

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Kenley & District Residents' Association held on Tuesday April 28th 2026 at Kenley Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Paul Keating (acting Chairman); Simon Brew (Treasurer); Linda Richman (Hon. Secretary). Committee Tony Heal; Tony Avery; Sue Cotton.

Councillors: Gayle Gander; Ola Kolade and 47 members

Apologies: Geoff James, John Davenport, Coral Carroll, Stella Stocker and Christine Heal

1. Acting Chairman (Paul Keating) welcomed Members, Councillors, Committee and Guest Speaker Elected Mayor – Jason Perry and two police officers – Sgt Nathaniel Gates and PC Chris Woods. Paul Keating said he was standing in for Christine Heal who unfortunately had to resign due to being diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer, we all wish to thank her for all her hard work as Chairman since 2018.
2. **Minutes of Autumn General Meeting** October 8th 2025 had been circulated and were agreed. There was nothing in the minutes which would not be dealt with later.
3. **Acting Chairman introduced Metropolitan Safe Neighbourhood Police Team for Kenley.** Sgt Nathaniel Gates introduced himself and said he had been a Police Officer for 17 years serving in Southwark and Croydon and other specialist units. He continued saying that he had been a Neighbourhood Sergeant for over two years and his previous wards were Selhurst and Woodside. He grew up and lived in Croydon for over 30 years so has a strong connection with the area. Kenley remains one of Croydon's lowest crime wards. Intelligence is crucial where we patrol, even small pieces of information help to form a bigger picture. He strongly encouraged members to continue reporting concerns. The police will decide on the priority of the crime in question. This can be done in several ways – attend our 3 monthly ward panel meetings, speak to officers when they are out on patrol or via Met Police Website, 101 or Crimestoppers. He encouraged everyone to sign up to Met Engage which provides updates on crime, safety advice, local policing activity and important notifications. Sgt Gates told the meeting of a range of challenges such as youth related robbery with phones stolen from school children also opportunistic offences. Burglaries are very few, the main crimes are traffic related. Through school engagement and collaboration with youth groups they aim to build positive relationships and help young people from becoming victims or offenders. After a few questions Acting Chairman thanked Sgt Gates and PC Woods for their time in coming to the AGM.
4. **Acting Chairman introduced Mayor Jason Perry** – he began by thanking the Committee, past present and future for their hard work within the community. Jason Perry has been Mayor since he was elected in May 2022, he hopes he will still be here after the elections on May 7th. In 2022 Croydon Council was **bankrupt with £1.4b of debt and it has taken £80m to service the debt.** We do not want that happening again. Croydon is becoming a safer and better town centre but it takes time, he has been working with Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield (URW) regarding the regeneration of Croydon town centre including the Whitgift and Centrale sites. Whitgift Centre will have more residential properties, leisure and education facilities and we hope it will bring in national retailers. It will take 5-10 years to complete. Jason Perry said we need to change the perception of Croydon – Allers Parade has changed and Croydon University Hospital has changed from Mayday. Since Live Facial Recognition technology has been introduced in the town centre to support policing crime has been reduced by 12%, knife crime by 24% and personal robbery by 29% and Croydon is a much safer place. There are going to be Heritage Trails and the right Entertainment installed. Fairfield Halls contract runs out in 2028 and we will see what happens then. Footbridge in Cherry Orchard Road still out of action due to Network Rail/TfL/Council working on it. Member asked about empty building sites with half-built blocks of flats on Purley Cross and Banstead Road – Jason Perry replied this is due to the economy and developers going under. A member asked about homelessness and anti-social behaviour – Jason Perry replied that a lot of effort has gone into helping these people; we have a team of police officers and team of social workers to help with these people's issues. A member asked about HMOs saying need to be more stringent with licensing for landlords letting more than the regulated number of people stay in one residence. **Purley Pool** – Jason Perry said that plans for a new Purley Pool have now been approved by both Croydon Council and the Mayor of London. The new facility will serve local schools, charities and residents across the area. The development will include a 25 metre 6 lane pool, a learner pool, an 80-station gym, soft play facilities, a cafe and a new public square. A member mentioned Kenley Tower – FIZZ came through and Jason Perry removed it – well done. Acting Chairman thanked Mayor Jason Perry for talking to us.

5. Chairman's Review of Previous Year

Paul Keating (Acting Chairman) Reported on 2025/26 Actions of KENDRA

Paul began by asking members if they approved of the **hanging baskets** which KENDRA organised for the parade. There was a good response and Paul said he hoped to put them up again this year.

