



MINUTES of the 46th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the BLACKET ASSOCIATION held on Monday 23 November 2015 in the Parkside Bowling Club. Hazel Fletcher, as Chair, welcomed everyone to an AGM in the Parkside Bowling Club. Copies of the Annual Report had previously been circulated by email – in addition, printed copies were also available at the AGM.

- 1. MINUTES** - The 2014 AGM minutes as published and circulated were agreed as an accurate record. David Stevenson proposed & Simon White seconded.
- 2. ELECTION of COMMITTEE** - Hazel Fletcher thanked the Committee Members who were stepping down, namely Sheila McLeish and Richard Seligman. Ian Chisholm, and Becky Colegrave were re-elected, being nominated by David Jenkins & seconded by Joanna Chisholm. Two new committee members were elected: Pauline Platt as Communications Coordinator and Arlene Doherty as New Residents co-ordinator. They were proposed by Austin Flynn & seconded by Jenifer Davidson.
- 3. CHAIR'S REPORT** – The Chair asked the Committee to introduce themselves and their responsibilities for the 2015-2016 session, namely : Arlene Doherty (new residents); Johnny Kruuk (web & IT facilities); Fiona Courtney (Minutes); Becky Colegrave (Treasurer); Hugh Mackay (shrubbery & analyser of the weekly Planning reports); Pauline Platt (communications); Richard Scothorne (planning support); & Ian Chisholm (Neighbourhood watch & newsletter editor). The Chair noted that she would be delighted to hear from any residents who would like to join the Committee.

The Chair thanked Richard Seligman and Sheila McLeish for their contributions to the Committee. The Chair then gave her Report.

During the year, the Association held a Cheese & Wine event which was attended by over 60 residents. This was an enjoyable social event and an opportunity to make a presentation to Blacket's long serving postman on his retirement.

The Open Gardens evening in June was very well attended. The Chair thanked the residents of 34/36 Mayfield Terrace for providing their garden as a venue for the Open Gardens party.

- 4. PLANNING REPORT** – Hugh McKay gave a report on Planning related activities in the year. There have been several applications for conservatories, all of which have been granted. The Association does not generally object to applications providing that they do not adversely affect neighbours (ie are not above wall height) and have pitched roofs. Mr McKay also reminded residents that trees cannot be removed without application to the Council for permission. He noted the trend to replace railings which the Association encouraged, and explained that railing should be in cast iron, which reproduces the originals, rather than wrought iron or steel.
- 5. TREASURER'S REPORT** - Becky Colegrave gave her report and indicated that there had been a good increase in the funds of the Association in the year resulting from the Open Gardens evening and sale of greeting cards. Expenditure included exceptional repair costs for fencing and investment in card printing, leading to a decrease in funds of £300. She encouraged any non-members to join and set up a standing order.

6. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT** - Ian Chisholm noted that interaction with police had reduced as cuts meant less police are available to focus on neighbourhood crime prevention. The high incidence of burglary in Edinburgh was discussed. Residents are encouraged to report crimes and suspicious activity to Neighbourhood Watch.
7. **WORKING PARTY REPORT** –Hugh Mackay reported in work done in the year. He noted a large number of bulbs had been planted. The Chair thanked the Working Party for the attractive condition of the Shrubberies.
8. **COCKBURN ASSOCIATION** – Richard Scothorne updated on the Cockburn Association and its future strategy. He explained the Association will in future focus its efforts on major development sites (the “Edinburgh 12”) and Edinburgh-wide planning issues such as the future of the Green Belt. There will be reliance on local groups such as the Blacket Association to deal with local planning issues, unless assistance is specifically requested.
9. **LIVING HISTORY OF BLACKET** – Hugh Mckay has produced a history of Blacket in the C19th with help from Alisoun Morton, based on 1830-1902 records. This is now on the website. The Blacket Association operated in the C19th but ceased in 1902 until it was reformed as a conservation association (the first in Scotland) in 1969. Hugh Mckay is keen to cover the period 1902-1969 when there are few records of Blacket through oral history. He would welcome reminiscences of life in the area, events and personalities living in or affecting Blacket in the C20th, and asked residents to contact him if they can contribute.
10. **OTHER BUSINESS** John Preston queried the lack of superfast broadband in the streets. Noted that BT Openreach have said this will not reach us till 2020. The Committee agreed to look into this matter. Railings were discussed further; noted that there is advice on the website for residents considering replacing railings and those who had were happy to share their experiences. The possibility of a scheme for replacing railings over the area was brought up; it was noted that this had been explored some years ago and it was concluded that there was not enough interest to make this viable.
11. **PARKSIDE BOWLING CLUB** – The Chair introduced the Secretary and President of Parkside Bowling Club, who have hosted the AGM. They gave a brief history of the Club from its formation in 1902 as a leisure facility attached to the printing works on the site. The Club has a wide age range (6-94) with many members playing regularly; and a lively social scene with live acts every Saturday night. The Club welcomes new members and people are welcome at any time during the weekend, when they can be signed in by a member. The premises are also available for private hire any night except Saturdays.
12. **SOCIAL EVENT** - The meeting having ended its formal stage, all participants enjoyed a convivial evening with refreshments provided by the Association.