



Coulsdon West Residents' Association

**MINUTES OF THE 71ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
COULSDON WEST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7.00pm
Using zoom meeting**

Committee as of 8th March, 2021

Present

Peter Appleford
Yasmin Dubash
Dave Rothberg
Lynne Rothberg
Richard Walker
Yvonne Walker
Keith Watkins

Apologies for absence (Committee)

Lucy Acres
Jean Biggs
Michael Southwell (Treasurer)

Members in attendance:

45 zoom connections, about one quarter of the general membership.

Apologies for absence (members)

Andreas Kyriacou
Debbie McMullin
Geoff Hunt

1. Introduction

Elizabeth Ash welcomed attendees as the host of the meeting and explained that we were joined by local councillors Luke Clancy, Mario Creatura and Ian Parker, who would not be voting.

Elizabeth introduced herself as the Chair of Croydon Communities Consortium, CCC. Elizabeth explained that as CWRA is not quorate she was invited to chair this meeting as an independent.

Ground rules were set for the zoom meeting, which would be recorded for the purposes of note taking.

2. Approval of minutes.

Minutes of the previous AGM, which was held on 28th May 2019, had been made available to the attendees prior to the meeting. Approval was proposed by Lynne Rothberg and seconded by Angela and Simon Little (who had attended the meeting in 2019).

3. Report for the Year.

Richard Walker read a report on CWRA activities for 2019:

There were two major issues: Purley Tower and the minor injuries unit at Purley Hospital. Despite objections to the Purley Tower this has still gone ahead. Croydon council is



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focusing a lot of their housing requirements in Coulsdon and Purley – approx. 1500 per year.

The minor injuries unit was kept open.

CWRA continued to liaise with various groups: the NHS commissioning group, Brick by Brick, Residents' Associations in East Coulsdon, Old Coulsdon and Hartley Down (ECRA, OCRA & HADRA). Subject matter were the large projects: the medical centre and community centre on the CALAT site, and the flats and car park development on Lion Green Road.

CWRA is a member of the larger campaign groups: The East Surrey Transport Committee and the London Green Belt Council.

The East Surrey Transport committee has been influential in getting Transport for London (TfL) to adjust services on several routes, and to leave the 434 route alone!

Rita Barfoot, secretary (and de-facto chair) had been leading the Association, but sadly became ill and died in the autumn. The CWRA committee began to fail through some members leaving, as well as a lack of leadership, and in November, the committee was barely quorate due to illness. An attempt to rescue the committee was made during December, with David Rothberg joining the committee, and Lynne Rothberg elected as Chair. It was decided not to pursue combining with neighbouring RAs.

Peter Morgan was introduced an observer to the committee in December 2019.

Richard thanked those people who have been involved with CWRA over the years and wished them well in their retirement.

4. **Accounts:**

Examined accounts had been sent to attendees, showing the 2019 figures, and the 2018 figures for comparison. These accounts were prepared by Michael Southwell, and the Independent Examiner was G Daley. Richard read the report in Michael's absence.

Incomes fell to about a third of the previous year from £3,274 to £1,093.24.

The advertising income was down to £65 from £996.

Membership subscriptions were £919.00 down from £2,188.

Interest was up to £109.24 from £90.

Expenditure fell, from £1,958 down to £1093, largely due to fewer newsletters (£1,200 down to £600).

Whilst there was still a surplus, this was down to £87.44, from £1,316.33.

The accounts were approved – proposer: Bill Kilvington, seconder: Michael Lewis.

Bill also personally thanked the Association for the donation that was made during the year, to the East Surrey neonatal Unit, of which he was the manager at the time. The donation was made in memory of Rita Barfoot and had contributed towards one of the new incubators.



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5. Election of committee

The following nominations were received:

Chair	Richard Walker,
Vice Chair	Lynne Rothberg,
Secretary	Yasmin Dubash,
Treasurer	Rebecca Guildford,

Committee members: Peter Appleford, Dave Rothberg, Yvonne Walker, Keith Watkins.

As no post was being contested, Elizabeth suggested that the committee were voted for en bloc. This was unanimously agreed to and the committee was voted in, also unanimously.

6. Closing remarks

Richard Walker, the new Chair made these statements

- As an organisation we want to, and have to, move forward on all fronts: the newsletter, website and being in touch with our members. We want to take these to a better place.
- Working on planning issues – recent plans for development in South Drive has encouraged people to join the committee.
- Need to look at re-introducing Road Stewards, more use of social media.
- Valley Pharmacy is handling the Covid vaccinations at St Aidan's church – they are looking for volunteers.
- Thanks to Elizabeth for hosting, and for helping to Chair the meeting, and to the Councillors for their support.
- Elizabeth offered the services of CCC to 'host community oriented meetings.'

This concluded the end of the formal Annual General Meeting.

These next points were raised in the Open Discussion that followed.

- a) Stuart B – Asked about getting involved with community action outside the formality of joining the committee, such as by litter picking. RW said he would consult with a contact in OCRA, who does litter picking, to see about equipment.
- b) Cllr Parker – Thanks to Elizabeth for her work and hosting. Wished the new committee luck. He explained how the Councillors divide up Coulsdon: IP covers ECRA, MC covers Cane Hill and LC covers CWRA. Planning is a huge issue for residents, in all wards
- c) Bill K – Thanked the new committee. Questions re planning – wildlife survey on endangered species – reptiles and amphibians. All property development in Coulsdon should be subject to an ecology survey – asked the councillors to action this. Referred to bungalow on South Drive with a wildlife pond. Asked for people to feedback if they came across any rare reptiles/amphibians. [See post meeting notes below]



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- d) Emilie C is the local litter ambassador from Keep Britain Tidy. Mentioned the work she does with litter picking, and introduced her Facebook page called “Coulsdon Litterati” where people could get involved. [See post meeting notes below]
- e) Cllr Clancy – Thanks to RW and EA for facilitating. Agreed to follow up with the council on Bill K’s email. Spoke about the planning at South Drive. Will speak against the development and told people that they can object on the planning portal.
- f) Elizabeth A – Tracey Bellamy coordinates the street champions in Croydon, can support local groups and arrange a collection point for the rubbish.
- g) David – TOWIC (The Only Way Is Coulsdon) and Coulsdon History Facebook groups were mentioned. Any progress on the planning application at 7 Bramley Avenue -no news currently, LC to come back on this.
- h) Mati G – Had recently moved into South Drive, spoke about the issues with the development on the road. Expressed that there is a lot of development going on in all areas of Coulsdon. RW said he will raise coordinated objections.
- i) Claire O’L – Echoed what Mati has said re: Bramley Avenue development. Drawings and visualisation were nothing actually like the road. Not confident that the planning department will listen. How can this be put forward as a serious application?
- j) Cllr Clancy – Pointed out that many developments are being approved in the south of the borough, in spite of the many objections raised, and he just wanted to manage our expectations. Sadly, over development in Coulsdon will only encourage urban sprawl.

The meeting closed at 19:55

Post-meeting note:

The links mentioned above about litter and reporting wildlife sightings are now on the CWRA website 'Links' page.