

# Curzon Park Residents' Association

## Annual General Meeting held at Chester Golf Club on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.30pm

### MINUTES

#### Present

Lesley Anglesea	Jennifer Gill	Carol Macrae	Neil Sullivan
Jacky Arrowsmith	Barbara Goldemund	Jane Mercer	Steve Telford
Tom Arrowsmith	Anton Hunt	David Millen	Connie Telford
John Bowyer	Alistair Jack	Catherine Parkes	Maurice Terry
Donald Boyd	Eileen Jack	Simon Parrington	Diane Terry
Ann Boyd	John Jones-Pritchard	Trish Parrington	Susan Thomas
Bryan Clarinebold	Colin Kemp	Jeff Reeves	Ellen Walton
Roksana Fennel	Andrew Kendall	D Reeves	Amanda White
Charles Foley	Derek Lawson	Jayne Rowe	
Yvonne Foley	Margaret Lawson	Barbara Shapton	
Bob Gill	Victoria Letton	Jim Shapton	

#### 1. Apologies

PCSO Tim Cooper, Razia Daniels, Viv Devlin, Andrea Hargreaves, Christine Kemp, Phil Mole, Trevor Morris, Dave Plunkett, Jenny Plunkett, Judy Reeves, Melody Reynolds, Frank Toner.

#### 2. Minutes of AGM held 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**Agreed** - Proposed: Yvonne Foley; Seconded: Anton Hunt.

#### 3. Report on the Association's activities 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

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

Steve Telford thanked everybody for attending the meeting on such a warm, sunny evening and particularly to councillor Neil Sullivan who has allocated two grants over the past year to fund hiring a large marquee for events on The Green. Apologies were noted from Cllr. Razia Daniels who was unable to attend and also Tim Cooper our new Police Community Support Officer. Lauren Davies, the previous PCSO has moved on despite not having been in post very long. Steve reported it was the end of his 3<sup>rd</sup> year as chairman and has been actively involved with the Events Working Group and Highways & Open Spaces group in trying to improve the Curzon Park environment. One of his missions was to clear the pathway along the top end of Earlsway of overhanging bushes and intrusion of vegetation reducing the width of the path. He was pleased to report this has been achieved but took 6 months, which was quickly corrected to 12 months by some members of the audience! Steve set up a Technology Awareness Group to assist members who find new technology a bit difficult and was pleased to see some members present.

He thanked the current members of the Management Committee for their great contribution and also to Viv Devlin the treasurer who was unable to attend but is standing down at this AGM. Steve also thanked other active members who contribute to the various Working Groups, walking groups and to Andrew Kendall who has recently taken over running the CPRA website, and will soon take over Social Media as Phil Mole stands down at this AGM.

**(b) Events Working Group**

John Bowyer reported on activities over the past year:

Started off in May with Rosie's Plant sale which raised £110 for CPRA and similar amounts for 2 charities. Visits to the gardens of stately homes are always popular with Trentham gardens and estate in July and in December Christmas lunch at Bodysgallen Hall which was preceded with a look around Llandudno. More garden visits were arranged in August but this time closer to home, in fact it was residents' own gardens opened up for the CPRA Garden Trail which proved very popular.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September we had a Family Fun Day on The Green and although too late in the season for a summer festival, the weather was fair and we held it on a Sunday in the hope that more families would be able to attend as it was past the main holiday season. There were plenty of activities for all ages including children's games, hook a duck, guess how many balloons were crammed into a classic car and Curzon Crufts dog show. We hired a large marquee, just in case it rained, and this was kindly paid for by a grant from our local councillors so on behalf of the committee I'd like to express my thanks to them.

Refreshments were served in the marquee and there was also a tombola stall which seemed very popular with the children! We were honoured to have Chester's Lord Mayor, Razia Daniels open the event for us.

In October we did plan to have a trip to the Hack Green Nuclear Bunker but this was cancelled due to lack of support, looks like gardens are more popular!

Throughout the year we've held a few coffee mornings at the golf club and these are always popular more so if there is a guest speaker.

In December we held the usual Carols on the Green, opened by The Lord Mayor, but this year featured the Belgrave school children's choir and band, a local quintet of brass players plus the traditional mulled wine and mince pies. Again we hired a large marquee to keep us weatherproof and it provided plenty of light to read the words of the carols, so thanks again to our local councillors for funding this via a grant. John asked if members had enjoyed the new format and the response was positive.

