



# 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 the ASPRA AGM held on Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 8pm in the Pavilion, St Mildred's**

1. **Apologies** from councillors Sue Bennett, Maddie Henson, Jeet Bains, Richard Chatterjee, and Mark Johnson, Road Reps Mary Crinnegan, Jan Rutter, Jonas Craddock, Police Sergeant Nathan Saville and PC Warnett, and Hilary Chelminski.
2. Steve opened the meeting by welcoming everyone on this cold wet evening. He said this was the 34<sup>th</sup> AGM and it was nearly time for another party to celebrate our Jade anniversary in 2024. He hoped we were all enjoying tonight's refreshments. He advised the accounts had been audited but not been published for the usual reasons, although of course copies were available at the meeting. He mentioned that Gill was stepping down as secretary, Nicola from social media and Annie as web content manager. He thanked them for all their hard work and mentioned Gill was standing for election as projects coordinator. Steve wanted to especially thank all ASPRA's hard-working road reps, both past and present, who are the heart of this association, personally delivering and collecting magazines and subs envelopes.

### **3. Minutes of AGM 2022 meeting and matters arising**

No matters arising. Agreement of minutes proposed by Sarah Hill and seconded by Nicola Corbishley.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Ballot**

Proposed Changes to Constitution proposed Sheila Newbold and seconded Pierre Prevost.

Motion carried unanimously

#### **Election of Committee Members:**

- i. Chair (Steve White nominated for re-election)
- ii. Vice-Chair (Colin Gamm nominated for election)
- iii. Treasurer (Claire Brialey nominated for re-election)
- iv. Secretary (vacant)
- v. Magazine Editor (vacant)
- vi. Advertising Manager (vacant)
- vii. Contact Manager (Dave Lee nominated for re-election)
- viii. Membership Secretary (Dave Lee nominated for re-election)
- ix. Projects Coordinator (Gill Lee nominated for election)
- x. Social Media Coordinator (Penny Curran nominated for election)

- xi. Web Manager (John Robinson nominated for election)
- xii. Events Coordinator (Deborah Shaw nominated for election)

All of the above were voted into the posts.

## **5. ASPRA Vacancies**

Unfortunately, no vacancies were filled at the meeting, so please do get in contact if you can help in any way (not necessarily taking on the full role; perhaps job share with a friend). Committee members are always happy to meet up and discuss options over a cuppa for the following vacancies.

Secretary – to organise meetings, including booking venues, producing agendas and minutes and arranging the provision of refreshments

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

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

Road Representative – for Lower Addiscombe Road even numbers 194 to 362

For fuller details of all the vacancies please see the role descriptions on the ASPRA website [www.aspra.uk/vacancies](http://www.aspra.uk/vacancies) or email [secretary@aspra.uk](mailto:secretary@aspra.uk)

## **6. Chair's Annual Report for 2022**

Steve advised that he had not produced a report as he had such a good committee who have each submitted reports, along with gardening and litter picking, which are all on the website.

## **7. Road Reps Reports**

Sarah Hill (Road Rep for Shirley Park Road) mentioned that although the raves that had been taking place at the car wash in Shirley Road have now stopped, she was very disappointed that there had been no time/opportunity at the previous meeting to discuss this. Gill confirmed that future agendas would include an early item for road reps. Sheila asked if the raves had been reported to the police and this was confirmed.

Chris Facey (Road Rep for Carlyle Road) said there are the usual issues with Addiscombe Recreation Ground park gates not being locked and loud music being played.

## **8. Treasurer's Annual Accounts and Report for 2022**

Summary report is on the website.

There was a detailed financial report available at the meeting which Claire went through explaining our current financial position and future commitments. The accounts were audited by Fred Law who has agreed to do this again for the 2023 accounts.

Everything is going up in cost. TD Print are doing the best they can for us. The festive lights are going up by about 50% and Colin mentioned that ASPRA will need an extra £1,000 per year for underwriting the costs. Pierre asked about help from the council and it was explained that when councillors had community budgets they were able to generously donate and support ASPRA project. They no longer have these budgets due to the council's current financial state. Martin asked about us receiving any grants. The councillors have provided the committee with details of all the grants available, which the committee have looked at, but unfortunately we are a long way off from meeting the criteria. The committee had

applied to the Co-op for their community grant previously, but were unsuccessful and we were amazed at the very large number of applications. We were successful with a grant for gardening from Tesco a few years ago.

Anyone who has any ideas for fundraising please contact [projects@aspra.uk](mailto:projects@aspra.uk).

Claire thanked members, businesses, and the road reps for collecting the generous donations.

Claire was asked to explain outreach and she said these were costs relating to events such as the St Mildred Christmas Market where we had a stall and the event we held in Addiscombe outside Gibson's butchers.

