

## **CURZON PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Location:** Chester Golf Club

**Date & Time:** 10th July 2025 - 1900

1. **Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies from: Richard de Beger, David Hunter, Simon Parrington, Marc Sorrentino.
3. **Minutes of AGM 31st July 2024.** The minutes of the 2024 have been published on the website and were shared with those attending. There were no matters arising from the minutes. By a majority vote the minutes were accepted as a correct record.
4. **Reports on Association's Activities.**
  - a. **Chairman.** Andrew Kendall gave his report.
    - This AGM is particularly important. A number of the management committee members will be stand down as their tenures have expired. The aim is to have a new set of management committee members voted in by the end of the evening.
    - With regard to events the aim is to have an event on the Green later in the summer, led by the new committee.
    - At the Chester Heritage festival the Dingle Information Boards were displayed.
    - Work is ongoing with the local history group. A new book is due to be published focussing on Curzon Park. The authors would like to hold a coffee morning to meet residents and exchange information.
    - Important to keep the newsletter and Facebook group going to keep up information flows.
    - Over the last 6 weeks a number of people have come forward to keep the association going. It is important to have a good mix of ages.
    - There is a need to get more social activities going, which meet the varied needs of the community.
    - The Frenchs and Spanish themed meals were a success. The Scottish one, not so.
    - There is a lot going on around Chester. More that CPRA can help shape the discussions the better.

b. **Highways and Open Spaces Report.** Allan Hogan gave his report.

- The Dingle Project boards were displayed at the Heritage Festival. The final locations of the boards is being finalised with CWAC Greenspace Officer. Probable locations are: the area of the viewing platform at Overleigh roundabout, the bottom of the steps from Dingle Bank and the curve of the path at river level under Grosvenor bridge. The boards are now are being manufactured.
- We will plan some self help to remove the growth at bottom of trees.
- Work is ongoing to follow up lights that are left on. CWAC is going to repair the damaged sign on Carrick. There are trees on Carrick that need replacing, This is being followed up with CWAC.
- The wild flowers are blooming on the Green. Most certainly a success.
- CWAC has requested information about streets for priority works.
- Newton have signs to state that cars should not be parked on the verges. Razia is requesting these signs for Curzon Park.
- In the autumn there will be daffodil planting. We have spent about £2,000 on bulbs over the last four years. The planting has been a great success making Curzon Park a beautiful place in spring. Funding has come through the members budget thanks to our councillors.
- The work ongoing to transition all of Curzon Park to 20mph has not been able to move forward. AK and DD highlighted the particular concern on Curzon Park South, which is used as a rat run to avoid Hough Green. It was acknowledged that once CWAC was amenable we would been to get agreement from residents. *Post meeting note: the additional time taken along Curzon Park North, from Overleigh roundabout to the top of Earlsway, driving at 20mph rather than 30mph, is about 20 seconds.*
- Work has been undertaken to seal the road, but not to fix the holes on Earlsway.
- It was questioned why work was undertaken on Earlsway when Mount Pleasant is in a considerably worse condition. Cllr Matt to enquire about the quality of works in Earlsway and feedback to CPRA. *Post meeting note: Comments from Cllr Matt are at the end of the minutes.*
- There are issues with lights staying on during the day. There has been an issue of reports of light defects being lost from the records when responsibility for the repair of the lights was passed from one contractor to another. The new committee will be following up on this issue.

c. **Membership Report.**

- Very straightforward. No fee for membership. Not chasing for money. About 50% of the residents are on the database. Less than a dozen families turn over each year. Use Right Move to see who is moving in.
- We do have a facebook page anyone can access.
- Newsletters go to every house. At the moment David P prints them out and then a team delivers them. It is a straightforward process.

5. **Accounts.** Bank balance £7,660, most of this is grant money that have yet to be spent. Rest is running costs. Finances in good health. The financial report is attached to these minutes. By a majority the financial statement was accepted by the AGM.

