

ASPRA 36th Annual General Meeting Minutes Wednesday 19 March 2025 – Pavilion, St Mildred's

The meeting began at 8pm.

Apologies

Apologies were noted from Councillor Richard Chatterjy.

Introductions to Committee

Members of the Committee were introduced.

Minutes of the 2024 AGM and Matters Arising

The minutes of the **2024 AGM** were circulated.

Members were asked if the minutes could be taken as read.

Resolution:

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were **approved and carried** without amendment.

Introduction to Ballots

The Chair explained the process for voting on the AGM ballots, including the election of committee members and confirmation of roles.

The meeting also noted the use of a live transcription system for recording proceedings and producing summaries of meetings. Thanks were expressed to John for setting up and managing the system.

Ballots

a. Proposed Changes to the Constitution

No constitutional changes were presented for vote.

b. Election of Committee Members

The following positions were considered:

Role	Outcome
Chair	Steve White re-elected
Vice Chair	Phil Poole
Treasurer	Mary Alexander elected
Secretary	Vacancy remains
Magazine Editor	Vacancy remains
Advertising Manager	Steve White re-elected
Contact Manager	Vacancy
Membership Secretary	Vacancy
Project Coordinator	Deborah Shaw re-elected
Social Media Coordinator	Penny Curran re-elected
Web Manager	John Robinson re-elected
Events Coordinator	Deborah Shaw re-elected

ASPRA Vacancies

Committee Roles

The following vacancies were highlighted:

- Secretary
- Magazine Editor
- Contact Manager
- Membership Secretary

Members were encouraged to consider volunteering.

Road Representatives

Road Representatives continue to be crucial to ASPRA's work, particularly for membership engagement and communications.

Other Roles

A Gardening Coordinator is also sought to organise volunteers maintaining planting areas in Bingham Recreation Ground.

Committee Annual Reports for 2024

Chairman's Report

The Chair thanked committee members and volunteers for their contributions.

Special thanks were given to:

- Dave – for many years managing the membership database.
- Claire – stepping down after long service as Treasurer.

The association continues to rely heavily on volunteers and local engagement.

Vice-Chairman's Report

Key priorities included strengthening community engagement and maintaining ASPRA's visibility within the area.

Treasurer's Report

Key points:

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- ASPRA recorded a surplus of £443 for 2024.
- Subscription income was slightly higher than the previous year.
- Members donated 93% on top on their subscriptions.
- Funding has been set aside for:
 - High Street hanging baskets
 - Festive lights for the next three years

However:

- Donations toward festive lighting have fallen by about £1,000 due to businesses withdrawing sponsorship.

Claire thanked the committee and volunteers and confirmed she would be stepping down.

Magazine Report

The magazine faced challenges due to lack of volunteers.

- Only two editions were published in 2024.
- The Spring issue was planned for printing soon.
- Road Representatives were encouraged to use the magazine to recruit members.

Advertising Report

Advertising income remains important but is affected by financial pressures on local businesses.

Contacts and Membership Report

Key developments included:

- Membership of approximately **725**.
- Around **2,000 households** within the ASPRA area.
- 33 Road Representatives covering approximately 40 roads.

The meeting discussed introducing member identification numbers to simplify payment tracking.

The current Excel document is reaching its limits, and a move to a CRM system (such as CiviCRM) was suggested.

Projects and Events Report

Recent activities included:

- High Street hanging baskets
- Community engagement events
- Participation in Christmas lights celebrations
- Gazebo presence at local events to recruit members

Future events under consideration include:

- Community jumble trail
- Children's activities
- Outdoor music events
- Local talent events

The events team requires additional volunteers.

Social Media Report

Current engagement:

- Instagram: 128 followers, 11,800 monthly reach
- Facebook reach: 1,832

Audience demographic:

- Majority female
- Largest group aged 35–44

Future goals:

- Encourage members to contribute content
- Run competitions (photography, art)
- Promote community activities and family events.

Website Report

Plans include:

- Modernising the website
- Improving navigation and structure
- Creating a members' area
- Adding forms and interactive features
- Improving data security and compliance

Changes will be gradual and may take up to two years to fully implement.

Other Annual Reports

Councillors

Councillors discussed:

- Ashburton Park centenary celebrations
- Funding applications for park improvements
- Proposed projects including:
 - sensory garden
 - drainage improvements
 - potential ecology centre in the old library building

Public transport improvements and upgraded bus stops were also discussed.

Police

Concerns were raised regarding:

- Shoplifting in local stores
- Begging and anti-social behaviour
- Collaboration between police, council and local traders.

Litter Picking

Residents were encouraged to report issues using apps such as:

- Love Clean Streets

- FixMyStreet

Reports are typically resolved within 48 hours.

Addiscombe Recreation Ground Gardening

Volunteers continue to maintain planting areas, though additional help is required.

Looking Ahead – Residents’ Survey

Survey results provided useful insight into community interests and potential events.

Ideas included:

- family events
- outdoor music
- dog shows
- community markets
- play streets.

Review of Annual Subscriptions

Subscription levels were reviewed and was set at £4.

Membership payments remain strong overall.

Any Other Business

High Street Issues

Discussion included:

- decline in variety of shops
- closure of Boots
- increasing numbers of barbers and cafés
- concerns about shoplifting and maintenance.

Encouragement was given to support for local traders such as:

- the Co-op
- Vic Gibson Butcher
- Gordon’s and Sullivans

Mission of ASPRA

Members discussed the purpose of ASPRA and suggested focusing on:

- making Addiscombe “a great place to live”
- supporting the High Street
- community safety
- beautification and cleanliness.

Next Meeting Dates

Future meetings scheduled at **St Mildred’s Pavilion**:

- Tuesday 10 June 2025
- Tuesday 9 September 2025
- Wednesday 3 December 2025

The meeting closed.