Coulsdon West
Residents' Association

Minutes of the 75th Annual General Meeting
Thursday 11th July 2024 at 7.30pm
Coulsdon Community Centre

1. **Attendees:**

   Committee: Richard Walker, Bill Kilvington, Jenny Sturdy, Jeannine Newham, Doreen Rawlinson, David Rawlinson.

   Councillor: Mario Creatura.

   Members: About 35 members representing around 25 households.

   Guests: ECRA and OCRA and the Coulsdon Community Partnership (CPP)were represented.

   Apologies: Durgesh Vyas, Peter Appleford, Keith Watkins, Charlie King (ECRA), Councillors Ian Parker and Luke Shortland.

2. **Presentation by guest speaker:**   Victoria Kleanthous from Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) explained the objectives and work of the organisation, which is the local environmental record centre for London. One of GiGL's core datasets is the species database, which consists of information, gathered by residents, of various wildlife creatures and their habitats. Where there are 'protected species' recorded it can be used in evidence against local planning applications. GiGL cannot lobby, but provide valuable information where planning applications are being opposed. She reminded those present that 'London Day of Nature' would take place on 26 October this year – details available on their website.
   Bill Kilvington thanked Victoria for her contribution and stressed his personal interest in using these records when opposing planning applications.

   A short break was taken for refreshments before the formalities of the AGM

3. **Approval of Minutes from the AGM of July 2023:** These were read out by the Chairman and approved and seconded by Simon Little and Jimmy Curtis, respectively

4. **Chairman's Report:** The committee was working hard for the community, but more help was needed if anybody would like to volunteer. RW gave an update on the Purley Pool development - the current plan is for 2 high rise blocks of flats and a leisure centre – with no public parking. There are currently 1100 objections to the plan submitted.
   The CWRA is working with the Coulsdon Community Partnership (CPP) and RW welcomed its Chairman, Eleanor Richardson to the meeting.
   As the CWRA celebrates 75 years this autumn, we are planning a souvenir edition newsletter, and RW appealed for stories, pictures and any reminiscences, personal or otherwise. Details could be found on info@thecwra.co.uk

5. **Treasurer's Report:** The finances were in a good position at the moment, with £15,185.62 in the bank – and BK appealed for ideas to use this money for the benefit of the community. The accounts were approved by Richard Shore, who was re-appointed to be our independent examiner.

6. **Membership and Attendance:**   Julie Perry pointed out that attendance at the meeting was very poor and she felt that it had not been adequately publicised. There was some discussion as to how we can reach out to more people – particularly younger residents, of which there were very few present. Better use of Whatsapp groups could be considered, although Jenny Sturdy felt that a lot of people in the older generation did not feel confident on social media.

7. **Election of the Committee:**   RW announced that he would be stepping down as Chairman and that Jenny Sturdy had agreed to take over the position and he would continue as Vice-Chair. These appointments were confirmed by a unanimous show of hands:

Chairman:	Jenny Sturdy
Vice-Chair:	Richard Walker
Treasurer:	Bill Kilvington
Secretary:	Doreen Rawlinson
Members:	Jeannine Newham, Durgesh Vyas, Keith Watkins, Peter Appleford, David Rawlinson.

8. **Councillor's Comments:**   Mario Creatura said that he was celebrating 10 years as Coulsdon Councillor and working with the CWRA. He listed future developments, including the new Health Centre planned for the former Smitham School site.

9. **Closing:**   At the end of the meeting, Jenny Sturdy introduced herself and gave brief details of her long-standing connection with Coulsdon – having lived in West Coulsdon for 44 years