

**Curzon Park Residents' Association**  
**Annual General Meeting held at Chester Golf Club**  
**on Monday 10 May 2010**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Janet Ashbrooke  
Brian Bentley  
Peter Bingham  
Geoff Brown  
Helen Davey  
John Davey  
Elizabeth Downey

PCSO Christopher Fox  
Tracey Geary  
Pauline Hopkins  
Adrian Neeves  
Liz Neeves  
Catherine Parkes  
Jeff Reeves

Howell Roberts  
Andrea Segrave  
Jim Shapton  
Maurice Terry  
J E Williams  
Sonny Worthington

**1. Apologies:**

John Connah  
Bernard Fendt  
Simon Parrington

Sister Paula  
Chris Pilsbury  
Paddy Savage

Andree Sims  
Ray Williams

**2. Minutes of AGM held 19 May 2009**

Proposed: John Davey                      Seconded: Peter Bingham  
The minutes were unanimously agreed.

**3. Report on the Association's activities since 1 April 2009**

**(a) Highways and Open Spaces**

Andrea Segrave reported that the Working Group has taken up a number of issues with the new Cheshire West and Chester Council [CWaC] on behalf of residents. Due to the staff changes, and to assist getting to the right people, they had met with the local Councillor who had been able to suggest a number of contacts.

'No Parking' signs had again been requested for areas where there were parking restrictions as the current signs of a £5 fine did not reflect the extent of the potential legal penalty where yellow lines were prevalent. A reply was still awaited from the Council but some signs had been removed.

Residents continued to complain about damaged verges particularly in Earlsway. Highways had requested some householders to repair verges eroded as a result of extensions to driveways, but the verges continued to deteriorate. Highways staff had advised residents to improve the verges outside their own properties as no funding was currently available.

Bulbs had been planted on the approach to Curzon Park [CPN] and on the green in Mount Pleasant with funding from the CWaC and CPRA's own funds. Some lampposts had been painted with further painting due to take place shortly in Curzon Park South, Park Road West, Earlsway and Curzon Park North. It was understood that other roads would follow. New lampposts were due to be installed in Carrick and Earlsway.

During the heavy leaf falls in the autumn the Working Group had liaised with CWaC and felt overall the service had improved, but by continuing to liaise with the Council, it was hoped the service would improve even more. After complaints from residents about the placement of wheelie bins on the footway, the Council had been contacted. Generally residents were thoughtful where they placed bins and the contractors had improved where they returned them. The Working Group had also written to the Council concerning parking problems recently encountered by residents. Their comments, when received, would be published in the next Newsletter.

There was currently no funding allocation for trees by the Council. However, they had replaced three trees, which had been vandalised, with larger specimens and improved the guard protection. A response was awaited to a request for general tree maintenance including pollarding and treatment of canker problems. Waterproof brown paper sacks had also been requested for residents in Mount Pleasant.

CPRA was grateful to those residents who had taken part in maintaining and improving Curzon Park's open spaces.

### **(b) Community and Social**

Jim Shapton thanked members of the group who organised the events. Similar events to those held in 2008-09 were held again during 2009-10 including the Spring coach outing, August Bank Holiday Family Fun Day, and the theatre trip. There had also been Carol singing on The Green at Christmas, which had been very successful with £155 profit being made for Claire House Hospice. Both the August and Christmas events on The Green were well supported by younger families, and Jim Shapton thanked Melody Reynolds for promoting the events with the younger families in Curzon Park. Unfortunately, although the Quiz Night had been very successful in 2008, it had been necessary to cancel it in 2009 due to poor support.

The Walking Group, coordinated by Jenny Plunkett, had had some excellent days out. Outings were generally the first Saturday of each month.

The Community Support group had been able to give assistance to some older neighbours during the year particularly during the bad winter weather. The group had more volunteers than people needing help, and therefore residents were asked to let Geoff Brown know if they knew of anyone needing help with transport, shopping, etc.

### **(c) Community Safety**

Through the newsletter, website and email, residents were provided with up to date contact details for the Police and other statutory agencies such as Cheshire West and Chester Council, Consumer Direct, etc, as well as services provided by them such as home security advice and home fire safety checks which were available to all residents. Through email, residents were also alerted to any problems such as break-ins, vandalism, etc, and Liz Neeves thanked residents for keeping her informed.

The Association also helped to promote the regular Police Community Action meetings. Liz Neeves thanked PCSO Fox and his colleagues for their continuing support. The police had carried out an exercise just before Christmas checking whether cars were locked on residents' drives.

