

THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING on 16 January 2012 at 24 Mayfield Terrace

Apologies : Karin Froebel Overton (KFO) & Jennifer Johnston-Watt (JJW).

Present : Chair - Ray Footman(RF); Bob Cupples(BC); Hazel Fletcher(HF); Ian Lewis(IL); Alex Stobart(AS); Alison Mowat(AM); Richard Seligman(RS); Patricia Alston(PA) & Hugh Mackay(HMac).

MINUTES : The minutes of the meeting of 7 November 2011 were approved.

TRANSITION TO NEW COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS : This was the first meeting under the new setup and the process will be kept under review. HF raised the issue of Vice-Chair. RF will sound out suitable candidates on the basis that the Vice-Chair will take over as Chair when RF steps down in November 2012.

Action : *RF re Vice-Chair candidates*

AGM : RF expressed the general view that the good attendance (for the second year) was very encouraging, including some new residents from "Upper" Alfred Place. The formal presentation was interesting and the informal police presentation also was much appreciated. AM expressed some concerns at the hard benches which not conducive to comfort and the lack of suitable space for the Neighbourhood Watch/Police leaflets. It was agreed that Earthy should be approached to provide more appropriate seating as condition for using for 2012 AGM. HF also suggested that the attendees be asked to sign in on arrival when handouts could be made available. RF made point that good speakers seem to attract the attendance – need to identify speakers for 2012 AGM. IL suggested someone from the National Library and PA will investigate possibilities at the Map Library.

Action : *HF re AGM facilities*

All re AGM speakers

PA re Map Library speaker

PLANNING :

ALFRED PLACE DEVELOPMENT : S1 seem to have been very successful in marketing and selling the properties. Construction work appears to be complete which was welcomed, not least for the absence of heavy lorry traffic but also for the much shorter timetable than initially proposed. Only major construction item, other than the removal of the Portacabins, which appears outstanding is the roadway.

We are not clear on several issues going forward, namely status of adoption of road; zoned parking before and after road adoption; timetable for restitution under dilapidations process. HMac expected that Council would take 12 months to adopt road. BC will attempt to get clarity on these through S1 and/or Council officials including getting a copy of the original Dilapidations Survey.

Action : *BC re zoned parking, road adoption & dilapidations process*

DAMAGED/ DEMOLISHED GATEPIERS : Before Christmas, BC tried to get S1 through Dan Teague and the two contractors (Stancliffe Stone & Jarvies Plant) involved in damaging the gatepiers, a plan of how and when the piers would be repaired. Jarvies insisted that this needed to be done through their insurance broker and S1 undertook to organise a stonemason quote, subject to the insurance broker's agreement. Despite asking for a response from S1 for the meeting, BC has not heard any more. BC to follow up with S1.

It is clear from the work done previously by Ian Carter (IC), that the Council have accepted (via the Parks & City Development departments & budgets) the ownership of the four gatepiers on "shrubby" areas but the Roads Manager is resisting taking on the other four gatepiers which are located on the public footway, presumably on the basis of not having the budget to do so. BC will liaise with IC to pick up this matter as even if the repairs are effected this time through an insurance claim, the problem could arise again in the future when there may not be such funding. BC will draft & circulate a letter to go to suitable recipients in the Council (Chief Exec; local councillor) and in Historic as RS has confirmed that the gatepiers are listed structures.

An extension of the dilapidations process above is that the Roads Department must therefore be involved in verifying that repairs are completed to a satisfactory standard, and they must approve and arrange for any road closure requested by the contractors to enable repairs to be undertaken.

Action : *BC re S1 co-ordination of repairs, liaison with IC re gatepiers & production of draft letter*

NEW PLANNING MATTERS :

26 Blacket Place : Application to widen gateway, raised with IC by Bernard Zank. Subsequently approved by Council's Planning Subcommittee.

60 Blacket Place : Application to reinstate railings. Following request by Planners for details on original railings, this was approved by Council's Planning Subcommittee.

46b Blacket Place : Application for additional rooflight approved by Council's Planning Subcommittee.

15 Mayfield Terrace : Application to demolish brickbuilt extension and replacement by smaller glass outhouse as part of general restoration of single occupancy house. Not seen as matter requiring Association intervention.

GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (GPCC) www.grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk : The next meeting on 18/1/2012 when there will be a speaker from Scottish Ambulance Service who will address the issues of increased occurrence of sirens following the move of RIE to Little France. RF will raise with the GPCC Treasurer the issue of the blanket Council insurance policy by which the Association seek to become covered.

Action : RF re Council insurance policy

OTHER CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS : Nothing to report.

WEBSITE : KFO will be asked to report on the technical implementation of an updateable section for more general recording of local matters of interest e.g. birdwatching.

Action : KFO re progress of website update facility.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH : AM again reported very little crime since the previous meeting other than the overpicking of holly in Blacket Avenue & the presence of some boys in gardens possibly looking to pick up parcels left on doorsteps. Following the marked success of the Police presence at the AGM, AM was pleased to say that the name Neighbourhood Watch was being retained while the Police have adopted the term Safer Neighbourhood Team – our local team members are PC Lynsey Collins and PC Leon Malinowski - lynsey.collins@lbp.pnn.police.uk & leon.malinowski@lbp.pnn.police.uk. AM asked for possible candidates for NW representative in Mayfield Terrace and/or the extended Alfred Place.

Action : All re NW candidates for Mayfield Terrace and/or Alfred Place.

BLACKET AVENUE WORKING PARTY : HMac reported little activity recently, other than trying to keep van drivers from driving over the bed exposed by the damage to the Thrums Hotel wall. HMac to meet with Thrums owner to clarify repair schedule for wall. HMac and Ian McLeish will produce report recommending further investment in upgrading shrubbery areas. PA offered contacts with regard to trade pricing for plants etc.

**Action : HMac re Thrums & shrubbery upgrade proposal
PA re trade contacts.**

TRAFFIC AND PARKING : Implementation is apparently still March but no news yet on dispensation for our referred signage policy i.e. fewer & smaller. Lack of clarity on legal nature of restrictions and reaction of motorists, but even if restrictions mandatory will there be resources/political commitment to police these?

Action : RF to check at GPCC if 20MPH limits are legally enforceable

OPEN GARDENS : HF & AS will conduct poll to see if there are sufficient people willing to organise a Street Party on Tuesday 5th June to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, probably in Alfred Place. Failing that, proposal is to hold an Open Gardens day on Friday 25th May.

Action : HF & AS to poll active interest in Jubilee Street Party

OTHER BUSINESS : Snow shovels : BC has proposed to KFO that two each be HELD by BC, HMac & Ian McLeish but that a list of volunteers was required (e.g by invitation in next Newsletter) to use these.

Good Neighbour Policy : RF noted that the relationship with the Student Accommodation (via the Warden) was working well but wondered if we should we be extending to Belleville Lodge. RF asked that Committee consider what we might do and what talents could be offered e.g. informal musical performances.

FUTURE MEETINGS : Meetings were arranged for 5 March 2012 (**host : HF**) and 30/4/12 (**host : HMac**).