

# Curzon Park Residents' Association

## Annual General Meeting held at St Mark's Church Hall on Monday 16 May 2011

### MINUTES

#### Present

Peter Bingham	PCSO Christopher Fox	Judy Reeves
Alison Booth	John Jones-Pritchard	T C Rogers
John Bowyer	Len Holland	Andrea Segrave
Geoff Brown	Pauline Hopkins	Barbara Shapton
Chris Coxon	Christine Kemp	Jim Shapton
Sue Coxon	Colin Kemp	Ben Smith
Helen Davey	Steve Mander	Maurice Terry
John Davey	Derek Napier	Marian Williams
Andrew Downey	Liz Neeves	Ray Williams
Elizabeth Downey	Jeff Reeves	

#### 1. Apologies

Janet Ashbrooke, John Connah, Betty Holland, Liz Hutchings, Christine Jones-Pritchard, June Kevan, Catherine Parkes, Gaynor Stewart, Monty Stoke, Margaret Trousdale, Sonny Worthington

#### 2. Minutes of AGM held 16 May 2010

Agreed.

#### 3. Report on the Association's activities 1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011

##### (a) Chairman's Introduction

Geoff Brown welcomed residents to the meeting, and hoped some would be interested in becoming Management Committee members, as, according to the constitution, committee members could only serve a maximum of 3 years. He thanked the retiring committee members for their valuable contributions including Maurice Terry [founder member and Treasurer], and Tracey Geary [newsletter editor].

##### (b) Highways and Open Spaces

Andrea Segrave reported that the Working Group had been very busy over the past year, the most important local issues being:

**Cycling:** Although Cheshire West and Chester Council had abandoned plans for the £1.5m bridge, discussions had continued about cycling improvements in the area. Phase 1 of their plans had now been implemented with a designated cycling route in Hough Green and a Toucan Crossing. CPRA had been able to influence the decision not to fell two mature Lime Trees but just remove growth around them to allow easy transfer to Handbridge and the City Centre. The Working Group had a further meeting with CWaC officers to discuss phase 2 shortly.

**Trees:** CWaC still did not have a budget for trees, only dealing with trees if there was a safety issue. Two had recently been removed (one in CPN and one in CPS) owing to 'canker'. CPRA had been advised that replacements would be funded and were in discussion with the Tree Officer and the Area Highways Manager regarding the ideal replacement specimen for the area. There was a further problem with the Horse Chestnut Trees and the Senior Tree Officer had explained this was a 'leaf minor' probably caused by a moth. Full details were on the CPRA website.

**Parking Problems:** Some residents had experienced an influx of cars parking anti-socially in the area on 6 November due to the Lions' firework display. The Working Group had liaised with the Community Police Support Officer who had agreed to consider the use of cones in some areas of Curzon Park for the same event this year to ensure residents could access their houses and roads. Some new parking restrictions in Selkirk Drive and CPN (by golf club) were in the pipeline.

**Chester Rocks:** Aware that the 2-day concert in July could cause parking problems in the area, CPRA was currently in discussions with the Racecourse, Police and Highways to prevent any possible problems. Progress on this would be notified to residents by email and/or Newsletter.

**Verges:** On the whole, residents as well as their delivery and contractors, were responsible for the poor state of the verges in Curzon Park. There was no simple solution. One Councillor had suggested CPRA approached individual householders direct, but this was not the remit of the CPRA. Articles were regularly included in the Newsletters about the onus of individuals and an attempt to set up a meeting to encourage a community initiative had failed. The Ministry of Transport, recognising there was a problem with pavement/verge parking throughout the country, had suggested that Councils designate prohibition zones. It was understood that this would lead to increased signage in the area and would not be suitable for all of Curzon Park. CPRA would only request CWaC to carry this out if residents wanted this course of action, and to date there had been very little response to the article in April's newsletter.

**Dog Fouling:** This had been reported to the Council's Environmental Street Scene Department and residents were given contact numbers for street cleansing in the Newsletter so they could contact the Council themselves.

**Bus Service:** Conscious that many residents relied on the bus to get around, and recognising that the service had deteriorated, the Working Group had met with the Operations Manager of the bus company. A number of points about the service were raised and he had responded by implementing improvements.

**Lamp-posts, Leaf sweeping, Bulb planting, Garden waste and Hogweed** were other areas the Working Group had also had an input.

Andrea thanked those residents who had taken a personal interest in supporting CPRA's objective to maintain and improve the beautiful open spaces within the area.

