

**MINUTES OF THE CSPA CRAWLEY AND DISTRICT GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THE 11TH MARCH 2026
AT THE OFFICES OF THE CRAWLEY CCA AT 10.30 AM**

THOSE PRESENT: Brian Barton, Mike Card, Ralph Groves, Sylvia Sturtevant, Bob and Margaret Weddell, Derek and Marilyn Williams.

IN THE CHAIR: Brian Sturtevant.

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all, especially our guest Speaker Mike Sparham National Treasurer. Apologies were received from Faruq Ahmed and Greg Mountain.

MINUTES OF THE 2025 AGM: These were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING: None, not covered by the Agenda.

REPORTS:

A. CHAIR and SECRETARY: The Chair reported that we had met 10 times during the year, plus the Summer Lunch a new venue in East Grinstead. We also tried a new venue for our Christmas Lunch in Crawley which was well organised by Margaret. We had not been able to send delegates to the National AGM but had submitted 4 motions which were moved by friends from other Groups. Our Newsletter motion was soundly defeated, our Motion on National Ballots was remitted, our Motion on Social Care was carried despite EC opposition, and our motion on digital inclusion was also carried.

All Group Circulars had been distributed either by email or post, and we had responded to HQ requests for information.

We had kept going despite a lack of numbers and had difficulty in finding speakers for meetings.

We had noticed that the recent staff changes at HQ had considerably improved the service to the Group and asked Mike S to pass on our appreciation to HQ

C. TREASURER AND SCUTINEER. Brian B had submitted a detailed written report before the meeting showing that we had a total of £546.23 in the Group Funds. We were awaiting the Account examiners report. He reported on the

difficulties we had experienced with Lloyds bank in changing accounts and the Chair said that he had received £49 compensation from Lloyds Bank for having a wasted journey based on incorrect information from them. The CCA were now acting as a Post Box for the Group.

D. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Margaret reported that being membership secretary had not been easy for most of 2025 as she had no back up from HQ about actual membership. However towards the end of the year there was a change of staff and the new member of staff Katrina Hicks is excellent. She is getting 3 monthly up to date membership lists and notification of new members with copies of their letters, all by post. When she contacts HQ re change of members circumstances she gets an acknowledgement by return by email. We have 6 new members and 6 deaths, so our membership stands at 300. Only 13 have joined the Crawley Group for 26/27 . The Group therefore **agreed** to re-instate the reminder joining notice in the Summer Newsletter.

E. EDITOR: Ralph reported that 3 Newsletters had been produced during the year which had well been well received but he had had no comment on the Spring News letter this year. He was not happy with the formatting of the Newsletter by the contractors and was going to pursue this with HQ. Mike Sparham interjected that HQ were appointing new contractors soon and this may solve the problem.

F. SOCIAL SECRETARY: We do not currently have a Social Secretary but the Chair had arranged some ad-hoc speakers. The Chair appealed for anyone to come forward to fill the vacancy.

G. HEALTH MATTERS: Derek reported on his deep disappointment with the government's decision to delay yet again any progress on long term care by setting up the Casey Enquiry which was not scheduled to report until 2028. He also reported that he was getting good responses from his Lib Dem MP.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS: The following were elected for 2026/2027.

Chair....Brian Sturtevant. Vice Chair....Derek Williams.
Secretary..... Sylvia Sturtevant. Treasurer.....Brian Barton.
Membership Secretary.....Margaret Weddell. Editor....Ralph Groves.
Social Secretary.....Vacant. Accounts Examiner....Jackie Barton

Committee members.....Faruq Ahmed and Greg Mountain.

The President for Life or until he retires is Mike Card.

MOTIONS FOR GROUP AND NATIONAL AGM: The following Motions were debated.

1. This meeting is appalled at the extremely slow progress towards a National Social Care/NHS linked service which has been delayed by many years. It therefore instructs the EC to press for Baroness Casey's team to issue recommendations far sooner than 2028 and, if acceptable for those recommendations to be implemented immediately.

Moved by Mike Card, **Seconded** by Derek Williams, **Carried** unanimously.

2 . In view of the continuing closure of high street banks, this meeting urges the set-up of banking hubs as widely as possible. It instructs the EC to support and advance this requirement urgently with the appropriate agencies.

Moved by Mike Card, **Seconded** by Brian Barton, **Carried** unanimously.

AOB: None

GUEST SPEAKER: Mike Sparham gave a very comprehensive and interesting speech about the current situation of the CSPA especially the consultations on limited liability status. He emphasised that no decisions had been reached and this was a genuine consultation. He then answered questions and the Group thanked him very much for coming.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS: Group Wednesday 8th April, 2026.

AGM Wednesday 10th March 2027.

The meeting then adjourned for lunch at the Toby Carvery with Mike as our guest.