Wattenden Pond – Paul said the Scouts would be helping again this year and we need to get more plants but it is no good planting unless we get some rain.

Roke Playground – KENDRA made a donation for a slide in Roke Playground which the children are pleased about.

Donation to KMH for new chairs. We worked with Councillors and TfL towards installing the new crossing by the Co-op which has made crossing the Godstone Road safer for everyone.

TfL – Robert Varney from TfL attended a committee meeting and said that bus passenger numbers are down since COVID. They are continually reviewing timetables and numbers of buses.

KRAS – Kenley Residents Against Speeding was formed. The lack of funds, or serious injury cannot be an excuse for doing nothing. We worked with police and Councillors to reduce speed around airfield.

Glider Flight – we launched a draw which there were 3 winners. We will be launching something else in the near future.

Hayes School – we had a Tombola stand at the Hayes School Christmas Fair

Linda Duffield – from the Kenley Airfield gave us an interesting talk at the Autumn Meeting in October. We hope to have her back again soon.

New Committee Members – Coral Carroll and Sue Cotton have joined the Committee during the year.

Resignation – **Simon Brew** Unfortunately our Treasurer is having to resign due to an increase in his commitments so we are once again looking for a new treasurer. If anyone can help please contact us.

Book for Sale – we have a book for sale on the History of Kenley Memorial Hall for just £4 the proceeds going to KMH.

That is the end of my report for 2025/26 and would now like to introduce the Treasurer for his report.

6. Presentation and acceptance of Accounts for year to December 2025

Treasurer, Simon Brew stated that he took over as Treasurer 18 months ago. 2024 was a not of a mess changing the previous system over to a new accounting system. Everything is absolutely fine and we have a healthy bank balance as will be seen in the Kendra Accounts which had been printed in the Spring Magazine. The majority of members subs have been paid according to Member Mojo, there are still a few members who prefer to pay by cash. Our main expenditure is the printing and production of the magazine although Tony Avery does a good job in getting adverts which help to cover the cost, and also the hanging baskets which were a welcome addition to Norfolk Parade. A donation was also made to Kenley Memorial Hall. There were no questions raised Paul Keating asked if we can have a show of hands on accepting the 2025 accounts. The vote was unanimous.

7. **Simon Brew wished to thank the Independent Examiner**, Siva Param and for him to continue as Independent Examiner. The member's vote was unanimous.

8. **Election of KENDRA Committee for 2026/27** – Acting Chairman (Paul Keating) told the gathered assembly that the Committee as it stood were willing to carry on for another year – a decision for who would be Chairman would be made at the next committee meeting. The vote was unanimous.

9. Motions to be presented and voted on:-

Motion 1 - Kendra basic subscription rate to be maintained at £5 per household for year commencing January 1st 2027.

Motion 2 - That the Expenditure Limit should be £1,500

Motion 3 - To delegate authority to the Committee to continue to produce the KENDRA Magazine until the next AGM, with anticipated 4 editions and expenditure of Approximately £4000 which may be with one supplier.

The above motions were approved unanimously.

10. London Borough of Croydon Councillors

Acting Chairman introduced the two Councillors – Gayle Gander & Ola Kolade for a Q & A session. Ola Kolade reassured members about police being proactive and making the neighbourhood a safer place.

Gayle Gander said that their had been big changes in planning applications and they are now working with residents to stop band applications.

Gayle also mentioned the closure of the Bourne View crossing by Southern Rail/TfL. There will be a consultation in August.

Buses – 434 a lot more people are using it now but older people have no way of knowing when bus coming. 439 bus can be tracked. Robert Varney from TfL who came to last KENDRA committee meeting said he would find out why the 434 is not on App or timetable.

Kenley Hotel – Gayle said that Heineken were looking for a new tenants, but we all share the same dream to have this building restored to a thriving local. By listing The Kenley Hotel as an Asset of Community Value we gain a powerful legal safety net. If the owners decide to sell, they must tell the Council, giving us a six-month window to pause the sale and put together a community bid. We need 21 signatures and this can be done at the back of the hall.

A member asked about Pot Holes – Gayle said there is a new budget for this – there is now a Government Minister who will be pro-active in understanding roads and new surveying techniques. A member mentioned about blocked gullies. Simon Brew suggested taking photo and sending to Love Clean Street.

Paul Keating thanked Gayle and Ola for their useful and informative Q&A session.

11. **Any Other Business**

Paul Keating asked if anyone had any further questions but there were none. Paul thanked everyone for coming, especially Jason Perry at this busy time just before Council elections, and he declared the meeting closed.

The meeting closed at 21.22