The early part of 2018 was a bit quiet but we held a coffee morning in April and tried out Social Bridge at the golf club. We had 8 people at the first session but down to 5 at the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Probably bridge is more an autumn/winter pastime so we'll try it again later in the year. There will have to be a small charge as the golf club will charge us for use of the room.

**Walking Groups -**

Weekend led by John Jones-Pritchard.

The year started with a walk around Tarvin, made more enjoyable as one of the group grew up and married there, so was able to provide background information that would otherwise would have been unavailable. Since then walks have included Liverpool Pierhead and Thurstaton, with a Llangollen walk cancelled due to atrocious weather. Average attendance was 15, due to a high January turnout. There were also walks to Great Orme, Llandudno; Kelsall, Mold and Erbistock.

Mid-week led by Carol Macrae, included West Kirby, The Meadows, Willington, Aldford following the river, Arrowe Park, Loggerheads, Delamere Forest and Bodnant Gardens.

If anybody has a particular event in mind let us know and we'd always welcome more volunteers on the group to help plan future events. Forthcoming events: Plas Cadnant hidden gardens on Anglesey on Thursday 24th May 2018 and a Residents' Garden Trail on Saturday 30th June.

We will be having a Residents' Dinner this year on 31<sup>st</sup> August here at the golf club, this time with a Greek theme so practice your plate throwing and Zorba the Greek impressions! Tickets available soon.

**(c) Highways & Open Spaces Working Group**

Bob Gill reported on his Top 5 hit list:

**Environmental Walk** – This took place last year with members of the WG and CWaC, actions were logged by both parties but to date there is no record of progress. Cllr Razia Daniels is now involved and has expressed her disappointment at lack of progress but there have been some small wins with clearing hedges & verges and some properties who's hedges overflow onto the pathway, have been identified.

**Litter** - 2018 started off very windy with lots of problems on bin collection days when rubbish spilled out from blown over bins. Alastair Jack has organised several litter picking days in the Dingle area in conjunction with the local ranger who provided gloves, bags and tools and have been very effective. Colin & Chris Kemp pick up litter from their local area so Bob suggested if we all look after our own area there would be no problem with litter. Perhaps a topic for the newsletter?

**Street Lighting** – Bob was sad to see the sodium street lights being replaced with new LED lights which gave a very harsh, bright white light instead of the warmer light from the old lights. However they are more efficient and cheaper to run.

**Bins and dog waste** – Curzon Park needs some more strategically placed bins for dog waste. People leave dog waste bags in hedges as there is no bin handy. Yvonne advised that a survey of suitable places should be carried out, ensuring the location is accessible for the council collectors, then inform CWaC. Cllr Jane Mercer said if the problem of dog poo deposits is very bad then they can be sprayed pink to highlight the problem!

**Verges** – Damage to grass verges is mostly the fault of contractors working on house improvements but currently the worst offenders are contractors installing new gas mains along Carrick Road. One member mentioned a lot of cars parked on the verges along Curzon Park North during the November firework display on the Roodee. This was when the verges were very soft and susceptible to damage. Bob responded that the new PCSO should be made aware of such incidences.

**(d) Racecourse Working Group**

Maurice Terry is chair of this new group which was set up following last year's AGM when some members, mostly living in CPN, expressed a view that CPRA did not adequately represent their concerns over events held on the Roodee, especially non-racing events. Once the group had formed one of their members from Constituency 1 (the CPN area) joined the management committee.

The group made clear that they entirely accept the function of the Roodee as a race course but their main issues are:

- Unacceptable amplified noise from non-racing events such as polo, private corporate parties and arena type concerts.
- Lack of adequate notification from Chester Race Company of non-race events and their poor response to complaints on the day.
- Apparent 'creeping' development on the Roodee and disregard of planning regulation rules for such structures.

CRC have established a Liaison Committee that meets regularly with local councillors, residents' organisations and members of CWaC; only one person from each residents' organisation is allowed to attend meetings and from CPRA it is the chairman. The WG requested that the chair of the CPRA Racecourse WG should also attend the liaison meetings but this was dismissed by CRC. The WG ensure the CPRA chairman is fully informed on key issues and raises them on their behalf.

