

MINUTES of the 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the BLACKET ASSOCIATION
held on Monday 18 November in the Salisbury Arms.

Hazel Fletcher, as Chair, welcomed everyone again to an AGM in the Salisbury Arms for which a good audience of approximately 70 people had turned out. Copies of the Annual Report were circulated.

- 1. MINUTES** - The 2012 AGM minutes as published and circulated were agreed as an accurate record. David Stephenson proposed & Ian Chisholm seconded.
- 2. ELECTION of COMMITTEE and OFFICE BEARER** - Hazel Fletcher thanked the Committee Members who were stepping down after many years service namely Ian Lewis as Treasurer and Alison Mowat as Neighbourhood Watch convener. Becky Colegrave was elected as the new Treasurer, being nominated by Alex Stobart & seconded by Ian Chisholm. Ian Chisholm has already taken over the role as the Neighbourhood Watch convener.

The following new Committee Members were also elected : Richard Scothorne, 7 Alfred Place - nominated by Bob Cupples & seconded by Hazel Fletcher; and Johnny Kruuk, 6A Mayfield Terrace - nominated by Bertram Zank & seconded by Jennifer Johnston-Watt. In addition, Hazel Fletcher, Bob Cupples and Richard Seligman were all re-elected - nominated by Alex Stobart & seconded by Ian Chisholm.

- 3. CHAIR's REPORT** - In addition to her written report in the Annual Report, the Chair made the following observations. Bob Cupples was congratulated for his Secretary support work throughout the year, and for seeing through the Thrums work to wall and fence, and managing correspondence with Planning. The blue containers had finally been removed from the Thrums car park. Despite this being pursued by Planning Enforcement for more than 18 months, this seems ultimately to have been carried out by the proprietor of the hotel. The Open Gardens had been a very good evening but she asked garden owners please to step forward for 2014. In dialogue afterwards, attendees commented on the amount of speeding (causing at least one injured squirrel) not helped by obscured 20 mph sign and damage was reported to trees in the garden at the rear of 64 Dalkeith Road.
- 4. TREASURER's REPORT** - Speaking to his final set of accounts as Treasurer, Ian Lewis pointed out that there had been a small loss for the year. Despite the pleasing increase in subscriptions during the year, overall income was down as we had no more Elizabeth Blackadder cards to sell and the 2012 accounts included the above average income from the Jubilee Party. Since the largest item of expenditure was the cost of the AGM, he invited residents not already paying an annual subscription, to do so by standing order - particularly if they were enjoying the hospitality of the evening! The Accounts were agreed - proposed by Ray Footman & seconded by Ian Chisholm.
- 5. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT** - Referring to the comments in the Annual Report, Ian Chisholm highlighted concerns from the police about on-line fraud and scams. No other issues arose.
- 6. WORKING PARTY REPORT** - Hugh Mackay updated the meeting on their work detailed in the Annual Report, noting that Edinburgh Council Parks Department is supporting the procurement of new paling fencing.
- 7. OTHER BUSINESS** - The advertised talk by Owen Dudley Edwards talk on the Conan Doyles will take place on Feb 6th 2014 at a venue yet to be agreed. The Committee sought permission to fill the post of Vice Chair from within the Committee outwith a general meeting – this was approved.

The owners of 7 Dryden Place had sought permission for installation of a dormer window and three Velux windows which had been approved to some general dismay - Bertram Zank had written to Council Chief Executive, and as yet received no reply.

This and the other major planning issue (23 Minto Street) had raised much concern giving rise to the view that the planners in the Council do not understand Conservation Area principles and practice. As it was felt that the Planning department seemed to be ignoring many of the criteria for a Conservation Area, Councillor Cameron Rose offered to get involved, suggesting taking this and other planning matters off line.

Not raised at the meeting was an issue which has troubled some residents in the past, namely from time to time excessive noise emanating from the Minto Hotel. The Committee are keeping a watching brief on this.

- 8. SOCIAL EVENT** - The meeting having ended its formal stage, all participants enjoyed a convivial evening with refreshments provided by the Association.

Income & Expenditure for year to 31st August 2013

2012	INCOME	2013
£465.00	Subscriptions	£510.00
£162.00	Sale of cards	£0.00
£627.00		£510.00
	EXPENDITURE	
£0.00	Cockburn Association	£80.00
£269.40	AGM Costs	£385.00
£128.20	Website maintenance	£148.20
£48.20	Printing newsletters	£51.25
£0.00	Purchase of snow shovels	£0.00
£445.80		£664.45
	Blacket Landscaping Project	
	INCOME	
£268.76	Fundraising & donations	£103.53
£443.93	Carried forward from previous year	£82.28
£712.69		£185.81
	EXPENDITURE	
£630.41	Fertiliser, shrubs & bulbs	£120.41
£82.28	Carried forward to next year	£65.40
£712.69		£185.81
	Balance of current account at 31st August 2012	£1,723.94
	Income for year to 31st August 2013	£613.53
	Subtotal	£2,337.47
	Expenditure to 31st August 2013	£784.86
	Balance of current account at 31st August 2013	£1,552.61

Planning Applications - November 2012 to October 2013

2012 Nov : 29 Mayfield Terrace – External walkway and stairway. Objection/Refused

2012 Dec : 96 Dalkeith Road – Single storey extension to replace conservatory No objection/Granted

2013 Jan : Commonwealth Pool area – Street Market for trial period. No objection/Granted

Note : An objection should have been submitted. In the end, the traders involved found that the site did not work.

2013 Mar : 23 Minto Street – Erection of new house at end of garden. Objection/Granted
***See more detailed comments below

2013 Mar : 7a, Dryden Place – Change colour of conservatory. No objection/Granted

2013 Apr : 7, Minto Street – Convert house to B&B. No objection/Granted

Note : Hereafter, notices of work on trees were shown in the Weekly Planning lists. In theory this gives the public an opportunity to make representations about these, but often the Planning Department has taken a decision before the public has seen the notice.

2013 Jun : 6, Salisbury Road – Demolition of existing garage and erection of double garage No objection/Granted

2013 Jul : 1a, Mayfield Terrace – Demolish single garage and replace with a double garage. No objection/Granted

2013 Jul : 28/29 Minto Street – Convert guesthouse to two town houses No objection/Granted

2013 Jul : 8, Alfred Place – treehouse/work pod (Original application in June 2012!) Objection/Refused

2013 Jul : 7, Dryden Place – Construction of dormer and roof lights. Objection/Granted

2013 Aug to Oct : Only tree notifications