of them yet. Maddie will chase for an update and let us know.

Jeet is aware of the bad state of repair our roads are in and is working on getting something done. There is a lot of litter about which he has been reported.

Bins that have gone missing are taking up to 12 weeks to replace and he is in communication with Steve Iles of the council about this issue.

The council is now cutting the grass every 8-10 weeks rather than every four. Please let him (Jeet) know of any areas that are particularly bad. There was discussion on how recreation grounds are used and where the grass should be kept short whilst other areas would allow the wild life to benefit from not being cut.

He is also raising speeding issues and concern at the number of bad accidents.

He has raised awareness with the council of the bad state of 275 Addiscombe Road and when asked if there is not some responsibility/requirement on the owner Mr Dato Jeet said it has been reported to environmental health. Alex said the property has been covered in blue graffiti. People do shelter in it and then leave and any

time this happens he contacts the maintenance company who come and re-secure it. A window has been left open at the top of the building for airflow. It is a heritage site. If anyone spots anything they should phone 101 for a non-emergency or 999 if a crime is in the process of being committed.

There was good news for Croydon today that the government had allocated a budget for a year to assist with looking after unaccompanied children of which Croydon has many due to the proximity of Lunar and Apollo Houses. Sue (Shirley North) added that asylum seekers throw away their papers so this adds to the difficulties. Jeet also added that there is no medical or scientific way to confirm asylum seekers' age so there are further concerns about adults mixing with children.

Sue said there had been a complaint about noise from an event held at, she thought, the Shirley Inn but this later was found to be The Crown, Sue asked if anyone had heard it, which we had not. Lack of grass cutting is also an issue in the areas she covers. There are also traffic issues at a junction in Bridle Way which they are working with TFL on. Residents in Woodmere Avenue have asked for a keep left island to make their road safer but the council has refused.

Janet asked Maddie for the middle of Addiscombe Recreation Ground to be cut regularly whilst keeping the edge of the park for the wild life which they have been doing in Bromley. Maddie has forwarded the email Janet sent her.

Other issues with the park are the drug dealing and a fire in the children's playground as the council cannot afford to lock the gates. Alex advised us to phone 999 if we spot drug dealing and it helps him if we can give descriptions. There were volunteers to be key holders and lock the gates and they were asked to email Jeet and Maddie. A short discussion was had on any issues that may arise with residents emptying the park before locking etc.

4. ASPRA Vacancies

a. Projects

The committee are covering this role but would really appreciate a volunteer to work with them on various projects. Colin was very quick to say that he enjoys putting the poppies up and is more than happy to continue but to have someone to work out timing and have an overview between hanging baskets, poppies and Christmas lights would be really good.

b. Planning

This is an important role that the committee are covering at the moment but it would be really helpful for ASPRA to have someone keeping an eye on planning in ASPRAland and advising the committee on developments. It would also be good to have a representative on the Croydon Plan

c. Social

No volunteers at the moment to fill this role

d. Road Rep for Ashurst Walk

Steve (chair) has volunteered. There are 14 households in the cul-de-sac and it is hoped that a resident will step forward but at least the road will not be missing out in the meantime. The whole organisation is based on its network of road reps.

5. Magazine Editor's update

A report is on the website.

The magazine is chugging along with the summer issue out now although still out of kilter dates wise but is hoped to get back to normal next year. The next issue will probably be November with a focus on Christmas. Maddie asked for details of her event on 4 December to be put in the magazine.

6. Advert's update

A report is on the website.

The current level of advertising is giving us a good income but invoicing and chasing payments is a pain and Colin would appreciate some help/assistance with this. A volunteer was found.

Jeet mentioned how really good the magazine is and Steve and Maddie agreed.

The ASPRA event organised by Annie on 4 September was very good, meeting and chatting with lots of people. Other local residents' associations were invited to join us and HOME and Blackhorse took the

opportunity. HOME complained and thought it naughty that the ASPRA magazine continues to use the title The Addiscombe magazine which was first used for the "one-off" magazine that was funded by Maddie and Jeet and included contributions from Blackhorse and HOME. They said it isn't fair and plan to send a letter to Phil. ASPRA gathered a lot of useful information at the event which the committee will go through in due course.

7. Website update

A report is on the website.

The website is a showpiece for what ASPRA does. Annie is always very keen to know of anything she can add and her details are in the report. Maddie would like things about the Addiscombe Christmas Carnival posted. Maddie also mentioned that she was planning to have a table at the event for the four residents' associations. It was agreed that we would need a flip chart and she will check if Ashburton Hall have one that we could borrow. A member offered an easel as an alternative.

