

# *THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION*

## **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING on 10 September 2012 at 24 Mayfield Terrace**

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

**Present :** *Chair* - Hazel Fletcher(HF); Bob Cupples(BC); Patricia Alston(PA); Richard Seligman(RS) & Ian Lewis(IL).

**MINUTES :** Minutes of 25 June 2012 were approved with **Action 30Apr12(c)** marked as **CLOSED**.

### **NEW COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS :**

HF has identified a possible candidate for membership of the Committee – in addition, RF has been approached by another person (Mrs Nicol, 1a Mayfield Terrace) but it was not clear at meeting if she wishes to join. BC undertook to provide a list of those Committee members who are due to retire.

**New Action 10Sep12(a) :** HF to liaise with RF regarding candidate.

**New Action 10Sep12(b) :** BC to produce list of current Committee members due to retire.

### **AGM :**

HF has not yet been able to contact the manager of Earthy to discuss but has spoken to the Salisbury Arms who would be happy to host but the costs at the latter seemed to be high (£5 per half bottle of house wine; £5 per head for sandwiches; £3 per head for cheese&biscuits). Given audience of 54 plus two Police at 2011 AGM, a notional budget not to exceed £300 was suggested by IL.

HF undertook to pursue Earthy regarding possible event including more amenable layout. Failing this, she will negotiate costs with Salisbury Arms or possibly approach Parkside Bowling Club.

**New Action 10Sep12(c) :** HF to approach Salisbury Arms and/or Parkside BC if Earthy not suitable.

### **PLANNING :**

**ALFRED PLACE DEVELOPMENT :** Subject to confirmation that the new Alfred Place restricted parking bays had been activated and the gate pier repairs, BC proposed to close this item as all dilapidation items such as road markings had been addressed. There was general acceptance that, with regard to both the construction process and the resulting properties, this had been a very well managed and successful project by the developers S1.

**GATEPIERS & OTHER DILAPIDATIONS :** BC reported that he had received an eMAIL from Derek Roden to say that the repair work was now scheduled for late September or early October.

**THRUMS HOTEL :** BC reported that he had received an eMAIL from Planning Enforcement to say that Enforcement Investigation had shown that the damage to the wall had been as a result of vehicle impact and not executed explicitly by the property owner. Consequently no Enforcement Order under terms of the appropriate Planning Act could be issued in this case and the investigation was closed.

This therefore requires other action to achieve the restitution of the wall and the fence. BC will write to the Estates Manager of the Council, as owners of the land, as the Association as no locus in this matter beyond the reinstatement of the wooden fence which was purchased by the Association. The letter will be copied to the relevant local area Councillors as their involvement may be required.

BC will also write to Planning Enforcement to raise the issue of the two ship's containers which have been located in the rear parking area of the hotel for many months.

**New Action 10Sep12(d)** : BC to write to Council's Estates Manager regarding Thrums Hotel wall.

**New Action 10Sep12(e)** : BC to write to Planning Enforcement regarding containers at Thrums Hotel.

### **NEW PLANNING MATTERS :**

**23A Minto Street** : As this proposal seeks to create drive in parking area in the front garden on Minto Street, it was agreed that BC will write to object. RS will supply draft letters being submitted by West Blacket & Grange Associations along with traffic assessment.

**New Action 10Sep12(f)** : RS to supply draft objection letters and traffic assessment.

**New Action 10Sep12(g)** : BC to write letter of objection for deadline of 27/9/2012.

**NEW PLANNING GUIDELINES** : Council Planning are proposing new guidelines which PA will contrast with the existing set and liaise with RS on this.

**New Action 10Sep12(h)** : PA to liaise with RS regarding proposed new planning guidelines.

### **EXISTING PLANNING MATTERS :**

**8 Alfred Place** : Planning are awaiting further submission from applicants.

**17 Blacket Place** : Planning Committee refused application.

### **GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (GPCC) :**

No report

### **OTHER CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS :**

No report

**WEBSITE** : As she was not going to be able to attend, KFO provided a report on the indicative cost of making the website much more flexible e.g. incorporate a bird-spotting forum – she suggested viewing [www.ladiesscottishclimbingclub.org](http://www.ladiesscottishclimbingclub.org) as an example of what can be done. However at more than £1,000, there was concern that the usage of the website would not justify this.

It was agreed that all of the Committee would look at the Blacket website with a view to making a critical assessment of its existing and potential functionality. It was also agreed that a poll would be taken at the AGM to measure the actual usage of the website by the members.

