



**Minutes of ASPRA meeting held on
Monday 20 June 2022 at 8pm in the Pavilion St Mildreds**

1. Apologies and introductions

Phil Poole, Bob Sleeman, Chris Watmough, Alan Griffiths, Jonas Cradock, Adrien Solomon, Lyn Simmons, Jane Steve White

2. Minutes of 9 February 2022 meeting and matters arising

Agreed

3. Councillor's update

Maddie is pleased to be re-elected and confirmed ASPRA area continues to have five councillors as we have a small area in Shirley North. There have been changes in the council's administration with Jason Perry as our democratically elected mayor. The council has a unique broad mix of councillors.

Cllr Maddie is very keen to restart her public meetings and bring back the Croydon Carnival.

Cllr Jeet said that Addiscombe East is no longer unique in having a Labour and a Conservative councillor. We now have two mayors: a civic mayor who wears the chain of office and an executive mayor who has more power. The planning committee is a mix of Labour and Conservatives with a Conservative chair. Cllr Jeet is Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration.

He is aware the entrances to Addiscombe Recreation Park are overgrown and hopes this will be sorted soon. The grass has now been cut and he expects this to continue being cut every six to eight weeks. He is aware there is a need for litter picking in the park. Joy mentioned how there is a large amount of litter in the basket ball court and everyone agreed and said it was mostly bottles and tins. It was suggested that a notice should be put up or even a bin near to the court entrance.

Cllr Maddie said that Ashburton swing park is now a fully funded project and there have been on site consultations.

Cllr Richard said his area had some good jubilee celebrations and there were some issues with bin collection but nothing specific to the two roads in the ASPRA area.

Cllr Jeet gave an update on developments in the area:

Back of 30 Northampton Road has been built in the wrong place and the developer has given his address as 30 Northampton Road although he does not live there. Jeet has requested stronger enforcement.

2 and 4 Cheyne Walk appear to be in collusion and the development has not been approved.

Hilary gave an update on 275 Addiscombe Road that 95% of those that expressed an opinion voted for a traditional style building. Mr Datoos plans to build an even more modern building than originally planned but a new application for extensions on the current house has now been approved. Mr Datoos is aware that our chair Steve is in favour of retaining the house as a family home. Hilary says that Mr Datoos is aware of our feelings.

Cllr Jeet advised that the Suburban Design Guide supplementary planning document (SPD2) is being got rid of as Croydon Council must have high-quality long-lasting builds as per our area. Local people will also have more say in developments in their area.

4. ASPRA Vacancies

- Projects
- Magazine Editor
- Advertisement Manager
- Planning
- Social

The project role is to manage hanging basket, which have already had the cost agreed for next year. Poppies are currently stored and setting a date and arranging for volunteers to put up and take down the poppies each year is required. The festive lights are agreed for this year. For future years it will be liaising with Festive Lighting on available options for lights and cost and work with the committee to decide on preferred option.

A planning person would look for planning requests and assist ASPRA with reasons for refusal or acceptance.

It would be great to have someone to arrange Christmas social and such like.

The roles for ASPRA continuing to produce a magazine were discussed at length as concerns were expressed on how to follow in Colin and Phil's footsteps, who produce a "scarily high quality" 64-page magazine. Colin explained that articles can be produced in word so no special publishing knowledge is required and a short cut for the process would be to give the articles to TD who would, for a cost, arrange layout and printing. There may be members who would enjoy writing articles for the magazines and/or the editor could interview those with a subject for the magazine. Advertisers pay up front and the expectation is that we will need to continue with these. Nicola reminded us that we will need to advise current advertisers that the magazine will be different. Maddie offered to help with content. Claire said we could include adverts for Editor and advertising manager. Jeet advised people like the small and very local magazine. Colin was concerned it could turn into a "parish magazine". Nicola thought that if it is smaller we could make a feature of that by explaining why and calling out for volunteers. It was agreed we need to get something out and that as there is a magazine due out soon just one more this year before Christmas would be good. Anyone interested in supporting the next magazine in anyway please contact secretary@aspra.uk.

5. Magazine Editor's update

Report is on the website

6. Advertisement Manager's update

Report is on the website

Colin mentioned that whilst it was not a requirement it has been a matter of pride that each magazine has paid for itself. For the first time ASPRA is helping fund the current issue, due to rising costs of materials etc. A thank you and done well was followed by applause and Claire said to Colin that there was a thank you at the AGM but he was now here to receive it in person. Our chair Steve has also passed on his thanks to Colin and Phil in an email.

7. Website update

No update has been received and Annie was unable to attend.

8. Social Media update

Report is on the website

Our page has 1400 followers and Nicola has done 100 posts since February which equates to one per day. She has been scheduling posts which has come in handy, and is working well. She is contacted about all sorts of things. There has been a lot of interaction about things such grass cutting in the park. The page is a busy as ever.

