

Curzon Park Residents' Association

Annual General Meeting held at Chester Golf Club on Monday 15 May 2017 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present

Lesley Anglesea	Chris Fox	Phil Mole	Rita Shaw
Cezara Arsemie	Bob Gill	Owen Moreie	Neil Sullivan
Janet Ashbrooke	Jennifer Gill	H W Morrell	Steve Telford
John Bowyer	Anton Hunt	Mu Morrell	Connie Telford
Norma Carrigan	Alistair Jack	Adrian Neeves	Maurice Terry
Gill Carroll	Eileen Jack	Liz Neeves	Diane Terry
John R Davey	John Jones-Pritchard	Simon Parrington	Ellen Walton
Emily Davies	Anne Knight	Trish Parrington	Amanda White
Lauren Davies	Derek Lawson	Dave Plunkett	
J Flitcroft	Margaret Lawson	Jenny Plunkett	
L Flitcroft	E McMahon	Jeff Reeves	
Charles Foley	Christine Mander	Barbara Shapton	
Yvonne Foley	Steve Mander	Jim Shapton	

Steve Telford (Chair), welcomed residents to the meeting.

1. Apologies

John Connah, Dave Pawson, Pat Pawson, Catherine Parkes, Viv Devlin, Razia Daniels, Rokšana Fennel.

Minutes of AGM held 16th May 2016

Agreed - Proposed: Ellen Walton; Seconded: Liz Neeves. Simon Parrington's surname was misspelt.

2. Crime Overview

PCSO Chris Fox reported very little crime in the Curzon Park area, Handbridge and Westminster Park were slightly higher. Most crimes were house burglaries with incidents in Selkirk Road, Earlsway and an attempt at a house in Curzon Park South where the garage was targeted. Last few months have been quiet and he hopes his messages about locking doors and windows, remove valuables from parked cars, and keep cars locked has paid off. Houses should have a solid main entry door with good quality locks, windows to be locked and a working alarm is a great deterrent to burglars. Residents can sign up to the Cheshire Police Alert system via the internet to receive notices of recent crimes in their area.

Chris announced he is moving on to a new position away from the CP area and introduced PCSO Lauren Davies who will take over our patch. There will be about a month overlap and Chris has enjoyed working in our area over the past 8 years. He then left the meeting

3. Report on the Association's activities 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017.

(a) Chairman's Introduction

Steve Telford said the smooth working of CPRA depended on an army of volunteers and supporters, who arrange a busy calendar of social events, coffee mornings, walking groups, trips out to gardens and other places of interest, technology enlightenment sessions and the annual Carols on the Green. The Highways & Open Spaces group liaise with the local council to look after the Curzon Park environment and Bob Gill will talk about this shortly.

Steve expressed his thanks to Amanda White for continuing to look after the newsletter and to Dave Plunkett and Adrian Neeves who look after the website. Both stand down this year and Steve asked for volunteers to take on this role. A new focus over the past year has been Social Media and Phil Mole will talk about this later. Two main stalwarts of the Association, Liz & Adrian Neeves, are due to leave the area and move to Cheltenham so Steve thanked them for all their hard work over many years with CPRA and said they will be greatly missed.

(b) Highways & Open Spaces

Bob Gill provided a snapshot of what's been happening within the group over the past 12-18 months. The group now meet 4 times a year and include the PCSO, Janet Walters from CWaC, Steve Telford plus representatives from the different areas of Curzon Park. Bob summarised the main topics that keep the group busy:

