

# Curzon Park Residents' Association

## Annual General Meeting held at Chester Golf Club on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012 at 7.30pm.

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### Present

Janet Ashbrooke  
Peter Bingham  
Alison Booth  
John Bowyer  
Chris Coxon  
Sue Coxon  
Helen Davey  
John Davey  
PCSO Christopher Fox  
John Jones-Pritchard  
Lillian Flitcroft

Alistair Jack  
Eileen Jack  
G. P. Lirian??  
W. K. Macauley  
Steve Maunder  
Jane Mercer  
Liz Neeves  
Sian Paul  
Catherine Parkes  
Simon Parrington  
Jeff Reeves

Andrea Segrave  
Barbara Shapton  
Jim Shapton  
Louise Shill  
Edward Shill  
Ben Smith  
Maurice Terry  
Diane Terry  
Ellen Walton

1. **Apologies**  
Brian Bentley, Geoff Brown, Christine Jones-Pritchard, Adrian Neeves, Judy Reeves, John Stewart, Gaynor Stewart, R. M. Stokes, Sonny Worthington.
2. **Minutes of AGM held 16 May 2011**  
Agreed. Proposer: John Davey, seconder: Jeff Reeves.
3. **Report on the Association's activities 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012**
  - (a) **Chairman's Introduction**  
John Jones-Pritchard, acting as chairman in Geoff Brown's absence, welcomed residents to the meeting. He thanked the retiring committee members for their valuable contributions over the year and asked for other CPRA members to consider joining the committee or a working group.
  - (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:** Cycling along Howe Road is now permitted in both directions but remains one way for cars.  
**Trees:** The trees along Park Road West and Earlsway have been pollarded and although looking very bare at the moment it was anticipated that new growth would soon appear. Four nesting boxes have been installed in trees along Curzon Park South to encourage blue tits. They eat larvae of the leaf miner moth so it is hoped will improve the condition of the horse chestnut trees.  
**Parking Problems:** The group had a meeting with head of Parking Services, local councillors and PCSO Fox to establish the level of attendance in the Curzon Park area generally and during public events on the Racecourse. The outcome was unsatisfactory as attendance data was not available. However the impact of parking during the Firework Display was reduced thanks to the efforts of PCSO Fox strategically placing cones on main approach roads to Curzon Park and advising drivers about safe places to park.

**Chester Rocks:** Parking generally in Curzon Park not a problem but the Racecourse Company failed to put out cones in Dingle Bank. Audience attendance appeared lower than predicted. Noise was a problem in Curzon Park North and Carrick Rd but sound level readings taken around the area were within statutory limits. Noise levels measured on equipment provided by Neil Sullivan in those areas was 68dB, limit on the event licence was 75dB.

**Verges:** Damage to verges is still a recurring problem but one particular culprit, TNT, have agreed to pay for reinstatement of a section of verge in Earlsway damaged by their delivery van.

**Olympic Torch:** The event on the Racecourse may create parking problems so PCSO Fox will be asked to place traffic cones in the Curzon Park area to deter casual parking.

**Leaf sweeping, Bulb planting and Hogweed:** Grass cutting of verges and The Green were not as frequent as last year. This was due to change of contractor and we have been assured that the service level will be brought up to the same standard as last year's. Bulbs have been planted around the trees on The Green and results are very pleasing to the eye. CWaC arranged for a specialist contractor to spray hogweed growth in or adjacent to residents' gardens in Curzon Park North. Leaf clearing started earlier than usual due to large fall from horse chestnut trees affected by leaf miner. A regular and effective service was provided throughout the season. 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.

**Footbridge:** The footbridge over the River Dee adjacent to the railway bridge has been closed since 1<sup>st</sup> February to allow Network Rail carry out repairs on the railway bridge. CWaC agreed to undertake repairs to the footbridge at the same time and are awaiting results of a condition report about the bridge's structure.

