

ADDINGTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Virtual Meeting

held 6th October 2020 at 8.15pm using Video Conferencing

Present :

ARA Committee : Wiktor Molleskog, Mike Bond, Alan Chitty, Malcolm Graveling,
Keith James, Salli Ransom

Croydon Council : -

1) **Apologies** were received from Aline Antoine.

2) **Minutes** of the September meeting were approved.

3) **Matters arising**

a) Nothing to report, other than issues that will be covered later on this month's Agenda.

4) **Treasurer's Report**

A small bank interest credit was again our only income in the past month, resulting in current total funds of £13,549.11 overall. Last year's audit has been completed, the Accounts have been signed off by Winston Leeks, and these will be published in the next Addington magazine ahead of the AGM.

5) **Government White Paper on Planning For The Future**

Although the Government has asked for feedback, the whole process is overly bureaucratic. This is in response to the Government's desire to move all local councils to a rules-based Planning process; we remain unconvinced that this will provide sufficient protection, in particular for our Green Belt targeted sites, and may also lead to over-intensification within our catchment area; for example, local small green space protections could be diminished. We will align ourselves with responses agreed by CARA (the Croydon Alliance of Residents' Associations) and anyone is welcome to submit individual responses as well.

6) Croydon Council's Proposed Changes to Parking Charges

We are aghast at the Council's proposal. It includes replacement in January 2021 of the current 1-hour free parking on local shopping streets with a paid 2-hour charge based on CO₂ emissions, thus potentially harming local businesses in these trying Covid times. Everyone is encouraged to object to the Council based on submissions proposed by other Residents' Associations.

7) ARA AGM

A physical Meeting is not allowed during this pandemic, so we will endeavour to host a virtual Annual General Meeting using Zoom on the evening of Tuesday 1st December 2020. Salli will incorporate this in the next edition of The Addington magazine and adequate Notice will be given to encourage participation.

8) Publication & distribution of The Addington magazine

The magazine will be printed as soon as possible, both to publicise the AGM, and to draw attention to the help that can be made available to vulnerable residents. Although some really good work has been done with local WhatsApp groups, we still hear of residents having to use their panic buttons to summon basic help. Anyone with useful articles is asked to send them to Salli Ransom for inclusion soonest. Offers to help with distribution will also be welcomed.

9) Wiktor's Zoom meetings with Wendy Parr

This initiative aims to ensure help is available for the eldest and most vulnerable in our area, especially through any further Covid-19 lockdowns. Some events are being proposed for younger people too, probably in Spring 2021; Wiktor will continue to liaise with Wendy Parr, Andy Stranack and others.

10) Addington Park

A blanket drinks licence application from Croydon Council has now been withdrawn following local objections, but the Council may reapply as they look to generate income from large-scale events organisers.

11) Pioneer Place sale

The sale of Pioneer Place has now been confirmed, to a Shia Muslim organisation, They have responded to an enquiry from ARA, and state they have no plans to redevelop the site but wish to retain the current buildings as a place of worship, and to retain the Back Field for relaxation and meditation purposes.

12) Any Other Business

i) Salli Ransom was asked if the ARA website could be updated for the latest Minutes and to reflect the current committee membership.

13) Meeting curtailed at 9.05pm – our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 8.00pm, still using videoconferencing as we maintain Social Distancing. Wiktor will ensure that future meetings can be extended avoid Zoom curtailing our discussions.