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

Jim Shapton reported that the 12 months ending 31 March had been a relatively subdued period for CPRA social activity due to lack of support for a coach trip and quiz evening. However the August Bank Holiday Gala event, which included a fire engine visit, pony rides, tombola and book and bric-a-brac sales, was the most successful up to that point attracting over 300 people, including many junior members, and contributing more than £400 to CPRA funds. The Christmas music concert on the Green had been well received but bitterly cold weather had been largely responsible for a smaller crowd. These events had shown that CPRA did better by bringing people together on or near to their own turf.

The Royal Wedding Party on 30 April had been very successful attracting over 300 people. Thanks to a Council grant the cost of the food and music were subsidised, and two sturdy folding tables [which would be useful for future use] were also purchased. A CPRA Dinner was due to be held on 30 June; tickets £20.

The Walking Group, ably organised by Jenny Plunkett, now had the benefit of a small group of enthusiasts helping her to find new experiences for the regulars and, hopefully attract a few more casual walkers. Members and friends were welcome on any walk without giving rise to any expectation that they would be expected to turn out on future occasions. A highlight of the walking programme each year had been a guided tour by Dr. Peter Bingham of some of the City's architectural gems; the tour on 7 June would be on the work of Thomas Harrison.

Jim paid tribute to the team of nine stalwarts regularly putting in effort, sometimes considerable, to make all the events happen. They did it for two reasons: financial which met the cost of the newsletters, to engender some community spirit, and with each passing year he felt they were doing a little bit better in that respect. He hoped residents did too.

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

Liz Neeves reported that Community Safety role of CPRA has developed into an information service for residents via email and the quarterly newsletters. 2010-11 had been a relatively quiet year overall although in addition to burglaries and thefts from cars, there had been occasional cases of anti-social behaviour such as removing hanging baskets. It was hoped that by alerting residents to incidents [without alarming them], they were more aware of any suspicious circumstances and if they were in any doubt would phone the Police non-emergency incident reporting number. It was hoped that it also reminded them to carry out simple security measures such as locking side gates, closing windows, etc.

Attendance at the Police Community Action meetings and the Police Surgeries in Westminster Park continued to be by a very small number of residents, which in some ways was a good thing as it meant most people were happy. However, in times of budget cuts, residents were reminded that if attendance continued to be poor, the meetings might become less frequent. The Police Community Support service provided a direct, informal link to the Police for non-emergency matters and residents were encouraged to use the service; contact details were always printed in the newsletter. CPRA was particularly grateful to PCSO Christopher Fox who worked tirelessly on Curzon Park's behalf. His job was secure for the time being but there could be a threat in the future when he could be moved to other areas thereby becoming less dedicated to this area. CPRA was writing to local members of the Police Authority and to Inspector Beddows, head of the local Neighbourhood Policing Unit, supporting the dedicated service which had helped to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour problems.

## **4. Presentation of the Accounts of the Association for the 12 months ended 31 March 2011**

Alison Booth presented the Accounts for the period 1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011:

Income: £1928 [including £800 CWaC grant re April 2011 payments]

Expenditure: £901

Current Assets: £450

The Accounts were unanimously accepted: Proposed: Geoff Brown; Seconded: Pauline Hopkins.

## 5. Election of Management Committee

		<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
Chair	Geoff Brown	Maurice Terry	Jim Shapton
Secretary	John Bowyer	Jim Shapton	Steve Mander
Treasurer	Alison Booth	Peter Bingham	John Pritchard-Jones
Ordinary Members	John Jones-Pritchard Sian Paul Ben Smith	Ray Williams Geoff Brown Liz Neeves	Pauline Hopkins Andrea Segrave Alison Booth

In accordance with CPRA's constitution, as there were six nominations, Liz Neeves, Andrea Segrave and Jim Shapton were not eligible for re-election.

## 6. Questions and comments from the floor

Responsibility for the maintenance of the railway footbridge was raised. There was some uncertainty as to whether it was Network Rail or CWaC. Andrea would get clarification when the Highways and Open Spaces WG had their meeting with Bethan from the Cycle Chester Unit [CWA] at the beginning of June.

The £5 fine parking notices were no longer practicable and had been removed from Curzon Park North and Curzon Park South when yellow lines were put down. Enforcement of yellow lines was now the responsibility of CWaC's Parking Services. PCSO Fox offered to speak to any residents who repeatedly parked their cars on grass verges.

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Following the formal part of the AGM, **Martin Band, Landscape Architect and Urban Designer** [and resident of Curzon Park] gave a brief introduction to the profession of Landscape Architecture/Urban Design and how practitioners influence changes in towns and cities. His talk was illustrated with project examples both local to Chester and also from overseas, concluding with the current proposals for the St. Werburgh Street / Cathedral Gardens' project.