

# Curzon Park Residents' Association

## Annual General Meeting held at Chester Golf Club on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 7.30pm.

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### Present

Peter Bingham  
John Bowyer  
Geoff Brown  
PCSO Christopher Fox  
John Flitcroft  
Lillian Flitcroft  
Alistair Jack  
Eileen Jack  
John Jones-Pritchard  
Ben Jones

Derek Lawson  
Margaret Lawson  
Jane Mercer  
Derek Napier  
Sian Paul  
Catherine Parkes  
Jeff Reeves  
Andrea Segrave  
Barbara Shapton

Jim Shapton  
Louise Shiu  
Edward Shiu  
Ben Smith  
Maurice Terry  
Diane Terry  
Ellen Walton  
Amanda White

#### 1. Apologies

Alison Booth, Christine Jones-Pritchard, Adrian Neeves, Liz Neeves, Paddy Savidge..

#### 2. Minutes of AGM held 21 May 2012

Agreed. Proposer: Geoff Brown, seconder: John Jones-Pritchard.

#### 3. Report on the Association's activities 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013

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

Geoff Brown welcomed members to the meeting and thanked all those who had served on the Management Committee and Working Groups over the past year. Due to ill health he hadn't been able to attend all the Management Committee meetings and announced he would now stand down as chairman. Geoff stated that there now appeared to be more community spirit in the Curzon Park area compared to 10 years ago and thought that the work of CPRA was a contributory factor in bringing people together. He thanked those who were involved in the original set-up of the organisation.

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

Alistair Jack is now chairman of this working group and provided the following summary of the group's activities over the past year:

- (i) **Footbridge:** The footbridge over the River Dee adjacent to the railway bridge has been closed since February 2012. Refurbishment work on the railway bridge has been completed by Network Rail and a new footbridge has been built, funded by CWaC. Opening of the latter has been delayed by landslip on the CP side due to heavy rainfall. This has destabilised the foundations which may also affect the railway bridge. Network Rail have commissioned a survey and remedial structural work is due to start soon with expected completion date of late Summer. The Saltney Ferry pedestrian bridge is also closed which also restricts access points across the river.
- (ii) **Verges:** The verges are an attractive feature of the CP area but recent wet weather has made them prone to damage by vehicles. Most culprits are contactors and delivery vehicles and members were asked to ensure delivery vans and visitors refrain from parking, or driving, over the verges.

Any person who damages the verge is responsible for repair/reinstatement. Alistair asked for ideas on how this can be enforced.

- (iii) **Trees:** Replacement trees due to be planted later this year. The group was surprised that a lost chestnut tree is to be replaced with similar despite the problem with leaf miner moth.
- (iv) **Cycling:** Recent incident highlighted the problem of conflict between cyclists and motorists along the narrow roads of CP. A note will be put in the newsletter to raise awareness of the problem.
- (v) **Hogweed:** Spraying of hogweed is in operation on the river side of CP.
- (vi) **Questions from the floor:**
  - Graffiti – An incident of spray paint graffiti was reported to the council who responded quickly with a clean-up team.

Fly-tipping - The back lane between Howe Road and Selkirk Drive is overgrown with vegetation which has encouraged incidents of fly-tipping. Chairman responded that CPRA will look into it but stated that householders are responsible for trimming back overgrown vegetation on their property.

### (c) Community and Social

Jane Mercer has recently taken over as chair of the group and thanked outgoing chairman, Jim Shapton for all his hard work. She then reported on social events over the past year:

- Carols on the Green had to be cancelled due to soggy ground.
- Queen's Jubilee Party held on The Green was very well attended no doubt helped by the good weather.
- Member's Dinner on 20<sup>th</sup> June was attended by 45 people and on 17<sup>th</sup> August there will be an Italian themed evening of food and drink.
- Coffee mornings and lunches are well supported. Around 40-50 people attended the talk by Joyce Cook about the history of Curzon Park. Next coffee morning is on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013.
- Monthly walks over weekends and mid-week walks are organised by Jenny Plunkett with a number of different leaders and continue to be popular.
- Peter Bingham will host a guided walk around Chester on 6<sup>th</sup> June. The theme is effect of building design post 1960 on the Chester landscape.