- **Open Spaces** – This includes pathways, verges and hedges. A lot of residents cut the grass on verges outside their house which does enhance the appearance of the area. Bob is awaiting a reply from CWaC about cutting back overgrowth onto pathways in Earlsway, Curzon Park North and the pathway around the Overleigh Roundabout. Some hedge clipping has been done but the width of accessible pathway does not meet the criteria, which is that a person walking with a pram and a toddler alongside should have clear access. Councillor Neil Sullivan agreed to chase this with the council.
- **Litter Picking** – Alastair Jack has always done a litter pick in the Dingle and now there is a local ranger. Diane Terry volunteered to pick litter along her road and suggested residents pick up litter in their immediate vicinity on bin days.
- **Gamon's Rough** – This is a parcel of land just over the bridge by the river and there is currently a hazard of children falling into the water due to a broken boundary fence. The council have provided a temporary repair but have been unable to establish ownership of the space. Janet Walters from CWaC is investigating.
- **Tree Issues** – Good leaf canopy this year, contact with senior lead tree officer to ensure trees in our area are in good health. Annual spray of hogweed due soon.
- **Highways** – Most residents park their cars on driveways but there are problems in Mount Pleasant with parked cars down both sides of the street and especially at the junction with Saltney High Street. PCSO monitors the situation regularly where parking on the pavement restricts access for pedestrians. A one-way system for Mount Pleasant has been considered by not supported by residents. Jumping red lights is another ongoing issue especially at the Hough Green/Overleigh roundabout junction. PCSO has checked on several occasions but reported it's no worse than other areas.

(c) Events Working Group

Liz Neeves reported that it's been a busy and varied year starting with Rosie's charity plant sale that raised £200 which was shared 50/50 between CPRA and Thrombosis UK charity. In May there was a visit to the Dorothy Clive garden and Abbeywood Estate which started off badly due to delays in the journey but the staff at Abbeywood were excellent when the group arrived late.

In December members enjoyed a great Christmas Lunch at Arley Hall with fabulous seasonal decorations. In August there was an interesting trip to the Recycle First centre in Winsford which was arranged during the school holidays in anticipation that lots of children would come along – but none did!

Other events during the year included the Resident's Dinner at the golf club, a biennial event and always popular; a visit to the villages of Tarvin & Tarporley on the bus; Carols on The Green benefitted from good weather and a local musical ensemble. In January some members of the management committee attended a First Aid course; in March there was a pub quiz at The Ship Inn, Handbridge and coffee mornings were held at the golf club throughout the year which provided an opportunity for members to meet socially and occasionally listen to interesting guest speakers. The two walking groups, weekend and mid-week, continue to explore areas near to our locality although the mid-week group stopped over winter. Liz thanked the organisers of all the events and asked for more people to join the Events Group to provide exciting ideas for the future, it doesn't take much of your time. Liz also expressed thanks to the golf club for allowing use of their premises for coffee mornings, meetings and the dinner.

(d) Newsletter

Amanda White reported the newsletter is issued 4 times/year with a single 2-side sheet this year to keep costs down. Although the newsletter is also published on the website and can be viewed online, most members prefer a printed copy which was confirmed by members at the meeting. Most of the content features the work of the various Working Groups, trips and events plus other news of local interest. Amanda asked for contributions of content from members. Steve confirmed the newsletter in its current format will continue to be produced and delivered to all 600 households in the Curzon Park area.

(e) Membership

Dave Plunkett reported that current membership is 280 from a total number of 600 houses. There are still 50 members who have not supplied an email address so therefore miss out on alerts and notifications about trips etc. Dave monitors Rightmove to find when house ownership has changed then drops off a welcome pack in the hope the newcomers will join CPRA. When people move away from the area they don't always inform CPRA so keeping the membership database up-to-date can be tricky. Dave also helps Adrian with the website so new blood is needed for this task now that both are standing down. Dave is also on the committee of Friends of Westminster Park and said we should continue to keep in contact with this organisation and also make more use of the park. The café now has a sign on the road showing it's open for business; the pavilion has a new roof but there have been some security issues with unsocial behaviour which the PCSO is keeping an eye on.