As a result of the liaison meetings CRC is now better at monitoring sound levels in residential areas and providing emergency contact numbers for complaints. They also notify the residents' associations of any planning applications and have recently launched a Master Plan for developments at the racecourse over the next 10-20 years. Details were in a press release and a 2 day presentation for the public, but also a presentation to the Liaison Committee which Maurice attended. The development involves land by New Crane St. and the railway viaduct, which CRC own. Plans for a new entrance to the County Stand involving demolition of the Watergate Inn pub were completed in time for the May race meetings; the other developments include:

- An extension to the Holiday Inn hotel.
- New conference centre.
- Rebuilding the Levenshulme stand.
- New car parking area beyond the railway viaduct.

CRC announced that these developments will reduce the need for temporary structures along the Nunn's Road side of the Roodee.

General consensus of the WG was that it supported the plans but there has to be individual planning consent for each stage. Some concerns were: noise impact, impact on the skyline and a significant increase in attendance at race days resulting in further parking problems south of the river. Jane Mercer provided information that she is the chair of the Chester District Advisory Panel which was formed to liaise with community organisations in unparished areas, and the next meeting open to the public is on 13<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm but venue to be decided. She suggested that CPRA members are advised of venue by email and social media.

Several members of the audience supported the idea that the chair of the Racecourse WG should attend CRC Liaison meetings but Steve Telford said this was a matter for the new management committee and then asked Cllr Neil Sullivan for his opinion of CRC's performance from a councillor's perspective. Neil thanked Maurice for his excellent feedback and confirmed that CRC has improved its communication with local residents by providing contact numbers in case of complaint and sound level monitoring systems are in place at a residence in Curzon Park and other locations. Neil announced he is due to meet CRC and leader of the council on 22<sup>nd</sup> May to discuss adherence of the Terms of Agreement between CRC and CWaC. He will inform the chair of CPRA of the outcome. Neil will take great interest in planning applications

concerning the Master Plan but hopes it will be a good thing if it does away with the tented village. One member asked if the 2005/2006 Management Agreement between CRC and CWaC, which specifically prohibits activities on the public open space areas of the Roodee, is still active? Neil responded this will be discussed at the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

**(e) Newsletter**

Amanda White has been editor of the newsletter for over 6 years and feels it is now time to step down. The next issue will be in June and so if anybody has items to be included they should send them to her ASAP. Chairman asked if anybody would like to take over as editor but no response at the meeting. He thanked Amanda for having done a great job in producing the newsletter which is very informative and has a professional, eye-catching appearance.

**(f) Membership**

Anton Hunt reported that current membership is 304, last year it was 285 and this is out of a total of 600 households in Curzon Park. Anton is keeper of the members' register which holds the name, address, phone number and email address of each member. He enters this data on the register for new members but when he notices a house in the area has been sold, he deletes the details for that address. The information held on the register is not given to anybody else and in response to a question from the audience about the recent publicity concerning changes to data protection laws (the GDPR) he confirmed that an email was recently sent to all members which stated that they gave permission for their data to be kept by CPRA upon joining the association and were assured the data is not passed on to third parties. Anton said that some members who have a BT internet email address may find it in their 'spam' box!

**(g) Website & Social Media**

Steve Telford reported on social media activity on behalf of Phil Mole who had sent apologies as he was celebrating a special birthday! There has been continuing engagement with Twitter and Facebook over the past year with the latter achieving 210 'Likes'. Andrew Kendall has taken over running the CPRA website and will also look after social media as Phil steps down at this AGM.

#### **4. Presentation of the Accounts for the 12 months ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

Treasurer Viv Devlin was unable to attend the meeting so Steve Telford summarised the accounts:

- Income was up from £4,547 to £5,194.
- Expenditure was £5,128 compared to £5,382 last year.
- The current surplus is £65.47 with a cash book balance of £1,002.40.

As in previous years the largest item of expenditure is the newsletter followed by Public Liability Insurance premium. Steve recorded his thanks to Viv for her great efforts as treasurer and who has now stood down at this AGM.

Full details of the accounts are shown on the next page. There were some questions from members:

- Q: Jacky Arrowsmith queried the loss of £300 shown against the trip to Bodysgallen.
- A: Maurice Terry replied this was discussed at the last management committee meeting and although this particular trip did make a loss, it was balanced out by surplus funds from other activities. Overall, Social Events are cost neutral.

