



Coulsdon West Residents' Association

Minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting

Thursday 3rd July 2025 at 7.30

Coulsdon Community Centre

Attendees

Committee: Jennifer Sturdy, Bill Kilvington, Richard Walker and Julian Roche.

Councillor: Mario Creatura

Members: 18 members representing 17 households

Guests: Rt Hon Chris Philp MP, Roger Packham Bourne Society Chairman,
ECRA and OCRA representatives

1. Chair's Introduction

Jennifer Sturdy welcomed our special guests and association members to the AGM.

2. Apologies: [REDACTED], Durgesh Vyas, Peter Appleford and Keith Watkins

3. Presentation by Chris Philp

Chris Philp spoke about a number of projects.

Medical Centre in Coulsdon - construction would begin anytime soon with a view to opening around March/April 2026. Many obstacles had to be overcome to get the project started, not least obtaining Government money; Council agreement to sell the site to the NHS; and circumventing NHS spending rules. Services will include GP's and Communal Healthcare. A bidding process will eventually identify who will run the GP practices.

Purley Hospital – services had been expanded including four operating theatres, a Moorfields eye clinic and a range of imaging services.

Banking Hub –As all the banks in Coulsdon had been closed, a not-for-profit charity had been used to establish the Hub. Chris thanked Charlie King for all the work he did on this project (from the initial approach, to doing the research that Cash Access UK asked for). As well as routine bank services (paying money in/out), each of the major banks takes a turn to be present one day per week to deal with specific queries from their customers. There has been a request for a Hub in Purley, but it does not qualify because the Nationwide still has a branch there.

Purley Pool – it was the previous Government's decision to close the pool. Following strong local protests, Mayor Perry persuaded the owner of the site to develop a new pool alongside flats-for-the elderly that would be built above. The profit from the sale of these properties

would fund the pool. The reduced parking provision is disappointing. Requests to increase the numbers of spaces may conflict with Mayor Khan's parking policy.

Law & Order - the Met Police has introduced the use of Facial Recognition Software run from a special van sited in Croydon town centre. The technology has been used to identify 200 criminals already wanted by the police for a variety of offences. Following this success, Croydon will have its own (permanently fixed) cameras that will work with the software in future. The Police intends to roll out FRS across the country. Chris pointed out that photos which triggered no interest, are immediately deleted.

4. Presentation by Roger Packham (Bourne Society Chairman)

The audience was given a fascinating history and slide show of photographs, many dating from the early 1900's forward to the early '50's. The theme of Roger's talk was to refresh our minds that Coulsdon (originally pronounced "Coalsdon") used to be a rural, agricultural parish. It developed through changes in transport methods and was eventually transformed through urbanisation into the place we know today. He explained that the Bourne was an intermittent stream which had flooded from time to time in the past. During WW1 it rose four years out of five. There was a saying "*when the Bourne rises, it foretells doom and disaster.*" Among the many photographs were:-

- The Bourne rising in early 1900
- Stoats Nest Farm which survived until 1908
- Local forge, lots of sheep everywhere
- The windmill in Stites Hill Road

The area was still very rural up to 1920. Even in 1950 there was a picture of a tractor taking hay to Stoats Nest Village.

Changes in Transport: Coulsdon and Cane Hill Station (became Coulsdon South). Smitham Station (Coulsdon Town). Coulsdon North (Stoats Nest). In 1910 there was a train disaster when one derailed at Stoats Nest Station. Among the other photographs:-

- Cycling was very popular (picture of Mr Coppard's Temperance shop).
- A crowd of people watching TV outside The Vic Wireless Stores
- The old Red Lion pub before it was rebuilt in 1927 (demolished in 2005)
- Mademoiselle Florence – a famous star who performed a Globe Walk to Brighton which took three days.

Roger showed so many photographs it was impossible to talk about them all in these minutes but his presentation was very well received.

5. Interval: There was a short refreshment break during which last year's AGM minutes were projected on the screen for members' perusal.

AGM

Jennifer Sturdy said it was her first year as Chair of the Association and she thanked the Committee, road stewards and others working behind the scenes, for their support. The committee is short of members and she asked if anyone was willing to become one. The task was not onerous and meetings were held about once a month.

6. Approval of minutes from 2024: This was proposed by Geoff Hunt and seconded by Simon Little.

7. Chair's Report

Newsletter: The aim was to produce a newsletter every three months. The highlight had been the Jubilee Newsletter celebrating 75 years of the Association. Copies were still available. This special edition was delivered to every household in the CWRA area.