Any questions please email [treasurer@aspra.uk](mailto:treasurer@aspra.uk)

John suggested we contact Addiscombe estate agents asking them to let buyers know about ASPRA once they have exchanged contracts; it was also suggested that renters should be encouraged to feel more included. We could start with the three estate agents that advertise in the magazine. Dave said the estate agents each get about 20 copies of the magazine each time it comes out.

Colin said that Claire has done a fantastic job.

There were no further questions and Steve said this was due to finance being very clearly explained.

## **9. Magazine's Annual Report for 2022**

Report is on the website.

Dave thanked all the writers who have contribute to the magazine. He already has one article for the next magazine. There are three new advertisers for this issue of the magazine. He expects the magazine to go to the printers in the next day or two. Claire mentioned it was good to have different writers getting involved and Nicola said it was great to have a team that got together and made it happen. Dave is unable to carry on with his temporary role of putting the magazine together and hopes that someone or a group of people will step forward to do this for the next issue of the magazine.

John asked Steve how many customers he had got through the magazine and he said loads. Donna said a lot of the members, especially elderly people, keep their magazine by the front door and if they need anything they refer to it.

Pierre asked about possible Addiscombe history articles and was told that there were two good books on the subject but perhaps there was some updating/interesting articles that could be done.

Janet spoke about a dead tree and was advised that Cllr Maddie Henson is on the case.

Anyone with articles for the magazine please email [editor@aspra.uk](mailto:editor@aspra.uk)

Dave reminded us that all the email addresses of the vacancies (i.e. editor, advertiser and secretary) are monitored.

## **10. Contact Manager's and Membership Annual Report for 2022**

Report is on the website.

Membership numbers are higher in the roads where the road reps knock on doors.

The subs are due after the AGM. Last year was particularly difficult for all concerned as payments were received throughout the year, whereas in previous years they have been concentrated in the couple of months after the AGM with only a few coming in through the remainder of the year. It is good to have so many payments to keep track of but it really helps to have your house number and road name as a reference, not just 'residents' association' for your bank payment. This will save our busy volunteers Dave and Claire a lot of time. Your support is much appreciated; thank you.

### **11. Project Coordinator's Annual Report for 2022**

Report is on the website.

Gill advised that she is currently working on a new deal for the lights which will be for five years. There will only be one style of lights, Holly and Berries, this year as all previous attempts to have two alternating designs have failed due to the layout of our lampposts. This was generally thought to be a good idea.

### **12. Social Media Coordinator's Annual Report for 2022**

Report is on the website.

Nicola has held a meeting with Penny, who was voted in tonight, to arrange a handover. Postings include anything from across the Croydon area that might be of interest to the residents, not just the ASPRA area. You can get in touch either through Facebook or the email address which remains the same: [socialmedia@aspra.uk](mailto:socialmedia@aspra.uk)

Steve thanked Nicola for her hard work and support of ASPRA.

### **13. Events Coordinator**

Deborah formally joined the committee tonight and her first event took place earlier this year with an enjoyable road reps thank you event. She is planning an event to celebrate the cherry blossom with a bring your own picnic, similar to what is done in Japan. This will be organised at short notice and is weather and blossom dependent.

The big event this year will be the re-instatement of the ASPRA Jumble Trail, to be held on Sunday 3 September, which people said they were looking forward to. This is also a way of raising funds for the ASPRA projects.

### **14. Web Manager's Annual Report for 2022**

Report is on the website.

John said that he has lived in Addiscombe for over twenty years. He has looked at the website and it needs to change with a spring clean. He said Dave and Annie have done a brilliant job but the site now needs modernising. Later he hopes to introduce pop-ups and make it more appealing and encourage young people. Colin said it would be good to attract young people to the association. John said it is important to include the young and they need a voice. Laura thought this should also get some games/matches such as basketball organised.

The website will gradually look different and get even better.

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

Claire said that there was not any need at this time to increase subscriptions, with member donations adding another £3.10 on average for every £4 subscription in 2022. Dave said that we should be proud that we are able to keep it at £4. Colin said it is so cheap that it should be increased. Nicola said members are showing they value what ASPRA does by adding a donation. Concerns were expressed that if we raised the subscription rate we could lose members, and money.

Steve said we would monitor the finances for the next year, as we always have.

## **16. Councillors' Annual Report for 2022 not available**

## **17. Police Report**

As mentioned previously the councillors were unavailable that night, but we were very pleased to welcome PCSO Alex Maxted (who some would remember from previous meetings) and PC Charlie Cottingham who joined in September. They brought stats with them for anyone interested. They hoped we will see more of them as they plan to bridge the gap with the community.