# Presentation of Accounts of the Curzon Park Residents' Association

## for the year ending 31st March 2018

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2017/18	2016/17
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership	£615.00	£15.00
Donations	£317.50	£384.00
Social Events	£3,205.59	£3,803.10
CWAC Grant	£1,056.00	£345.00£
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£5,194.09</b>	<b>£4,547.10</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Newsletters	£960.54	£1,329.00
Insurance	£239.64	£234.68
Website	£98.48	-
Bulb planting & sundry	£50.00	-
Events/trips	£3,633.52	£3,504.50
AGM (wine & Gratuity)	-	£44.87
Donations	-	£20.00
Equipment Purchased	£146.44	£249.00
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£5,128.62</b>	<b>£5,382.05</b>
<b>SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£65.47</b>	<b>-£834.95</b>
<b>Bank Reconciliation</b>		
Bank balance 31st March	£1,070.39£	£936.93
Less cheques not yet cleared	£67.99	-
Plus credits not yet banked	-	-
Cash book balance	£1,002.40	£936.93
<b>Cheques not yet cleared at bank</b>		
191 - John Bowyer - £67.99		

#### End of year bank balance

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
2018	£1,070.39	£133.46

#### Summary of Purchases

£31.20	First aid kit	
£47.25	Table cloths	
£67.99	Marquee pole bag	
<b>£146.44</b>	<b>Total</b>	

#### Summary of social events

Income	Expenditure	Suplus	
£20.00	-	£20.00	Coffee Mornings
£110.00	-	£110.00	Plant Sale
£442.13	£320.00	£122.13	Trentham Gardens
£243.35	-	£243.35	Garden Trail
£991.56	£815.12	£176.44	Family Fun Day
£1,600.00	£1,900.00	-£300.00	Bodyscallen Xmas Lunch
£854.55	£598.40	£256.15	Carols on the Green
<b>£4,261.59</b>		<b>£3,633.52</b>	
<b>£628.07</b>			<b>Total profit from social events</b>

#### Summary of grants received

£480.00	CWAC - Family fun day (marquee hire)	
£576.00	CWAC - Carols on the green (marquee hire)	
<b>£1,056.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	

Due to an oversight, there wasn't a vote to accept the accounts so this should be done at the next AGM, or at another meeting of all members whichever is soonest.

## 5. Proposed changes to the Constitution.

Anton Hunt outlined the following proposed changes:

- **Membership section** – The proposal was to extend the membership area so some people who lived just outside the Curzon Park area would be able to join CPRA and receive notifications of events. People who had moved away from the area but wanted to stay in contact via email; some people moved away but didn't inform CPRA so their details were still on the register. Two members made the point that a resident's association is for a defined area and when CPRA was first set up the council only gave support provided it did not impinge on other Residents' Associations viz. Hough Green.
- **Funding** – The membership fee is intended to be a regular voluntary donation in order to provide guaranteed income to CPRA to cover the fixed costs of the newsletter and insurance.
- **Term of office for management committee members.** – This proposal provides the option for an existing committee member to remain in post after their 3 year term of office if no volunteers come forward at an AGM. It is envisaged that this member would stand down again at the following AGM. The intention is to avoid a 'kamikaze' situation whereby there are insufficient volunteers at an AGM to replace the outgoing committee members.

Jim Shapton reported that in the 10+ years of CPRA's existence such a situation has never occurred and the 3 year rule should remain. The general opinion of some other members was that there were no detailed resolutions provided for members to vote on and therefore correct procedures to change the constitution have not been followed. The decision of the members was the constitution did need updating to reflect its current role but to defer any changes until the next AGM. Members were invited to contact the management committee with their thoughts about changes and those with strong feelings should form a Constitution change group.

## 6. Election of Management Committee

Three members agreed to remain in post, there were 6 vacant posts and the people named were elected as shown below;

Committee Position	Name	Const rep	Proposer	Second
Chairman	Jim Shapton	1	John Bowyer	Andrew Kendall
Secretary	Simon Parrington	1	Jacky Arrowsmith	John Jones-Pritchard
Treasurer	Tom Arrowsmith	1	Maurice Terry	Jennifer Gill
Ordinary Member	Roksana Fennell	1	Existing member	
Ordinary Member	Anton Hunt	2	Existing member	
Ordinary Member	Maurice Terry	2	Existing member	
Ordinary Member	Jennifer Gill	1	Simon Parrington	Jane Mercer
Ordinary Member	Victoria Letton	1	Anton Hunt	Andrew Kendall
Under 39 yrs member	Jayne Rowe	3	Steve Telford	Yvonne Foley

New chairman Jim Shapton expressed his gratitude to the outgoing members of the committee and especially to Steve Telford as chairman.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.