

Curzon Park Residents' Association

Annual General Meeting held at Chester Golf Club on Monday 16 May 2016 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present

Jacky Arrowsmith	Phil Mole	Edward Shiu	Amanda White
John Bowyer	Adrian Neeves	Anne Speed	Jacqui Yates
Razia Daniels	Liz Neeves	David Speed	Bill Yates
Bernard Fendt	Catherine Parkes	Neil Sullivan	Terry ?
Christine Hughes	Simon Partington	Steve Telford	
John Jones-Pritchard	Dave Plunkett	Connie Telford	
Derek Lawson	Barbara Shapton	Maurice Terry	
Margaret Lawson	Jim Shapton	Diane Terry	
Jane Mercer	Louise Shiu	Ellen Walton	

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

1. Apologies

Yvonne Foley, Charles Foley, PCSO Chris Fox, Roksana Fennel.

Minutes of AGM held 18th May 2015

Agreed - Proposed: Edward Shiu; Seconded: John Jones-Pritchard.

2. Report on the Association's activities 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016

(a) Chairman's Introduction

Steve Telford related his observations of the workings of CPRA during his first 12 months of being chairman and found a lot of people giving a lot of their own time over a wide range of activities. These include outings, the website and social media so please sign up for them. Some hot topics discussed at management committee meetings have included: Location of new waste bins, primarily for dog poo; 20 MPH speed limit; verges and trees. The Association has liaison meetings with representatives from CWaC, and Steve represents CPRA at liaison meetings with Chester Racecourse Company where other residents' groups are also present. The minutes of these meetings are available on the CPRA website, if any residents have a specific topic they would like raised then email Steve with details. Currently accessibility of footpaths surrounding the Roodee on race days is a main concern. Next meeting is due this month.

Steve gave a tribute about Peter Bingham, a very active member of the Highways & Open spaces group who died suddenly in October 2015. Peter had a wealth of knowledge about the built environment and his summer evening walks around Chester were always of great interest. His will be greatly missed by his family, friends and many CPRA members.

(b) Events Working Group

Liz Neeves thanked the amazing group of volunteers who give a lot of their time to arrange the various events and particular thanks to Elizabeth Downey who retired from the group having been a member from the start!

Liz then summarised the year's events:

- **May** – Trip on the Llangollen canal organised by John Jones-Pritchard and a visit to the Media City UK studios at Salford Quays organised by John Bowyer.
- **June** – Annual walk around the City Walls led by the late Peter Bingham, sadly his last tour for us; we have lost a very loyal friend.
- **August** – Family Fun Day on The Green held on the Bank Holiday Monday organised by an ad-hoc working group who did a great job only for it to be spoiled by the bad weather! The traditional games stall for children was popular but sporting activities were abandoned due to rain. Perhaps we'll try again in 2017.
- **December** – Visit to Bodnant Gardens followed by lunch at Bodysgallen Hall organised by Jacky Arrowsmith and Christine Hughes, was another popular garden trip. Carols on The Green was another well attended event so thanks to all those who helped on the day. Next year we hope to have our own musicians.
- **February 2017** – A Quiz Evening held at The Ship Inn, Handbridge proved quite popular so we'll probably make it an annual event.

Liz expressed thanks to the Chester Golf Club for use of the main lounge for various Coffee Mornings throughout the year and to the speakers who gave an insight into interesting topics. The mid-week and weekend walking groups continue to trek around the local countryside so thanks to the leaders of both groups.

Looking ahead to forthcoming events; a trip to the Dorothy Clive garden on 25th May; a walk around the old tram route in Chester on 9th June, a trip to Tarvin & Tarporley on the No. 84 bus in July then the Annual Dinner in August.

(c) Highways and Open Spaces Working Group

Yvonne Foley was unable to attend the meeting so chairman Steve Telford provided the following summary:

The group comprises between 8-10 people led by Bob Gill and meet every 2 or 3 months at the golf club, Yvonne represents the Management Committee on the group. Meetings also include attendance by PCSO Chris Fox and CWaC representative Janet Waters. Topics discussed over the past year include;

- 20 MPH speed limit in the Handbridge Park area, which includes Curzon Park.
- Provision of additional waste bins.
- Monitoring tree felling, especially in private gardens.
- Re-painting faded white lines on certain roads.
- Grass verges.
- Overhanging hedges/foliage.

There will be more information about the latter two topics in the next newsletter. The group is very active but would welcome new members, anybody interested in joining please contact Steve or Bob Gill.

(d) Newsletter

Amanda White reported on the new design and format of the newsletter which was a result of finding a new, more reliable supplier to provide the graphic design. This has increased the cost of the newsletter, which will still be issued quarterly, but in order to offset this increase some issues will only be a single sheet. All newsletters are available on the CPRA website.

(e) Membership

Dave Plunkett reported that current membership is 281 compared to 270 last year, but this represents less than 50% of the total households in the Curzon Park area (600 houses). Of the membership 52 households have not registered an email address so they will be missing out on regular communications. Dave keeps an eye on Rightmove to track when houses in the area are sold so he can then drop off membership forms to newcomers and hope they join up. This is not effective when properties are rented so if you spot a new neighbour then please tell them about CPRA.