### **(c) Community and Social**

Sian Paul stated that a poor response for a theatre trip to see 'Oliver – The Musical' resulted in cancellation of the trip but the Residents' Dinner at Chester Golf Club had been popular. A Quiz Night is planned for October as well as the Carols on the Green in December. Tickets were on sale for the Jubilee Street Party on 4<sup>th</sup> June and another Residents' Dinner at the golf club planned for 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

The walking group continue to have monthly walks, details on the website and in the quarterly newsletter.

Membership of CPRA is now approximately one third of the total number of residences in the Curzon Park area.

### **(d) Community Safety**

Liz Neeves reported that email is now the main method of communication to residents about incidents of theft or antisocial behaviour. The newsletter also has a summary of incidents and advice from our PCSO. An investigation about installing CCTV for the Curzon Park area revealed the cost would not justify the relatively low levels of crime. Smart Water can be used to mark valuable items. PCSO Fox answered some questions from the floor about Smart Water: It is recommended to purchase it as a group to spread the cost, which is about £60. Warning stickers alert thieves that Smart Water is in use and will mark them if they are in contact with it. UV pens are also available from the police to mark bicycles. PCSO Fox confirmed he patrolled the area every day, which also included Hough Green and parts of Saltney.

Cycling on the pavement over Grosvenor Bridge is a continuing problem and PCSO Fox will caution people found doing this. The next Beat Meeting takes place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2012, 7pm at the Golf Club.

**(e) Newsletter.**

Ben Smith thanked the main contributors of articles to the newsletter which were: Liz Neeves, Jim Shapton, Andrea Segrave and also to John Jones-Pritchard for proof reading. In response, John thanked his army of volunteers who deliver the newsletter around the Curzon Park area. Ben reported that the newsletter was an expensive item to produce as it costs £175 per issue for printing and this occurs four times per year. If CPRA funds run low then the frequency of publication may have to be reduced or consider black & white only printing.

**4. Presentation of the Accounts of the Association for the 12 months ended 31 March 2012**

Alison Booth presented the Accounts for the period 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012:

Income:	£824.66 [including £225.95 CWaC grant for new gazebo]
Expenditure:	£1,509.63
(Deficit)/surplus for year:	(£684.97)
Funds as at 31-03-2011	£1,249.64
Current Assets:	£564.67

A new Gazebo has been purchased which was covered by a grant from CWaC. The Accounts were unanimously accepted: Proposed: Liz Neeves; Seconded: Ellen Walton.

**5. Election of Management Committee**

		<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
Chair	Geoff Brown (in absentia)	Maurice Terry	Jim Shapton
Secretary	John Bowyer	Diane Terry	Helen Davey
Treasurer	Alison Booth	Janet Ashbrook	Ellen Walton
Ordinary Members	John Jones-Pritchard Sian Paul Ben Smith Alistair Jack	Steve Mander  John Bowyer	Peter Bingham  John Jones-Pritchard

**6. Questions and comments from the floor**

Q: Why isn't there advertising in the newsletter?

A: It is policy of the CPRA Management Committee not to take adverts as it uses up space for news, which benefits residents, and it could cheapen the look of the newsletter. General agreement from the floor.

Another suggestion was to email the newsletter to reduce printing quantities and costs. Not all residents have email.

The topic of a membership fee was raised and widely discussed around the floor. Although some social events do raise funds it may not be enough to cover our main items of expenditure which are newsletter costs and Public Liability insurance.

Suggestion from the floor for an annual membership fee. Another was to put a plea in the Christmas newsletter for a donation of £x and include details of how to make the donation.

Jim Shapton reported that grants are available from the local council to residents' associations for purchases that will benefit the community.

It was noted from the floor that local councillors were not in attendance at the AGM. This was usual policy for CPRA.

A member asked about changes to the postal delivery service in the area. Secretary has contacted Royal Mail and received a typical corporate reply about 'review and reorganisation for greater efficiency'. However one valid point was the type of mail being delivered is changing; not so many letters but more packages so that is the main reason for loss of postmen on bicycles.

A confusing road sign which reads 'Curzon Park' actually points to Curzon House, a new conversion of apartments.

Chairman thanked everybody for attending, Sian asked for volunteers to help out at the Jubilee Party on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.