Finials: CWRA had sponsored one celebrating the achievements of the runner Gordon Pirie. This was sited near the bus stop in Lion Green Road. There were now 10 finials in place with two more planned.

Coulsdon South Garden: financed by the rail company it is very much work-in-progress. The company has agreed to establish the garden, but they will be looking to the local community to maintain it thereafter.

Litter Picks: a number have been carried out with the help of our local councillors and ECRA members. 21 sets of equipment including hi-viz jackets have been purchased and are available for use - eg by schools and other organisations willing to undertake this task. There has been a positive response from members of the public who have come to talk to us during this activity.

Re-routing 166 bus: TfL is considering our request to restore the original route.

Banking Hub: Chris Philp has already talked about this.

Medical Centre Chris Philp has already talked about this.:

Red Clover Gardens: the new estate in Lion Green Road is now fully occupied. A newsletter drop was undertaken.

Pop up Banner: the committee decided to invest in one of these and it has been used to advertise CWRA outside Aldi, alongside the local councillors' clinic.

Rickman Hill Park: the café is currently out for tender. It is hoped to re-open the toilets

Mother Kitty's Shaw: concern has been expressed that this area is being used as a toilet: the council and TFL have been contacted.

Public toilet: outside Aldi has frequently been trashed and is currently closed

Jennifer concluded her report by saying that if members had any issues, would they please contact the committee via the website www.thecwra.co.uk

8. Treasurer's Financial Report

Bill Kilvington displayed the accounts for the year on the screen.

- Membership subs were slightly up.
- Donations were up.
- Advertising income for adverts appearing in the newsletter were starting to cover the cost of production.

Expenditure

- There was an increase in the cost of producing the newsletter and more frequent issues.
- Equipment costs – litter picking gear.
- Printing - Anniversary letter £1132

£2000 had been transferred to the deposit account.

<u>Summary:</u>	Income for the year £1,884	Expenditure £3,533
	Cash in the bank £1,677	On deposit £12,259

9. Approval of Accounts: This was proposed by Simon Little and seconded by Geoff Hunt.

Bill was sorry to report that the person who used to act as Independent Examiner had recently passed away. A new person (Danny McCormack) had agreed to undertake this role.

10. Approval of Independent Examiner: This was proposed by Angela Little and seconded by Geoff Hunt.

11. Reports

Planning

- Richard Walker reported that a letter had been sent in objecting the planning application for a proposed HMO at 22 Brighton Road.
- Coulsdon Medical Centre – already reported on.
- Purley Pool – it was a high price to pay to get back a pool; there was the loss of 400 parking spaces; when the local mosque meets on Fridays, even more spaces are used up.
- Green Belt: proposals from the London Mayor is trying to make the existing legislation weaker. If any members have any ideas, please send them in.
- New Electricity Substation: on the grass area at the junction of St Andrews and Woodmansterne Roads. Richard will be asking Cllr Ian Parker about just how loosely this "General Permitted Development Order" is worded.

Transport

- The committee wished to thank Charlie King for his efforts
- Tattenham Corner line: usage is still not back to pre-Covid times. TfL say that low passenger numbers are the reason why the service won't get any better for the time being.
- The tram infrastructure in Croydon is to be upgraded during July & August.
- 166 bus route petition – still awaiting a response from TfL

Policing

- Met Engage is a new (free) interactive messaging service that keeps you connected to what's happening in your area. Whether its crime updates, safety advice, or news from your local policing team, you'll get the information that matters to you — when it matters most. Signing up takes just a few minutes and you can update your preferences at any time. Your information is secure and will only be used to send you relevant updates. <https://metengage.co.uk>

12. Election of Officers & Committee

Jennifer said that all the current committee members are re-standing for election.

This was proposed by Angela Little and seconded by Jo Denvil.

13. Address by Local Councillors

Mario Creatura said that the benefits of the eyes and ears of the residents' association was that they kept on top of what was going on locally and he would like to thank them on behalf of his fellow councillors. There was work to be done throughout the year. The current Government's proposal to send "commissioners" into Croydon Council came as a surprise to the Administration. The council had been working successfully alongside invigilators for the last three years, trying to turn around the difficult financial situation it had inherited. If they do come in, these commissioners will have complete authority.

He reminded everyone that the councillors held a street surgery every month outside Aldi. They had received 1600 emails on a variety of subjects.

Meeting Close

Jennifer Sturdy closed the meeting, thanking all the speakers and member of CWRA who had given up their time to attend the meeting.