

Minutes of the Fifteenth Annual General meeting of H.O.M.E. Residents' Association

Held on 7th September 2019 at 31 Havelock Road

Present: 39 members, Sarah Jones, MP, Jeet Bains and Maddie Henson, Councillors

Apologies: Peter Hopkins, Bernard and Sue Prefol, John Oliver, Sue Newman, Valerie Beagley, Stan Goron, Jennifer and Phil Emson, Deirdre Rainbow, Sue Harder.

1. Mira Armour, Chair, welcomed the members and guests.
2. Carol Porter referred to the 2018 AGM minutes and asked if anyone had any questions or amendments. No-one did, so she proposed they be approved, which was seconded by Norman Young, and passed by the meeting.
3. Mira gave the Chair's report (attached). She highlighted the history of the Residents' Association over its 15 years, the traffic issue as an ongoing problem, the various social and community events over the past year, improvements to the area in partnership with the Council, and the importance of scrutinising planning applications.
4. The 2018-19 accounts were presented by Melanie de Villiers in De Rainbow's absence. It was proposed by Norman Young that they be approved, seconded by Alison Cade, and passed by the meeting. Annual subscriptions were also collected during the afternoon.
5. Elections of Committee members: The re-election of those nominated for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were approved by the meeting. These were Mira Armour, Carol Porter and De Rainbow respectively. Other committee members standing for re-election were taken en bloc and approved, namely Norman Young, Susan Fender, Melanie de Villiers, Phil and Jenny Emson and Miriam de Souza. Desmond Wright was nominated also, and approved as a further committee member. Bob Porter was happy to be co-opted for traffic and planning issues. Carol Porter agreed to act as Vice Chair, to assist Mira with her representative role.
6. Sarah Jones was invited to introduce herself. As Croydon Central MP and Deputy Mayor, she holds regular surgeries to which constituents are invited to receive help. Her role as shadow Housing Minister meant he was involved with national and local housing policy. Her work to reduce knife crime was also highlighted. She is chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on knife crime. She spoke of the dangerous and difficult times we are in politically, and urged that we 'disagree well' if we need to, and her own principle of keeping to her own convictions.
7. Maddie Henson, Labour Councillor for Addiscombe East ward, echoed this principle. On traffic, she hoped today to get a date to consult on the issues with Sarah. She thanked the meeting for their support of the Ashburton Park fundraising effort, and the Winter Festival last December. The next one would be on 8 December, and all were welcome to help.
8. Jeet Bains, Conservative Councillor for Addiscombe East ward, gave a summary of the traffic issue over the past year. The first Council meeting with officials over Elgin Road traffic had referred the issue back to the community for a consensus view. The Ward had then been split into Addiscombe East and West. Three meetings had been held with the community. Six options had been returned to the Council, but it was clear at the 27 June Council meeting that the options had not actually been considered. Instead, a further option had been adopted – 4 roads southbound in Addiscombe West, 4 roads northbound in Addiscombe East, to be put to a public consultation later in September. However, HOME had asked for

wider options to go to the public consultation. The meeting was invited to put further comments on the traffic problem in writing – paper and pens were passed round.

9. Sita Egole (Elgin Road) brought up the issue of DFLA stickers (an anti-Islamic group) on lampposts and shop fronts. The Council had removed some but they were back, with a different logo. She asked that members note (and photograph) sightings and report them. Sarah said residents could also report them to 'Don't Mess with Croydon' who could remove them; alternatively Sita used 'Fixmystreet' online to report them.
10. The meeting closed formally at 17.15, and there was further informal discussion with our MP and Councillors over refreshments.
11. Residents were invited to write down their comments about the traffic issues and pass them on to a committee member. The Jumble Trail (in conjunction with CHASE and ASPRA) the following weekend was highlighted. Leaflets about this and the traffic, as well as past copies of the Heron magazine, were available, together with brief details of Committee members standing for re-election. Offers to plant more bulbs in the Addiscombe Triangle with Carol in the autumn were welcomed, and this year's subscriptions were gratefully received.