



# Coulsdon West Residents' Association

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## Minutes of the 73rd Annual General Meeting Thursday, 7th July 2022 at 7.30pm Coulsdon Community Centre

### 1. Attendees:

Committee: Richard Walker, Yvonne Walker, Keith Edwards, Paul Ford, Keith Watkins, Jeannine Newham and Lynne Rothberg.

Councillors: Ian Parker, Mario Creatura.

Members: about 35 members from 28 households.

### 2. Apologies: Yasmin Dubash, Peter Appleford, David Rawlinson.

### 3. Speaker: The newly elected Mayor of Croydon, Jason Perry was welcomed. He thanked CWRA for their support in calling for a democratically elected mayor, and he outlined his plans for the future. These included improving planning procedures, getting Purley swimming pool re-opened, the regeneration of the Whitgift Centre, (including plans for Alders) and getting Fairfield Halls back to what it once was. He then took questions from the floor, expanding on many points above and his plans for Croydon being London Borough of Culture in 2023.

### 4. Approval of Minutes from the AGM of September 2021: These were approved and seconded by Simon Little and Jimmy Curtis respectively.

### 5. Chairman's report: RW spoke briefly about CWRA in 2021.

### 6. Treasurer's report: KE spoke about the accounts; there was less of a deficit than in the previous year. It has been agreed to keep the subscriptions at £3 for the time being. The accounts were approved and seconded by Geoff Hunt and Simon Little respectively.

### 7. Independent Examiner: Richard Shore was re-appointed as the Independent Examiner.

### 8. Election of the Committee: This was passed en bloc by a show of hands.

Chairman: Richard Walker

Vice Chair: Lynne Rothberg

Secretary: Yasmin Dubash

Treasurer: Keith Edwards

Members: Peter Appleford, Paul Ford, Jeannine Newham, Yvonne Walker, Keith Watkins.

### 9. Membership report: The membership currently stands at around 270 households\*. There has been a significant improvement recently, due to a flyer delivery to every eligible household, a newsletter delivery to members, two Saturday mornings outside Aldi, and magnificent efforts by the road stewards.

### 10. Transport report: KW gave a brief update on the trains and buses.

### 11. Affiliations: CWRA is affiliated to London Green Belt Council, the Coulsdon Town Ward Panel (local police and SNT), the East Surrey Transport Committee and the Friends of Rickman Hill Park.

- 12. Newsletters and social media:** PF talked about the need for some digital newsletters as well as printed ones, due to financial constraints. We no longer have a Twitter account, but have our own Facebook pages, and are featured on others such as 'The Only Way Is Coulsdon' (TOWIC) and Coulsdon Mums and Dads.
- 13. Health:** PF said that part of the original CALAT site will be converted to a Dialysis Centre and that there are plans to have a new medical centre next to it which are to be agreed shortly. The NHS have secured the funding, and the building work would start in 2023, for a planned opening in 2024. It was not known whether Woodcote Medical would be part of the new centre.
- 14. Planning:** RW echoed the Mayor's comments that poor planning decisions ought to become the exception, rather than the rule under the new administration.
- 15. Amendments to the CWRA Constitution:** RW thanked Nigel Elliott for his work on the constitution last year, and he outlined the changes to the wording of the constitution. All changes were approved unanimously.
- 16. Rickman Hill Park:** KW spoke about setting up the Friends of RHP, and acknowledged the support from CWRA (both financial and labour) towards the conservation work being undertaken. They will shortly receive a grant from Tesco's towards new benches. The cafe has suffered from staffing issues, partly due to Covid, but it is hoped to be open again at some point.
- 17. Going forward:** RW aired the possibility of raising the subscription in the future to £4. There was a general assent.
- 18. Councillors comment:** Mario Creatura thanked the committee of CWRA for their work in supporting the Councillors and asked the public to support CWRA.
- 19. Closing:** RW thanked everyone, but especially the road stewards, for their hard work and input before the formal meeting closed at 9.15pm. Many people stayed for refreshments and to talk with the committee and the councillors.

\* At the AGM, 10 new households joined CWRA, an excellent result.