

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 4 APRIL 2023 – 11:00 am

United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon

MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMITTEE PRESENT

John Gibbons, Treasurer – Maggie Mahoney, Secretary – Judy Dumbrill –
Dave Newland, Newsletter Editor, and Joan Price.

1. OPENING REMARKS

Dave Newland opened the meeting at 11:00 am by welcoming the 19 Members present and explaining he was acting as Chairman for the meeting. He thanked Brian Welch who was our Chairman up to last year when he had to step down and Chris House who chaired last year's Annual General Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Taz Akhtar, Joan Barclay, Ann Cann, Roger Capham, Trudy Chen, Martin Green, Peggy Holdstock, Chris House, Hilary Kearney, Viv Murray and Patricia Pegg

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting were distributed together with the Agenda prior to the meeting. They were accepted as a true summary with no questions arising.

The Minutes were proposed by John Gibbons and seconded by Rob Hall

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Maggie started by saying that 2022 was not the best of years but with the ending of Covid 19 restrictions we did manage to re-instate the majority of our usual activities. Our visits to places of interest were unfortunately down on previous years due to a lack of organisers to arrange them.

2022 had been a difficult year for the Committee. Operating without a Chairman or Vice Chairman has meant a heavier workload for the remaining Committee Members but hopefully the meeting would agree that the Committee still managed to provide a variety of events.

She went on to say that sadly, the Committee is ageing and some are finding they are no longer as active as they were and are stepping down. Chris House is stepping down this year and Dave Newland, who is also our Newsletter Editor, is stepping down next year. Younger Members are desperately needed to come forward to join the Committee and organise events to encourage other younger Members to join in. Also needed is a new editor to write and produce our Newsletter.

2022 will be remembered for the introduction of our new user friendly and colourful website set up by Chris Hall when she took over the responsibilities of Website Manager in May.

2023 began well with our first New Year Lunch since 2020, organised by Viv and Judy, at a new venue which was a great success judging by the reports received but disappointment followed when no-one turned up for the New Year stroll the following week.

Visits to the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition, the Museum of Brands and the Tate Modern are in the 2023 Diary of Events together with our usual lunches and coffee mornings. A bluebell walk and a coastal walk in Hastings are also included.

Maggie thanked all the Committee Members for their hard work and the time they give to Croydon Fellowship especially to John Gibbons, our Treasurer, and Viv Murray, our Membership Secretary, who look after our finances and Membership list respectively. Thanks also to Roger Smith, Anthony Cross and John Greengrass for organising walks last year. Our thanks also go to Ian Rae, our Website Manager from 2009 to May 2022.

Special thanks go to Chris House, who is stepping down this year, after more than 20 years on the Committee, including 11 years as our Treasurer between 2002 and 2013. Chris' stepping down will be a great loss to Croydon Fellowship as he has been instrumental in arranging many of our events during his time on the Committee.

There were no questions from the floor.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

John advised our 2022 expenditure only exceeded our income by £333.54 indicating successful management given we held 34 events during the year.

We held six lunches, two at the Horseshoe in Warlingham, two Italian lunches in Croydon and two lunches at McDermott's in Forestdale. All the lunches received subsidies and a glass of wine, or soft drink, a tea or coffee plus gratuities.

We also held 20 coffee mornings and the ones at Croydon Clocktower Café and Knights Garden Centre were free to members. Free coffee mornings are subject to regular review.

A subsidised visit to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in July was attended by 24 people.

John said well done and thank you to everyone who organised or helped organise one of these events.

The 2022 grant from Aviva remained at £3.00 per member and he claimed a grant of £2,139.00 for our membership of 713 as at 1st January 2022.

He also managed to claim our Christmas / New Year Lunch subsidy of £10 per person for 2020 & 2021, which amounted to £420 & £410 respectively, based on the largest number of attendees at one of our lunches in 2021 and 2022. He has also claimed our 2022 Christmas / New Year Lunch subsidy based on the number that attended the recent New Year Lunch and that will appear in the 2023 accounts.

General expenses were higher than last year partly due to purchasing a large number of postage stamps for the newsletter sent out towards the end of last year. The £475.20 printing cost will be reflected in next year's accounts. Other expenses were kept low, thanks again to the goodwill of the Committee and volunteers who have not claimed any personal expenses.

No budget has been set for 2023 and events will be subsidised on an event by event basis.

Croydon accounts have been holding money for Region 8 since 2010. Two events were held last year, a Thames River Cruise and a Carol Concert at the Royal Albert Hall. Croydon are currently holding £447.68 for Region 8 and the financial movements are tracked on a separate spreadsheet.

John thanked all the Committee members for their help and support during the last year, with particular thanks to Maggie for her post event accounting, the accounting of the float and stamps, and for her help with checking and preparing the final accounts. Thanks also to Chris and Joan for signing cheques. There were no questions from the floor.

6. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT – read by Maggie

Viv thanked everyone for coming and reminded them that she volunteered to be Croydon Membership Secretary in 2017 and keeps a record of all our Members details on a database as well as organizing the odd event or two.

She recently completed a full reconciliation of our database against the records held by XPS in Perth.

It takes a lot of time checking through 700 plus Members making sure all details are up to date.

As a result, the Croydon Fellowship, at today's date, has 670 members in Croydon and surrounding areas.