### (d) Community Safety

This item was taken earlier in the meeting as PCSO Fox had to leave by 8pm. PCSO Fox reported on recent incidents of cold calling by builders asking for cash up front payments but providing very poor quality work. Trading Standards have been alerted and police advice is not to use services from such people. Always ask for a written quotation with a 7-day cooling off period of any signed contract so you can change your mind and cancel. If in doubt about a builder or other type of contractor, call Trading Standards for advice.

PCSO Fox concluded that CP was generally an area of low crime rate so people should feel safe in their beds. The recent introduction of SmartWater for marking valuable items has led to signs being erected in the CP area which will, hopefully, act as a deterrent. The provision of CCTV would be too expensive to install in light of the low crime rate in the area. Residents should take simple, basic precautions of ensuring car and house doors and windows are locked, valuables put out of sight and bikes security marked. Police Surgeries are held in front of the Post Office on Chester St., Saltney on the first Saturday of the month.

The next Police Meeting will be on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 7pm at the Golf Club. Chairman thanked PCSO Fox for his excellent work over the past year. A question from the audience about recent burglary concerning theft of garden tools from a shed. Police response was satisfactory and PCSO Fox reiterated the need for people to be vigilant and ensure outbuildings are also secure.

**(e) Newsletter.**

Chairman asked for feedback on content of the newsletter which is published quarterly. It is a costly item but serves the community by providing details of future events and highlights of what's happened over the previous three months. It is paid for from CPRA funds which are mostly donations from members or small profits from social events. Paid adverts are not accepted as they would use up too much space. Chairman stated that funding for CPRA activities is a problem as we rely on donations rather than a subscription. He asked members to think about most effective way to raise funds.

Ben Smith has been the editor for the past 2 years and will stand down this year. Chairman thanked him for his valuable contribution.

**4. Presentation of the Accounts of the Association for the 12 months ended 31 March 2013**

Secretary read out a summary of the Accounts for the period 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013 which had been prepared by outgoing treasurer Alison Booth:

<b>Income:</b>	<b>31-03-2013</b>	<b>31-03-2012</b>
Profit from Social events:	£598.25	£211.61
Cheshire West & Chester grant:	£350.00	£225.95
Membership donations:	£143.40	£387.10
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1,091.65</b>	<b>£824.66</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Newsletters	£629.00	£692.00
Insurance	£215.68	£215.68
Website	£18.58	£18.58
Admin	£8.40	£24.00
Bulb purchase	£0	£331.42
Membership	£2.00	£2.00
Gazebo purchase	£0	£225.95
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£873.66</b>	<b>£1,509.63</b>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus for year</b>	<b>£217.99</b>	<b>(£684.97)</b>

Main item of expenditure is the newsletter but costs were reduced this year by a smaller edition in January. The local council grant this year was £350.00 compared to £225.95 of previous year.

The Accounts were unanimously accepted: Proposed: John Flitcroft; Seconded: ben Smith.

## 5. Election of Management Committee

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
Chair	Jim Shapton	Geoff Brown	John Jones-Pritchard
Secretary	John Bowyer	Geoff Brown	Maurice Terry
Treasurer	Edward Shiu	Geoff Brown	John Jones-Pritchard
Ordinary Members	John Jones-Pritchard	Geoff Brown	Edward Shiu
	Sian Paul (Membership/Social)	Geoff Brown	John Bowyer
	Amanda White (Newsletter rep)	Ben Smith	John Flitcroft
	Alistair Jack (Highways rep)	Geoff Brown	Edward Shiu
	Diane Terry	Geoff Brown	John Jones-Pritchard
U39 yrs	No candidate!		

Management Committee can, by a majority vote, co-opt a member who is under 39 years old onto the committee if such a person is available over the next year.

## 6. Questions and comments from the floor

No further questions.

Chairman thanked everybody for attending.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.