(f) Website

Adrian Neeves reported that the website at: cpraonline.org.net was a valuable source of information including the history of Curzon Park, photos of various social events, archive copies of the newsletter and a calendar of events plus links to local organisations. In 2013 there were 8,624 views of the site but currently just under 8,000. Most popular pages are: Newsletter, history, walking groups and the calendar. He thanked Jim Shapton who set up the website initially 8 years ago and to Dave Plunkett who has helped out recently.

He now wants to hand over the reigns to a more tech savvy successor. About 40% of members look at the website but now social media has probably taken away some viewers.

(g) Social Media

Phil Mole reported that the Facebook has 69 'Likes' and Twitter has 29 followers, up from 10 when it started. Engagement is now 10% which was the original target at start-up; content is local information but no spam! Steve and Phil will post photos of events onto social media after ensuring they are suitable. PCSO will continue to send alerts via email but will also tweet. Phil asked who liked the Facebook page and said some more are needed!

4. Presentation of the Accounts for the 12 months ending 31st March 2017

Treasurer Viv Devlin was unable to attend the meeting so Steve Telford presented the accounts. He said the most expensive item of expenditure was the newsletter followed by Public Liability insurance for events. The Family Fun Day in September will be the next expensive event. Most income is from donations, grants from local councillors' budget, grants from some local businesses and profits from some social events. Neil Sullivan reported that Curzon Park does not take much from the local council grants that are available.

Bank balance at 01/04/16	£1771.88	
Bank balance at 31/03/17 (Statement # 102)	£936.93	<i>(a decrease of £834.95 from last year)</i>
Income	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
Membership & Donations	£399.00	£250.00
Profit from Social Events	£298.60	-£126.45
* CWAC Grant	£345.00	£785.00
Total income	£1,042.60	£908.55
 Expenditure		
Newsletters	£1,329.00	£855.00
Insurance	£234.68	£227.72
Website	£0.00	£19.18
Admin	£0.00	£0.00
Bulb planting & sundry	£0.00	£65.64
2016 AGM (wine & Gratuity)	£44.87	£78.52
Donations	£20.00	
Equipment Purchased	£249.00	
Total expenditure	£1,877.55	£1,246.06
Surplus/Deficit for year	-£834.95	-£337.51
Bank Balance @ 05/04/17 (Statement #102)	£936.93	

* The Cheshire West & Chester Grant specifically covers payments for the new PA system, Christmas drinks licence and towards first aid training

CPRA Treasurer
Viv Devlin

Further details on next page.

End of Year Bank Balance Summary

Year	Bank Balance	Surplus/Deficit
2012	£566.67	
2013	£782.66	£215.99
2014	£1,632.48	£849.82
2015	£2,109.39	£476.91
2016	£1,771.88	-£337.51
2017	£936.93	-£834.95

Summary of Membership & Donations

Item	Receipts	Payments	Balance
Membership	£15.00	£0.00	£15.00
Donations	£384.00	£20.00	£364.00
Total	£399.00	£20.00	£379.00

Summary of Purchases

Gazebo purchased June 16	£95.00
PA System purchased November 16	£154.00
Total	£249.00

Summary of Social Events

Event	Receipts	Payments	Profit/Deficit
Coffee Mornings	£46.10	£0.00	£46.10
Arley Xmas Trip	£1,350.00	£1,332.50	£17.50
Dorothy Clive Garden	£412.00	£310.00	£102.00
Annual Dinner	£1,349.00	£1,272.00	£77.00
Carols on the Green	£115.50	£0.00	£115.50
First Aid Training	£185.00	£350.00	-£165.00
Plant Sale	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
Quiz Night	£245.50	£240.00	£5.50
Totals	£3,803.10	£3,504.50	£298.60

These accounts reflect the activities of the CPRA for the financial year 2016-17. Overall we have spent £834.95 more than we have received through events and donations, the previous year also ran at a loss of £337.51. The Committee should consider measures to ensure that losses do not continue to be incurred annually. The following have been discussed previously and we may wish to review these to assist with reducing further losses:

- Application for CWaC grant for £500
- Request to CPRA members who work for a large corporation that wants to support local groups e.g. MBNA
- Requests for donations at each event.

