

**Croft Avenue Residents' Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held on 5th March 2026 at 7.30pm
R42, The Ashcombe School.**

Present:

Dianne Delaney No.1, Sheila Wright No.7, Tim Philpot No.9, Simon Murray (Treasurer) No. 10, Bruce Ottaway and Margaret Barford No.11, Bryan and Margaret Dennis No.12, Gwen Robson No.17, Gill and Steve Valentine No. 20, Lynne (Secretary) and Colin Wills No.22, Lisa Herouvin No.23, Pam and David Pettman No.25, Jerry Maxwell-Timmins (Chair) No.27 and Catherine Jackson No.28.

Apologies:

John Pilkington No.6, Amy Butterfield and Lawrence Morley No.13, Lisa and Tristan Packham No.16, Jack Jackson (Vice Chair) No.28 and Helen Kendrick No.29

Amy and Lawrence contacted Jerry to pass on their disappointment at not being able to attend and meet everyone this year - but hope to come to the next one.

Minutes of the AGM held on 6th February 2025

The previous minutes were proposed by Dianne and seconded by David.

Election of Officials:

The Inspection Team: Steve, Bryan and Claire (Kent) No.21 are happy to carry over for another year.

This was proposed by Lynne and seconded by Margaret B.

The CARA Board members: Jerry, Simon and Jack are happy to continue for another year in their current roles.

Lynne has expressed a wish to step down from her Secretarial role due to work pressures and is currently seeking a replacement. Anyone willing to step into this role or wishing to discuss further, please contact Lynne directly.

The above was proposed by Tim and seconded by Bryan.

The Chair's Report:

Unfortunately, our new residents Amy and Lawrence at No 13 were unable to join us this evening, but we very much wish to welcome them to the road. They are currently busy having work completed on their home.

Jerry paid a special tribute to Ken Wright (No.7), who recently passed away and whose funeral was held on 2nd March and attended by some of Croft Avenue's residents. He thanked Sheila for attending and for all the hard work and many contributions to the road that Ken made over the years. A toast was raised to Ken.

Jerry mentioned the recently revived **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme** that has re-started this year. They have a good website and the Police are more encouraging of the scheme now. Anyone can sign up to join and so far there are around 8/9 households that have joined. Mark Hawker (No.15) has stepped up to take on the role of the Neighbourhood Watch Chair.

If anyone is interested in joining the NW Scheme you can do so by clicking on this link:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/scheme/184081/croft-avenue>

Any issues in the road or nearby areas - Mark will get alerted.

Tree Pollarding - The trees were last pollarded in the road in 2023 at a cost of around £800 and it was agreed that they would be left until this year. Jerry announced that prices had increased and he had received x 4 quotes and these ranged from £1,300 to £2,500. A total of 14 trees need pollarding, out of a total of 19. Plus there are x 5 large fir trees near the end of the road, which need attention, as they are growing into cables. Tim has been using the services of Thomas Gruber over the years and having his trees pollarded using the French style. Jerry said he would contact him to discuss and obtain an additional quote.

Treasurer's Report

Simon talked us through the accounts from 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2025.

There are currently no outstanding debts - all road subs have been fully paid in 2025.

There remain x 2 households that have not responded, to receive their broadband rebate, one in Mowbray Gardens and the other in Croft Avenue.

The cost of resurfacing the road in 2030 will be at least £20,000 plus VAT (cost quoted at present and likely to be higher in 4 years time).

The gullies were cleaned back in 2024 at a cost of £1,300 and remain in a good condition.

Simon thanked the Inspection Committee for their signing off of the accounts.

He confirmed that the road subscription would remain the same as last year at £120 per household.

The accounts were proposed by Bryan and seconded by Catherine.

AOB

Tim mentioned that they now have their house on the market and plan to move locally, after living in Croft Avenue for 37 years. We passed on our best wishes for the future to him and Elizabeth.

It was then mentioned that we each hold responsibility from our property to the middle of the road.

Parking

We were reminded of the importance of displaying our CARA stickers in our car windows by Bryan - especially those homes at the road entrance, to help deter non residents from leaving their cars parked there for long periods. It was generally agreed that most people do not have an issue with cars briefly stopping to drop off or pick up, for the purpose of a school run.

A new development is happening by the main train station, in the old housing association building - without parking spaces, which could potentially cause future issues. Dianne mentioned that the Love Your Logo shop is also closing and being turned into flats.

Jerry added that you can report anyone parking, without consent, to the DVLA and they may receive a fine. However, Jerry stated that as a private road, in order to do this, we would need to install the appropriate signage at frequent intervals along the road and this would come at a cost.

Bruce shared a copy of a polite, reminder letter that he personally adds to car windscreens - which are long stay and do not appear to be owned by residents. He is happy to share this letter with others.

The meeting ended at 8pm.

Thank you to everyone who attended and especially to Jerry for providing incredibly good homemade sausage rolls, crisps and a great selection of wine and beer!