Some members have said they may not be seeing everything Nicola posts and so she has included in her report instructions on how to "Favourite" the ASPRA page and ensure all posts are seen.

9. Treasurer's report

Report is on the website

The main points of interest are subs are coming in later this year as subscription magazine has been delayed. We haven't yet paid for the magazine.

Thank you to everyone who has made prompt payment of subs.

Hanging baskets are paid as are half of the festive lights.

We have made a donation to Neighbourhood Watch.

We are where we expect to be at the moment but this could change depending on the situation with advertisers.

10. Projects update

Report is on the website

- Hanging Baskets
- Poppies
- Festive Lighting

The only thing that has happened since the February meeting is the hanging baskets were put up and are looking lovely this year although colouring not quite as expected.

11. Membership and Postmaster update

Report is on the website

86 renewals have been received, many with extra donations. Dave is expecting to be busy in July after the magazine has gone out and explained the need to go into the bank statement often, to capture the information.

Some of his emails don't always get through and he is not sure why, so if you think you may be missing some please do contact him if you think this is happening. Sometimes they will go into junk mail. He is happy to take multiple emails from one address.

12. Jumble Trail update

Maddie confirmed there will be a Jumble Trail this year in September and she will confirm the date shortly.

13. Addiscombe Recreation Ground update

Report is on the website

Lyn was unable to attend but she asked that we record thanks to the gardeners and those who have been proactive in sorting out the water pipe.

Nicola and Dave were both contacted several times about a water leak in the park. Thought it was a good advert for ASPRA although not actually our problem. Dave explained the plumbing problem. The council managed to stop the flow of water in a day and then three days later mended it. Not exactly sure of the problem but Ashburton Park had a similar problem the next day so probably vandalism to steal the piping. Dave has temporarily fixed the damaged gate where the hose is and done some plumbing to allow Hilary to use her new hose and water the plants during the hot weather. There was a brief discussion on how good Fix My Street is for reporting problems and Nicola said most are resolved within 48 hours.

14. Litter Picking

This month four roads were covered with six people for an hour. There were lots of thanks and interest in joining the group next time. Jenny does a health and safety briefing at the beginning including that anything that may happen is not ASPRA's responsibility. They are considering whether to use WhatsApp so there could be some spontaneous litter picking. Jenny's daughter does regular weekly litter picks and there is always plenty of litter to collect. The group occasionally cover Addiscombe Recreation Ground.

15. Chairman update

Chairman sent his apologies and no report was provided.

16. AOB

Colin mentioned there seemed to be quite a lot of travellers in the area especially by the Windmill pub. Jeet said the council were aware and helping with matters.

Colin mentioned that he thought the lovely bench bought by St Mildreds with ASPRA's donation looked more expensive than what was given. Some went and had a look at the bench after the meeting.

Gill mentioned she had been contacted by a member in Sherwood Road about how overgrown the trees are and why haven't the council cut them back for a long time? Maddie said she would look into this.

Dave spoke about a tree planting scheme he had heard about that may be able to provide trees for our streets where we have some missing. Maddie was aware of a council scheme that were planting trees to improve air quality where it is really bad but Croydon is not included. Nicola mentioned that when the cherry trees were agreed for Croydon parks, some were allocated for empty street plots – she wondered what was happening with those. Nicola asked for Steve to update us about the acer tree he suggested to be planted in Addiscombe Recreation Ground for the Queen's Jubilee.

Councillor Scott Roche - new Croydon Cabinet Member for Streets and Environment - has emailed ASPRA to ask about the top concerns and priorities for our area. ASPRA Chair, Steve, will walk around Addiscombe with Cllr Roche discussing these issues.

Cllr Roche's message:

"One of my main objectives as a new Cabinet Member is to proactively work together with fantastic community groups like yours. I am keen to discuss how we can work together, help enhance your vital efforts for your local community going forward, and for me to get a better understanding of your key priorities and concerns locally."

'Streets and Environment' - what would you like the Council to do differently/better for Addiscombe? Let us know by commenting via email to secretary@aspra.uk

Nicola will post about it on the ASPRA Facebook page and Claire volunteered to look at the post it notes we collect from meeting the residents last year in Addiscombe and pass the information to Steve.

17. Dates of next meetings all at St Mildreds:

- Monday 19 September 2022 ASPRA meeting in the Pavilion
- Tuesday 7 March 2023 ASPRA AGM in the Pavilion
- Monday 5 June 2023 ASPRA meeting in the Pavilion
- Monday 18 September 2023 ASPRA meeting in the Pavilion
- Tuesday 28 November 2023 ASPRA meeting in the Pavilion