

## **CURZON PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION** **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Location:** Chester Golf Club

**Date & Time:** 31st July 2024 - 1900

1. **Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies from: Dave Plunkett, John Bowyer, Razia Daniels, Max Walker Williams.
3. **Minutes of AGM 20th July 2023.** The minutes of the 2023 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.**
    - The last 12 months have been relatively quiet.
    - The torrential rain forced the cancellation of the Carols on the Green last December. We do however plan to run Carols on the Green this Christmas.
    - Following on from the very successful Italian meal in 2022, in November 2023 we held a French themed meal, including quiz and fund raising raffle at the Golf Club. Again this was a great success. We plan to hold another themed meal in January or February next year.
    - Progress on the Dingle project is moving along nicely, more about this later.
    - Two coffee mornings were held recently, including one where Beth George, Crime Prevention officer from CWAC, gave a most informative talk. Information from the talk has been posted on the CPRA website.
    - The changes to Westminster Park area most welcome.
    - We continue to be member of the Chester Residents' Associations Group (CRAG), a group of all the residents' associations in Chester. The group is a very good mechanism for liaison with the council and police. An excellent conference was held last year. There will be another conference on 22nd October 2024. If you would like to know more about plans for the river, Dee House, the Castle, the walls and other key sites, this will be an opportunity to find out.
    - The walking groups continue to be very successful.
    - Lastly there is an existential crisis. We need new people to get involved in committee activities. Chair, secretary, highways and membership all

coming to end of term. There is a risk of having to close the association. Will lose ability to bid for funds. Such activities as bulb planting, the Dingle project and more may not be able continue.

b. **Highways and Open Spaces Report.**

- The meeting was briefed on the Dingle environmental report which was shared with the meeting.
- The proposed information boards to be installed in the Dingle were shared with the meeting. The design of one of the boards is mature with only minor adjustments to be made. The other two are in draft form. Copies of the current designs were shared with the meeting for attendees to take away should they wish. Comments were welcomed.
- There is a Scottish Power facility in the Dingle. They were informed about the poor condition of the facility, which led to them cleaning it. It is proposed to put murals on the doors. Cheshire college artists have been engaged to undertake to art work. A copy of the proposed art work was shared with the meeting. Unfortunately the Green Space Officer has rejected the initial proposal. Discussion is underway to identify a way forward.
- There was then a broad ranging discussion about the Dingle. The management committee were thanked for their work to improve the Dingle. There was much discussion about what appears to be fly tipping on private land close to Grosvenor Bridge. There was concern that the apparent fly tipping could mar the work in the Dingle, furthermore, the items may be deleterious and thus there could be a health and safety risk. Cllr Matt Carter confirmed that as the apparent fly tipping is on private land, it is the land owners responsibility to take action and that CWAC had no enforcement powers. *Action: Cllr Matt Carter offered to follow up regarding any H&S concerns. The Chairman offered to write to the land owner regarding the unsightly nature of the apparent fly tipping.*
- There was then a discussion about planning permissions and the position of CPRA. The Chairman confirmed that as an association, in principle we do not make any comment upon planning permissions. The only exception to this is when there is concern about the impact upon areas of shared use. All residents may search for planning requests on the CWAC portal. Alerts can also be set up for applications in a specific area.
- Thanks were given to our councillors for funding over 500 daffodil bulbs and over 200 snowdrops, which have been planted at the end of last year and beginning of this year.
- Concern was expressed about the condition of the Mount Pleasant, in particular the lack of cutting back of vegetation. Also a bin has been damaged by grass cutter and is consistently not emptied. *Action: Cllr Matt Carter and Allan Hogan offered to walk the area with any concerned residents.*

- At the last AGM it was requested that a sign be installed to direct people to the Dingle footpath. The sign is now installed on Dingle Bank.
- Conversations are on going to replace damaged trees in Curzon Park. CWAC has been slow in responding.
- There is a plan to put some wild flowers onto green. A map was shared to show the planning location. CWAC to plant some 45 areas for wild flowers. Awaiting date for installation.
- Comment was made that areas on Overleigh roundabout area overgrown. Residents were encourage to the CWAC Report It system to get issues sorted. It was acknowledged by Clr Matt Carter that this system can be hit and miss. Furthermore if residents are not getting a good response regarding issues raised via Report It, Clr Carter said that they should not hesitate to get in touch with him.
- There is a plan to walk with PCSO to identify areas in Dingle where drug activity is taking place. A resident stated that concerns have been raised about anti social behaviour in Mt Pleasant, which has been reported to the Police, but they have yet to respond. The Chairman asked that if residents are not receiving responses to issues raised with the Police and CWAC, that they inform him. He will then follow up with CWAC and at a more senior level in the police.

c. **Membership Report.**

- Dave Plunkett took over the role in February 2019, which involves the database and the newsletter. Neither are very demanding roles, and do not take up much time at all. We can help and support the new volunteers!

