



Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents' Association

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an independent, non-politically aligned organisation run for and by the residents of Addiscombe

Minutes of ASPRA AGM held on Tuesday 26 April 2022 at 8pm in the Pavilion St Mildred's

1. Apologies

Road Reps Sheila and John Newbold, Jane Walsh, Jonas Cradock, Jenny Crook, Joy Morrall, Mary Alexander (Road Rep and Vice Chair), Lyn Simmons (gardening), Colin Gamm (Adverts manager), Steve White (Chairman), Adrien Solomon and Hilary Chelminski.

2. Introductions to committee and Road Reps

Dave Lee chaired the meeting on Steve's behalf.

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minutes agreed.

4. Introduction to Ballot

5. Ballots

a. Any Proposed Changes to Constitution

Change AGM to be held in March to better suit magazine publication dates.
Unanimously 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 re-election)
- iv. Secretary (Gill Lee nominated for re-election)
- v. Magazine Editor (Phil will be stepping down after the subscription magazine)
- vi. Advertisement Manager (Colin will be stepping down after the subscription magazine)
- vii. Membership Secretary (Dave Lee nominated for re-election)
- viii. Postmaster (Dave Lee nominated for re-election)
- ix. Social Media Coordinator (Nicola Corbishley nominated for re-election)
- x. Webmaster (Annie Salter nominated for re-election)

All the above standing for re-election were unanimously re-elected.

6. ASPRA Vacancies

Planning – to monitor and share on planning applications within or affecting the ASPRA area

Colin may continue to write the planning page for the magazine. The planning role is for someone to “keep on top” of planning in the ASPRA area using the Croydon Council planning website and building control website. It is not a role to provide official advice.

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

Event’s Organiser – to gather ideas and lead organisation of ASPRA social occasions

Magazine Editor – responsible for the editorial content of the magazine. Deciding the balance of copy/advertising, the Editor will encourage sufficient contribution or create written content accordingly

Adverts Manager – to sell and coordinate advert content of the magazine

There was discussion about the roles of Editor and Adverts. Adverts for example could be split by having invoicing and payment collection handled by a finance person with sales, design and space allocation managed by an adverts manager. There was also some discussion on possible opportunities for job sharing of these roles. Since the meeting the Secretary has been approached by someone happy to write articles for the magazine, whilst not wishing to take on the editor role.

There was a vote of thanks and a round of applause for Colin and Phil for the fabulous magazine they produce.

We do need members to assist with these roles to enable ASPRA to continue providing good support to the community. Please get in touch with the committee if you are able to help in any way.

7. Chairman’s Annual Report for 2021

There was no chairman’s report and he was unexpectedly unable to attend the meeting.

8. Treasurer’s Annual Accounts and Report for 2021

A report is on the website.

Claire provided a detailed account for the meeting. She advised the ASPRA finance year follows the calendar year whilst the membership year runs from the AGM. ASPRA uses cash accounting. She thanked everyone for their generous donations. The income total and surplus this year was lower, due to the councillors no longer having community budgets.

In 2021 as well as usual expenditure we also replaced the poppies for the lampposts, renewed the planning permission for the noticeboard and donated a bench to St Mildred’s community garden. We are working towards building a reserve for a new lighting contract to give us a secure financial position, so that committee members will not need to underwrite any contracts as was previously necessary.

The accounts were unanimously accepted.

9. Magazine Editors Annual Report for 2021

A report is on the website.

The spring edition of the magazine is out and the summer (all households) issue is now in progress, and should be ready for transmission to our printer around the end of May.

10. Adverts Annual Report for 2021

A report is on the website.

Unfortunately, Colin was unable to attend the meeting.

11. Website Annual Report for 2021

A report is on the website.

Annie, web content editor, was unable to attend the meeting. Dave, who assists with the technical side, advised that this free package now provides interesting and useful statistics. Around 2000 unique people had visited the website in the past 6 months.

The site helps to advertise local events along with ASPRA's Facebook page and email circulated by the postmaster.

12. Social Media Annual Report for 2021

A report is on the website.

There has been an increase in followers between last year and this year's AGMs; not all are ASPRA members. All sorts of requests are received via the page and referred on if not for us. Do get in touch if there is anything you wish to share. Issues with rubbish bins was a very popular topic to share. Pets and children's toys have been found through the page and it is always nice to receive an update when the pet has been found. The ASPRA gardening events and the litter picking events are shared on Facebook as are things like the new local coffee shop opening, along with updates on travel, and other local issues. Nicola finds it useful to set up reminders so the information goes out in a timely fashion. She has also begun to auto-schedule some posts. The site currently has 1375 regular followers with up to 8000 views through the sharing of posts.

Bob asked how many posts are put up per week and Nicola replied that over a year it averages out to one a day. Bob is not seeing all the posts and can't work out why. Since the meeting, Nicola and Bob have found a way to ensure ASPRA posts are seen on your news feed: you can make the ASPRA Facebook page a "favourite" via your own Facebook settings. Members are welcome to contact Nicola via the page or socialmedia@aspra.uk for further information on this.