(f) Website

Chairman thanked Adrian Neeves for maintaining the CPRA website then asked for a show of hands of those members who have looked at the website – result was about 50%. The total number of views since 2009 is 49,559, the most popular day is Tuesday and most popular time is 4pm. The highest number of views in a month was 2,203 in July 2012; then 1,057 in June 2015 after a garden visit and 1,053 in January 2016 after Carols on the Green. There are links on the site to other local organisations such as Friends of Westminster Park and local council CWaC. Links have also recently been added to the CPRA Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. Steve also thanked Dave Plunkett for help running the website.

(g) Social Media

Phil Mole reported that the Facebook and Twitter accounts had been running for about 9 months and currently there are 24 'Likes' on Facebook and 10 followers on Twitter. He urged members to look at both accounts which always contain up to date information about what's happening in our area and you can respond with you own views. Encourage your children or grandchildren to look, they will be familiar with social media! There was a question if jokes could be added, Phil replied only if clean. Any unsuitable content will be removed by himself or the chairman.

3. Presentation of the Accounts for the 12 months ending 31st March 2016

Treasurer, Edward Shiu gave a summary of the Accounts for the period. There was good news and bad news! The current finances are healthy but this is the first year that showed a small deficit. He expressed thanks to local councillors for grants used to support the Family Fun Day and pay for Food Safety training for two committee members. The newsletter is very good quality but does cost more than the previous supplier and donations have not kept pace with this increase. The Management Committee may have to seek additional donations in the future. Liz Neeves made a comment about the loss shown against Social Events: All events are planned to make a small profit but because of low attendance on the Family Fun day due to poor weather, this event did not attain the expected revenue income.

Bank balance at 01/04/2015: £2,109.39

Bank balance at 31/03/2016: £1,771.88 [a decrease of £337.51 from the previous year].

4. Election of Management Committee

Chairman	Steve Telford
Secretary	John Bowyer
Treasurer	Vacancy (Edward Shiu steps down).
Ordinary Member	Liz Neeves [Events WG]
Ordinary Member	Dave Plunkett [Membership]
Ordinary Member	Vacancy. Amanda White [Newsletter Editor] agrees to be co-opted onto the committee as newsletter editor.
Ordinary Member	Yvonne Foley
Ordinary Member	Vacancy (Jim Shapton steps down).
U39 Member	Phil Mole

The three vacancies were not filled by volunteers at the meeting so the remaining 6 members were proposed by John Jones-Pritchard and seconded by Diane Terry. Chairman thanked Amanda for remaining as newsletter editor and urged members to think about volunteering for the vacant posts.

5. Questions and comments from the floor

Chairman read out information from PCSO Chris Fox who was unable to attend the meeting. Recent incidents are sent out to members and put on social media. Regular surgeries are held on the first Saturday of every month.

Chairman then introduced the local councillors and invited them to speak. Neil Sullivan thanked Steve for the invitation to attend the meeting and said that Residents' Associations were a valuable source of opinion about local matters since there was no Parish Council. Main issues have been the large housing development planned for land off Wrexham Road and the impact it will have on the local area; some issues over road closures but he was pleased to report the area had a low level of crime generally. He praised Chris Fox for doing a first class job. Razia Daniels asked members to support Friends of Dukes Drive and look at their activities. She was impressed with the varied activities of CPRA. Steve said we are always looking for new ideas and he's currently thinking about starting an IT/Computer user's club.

Questions from the floor:

Q – Incidents of traffic running red lights at Overleigh roundabout.

A – The Highways & Open Spaces group have raised this issue with PCSO Fox and the police and CWaC will take action.

Q – If anybody spots any problems in the area such as hazardous road/pavement condition or poor grass cutting of verges etc then send a photo to accompany the complaint to Janet Walters at the CWaC website.

Q – Are bricks on verges legal to protect verges? What about the white posts?

A – Bricks are illegal and there has been an instance of a car being damaged by bricks placed on a verge. White posts have been put in place by CWaC to protect vulnerable areas of the verge; some have been paid for by house owners. We are currently waiting for a report from CWaC about overhanging trees and hedges. Look out for a big splash about this in the next newsletter!

Q – No.83 Earlsway has been an eyesore for several years, can it be fenced off to screen from view?

A – Complain to the local council via the website or to the local councillors. If the plot is privately owned then it's the owner's responsibility and council may take no action due to budget cuts.

Q – Is the Racecourse Liaison group still active?

A – Yes Steve attends as chairman of CPRA to represent the views of members. The minutes and action points from the meetings are posted onto the CPRA website. Let Steve know if you have a specific topic to be discussed at the next meeting. Lately the Racecourse seem to be behaving better.

Q – A request for members to support Alastair Jack to clear litter from The Dingle. The council will provide pickers and bin bags. There were a lot of volunteers for Clean for The Queen!

Meeting closed at 9pm.