

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2025 – 11:00 am**

United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

#### **COMMITTEE PRESENT**

Rob Hall – Chairman, John Gibbons – Treasurer, Maggie Mahoney – Secretary and Pauline Wynn. Chris Hall – Website Manager.

#### **1. OPENING REMARKS**

Rob Hall opened the meeting at 11:00 am by welcoming the 14 Members present to the AGM of Croydon Aviva Fellowship which is now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year as it is the only formal occasion when Members can ask questions and make suggestions. Rob thanked the Members present for making the effort to come and was pleased to note the turnout was higher than last year.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Committee Members Viv Murray and Joan Price. Members John Greengrass and Lynda Turner also conveyed their apologies.

#### **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 Ann Westerman and seconded by Dave Newland. There were no votes against.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Rob reported we had managed to hold 38 various events during 2024 he felt that, as far as holding events was concerned, we had more or less recovered from the effects of lockdown. Rob went on to say none of our events would happen without the hard work put in by Committee Members Maggie Mahoney, Viv Murray and Judy Dumbrell (recently retired) for our lunches and coffee mornings, and Organisers Jackie Husain and Hilary Kearney for our walks and visits to places of interest. Behind the scenes John Gibbons, our Treasurer, keeps us financially stable and Chris Hall, our website manager, has done a remarkable job improving our website and supporting Rob in his endeavours.

Rob advised that following the retirement of Dave Newland we have been unable to recruit a new Newsletter Editor and as a result we have had to cease publication of a printed Newsletter. However, all is not lost as our website now includes a feature called "Chroydon Chronicle" which contains details of our recent activities.

The Croydon Fellowship has struggled financially over the last few years leading us to take remedial action as detailed on various event invitations. Likewise, all businesses are also under extreme financial pressure and the venues we visit have been forced to increase their prices. Please be assured your Committee works very hard to secure the best possible prices to ensure we continue to obtain excellent value for money.

Lastly, Rob thanked all the Committee for their hard work ensuring our events run smoothly. However, we are now only a Committee of 6 and none of us is getting any younger. New volunteers to serve on the Committee would be warmly welcomed but if you do not feel ready to be a Committee Member perhaps you could assist by volunteering to be an occasional event organiser. Any assistance rendered would be greatly appreciated.

There were no questions from the floor.

## **5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

John advised our 2024 expenditure exceeded our income by £710.18. The accounts have been signed off and were submitted to Head Office in early February.

In 2024 we held 7 lunches, our New Year Lunch at Croham Hurst Golf Club, with 80 bookings and 74 attendees, 2 at the Horseshoe in Warlingham, 2 Italian lunches in Croydon and 2 lunches at McDermott's in Forestdale. The New Year Lunch received a generous subsidy and the other lunches received a subsidy that effectively covered the gratuities.

We also held 24 coffee mornings/brunches and the ones at Croydon Clocktower Café and Knights Garden Centre were free to members. Free coffee mornings are subject to regular review.

We also organised 2 museum visits and 2 events at The Royal Albert Hall and none of these events were subsidised.

John thanked everyone associated with organising these events.

The 2024 grant from Aviva remained at £3.00 per member and John claimed a grant of £2,049.00 for our membership of 683 as of 1 January 2024.

The Christmas / New Year Lunch subsidy increased from £10 per person to £15.00 per person in 2023 and John claimed £1200.00 for our lunch in January 2024. He has also claimed our 2024 Christmas / New Year Lunch subsidy of £15 per person based on the number that attended the recent New Year Lunch and that will appear in the 2025 accounts.

General expenses were reasonably low, partly due to the discontinuance of the Newsletter. Other expenses were kept low, thanks again to the good will of the Committee and volunteers who have not claimed any personal expenses.

No budget has been set for 2025 and events will be subsidised on an event-by-event basis.

Region 8 agreed in November 2024 that the £207.68 Croydon has been holding for them could be donated to St. Christopher's Hospice in honour of the late Chris House.

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. John also thanked Joan and Rob for signing cheques.

There were no questions from the floor.

The accounts, which were circulated before the meeting, were proposed by Peggy Holdstock, seconded by Pauline Wynn and accepted unanimously.

## **6. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT – presented by Maggie**

Viv thanked everyone for coming and reminded them that she has been Croydon Membership Secretary since the AGM in 2017 and keeps a record of all our Members details on a database. Viv assured Members their details are kept safely and securely in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations.

Viv also organises our Spring and Autumn lunches at the Horseshoe in Warlingham as well as our very well attended and most enjoyable New Year Lunch at the Croham Hurst Golf Club.

She recently completed a full reconciliation of our database against the records held by XPS in Perth. The database is updated throughout the year via XPS and the reconciliation is a double check as mistakes can happen. As you can imagine it takes a lot of time and effort checking through all our Members to make sure all details are correct and up to date.

As of today's date, we have 675 Members, 2 more than last year.

During 2024 we gained 21 new members, 20 Members passed away, 12 Members moved address and stayed with Croydon area and 8 members moved address and left Croydon area.

Viv commented on the increasing number of email addresses and mobile phone numbers we now hold in our records. In 2023 we held 388 emails and 110 mobiles, in 2024 it was 413 emails and 135 mobiles and in 2025 it is now 460 emails and 158 mobiles.

Remarkable birthdays in 2025 are, 2 members will be 100 this year, 4 members will be 95 and 10 members will be 90 years old.

Viv's report ended by saying she looked forward to seeing Members soon at the fish & chips lunch.

There were no questions from the floor.

## **7. ELECTION OF OFFICIALS**

**a. Vice Chairman** – Rob called for a volunteer but there were no nominations from the floor.

**b. Secretary** – Rob called for a volunteer but there were no nominations from the floor.

Maggie agreed to stand for re-election as Secretary, proposed by John Gibbons, seconded by John Ward and elected for a further term of 3 years. There were no votes against.

## **8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**a. Committee Members** – Joan Price is the only one due for re-election and she has agreed to stand for 1 more year. Proposed by Chris Hall and seconded by Joan Barclay. There were no votes against.

**b. Any new volunteers** – Rob called for new volunteers but there were no nominations from the floor.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

a. Dave Newland thanked Chris Hall for the wonderful website we now have.

b. Jackie Husain reminded the meeting that she now organises walks for us and asked if anyone had any ideas or special requests for events.

c. Judy Dumbrell thanked the Committee for all their hard work.

Rob Hall closed the meeting at 11:30 am  
MM/13.04.2025