In 2023 so far, we have welcomed 9 new Members, 3 of whom are the wives of recently departed Members. 4 members moved out of our area and 2 Members moved address and stayed in our area. 7 Members have sadly passed away and 12 members have opted out between 2020 and 2023.

During 2022 we gained 20 new members – down by 8 on 2021, 26 members passed away – sadly 5 more than 2021. 4 members moved address and stayed with Croydon area and 10 members moved address and left Croydon area, 7 less than 2021.

We have 388 members with email addresses, which is 11 more than 2022.

The oldest member to have an email address was born in 1923, followed by one member born in 1927 and 3 members born in 1931.

The oldest member to have a mobile phone is 90.

So the moral of the story is: you are never too old to embrace technology.

Remarkable birthdays in 2023 are, 1 member will be 100 this year, 3 members will be 95 and 13 members will be 90 years old. Our oldest member is 104 (1919).

Viv's report ended by reassuring Members that their details are held safely and securely, in accordance with regulations.

Questions from the floor.

John Gibbons asked why Members opt out.

Maggie explained Members contact us and ask to be removed from the distribution list as they no longer wish to receive information about Croydon Aviva Fellowship. The majority of the opt outs arose from Viv's GDPR letter to Members.

7. NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

Dave said that whilst he had hoped to produce two Newsletters during 2022, the first since early 2020, in the event, he only managed to produce one in December which was sent to all our members, by e-mail/web-site where possible, otherwise by post. He arranged the printing of 330 copies in colour which he and his wife Ann together with Maggie, over coffee in the Clocktower Café, managed to envelope, affix stamps and deposit them at Croydon Post Office.

A few copies left over were put on display at the New Year lunch and Dave was intrigued to see a number of people, who are on our e-mail list, picking them up and reading them begging the question "Don't they read their e-mails or look at our web-site?"

Dave said he knows we obtained an e-mail address from a Member who received a 'snail-mail' edition. Dave intends to produce two copies this year; the first should be out in May, with another in the autumn. Whether we send everybody a copy again is under consideration, and the meeting may like to comment at the end of his report. The Newsletter usually comprises six sides and the printing cost in December was £1.32 per copy. In addition to this is the cost of stamps and envelopes.

Dave has continued his practice of both reporting past and future events but for the 2022 edition he only managed to include brief summaries with the exception of Judy's report on the visit to the Globe Theatre, which was really worth printing in full.

Looking back through his records Dave found he has been producing our Newsletters since 2009 and feels it is about time to put away his e-pencil and hand over to someone else. Accordingly he has given the Committee notice that he wishes to stand down after 15 years at next year's AGM, and hopes his next report will thank another of our Members for taking over the post, and to offer him or her every good wish.

If you want to see past editions of the Newsletter, all copies, going back to 2006 when Philip Talmage produced it, are on our web-site.

Finally, Dave thanked those who provided material for the 2022 Newsletter, to the Committee, who are very good proof-readers and providers of suggested amendments to the content and to Chris Hall, our web-site manager and others for providing a number of photographs.

Questions from the floor.

John Gibbons asked if there had been any feedback from sending the Newsletter to all our Members. Maggie said we had received a few email addresses from Members saying they were happy to read it on the website but no new requests for printed copies had been received.

Dave asked the meeting if we should send printed copies of the next Newsletter to everyone without an email address again or just to those who have requested one.

Those present decided we should only send printed copies to those who request one.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICIALS

a. Chairman – Dave advised the meeting that Rob Hall had volunteered to take on the role of Chairman. Proposed by Ann Westerman and seconded by Brian Welch, Rob Hall was elected for a period of 3 years.

b. Vice Chairman – Dave volunteered himself as Vice Chairman for his last year on the Committee. Proposed by John Gibbons and seconded by Chris Hall, Dave Newland was elected for 1 year.

c. Treasurer – Dave advised the meeting that John Gibbons was prepared to stand for re-election on the understanding that he would not be pressurised into setting up internet banking due to the amount of extra work that would entail for the Treasurer.

Proposed by Rob Hall and seconded by Brian Welch, John Gibbons was re-elected for a period of 3 years.

9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

a. Membership Secretary – Dave advised the meeting that Viv Murray had indicated to the Committee that she would stand for re-election and as her apologies for absence had not contradicted that she could be elected in her absence subject to confirmation.

Proposed by John Gibbons and seconded by Judy Dumbrill, Viv Murray was re-elected for a period of 3 years.

b. Committee Members – Chris House was the only one due for re-election and he is stepping down.

c. Any new volunteers – Dave called for any new volunteers and Pauline Wynn stepped forward and was accepted as a new Committee Member for a period of 3 years.

d. Unfortunately no-one at the meeting volunteered to take over as Newsletter Editor.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. Delia Welch thanked Maggie for sending all communications to her by post as they no longer used a computer.

b. John Gibbons said the new website was brilliant and thanked Chris Hall for all her hard work.

Rob Hall addressed the meeting to introduce himself as the new Chairman saying he had worked for the company (CU) for 40 years from 12 September 1962 to 12 September 2002. He is keen to contribute to the ongoing success of the Committee and asked Members to bear with him while he brings himself up to date.

Dave Newland closed the meeting at 11:42 am
MM/08.04.2023