With funding assistance from CWaC, the Association had purchased 4 new Home Watch Signs, three of which replaced missing or damaged signs and a new sign for Howe Road. The number of Home Watch coordinators was still unclear; but there appeared to be informal arrangements amongst immediate neighbours. It was nearly 28 years since the scheme had started and Cheshire Constabulary were hoping to set up a West Cheshire Home Watch Group as part of a Cheshire Home Watch Association which would help to revive the scheme and secure more funding.

#### **(d) Newsletter & Website**

As editor of the newsletter, Tracey Geary reported that 4 newsletters had been printed and distributed to over 600 households in Curzon Park during the year. Despite having a website and being able to email many of the residents, it was considered by the Committee to be an important facility for all residents, particularly those without the internet, despite its cost [£140 per edition]. She thanked the residents who distributed the newsletters, and asked residents to let her have suggestions/articles for future editions.

#### **4. Presentation of the Accounts of the Association for the 12 months ended 31 March 2010**

Maurice Terry presented the Accounts which showed a 'deficit' of £216 for the year although this had been offset by the bank balance at the beginning of the year. The Association had received a grant of £225 towards the cost of gazebos, Home Watch signs and daffodil and bluebell bulbs. Other net income for the year totalled £991 which included donations from residents and proceeds from social events. The main expenditure continued to be the newsletter [£608 for 4 editions] and the annual public liability insurance [£201]. The Committee felt the newsletter had to look professional and would aim to have it published 4 times during the current year. Maurice thanked residents for their donations – there were now 182 households who were members of the Association. The Accounts were unanimously accepted: Proposed: Geoff Brown; Seconded: Pauline Hopkins

#### **5. Election of Management Committee**

- (i) Chair** – Due to his commitments with the new Chester City football Club, Chris Pilsbury had withdrawn his candidacy for re-election as Chairman. There were no nominees to replace him. The Management Committee would seek to fill the vacancy as soon as possible using its powers under paragraph 5 of the constitution
- (ii) Secretary** - Liz Neeves
- (iii) Treasurer** – Maurice Terry  
Maurice Terry agreed to continue until a replacement could be found.
- (iv) Ordinary Members** – Tracey Geary, Andrea Segrave, Jim Shapton, Geoff Brown  
Proposed by Andrew Downey; Seconded by Colin Kemp and unanimously resolved that the above members be re-elected to the Management Committee

#### **6. Amendment to the Association's Constitution**

Jim Shapton explained that under the terms of the present constitution, Management Committee members were not able to stand for more than three one-year terms and therefore most of the Committee would be ineligible for re-election in 2011. This would result in the dissolution of the Association unless at least four new members

were found for appointment at or before the next AGM. The Constitution had been drawn up to avoid the Association becoming a clique, and to encourage a healthy turnover of committee members and Jim encouraged residents to become involved.

While the amendment to the constitution set out in the notice of the meeting had been designed to avoid this risk, the wording was unclear whether all or only a necessary number of otherwise ineligible members might be re-elected. Jim therefore proposed an amending resolution to alter the wording to clarify that no more of the retiring members who had served three years than were necessary to make the total number of Committee members up to six would could be re-elected. The wording proposed for paragraph 6.1(e) in his amendment was:

“The existing MC members will stand down. (They may stand for re-election, subject to the proviso that no member may serve more than three consecutive terms of office *unless and to the extent that the number of other members standing for election or re-election is insufficient to result in an MC of six members.*)”

The resolution as amended was seconded by Elizabeth Downey and unanimously agreed

#### **7. Sponsorship of local charity by CPRA**

Following the success of the Carol Service, a donation of £155, representing the profit from the sale of food and drink, had been made to Claire House Children’s Hospice on the Wirral. The members of the Working Group responsible for the event felt that this should be repeated. It had been suggested, however, that a more local charity should benefit in future and that the chosen charity might be supported by the Association in other ways, e.g. by using the newsletter to encourage residents to favour the charity’s shop for recycling. After discussion of the proposal, it was agreed that Save the Family be supported during the year 2010-11, with that decision being reviewed at the next AGM.

#### **8. Questions and comments from the floor**

Brian Bentley of Curzon Park North commented on problems caused by cars parking on pavements and grass verges and could not understand why they were ignored by the Police. PCSO Christopher Fox explained that unless cars were parked in a dangerous way [eg blocked pavements forcing pedestrians onto the road], the Police were no longer able to take action; it was now the responsibility of Cheshire West and Chester Council street wardens. In addition, the Police could no longer enforce double yellow lines. PCSO Fox was to provide Mr Bentley with the relevant telephone numbers, and an article on the new powers including phone numbers would be included in the next newsletter.

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Following the AGM, a presentation was given by Dr Peter Bingham on Heritage Open Days in Chester organised by the Chester Civic Trust.