Bob asked if Nicola is considering setting up Instagram as well and Nicola advised she was not yet as she does not use Instagram herself; however, she mentioned it is possible to link posts from Facebook so will look into this.

Bob gave a vote of thanks to Nicola for the excellent job she is doing with Facebook.

13. Projects Annual Report for 2021

A report is on the website.

Bob asked about the lighting contract and Claire explained we had a one-year contract at the same price as last year as we are able to reuse the refurbished lights. This will be the last year we can do this so future contracts will be a lot dearer. There have been some issues with paying for the electricity for the lights as an account could not be opened. Claire is monitoring this and money has been set aside.

14. Membership and Postmaster Annual Report for 2021

A report is on the website.

The email system has settled down. It takes about half an hour to send out the complete group of emails. The emails are split into smaller groups and title and content need careful consideration to avoid the spam filters with each internet provider using different parameters. Dave is not currently removing email addresses of those that have not renewed as we have been through a strange couple of years. He has already received twelve subscriptions for 2022/2023 which officially begins at the date of the AGM. Again, with the difficult years we have had Dave is working on those who have paid in the last 400 days being eligible for a member's magazine. There were 819 members last year.

15. Review of Annual Subscriptions

Sarah Hills thought the donation option was a very good idea and as we all had to "tighten our belts" this was the best way forward rather than increasing the subscription. Claire advised that when averaging out the donations received it came out as £7.20 per membership. The vote was unanimous to keep the membership fee at £4.

16. Councillors' Annual Report for 2021

Councillor Jeet Bains reminded us of the council's bankrupt situation with two reports in the public interest being issued, one being for the Fairfield Hall, and that Kroll (forensic accountants) have been called in to investigate.

An 800-page document on planning has been issued showing that a small area of ASPRA has been identified for moderate development. At the consultation Jeet opposed this.

Jeet advised that currently;

275 Addiscombe Road demolition is halted.

The back of 30 Northampton Road is supposed to be a house but looks like at least two flats, which has been built in the wrong place by half a metre with doors and windows not placed according to plans. The council are aware of this.

2 and 4 Cheyne Walk had permission for 5 flats granted. It appears from the roof extension that both properties are colluding. Jeet has sent pictures of the back roof extension and asked the council to stop the development.

Currently everything is paused due to the pending elections.

Jeet was thanked for his efforts on ASPRA's behalf.

Councillor Richard Chatterjee said that the Shirley Park Road roadworks have been going on a long time and that catalytic converter thefts in this area seem to go in phases and have gone quiet at the moment.

Councillor Gareth Streeter has moved to Devon.

17. Jumble Trail Annual Report for 2021

Unfortunately there was no Jumble Trail last year due to all the Covid restrictions. It is hoped to hold one later this year.

18. Addiscombe Recreation Ground Annual Report for 2021

A report is on the website.

Dates for this year's gardening are on the park gates and the noticeboard.

Dave is looking into new signage for the flowerbeds.

The Sakura cherry trees have a small amount of blossom and leaves coming through.

19. Litter Picking Annual Report for 2021

Jenny T and Annie got a lot of positive comments from the first litter pick in 2021. The next one in 2022 went well with us now having our own equipment and more bags received from the council. The high vis jackets have the ASPRA logo so we are seen to be out and about. People need to bring their own gloves. Nicola said that information with the dates is on the website and Facebook:

Join us in a group litter pick: We'll be meeting on the second Monday of every month at 6.30pm till 7.30pm. So that's:

- Monday 11th April 2022
- Monday 9th May 2022
- Monday 13th June 2022
- Monday 11th July 2022
- Monday 8th August 2022
- Monday 12th September 2022

All welcome. Meet at the corner of Bingham Road and Lower Addiscombe, by Oaks Estate Agents at 6.30pm. Aiming to go along Lower Addiscombe road and potentially up a few side roads depending on time. If you'd like more info or to let us know you're coming get in touch with Annie on webmaster@aspra.uk

20. AOB

Phil expressed concerns about the end house in Northampton Road where the scaffolding is still up but the sheeting has gone, but people still appear to be living there. Dave thought there was some corrugated roofing that was helping to keep out the weather.

Compliments were received on the very good extension done, including dragons, at 32 Northampton Road.

Mary mentioned that her neighbour had asked for an update on the bus shelters. Nicola advised that as the bus shelters would have advertising they needed planning permission and Jeet advised that he was aware the digital signage was now on order.

Dates of next meetings, all at St Mildred's:

- a. Monday 20 June 2022 ASPRA Meeting in the Pavilion
 - b. Monday 19 September 2022 ASPRA Meeting in the Pavilion
- 2023 dates to be booked following result of date change ballot for AGM