

# THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING on 6 March 2012 at 32 Blacket Place

**Apologies :** Ray Footman(RF); Alison Mowat(AM); Patricia Alston(PA); Karin Froebel Overton (KFO) & Jennifer Johnston-Watt (JJW).

**Present :** Chair - Richard Seligman(RS); Bob Cupples(BC); Hazel Fletcher(HF); Ian Lewis(IL); Alex Stobart(AS) & Hugh Mackay(HMac).

**MINUTES :** The minutes of the meeting of 16 January 2012 were approved.

### OUTSTANDING ACTIONS :

**16Jan12(a) : RF re Vice-Chair candidates** – carried forward

**16Jan12(b) : HF re AGM facilities** – carried forward

**16Jan12(c) : All re AGM speakers** – carried forward

**16Jan12(d) : PA re Map Library speaker** – carried forward

**16Jan12(e) : BC re zoned parking, road adoption & dilapidations process** – On basis that Dan Teague of S1 believes that the new householders are seeking to adopt the new part of Alfred Place, BC to contact Derek Rodden to clarify first two points. Status of last point was summarised in eMAIL of 5/3. BC will contact council re general dilapidations process along with queries on gatepier restoration. No response from S1 re dilapidations process.

**16Jan12(f) : BC re S1 co-ordination of repairs, liaison with IC re gatepiers & production of draft letter** – Currently with AON as insurance claim for which Derek Rodden has undertaken to keep us informed. BC will chase up if no response by 31/3.

**16Jan12(g) : RF re Council insurance policy** – not possible for the Association to be included under council policy but no information from RF re need/practicality of taking out separate policy.

**16Jan12(h) : KFO re progress of website update facility.** – carried forward.

**16Jan12(i) All re NW candidates for Mayfield Terrace and/or Alfred Place.** – carried forward but BC will speak to Alison & Charles at 11 Alfred Place.

**16Jan12(j) : HMac re Thrums & shrubbery upgrade proposal** – HMac hopes to have the temporary fence repair translated by the Thrums owner into a more permanent one but may be held up by dispute over the wall repair. Also HMac will not now produce a formal proposal for the shrubbery but meantime will continue the continuous improvement process.

**16Jan12(k) : PA re trade contacts.** – HMac will contact PA directly. **CLOSED.**

**16Jan12(l) : RF to check at GPCC if 20MPH limits are legally enforceable** – carried forward.

**16Jan12(m) : HF & AS to poll active interest in Jubilee Street Party** – Report produced by HF & AS was emphatically in favour of holding a jubilee party in lieu of an Open Gardens party in 2012. The details are discussed in the formal agenda item below. **CLOSED.**

**NEW COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS :** To be kept under review plus action a. above.

**AGM :** Held in abeyance until later in the year - actions 16Jan12(b); 16Jan12(c) & 16Jan12(d).

### PLANNING :

**ALFRED PLACE DEVELOPMENT :** Beyond gatepier & dilapidation actions below, there were no items raised.

**DAMAGED/ DEMOLISHED GATEPIERS & OTHER DILAPIDATIONS:** Actions 16Jan12(e) & 16Jan12(f).

### NEW PLANNING MATTERS :

**38 Mayfield Terrace :** Application to move electricity substation – no response required. Some concern raised re traffic issues when work will be carried out, given that this is at busy corner of Dalkeith Road & East Mayfield.

**GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (GPCC)** : Nothing to report.

**OTHER CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS** : RS to attend joint meeting of local associations on 8/3/12.

**a. Action** : *RS to report on meeting.*

**WEBSITE** : Nothing to report but see **action 16Jan12(h)**.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** : In the absence of AM, no full details available on recent breakins. BC undertook to include any subsequent information into the minutes, namely :

Our free run was shattered on Sunday night when there was a breakin near the east end of Mayfield Terrace. Access was gained by forcing the garden door abutting East Mayfield and then forcing a ground level basement kitchen window. Nothing was taken from the house save the car keys found in a jacket pocket. The car was then taken.

This car the Police think, was then used in another breakin in North Blacket Place, in the early hours of the morning, when a ground floor sitting room window was forced and a large television taken out through the front door and the police think into the stolen car.

Apparently, these crimes have been happening in other areas in the South side but not here. Thieves have been stealing from houses when the occupants have been asleep as happened in both these cases, and taking just things that they can get rid of, in this case a good TV, which was easy to sell. Whether the car was just a conveyance or sellable as well, no doubt will be revealed in time.

The Police advice is, if you have smart TVs, to place them so that they cannot be seen from outside. But I know this is easier said than done. If people have working shutters, I think it is a good idea to use them on the ground floor windows and any window accessible by a balcony, before they go to bed. Also, as a front door was used in one case if not two, do not leave the door on the snib, but lock it, and hide all keys including car keys somewhere a thief is not going to think of, I know again easier said than done.

If anybody wants a security check, please e-mail either PC Lyndsey Collins or PC Leon Malinowski, who will arrange that PC Carol Menzies visits to carry out a survey. E-mail me if you have no details of our 2 SNT police.

**BLACKET AVENUE WORKING PARTY** : HMac reported that 4000 snowdrops had been planted and a similar amount of crocosmias will be planted.

**TRAFFIC AND PARKING** : Nothing reported as BC forgot to include response on Minto Street traffic lights.

**b. Action** : *BC to raise council response at next meeting.*

**OPEN GARDENS/JUBILEE STREET PARTY** : Following the comprehensive response and the enthusiasm for a Jubilee event, there was a long but useful discussion on taking this forward. The salient points were :

- Jubilee Party instead of Open Garden event in 2012 - date agreed to be Sunday 3rd June.
- Simon White provided photos from 1994 & 2000 events - happy to pass on more information
- Prompt start proposed at 2:30pm running on to 6:30pm.
- Ceilidh band to play, probably from start to get prompt attendance.
- Preference was for food to be supplied instead of bring your own but bring your own drinks (soft/alcohol).
- Concerns about possible health & safety issues and costs if washout.
- Tables & chairs to be hired rather than borrowed.
- Cost per adult set at £5 per head to encourage attendance.
- Estimate of 100 gives income of £500 to be matched by £500 from Association funds.
- Need for urgency in relaying date and getting Jubilee Committee going.

**c. Action** : *HF & AS to pull together representative Jubilee Party committee and report progress.*

**OTHER BUSINESS** : Nothing new but two actions now included from last meeting.

**d. Action** : *BC to liaise with KFO re snow shovels.*

**e. Action** : *All to consider available talents for "good community" interaction with Belleville Lodge*

**FUTURE MEETINGS** : Meetings were arranged for 30/4/2012 (**host : HMac**) and 25/6/12 (**host : RS**).