8. Social Media update

A report is on the website.

Since writing the report the number of followers has gone up by another 14. There has not been a lot happening and reporting on Covid has become a bit boring but as things begin to pick up there should be more to report on. There is an article in the magazine on how to access our Facebook page. We are reaching 6-8000 through sharing showing we are a trusted site and this helps ASPRA's visibility. You are encouraged to contact Nicola if you have anything you wish posted; her details are in the report.

Nicola spent a lot of time going in and out of individual premises in Addiscombe and identifying where defibrillators are located. She shared the information on Facebook and it is in the magazine and on the noticeboard and website. She also shared her findings with our other local residents' associations. The defibrillators on the list are privately owned, but should they need to be used can be operated by anyone, with or without training as they include audio instructions.

9. Treasurer's report

Our treasurer was unable to attend. A report is on the website showing we are in a comfortable position to continue with our planned projects.

10. Projects update

A report is on the website.

i. Hanging Baskets

A vote was taken and unanimously agreed for ASPRA to arrange for hanging baskets along the Addiscombe shops next summer provided there is not a large increase in the cost. Gill will take this forward.

ii. Poppies

A date has been agreed for putting up the poppies 24 October and for them to come down on 21 November.

iii. Festive Lighting

Gill has advised the council that we would like the lights lit up from the 1 November, although we will not be having an event to celebrate this.

11. Membership and Postmaster update

A report is on the website.

Our membership numbers are reasonable and we have received over £2500 directly from members in donations, which is more than if we had increased the membership fee.

12. Jumble Trail update

A Jumble Trail has not been arranged for this year as there is no confidence in the Covid situation. A date has been set of 4 June 2022 (bank holiday weekend) and Maddie will proceed with arrangements for this.

13. Addiscombe Recreation Ground update

Lyn was unable to attend but there is a report is on the website.

14. Chairman update

Steve said he is happy to represent ASPRA at the Ward Panel meetings that Alex arranges.

He advised planning was in progress for a 3-storey building on Trinity land at the corner by the dual carriageway but the council would prefer this to be four floors. Dave thought the extra floor was more preferable there than elsewhere.

Steve also mentioned that he had seen on a WhatsApp group some moaning about the use of weedkiller by the council in Elgin Road.

When asked it was established that there is no longer reduced membership fees for ASPRA members at Trinity Sports Club.

15. AOB

Maddie reminded and asked us to support her birthday fund raising for Home-Start Croydon.

Bob asked that we get something done about speeding in Northampton Road. There followed a discussion about high-speed scooters which are designed to go quickly and difficult to control at slow speed. They are unlicensed motor vehicles, although they can be legally owned they are illegal to ride on public highways and pavements. If scooter riders are caught doing this they are given a warning and if they are caught a second time the scooter is confiscated. Alex has quite a collection already.

Hilary mentioned that she thought it would be a nice idea to have a shelter again in Addiscombe Recreation Ground and showed a picture of a small aluminium gazebo costing £3,599. With the park no longer locked at night, although there was concern over damage and graffiti to the structure. It was felt that a bigger structure would be required and by the time you add in the costs of any building work involved the cost would probably be around £20,000 which is far too much for ASPRA to consider funding.

Jenny T advised that following the first successful ASPRA litter pick there would be further dates. There was lots of local support for this. The council need four weeks' notice and she has a good contact, Tracey, at the council. Whilst the council provide the equipment they have to wait and collect it back at the end so it was thought that ASPRA should consider buying their own and Jenny is happy to store it in her shed. We were advised that Ashburton Park has a litter pick on 9 October.

Gill said that John from Sefton Road was unable to attend but had said that his road sometimes feels like a race track and the 20mph should be enforced. Installing speed humps would help. Parking on the crossing zigzags and the double yellow lines at the corner of Blackhorse Lane is causing endless congestion. Maddie said she is already aware of this and has flagged it up.

Janet proposed a thank you to the committee.

St Mildred's kindly moved our meeting from the small hall to the large one where we could space ourselves out more but, the tall ceiling and acoustics caused problems with hearing what each other had to say.

16. Dates of next meetings all at St Mildreds:

- a. Thursday 10 February 2022 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- b. Tuesday 26 April 2022 ASPRA AGM in the Pavilion
- c. Monday 20 June 2022 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall
- d. Monday 19 September 2022 ASPRA Meeting in the Small Hall