

ADDINGTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Virtual Annual General Meeting

held 1st December 2020 at 8.00pm using Video Conferencing

Present :

ARA Committee : Wiktor Molleskog, Mike Bond, Malcolm Graveling, Salli Ransom, Paul Bearman,
Keith James, Terry Belsey, Alan Chitty, Aline Antoine

MP : Sarah Jones (Croydon Central)

Local Residents : Phil Barber, Alice Hicks, Paul Ransom, Geoff Hopper, Jim Nayyar, Joy Ellery,
John & Genevieve Glen, Winston Leeks, Dr Kemal

1) Apologies were received from Gina Stoneman and Cllr Helen Pollard.

2) Minutes of the previous year's AGM were approved and adopted (proposed by Keith James, seconded by Malcolm Graveling).

3) Matters arising

- a The Green Corridor and Pioneer Place issues will be addressed later in the meeting.
- d New unsolicited approaches have been made to some residents in Featherbed Lane and Falconwood Road, this time by CDR Evolution. We are not aware that any residents have responded.
- f Still no progress on completing the yellow lines in Huntingfield and Featherbed Lane on the church corner (Cllr Helen Pollard to be asked to follow-up).
- g The Council's improvement plans for the Addington Park childrens' playground area are unlikely to be completed due to the Council's worsening financial state.

4) Chairman's Annual report

We are not able to hold our AGM face to face as we normally do so we are now doing it on ZOOM. From May 2019 until February 2020 all was normal and we carried out the concerns of our Residents. From February of this year things have been very different with Covid19 and all the restrictions so we had to hold Committee meetings by Zoom. I hope that you are all well and that you have been able to stay safe during the pandemic.

During the pandemic we have taken part in the London Green Belt AGM and observed a Planning Committee Meeting at Croydon Council, both by Zoom. From the London Green Belt, we learned that they have made a strong objection to the Government Housing White Paper. We did not learn much from the Planning Committee meeting. We have also objected to the Government Housing White Paper, and to the new

increased Parking Charges for Croydon which are planned to take place from January 2021. We objected to the Liquor License for Addington Park. This Application has since been withdrawn but a new Application may be launched. We will monitor the situation. The planned upgrade of the play area in Addington Park has been canceled due to the Council being bankrupt.

Pioneer Place has been bought by the Shia Muslims. They said they intend to use the existing buildings for worship and were not going to develop the site. The back field will be used for relaxation and meditation by their members. Their intention is to make Pioneer Place a Hub for community activity. Since our first contact with the Shia Muslim group we have learned that they are planning a major development on the site. This development is out of character with the area and cannot be accepted. We will call for the BACKFIELD to get SINC status with some form of limited public access, and a sensible development on the rest of the site in character with surrounding area.

We are very sorry to hear that during the lock-down there were people in our area who were unable to get the basic necessities and had to press the emergency button to get help. We do not want anything like this to happen again. We are here to help and we are able to arrange shopping and pick up of medicines etc. It is therefore very important that we get to know of people that may need help. If you are in the group needing help or know of anyone needing help please contact me at wiktor.molleskog@sky.com or on phone 07704797673/01689843404 or Salli at editor@addingtonresidents.com so that we can build a data base to work from. I ask all residents in our area to give us their e-mail addresses so we can more easily get in touch with important information. We will not use these addresses to bombard you with all kind of rubbish. Please be assured that your e-mail addresses will not be misused, given to anybody or sold on. I ask for volunteers to help with shopping and pickup of medicines for housebound residents should it be needed. Also there are 2 vacant places on the committee and we ask for volunteers there as well.

I urge you to keep to government guidelines, stay safe and look after yourselves.

5) Treasurer's Report

Once again, we are pleased to report to the members that our finances are in good order. With your support and that of our advertisers we can show a healthy balance sheet.

Our reserves have increased over the year as our expenditure for the year decreased whilst there has been a small increase in our income. Subscriptions increased by £75, Advertising reduced by £220 and Sundries increased by £60, whilst Printing costs were reduced by £241, Donations fell by £250, resulting in an overall difference of £376 for the year. This increase in our reserves may come in handy if the need ever arises that we must seek the use of professional services to protect our environment. With the current proposals before Parliament to radically change the way Planning decisions are

to be made, and with our knowledge of how the local authority have recently had a cavalier approach to the current planning regulations, these funds may prove to be crucial in our efforts to resist any detrimental changes.