**Memberships.**

- There is no fee for CPRA membership unlike some other associations.
- The membership list is a simple “GMAIL Contacts” database and does not require detailed IT skills. We have about 370 addresses on the database. About 20 residents do not have an email address, so will not receive CPRA emails.
- For GDPR reasons we need to stay accurate, and clean up the email addresses and names of people who have moved away, or died. Dave follows up “failed” email address with a note asking for a new email.
- Every six months Dave runs a quick check in Rightmove for “Sold Houses” and delivers a Welcome Letter, but this will not show those renting property.
- Please encourage anyone you talk to or meet to join CPRA via the website page.

## Newsletters

- CPRA newsletters are produced three or four times a year for every house in Curzon Park, whether on our CPRA membership database or not.
- CPRA Management Committee agree the deadlines and topics. Andrew Kendall prepares a draft, circulates it, and finalises the print copy.
- Dave then prints 650 copies on the CPRA printer and organises these into 15 road groups.
- Diane Terry then takes the bundles to the team of deliverers. The much valued team of 15 delivers then do their local street delivery. Diane has done the distribution for the last 12 months, but cannot continue, so we need a replacement for Diane.
- Our Facebook page is of course the other source of information for residents.

### d. **Race Course Working Group.**

- Simon Parrington introduced himself and gave his report for the last year. 2023/24 a well ordered year. 15 days of racing and some running events. The only concern is noise. The Chief Executive responds quickly to all concerns. Race for Life music started at 0730 ahead of race start at 0900. The CE responded immediately and changes will be put in place for next year. The new develop plans are much more limited than those published pre pandemic. The tented village due to come down next year. Two liaison meetings have taken place over the last year. It is clear that the race course want it operations to cause no conflict with residents.
- The out of hours duty number for the race course, which residents may call about any concerns regarding the race course is: 07530 325 177.
- A question raised about the race course closing the path down the side of the viaduct when races are underway. *Post meeting note: Cllr Mattt Carter confirmed that the route around the Chester racecourse is not a public right of way, it is a permissive path which gives permission to the public to access the path. The permission can be withdrawn at any time and access can be refused, an example of this will be when there is a race meeting. A map at the end of this document which shows all the Public Rights of Way Footpaths in purple.*

5. **Accounts.** Jeremy Bishop presented the accounts for the year. Jeremy thanked David Watson for handing over the accounts in such a good state. Underlying cash balance has grown from £1,378 in 2022/23 to £1,574 in 2023/24 helped by a double of donations to CPRA. A motion was passed to accept the minutes. Proposer: Simon Parrington, Seconder: Yvonne Foley. The full report is attached.

## 6. **Election of New Members.**

- There was an extensive discussion around key roles on the CPRA committee as formally the Chairman, Secretary and Highways & Open Spaces roles had come to the end of their three year tenure. Furthermore the committee member looking after the Membership portfolio has been in place since February 2019 and wishes to relinquish his role.
- It was observed that the point of the three years limit in the constitution is to provide others the opportunity to get involved. It prevents one person continuing and dominating.
- There was a view that the CPRA may be undertaking a great deal of work that residents are not aware of. There was discussion regarding how the committee shares with residents not just work that has been completed, but also work underway. *Action: The Chairman is to convene a meeting with residents who offered to help look at how the newsletter could be used more effectively to share information.*
- There was also discussion about how events could be organised in the early evening, rather than during the day, which would allow those who work to attend.
- There were no new volunteers to step into the roles that, in accordance with the constitution, should be changed this year. Andrew Kendall, Dickie Danby and Allan Hogan all offered to continue in their respective roles for one more year.
- It was proposed by Simon Parrington and seconded by Yvonne Foley that the committee for 2024/25 be as follows.
  - Chairman - Andrew Kendall - until 2025
  - Secretary - Dickie Danby - until 2025
  - Treasurer - Jeremy Bishop - until 2026
  - Membership - Dave Plunkett - wishes to relinquish role. Discussion ongoing about how to manage this role.
  - Highways and Open Spaces - Allan Hogan - until 2025
  - Social - Vacant
  - Under 39 - vacant

7. **AOB.** The only issue raised was regarding the desire to change the 30mph speed limit on Curzon Park North and South to 20mph. Cllr Matt Carter observed that CWAC was following Department of Transport guidance. Others in the meeting observed that other local authorities are interpreting the Department of Transport in a very different way to CWAC. The Chairman offered, that now he is in place for another year, to follow up again with the local authority.

8. **Chairman's Closing Remarks.** The Chairman thanked all for attending the AGM, for being open and raising so many useful points. He also thanked our local councillors for their ongoing support. He also thanked all who have donated to CPRA with both funds and time. Thanks to Diane Terry for distributing newsletter over the last year. We still would like someone to step into the role. Thanks also to Caroline for maintaining the newsletter. Finally the Chairman thanked Dave Plunkett for his many years of work as membership secretary and much more.

Meeting ended at 2105.

## Public Rights of Way in Central Chester.