There followed an interesting/lively discussion on matters affecting the ASPRA area. These ranged from shoplifting in Sainsbury's and Boots, managed by Operation Retailer, to 12 delivery drivers parked outside KFC and their manners when collecting their delivery, their L plates and checking driving licences for illegality. Road traffic is a grey area. Sarah, who was a qualified motor cycle instructor, had been asking for a motorcycle bay as it is illegal to park in a car bay, but after 33 years this had still not happened.

Alex and Charlie work out of New Addington Police Station, as do PC Phillips and PC O'Shannon who cover Shirley North. There is a push to recruit more PCOs. The police wish to be as visible as possible.

Pierre mentioned an incident at Gordon's where the owner had been battered and bruised, which is apparently a regular occurrence carried out by school children. He was advised that there is a police school team to deal with such incidents. The age of ten is when a child becomes legally responsible for their actions.

When asked about electric scooters we were informed that police officers can stop and seize scooters; however, they can only shout to stop them, not step out in front of the scooter as they are not covered, which can be frustrating for them but is safer.

Jenny C asked about the CCTV at the Co-op and was told that they have a very clear picture of the ATM.

Laura asked about aggressive begging. She was told that, whilst begging itself is not illegal, the police usually have a chat with the person. However, aggressive begging needs to be stopped; this is behavioural, and a public order for harassment and a community protection order can be issued.

Phil asked about how the hire and reward service drivers get insured. When the police stop and run vehicle checks, if there is no insurance they can seize the vehicle.

John said that the app "Next Door" say the police are brilliant for what they have done.

## **18. Addiscombe Recreation Ground Gardening Annual Report for 2022**

Report is on the website.

Steve advised that he had located a two metre Canadian red maple tree for £165, which would grow quite large, for ASPRA to plant in the park. Lyn, who manages the gardening, was unable to be at the meeting although she was aware that Steve was looking to source a small acer tree. Claire reminded us that this was to originally to have been part of the Queen's Green Canopy for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, but the time taken means it is now more appropriate for King Charles's Coronation. Sheila expressed concern that a tree of this size could overhang the gardens next to the park and that it was too big to plant in either of the flowerbeds that ASPRA manage. Jenny C wondered if it was possible to plant it somewhere along the Bingham Road entrance to the park. Gill said that when the gardening group was originally set up it was agreed that we looked after the two flowerbeds, and if we wished to manage or plant elsewhere in the park we would need to check with the council parks department that it would be OK. Unfortunately, the contacts ASPRA had in the parks department had all moved on, but we could seek permission once we had agreement on what we are doing. There was no final outcome at the meeting.

## **19. Litter Picking Annual Report for 2022**

Jenny T didn't realise litter was an agenda item and was sorry she wasn't very prepared!

What started out as a personal lockdown project had evolved into a regular event. A dedicated band of volunteers – ASPRA members and a handful of other members of the public – met for a litter pick on the second Monday of the month during the lighter months.

In 2022 the group had picked around 40 bags of litter from the high street and surrounding rounds. Five litter pickers were purchased from ASPRA funds, and the council provides everything else needed. This year the council had decided that they can lend us everything (bags, hoops, more pickers and hi-vis jackets) for the whole season, rather than come out to us with equipment each time. Jenny has a secure store in her back garden to store stuff.

The group will continue with picks on the second Monday on the month (which is the day that best suits Jenny) and she had confirmed those dates with the council as they need to co-ordinate with Veolia to collect the rubbish bags, which are supposed to be picked up by the next day.

There is a litter pick WhatsApp group, and Jenny now has a dedicated [litterpick@aspra.uk](mailto:litterpick@aspra.uk) email. She had also written a short article for the next magazine, and plans to write more in future issues.

The first pick of the season is 10th April – Easter Monday. The dates also coincide with the extra bank holiday for the Coronation; King Charles wants this day to be a "festival of volunteering", so our litter pick fits in very nicely with that. Keep Britain Tidy is again running their Great British Spring Clean campaign from 17th March to 2nd April (although we've not made any plans to do a pick during this fortnight).

## **20. AOB**

Penny wished for it to be minuted that the bins were not being emptied in Addiscombe Recreation Ground and it took repeated reporting to the council to get this done. She said there were not enough bins.

John said there were some trees in Bingham Road that were getting dangerous and asked whether he could prune them back. Steve advised when he had the walk-about with Cllr Roche he was told we could prune trees but to leave the cut-offs as they do not belong to us.

Bob asked whether, as the Mayor of Croydon was not opposing ULEZ, ASPRA could express a view. This is not possible as members views vary. John mentioned there were marches people could attend as well as petitions.

The meeting finished at 10pm, with Steve thanking everyone for coming out on such a horrible night.

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

Monday 5 June 2023 – ASPRA meeting in the Pavilion

Monday 18 September 2023 – ASPRA meeting in the Pavilion

Wednesday 29 November 2023 – ASPRA meeting in the Pavilion