6. **Election of New Members.**

- Formally the management committee must comprise a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and no fewer than two or more than six ordinary members. These ordinary members historically have filled roles such as Social, Highways & Open Spaces and Membership. There are also non management committee roles filled by residents such as running the Facebook page and delivering the newsletter.
- At the last meeting the tenures of the Chairman, Secretary and Highways & Open Spaces member were extended, by exception, to a 4th year. Furthermore the Dave Plunkett who covers the membership portfolio has been in place since February 2019 and wished to relinquish his role, but no-one came forward so he kindly continued. This year all four members will be stepping down. Jeremy Bishop, who is Treasurer, is due to continue to 2026. With regard to managing the Facebook page, Carolyn Bown wishes to step back from this role.
- **Chairman.** Richard de Beger was unable to attend the AGM and therefore applied to the Chairman in writing for the role of Chairman. He was voted in by a majority.
- **Secretary.** David Hunter a retired architect who lives on Curzon Park South was unable to attend the meeting and therefore applied to the Chairman in writing for the role of Secretary. David is very keen to continue CPRA and was voted in by a majority.
- **Highways and Open Spaces.** Richard Jones a chartered mechanical engineer with civil engineering experience put his name forward for the role of Highways and Open Spaces. He observed that lots of things that need repairing. Razia confirmed that CWAC is very keen for residents to do self help. JB to check insurance to confirm what self help activity is covered by our insurance policy. Richard was voted in by a majority to the role of Highways and Open Spaces
- **Membership.** Graham Whale offered to take on the Membership role. He was voted in by a majority.

- **Social.** Sarah Melia kindly offered to support with social activities. She did not wish to be formally voted onto the management committee, but offered to attend in a supporting role for the moment.
- **Under 39.** No under 39s put themselves forward for nomination to this role and it remains vacant.
- **Facebook.** Carolyn Bown has run Facebook on behalf of CPRA for last 6-7 years. Sarah kindly offered to take on running the Facebook page. She would like to think about how its use should evolve.
- **Other Communications.** CPRA Website is a simple Wordpress site, we simply keep it updated. The newsletter is at the heart of our communications. Historically the committee has provided AK the content for the newsletter. AK has then formatted it and published it

## 7. **AOB.**

- Simon Parrington attends the liaison meetings with the Racecourse twice a year. DD read out his report to the AGM:
  - Notice has been received from CWAC that the planning application that was lodged a couple of years ago has now been marked 'withdrawn'.
  - A fresh application has been put forward for a new development that will replace the area covered by the tented village. A single storey building will cover an extended area together with other improvements. If this proceeds, it is likely to be much less imposing than the original plan although still a major development that will allow the Racecourse to use the new building throughout the year.
  - After racing on 11th and 12th July and the 31st August there will be a substantial amount of noise, from a live band. The events are scheduled to finish by 8 pm.
  - The noise generated by Sunday morning charity runs and/or marathons has been less this year than previously. I would like to think that this has been due, to representations made at the liaison meetings.

Simon would be happy to continue as the liaison between the Residents Association and the Racecourse for the next year, if the new committee wishes.

- RJ asked who checks the safety of the old trees? There are three tree officers. Cllr Matt confirmed that officers have a plan for reviewing trees. AH to hand over details of the tree officers to RJ.
- The floor gave thanks to the committee, in particular those who are standing down, for their work over their tenures.

8. **Chairman's Closing Remarks.** The Chairman thank the floor for their kind comments. CPRA is a member of CRAG (Chester Residents Associations Group). quarterly meetings are held with the CWAC chief executive. There is a CRAG conference 14th October at the Race Course. This year CRAG are trying to encourage young people to take part and to give presentations. AK thanked our councillors for the donations to CPRA which have bought items from bulbs to a small marquee, but in particular for their support and time. AK also thanked Carolyn, for running Facebook for many years. Thanks for Martin for leading plant swap on Curzon Park South. Thanks also to the residents for attending the AGM, but also for taking part in other activities. AK rounded off by how pleasing and gratifying it is to see people coming forward to continue CPRA into the future.

Meeting ended at 2045

Email from Cllr Matt to CPRA post meeting:

Hello

I have been in touch with highways and on they will send COLAs the councils highways contractor to investigate if there has been issues with the surface works on Earlsway.

On the question around reasoning for Earlsway over other roads I received the below:

The sites chosen are determined by our asset management policy set out our approach to identifying schemes for treatment each year which has been developed in line with the Department for Transport and the incentive funding element that requires us to move more towards preventative treatments, than reactive treatments (moving away from worst first to data lead decisions). The treatment used on Earlsway is a preventative one.

The selection of schemes and treatments is based on the right time to treat roads in each state in its lifecycle and doesn't necessarily follow that a road that has deteriorated where a preventative treatment is no longer suitable that it will be at the top of the list for a reactive treatment. It is important that we remain neutral and impartial in these decisions and treat all roads in the borough in a fair and transparent way.

We have two different programmes of work:-

1. Preventative treatment – forms a number of different treatment types designed to extend the life of the existing layers, most commonly surface dressing (referred to as tar and chip). This is designed to stop the roads deteriorating into a state where reactive maintenance will be required and is less expensive to carryout meaning more of the network can be treated with the existing budgets.

2. Reactive works - Resurfacing is the removal and replacement of the road surface or sub-surface layers once they are past economical service.

Hope this covers everything I was asked about for the minutes, I have also been in touch with Public rights of way about the footpath at the back of the golf course.