**New Action 10Sep12(i)** : ALL to access and assess the Blacket website.

**New Action 10Sep12(j)** : HF to include poll on website usage as part of AGM entry documentation.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH :**

Not being able to attend, AM provided a report prior to the meeting. Following an attempted break-in on July 28 in S Blacket Place through a downstairs window (no damage except broken slat on outside bench), AM circulated warning about open doors and windows on sunny days. This produced response from a N Blacket Place resident who had suffered an attempted break-in by trying to break garage door padlock. Police thought that this was an opportunistic attempt - the two residents were put in touch. During night of 21<sup>st</sup> August, Japanese maple (3-4ft high) was dug out of garden bordering Dalkeith Road - not technically in the area, but worth circulating for information. Message sent out on 30<sup>th</sup> August at request of Katrina Renton, Accommodation Manager of post-graduate student flats in Blacket Avenue to prevent the walking of dogs in private grounds designated for children's play. Further message sent out on the same day re a credit card scam by telephone, thought possibly to have originated in Indian subcontinent.

## **BLACKET AVENUE WORKING PARTY :**

Team are planning to restart maintenance activity in September.

**TRAFFIC AND PARKING : 20 MPH limits** : BC quoted some early traffic speed analysis from late July which showed positive trends. But Committee were concerned by occasional speeding vehicles (probably using a "rat run") and lack of Police resources to deal with these.

**Virtual parking permits** : BC received notice that changes were proposed to resident permits with regard to motorcycles and City Car club - need to review actual proposals carefully when received.

## **COMMUNICATIONS :**

**Newsletters** : It was agreed that a Newsletter should be issued in September, addressing inter alia the issue of parking in gardens and tree preservation under a general planning section. BC undertook to produce a draft by 14/9/2012 which would be passed to HF for completion & distribution. It was also agreed that a further Newsletter would be issued prior to the AGM finalising the AGM arrangements and including the required papers i.e. Accounts & AGM 2011 minutes.

***New Action 10Sep12(k)*** : BC to draft newsletter by 14/9/2012.

***New Action 10Sep12(l)*** : HF to complete and arrange distribution of newsletter.

**Use of eMAIL** : It was agreed that the use of eMAIL for Association communication would be explored. In the first instance this would consist of assessing the general level of acceptance for this at the AGM.

**Headed paper** : It was agreed that the acquisition of headed paper would be put on hold.

## **BELLEVILLE LODGE :**

It was agreed that an article on this would be included in the next newsletter and the interest in implementing such a facility would be gauged from the responses to this article.

***New Action 10Sep12(m)*** : RF to assess viability of Belleville music events from responses to article.

## **OTHER BUSINESS :**

None

**FUTURE MEETINGS** : 29/10/12 (*host : KFO*)  
late November (*AGM*)  
January/February (*host & date : tba*).

## **SUMMARY of ACTIONS :**

- 16Jan12(e) : BC re zoned parking, road adoption & dilapidations process – CLOSED.**
- 16Jan12(f) : BC re S1 co-ordination of repairs of gatepiers etc – CLOSED – see 25Jun12(e).**
- 16Jan12(h) : KFO re progress of website update facility – carried forward.**
- 6Mar12(d) : Snow shovels – proposal to put two shovels with each of Ian McLeish, HMac & BC. KFO approaching Anne Srturrock being backup organisers of snow shovelling parties if needed.**
- 6Mar12(e) : “Good neighbours” with Belleville Lodge – ALL to consider possible actions.**
- 30Apr12(c) : Insurance Policy – CLOSED.**
- 25Jun12(a) : HF to sound out suitable Committee candidate(s) – carried forward.**
- 25Jun12(b) : HF to meet with Earthy to agree AGM format/costs & date – carried forward.**
- 25Jun12(c) : RF to speak to Owen Dudley-Edwards for possible social event – carried forward.**
- 25Jun12(d) : BC to monitor the implementation of the Zoned parking in Alfred Place - CLOSED.**
- 25Jun12(e) : BC to monitor the Mayfield Terrace gatepier repairs – carried forward.**
- 25Jun12(f) : BC to get update on Planning investigation into Thrums Hotel wall - CLOSED.**
- 10Sep12(a) : HF to liaise with RF regarding candidate.**
- 10Sep12(b) : BC to produce list of current Committee members due to retire.**
- 10Sep12(c) : HF to approach Salisbury Arms and/or Parkside BC if Earthy not suitable.**
- 10Sep12(d) : BC to write to Council’s Estates Manager regarding Thrums Hotel wall.**
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