The current problems arising from the Covid 19 pandemic means that the results for the current year are likely to be very different as we are unable to send out our invoices for advertising due to not being able to publish our magazine. Also, we are not able to ask you for your annual subscription in the usual way so we asked those able to pay directly to our account by means of a Bank transfer. So far this year this has raised £111. It is important that we maintain our ability to protect our community assets, so we need your continued support by way of subscriptions and advertising revenue. Without your help we cannot continue our efforts. We have some 270 eMail contacts for residents, out of a possible 750+ households; if anyone would like to help us keep in touch more promptly, please let us have your eMail address

Note our thanks to Winston Leeks for auditing the Annual Accounts again. Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Keith James and seconded by Mike Bond, and the Accounts are appended to these Minutes.

6) Report from Sarah Jones, MP Croydon Central

I have dealt with around 8000 cases of people asking for help or offering their views since the beginning of covid. With only a small support team that is a lot, but I do my best to answer everyone as quickly as possible. If anyone would like to get in touch my email is sarah.jones.mp@parliament.uk and my phonenumber is 0208 191 7064. Surgeries are possible on the phone or on zoom – I am not doing face-to-face at the moment.

Covid has taken up most of my time this year as you can imagine – with hundreds of people in Croydon losing their lives. At the start of the pandemic, we were helping people travel home from countries around the world, and I was working with care homes to try and get them enough PPE. We worked with the voluntary sector and the mutual aid groups to ensure people got food and the shielding were able to eat. I had to work with businesses in Croydon to try and get government support schemes in place to enable them to pay their rent and survive. With the arrival of the Dominic Cummings scandal and black lives matter, people suddenly started contacting me with their views again and I received around 2000 emails on those two issues alone. We then moved into the summer when restrictions lifted a bit. Clearly the last few months have been devastating as covid has inevitably risen again, and I have been trying to support businesses who are not getting the same support they had in March. Many self-employment people have not received any support at all and they are now in real trouble in Croydon.

I am Shadow Policing Minister which means I spend a lot of time talking to the police and supporting them through this difficult time. Crime fell dramatically in the first lockdown but rose back fast and is now at pre-covid levels. This means the police are

enforcing covid restrictions and having to deal with high crime levels and they need our support.

Clearly everyone will have seen the financial situation of Croydon Council. I am meeting regularly with the new leadership in the Council to discuss changes to processes and decision-making – as well as the decisions themselves – and I can reassure you that fundamental reform is underway. There will be difficult choices ahead which I do not relish and we have to get those decisions right. There are huge lessons to learn, but it is also the case that there are massive financial pressures on the council with 60% cuts since 2010, and Croydon has a particular issue with the cost of unaccompanied asylum seekers which is not reimbursed by government. My priority is to ensure services for our most vulnerable are protected, but that the Council also continue to get the basics right in terms of universal services like the public realm and bin collections.

7) Resignation & Election of Committee Members

All committee members resigned as required by the constitution. Apart from Paul Bearman who has moved away, and Geoff Hopper who stepped down during the year, the remaining committee members all made themselves available and were re-elected. There remain two vacancies should anyone else wish to volunteer.

8) Any Other Business

- i) Alice Hicks enquired whether Thames Water had been notified of the possible Pioneer Place redevelopment adjacent to their waterworks; they have, but are awaiting any formal planning application
- ii) Paul Bearman requested the Pioneer Place 'BackField' be 'haycut' to preserve the wild orchid environment; this will be addressed by either this Association or via our MP's office
- iii) Joy Ellery enquired about the Council's liquor license application in support of potential large-scale events in Addington Park; this has been withdrawn presently, but a new application may be resubmitted, and we will object again
- iv) Fly-tipping on Featherbed Lane has become a problem and the Council will be made aware
- v) There has been a spate of catalytic-converter thefts from cars on Falconwood Road and more widely across the borough. The Metropolitan Police have set-up a task force, so please report any incidents to Opbasswood@met.police.uk

9) AGM closed at 9.08pm – the next Committee meeting will be Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 8.00pm via Zoom

AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2019-2020



ARA-2020-Accounts
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