CPRA Treasurer

Viv Devlin

There were some questions from members:

- Q: Jim Shapton – The main source of income used to be profit from social events but this appears to have dried up. Is this current policy?
- A: Liz Neeves – We always aim to make a small profit from social events, the figures for each event are shown on 2nd page.
- A: Steve Telford – We must break even but not make excessive profit. Fixed costs for the newsletter and PL insurance must be covered and donations don't always meet this.
- Q: Why not use sponsorship to pay for the newsletter, perhaps an estate agent?
- A: ST – We want to avoid lots of adverts in the newsletter, like Overleigh Roundabout, but will consider the sponsorship idea.

- Q: Can cost of producing the newsletter be lower?
- A: ST – Another graphic designer has been used which was slightly cheaper but not reliable in meeting our deadlines.

The Accounts were unanimously accepted: Proposed: John Jones-Pritchard; Seconded: Yvonne Foley.

5. Election of Management Committee

All existing members were re-elected with one vacancy.
Proposed: John Jones-Pritchard; Seconded: Alastair Jack.

Chairman	Steve Telford
Secretary	John Bowyer
Treasurer	Viv Devlin (post meeting)
Ordinary Member	Jacky Arrowsmith
Ordinary Member	Anton Hunt [Membership] (post meeting)
Ordinary Member	Emily Hicks (post meeting)
Ordinary Member	Yvonne Foley [Highways WG]
Ordinary Member	Vacancy.
U39 Member	Phil Mole

6. Chester Racecourse issues.

Simon Parrington reported that the main issue is noise nuisance from amplified sound mostly on non-race days. He then described the background of the Racecourse Working Group which had been set up by those members who lived near to the racecourse. CWaC already holds Racecourse liaison meetings involving representative groups from the various residential areas surrounding the racecourse including Curzon Park. Steve Telford, as CPRA chairman represents Curzon Park at these meetings but some members questioned why he attended and not a member from Curzon Park North, who are most affected by activities on the racecourse. Steve responded that as chairman of CPRA he represents the views of all members. The chair of the Racecourse Liaison meeting only permits one representative from each residential group.

Noise monitoring equipment has been installed in a house on CPN and Chester Race Company issue emergency phone numbers for the public to lodge a complaint. Other issues have been the tented village on the racecourse for which a planning application was submitted and approved. Steve will put minutes of the Liaison Committee minutes on the CPRA website. Liz Neeves reported that when CPRA was set up in 2007 it included a Racecourse liaison group consisting mostly of members living in CPN but over time it merged with the Highways & Open Spaces WG. Jim Shapton urged the management committee to sort out noise issues with CRC by the next AGM otherwise a special meeting will have to be called. There was concern about encroachment onto the Roodee as a result of commercial development by CRC and Councillor Neil Sullivan confirmed there are some planning issues with CRC and the local council which is why a single opinion is needed from the representative groups. Neil confirmed he will attend the Racecourse liaison meetings.

Dave Plunkett suggested the Racecourse Liaison Working Group be reformed with members from CPN but will still be part of CPRA. This was agreed and Jacky Arrowsmith will be on this group and report to the management committee.

Simon agreed to present a paper to the management committee at their next meeting.

7. Questions & comments from members.

Q - The 20mph speed limit appears to be in Westminster Park, Handbridge and the Lache but when in Curzon Park?

A – It will come into our area in 2020 as we are in stage 4 of the roll-out plan. This was confirmed by Neil Sullivan as priority areas are those with schools, shops and hospitals.

Q – Why does a member of CWaC attend the Highways WG meetings?

A – Yvonne Foley replied that Janet Walters attends the H&OS meeting because it involves roads and the environment, whereas some residents' groups are purely social.

Steve Telford closed the meeting by thanking the golf club for use of their facilities.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.