

THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING on 29 October 2012 at 24 Mayfield Terrace

Apologies : Jennifer Johnston-Watt(JJW); Patricia Alston(PA) & Karin Froebel Overton(KFO).

Present : *Chair* - Ray Footman (RF); Hazel Fletcher (HF); Bob Cupples (BC); Ian Lewis (IL);

Alison Mowat (AM); Hugh Mackay (HMac) & Richard Seligman (RS).

MINUTES : Minutes of 10 September 2012 were approved.

NEW COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS :

HF has identified three candidates for membership of Committee who will be nominated before AGM, namely Becky Colegrave; Sheila McLeish & Ian Chisholm. It will be left to Mrs Nicol to be nominated at the AGM if she is interested. KFO is standing down and JJW will become a co-opted member.

The current Committee was elected as follows : 2009 – AM; AS & KFO ; 2010 – IL; PA (co-opted); BC & JJW ; 2011 – RF; RS; HMac & HF.

Assignment of committee duties (e.g. attendance at external meetings) will be done at first Committee meeting after the AGM. BC will supply list of tasks.

New Action 29Oct12(a): BC to supply list of tasks and external contacts & meetings to be assigned.

AGM :

Becky Colegrave has negotiated very good deal with Salisbury Arms - £5 per head. £300 limit on expenditure as agreed. Notification of numbers to Salisbury Arms at least 3 days in advance.

Large labels will be created from the RSVP list – the list will also contain the existence of the eMAIL for the household. eMAIL addresses will be kept in a log for future use. Attendees will be polled re useage of website as part of entry process.

Invites to be issued to four Councillors, MSP & MP as well the local police and other associations West Blacket; Craigmillar Park; Grange & Prestonfield. Acceptances including Committee amount to date to approx 30.

Working Party and NW reports will be issued along with Annual report - RF will supply Chairman's report. Printed copies to be available at AGM.

PLANNING :

DAMAGED GATEPIERS : BC reported that he had had no further information on this – there was general concern that this had dragged on so long. BC to contact Derek Roden & escalate within Council.

New Action 29Oct12(b): BC to contact Derek Roden and escalate within Council.

THRUMS HOTEL : BC reported that Planning Enforcement had responded saying that they will raise the issue of the two ship's containers with owner of Thrums. If no resolution, then they will consider an enforcement order. Situation with wall was getting as bad as gatepiers – BC to escalate within Council - £700 grant from Council for fence in 2005. If there is no satisfactory resolution in prospect by the next Committee meeting, then we will consider going ahead to repair fence as an Association, with possible costs involved.

New Action 29Oct12(c): BC to escalate Thrums wall situation within Council

NEW PLANNING MATTERS : None

NEW PLANNING GUIDELINES : General concern regarding proposed new planning guidelines which might weaken the capability of residents and/or associations to make effective representations against inappropriate developments. RS to send out report of implications of new process.

New Action 29Oct12(d): RS to produce report on implications for new planning process.

EXISTING PLANNING MATTERS :

8 Alfred Place : Planning are apparently still awaiting further submission from applicants. This is well outside the time parameters for an application. RS to write to Planning to ask for definitive decision on the application.

New Action 29Oct12(e): RS to get definitive decision on planning application for 8 Alfred Place..

23A Minto Street : Application was withdrawn but eMAIL correspondence with planning prior to this was at best ambiguous – it was suggested that the new “breakfast room” would be moved to rear of basaement of building (to give fire escape) and the parking brought further on to the front garden.

We believe that planning is underestimating the consequences of even considering this i.e. breaking of parking guidelines; overdevelopment of property (many applications over the years); traffic & pedestrian safety issues from major disruption into bus lane so near Mayfield Terrace junction. They are treating Mayfield Terrace as only one way – not the case. Must keep watch for future applications.

GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (GPCC) :

RF will attend but is happy to pass on as part of “role” allocation in January. Commonwealth Pool has full range of courses available but not always run because of numbers but not necessarily well communicated. GPCC has requested speaker to give presentation e.g. for elderly etc.

OTHER CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS : No report

WEBSITE : The scale of any enhancements to this facility will be considered after AGM at which a poll will be done to measure the current use. RF to contact KFO to put up committee dates on website.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH : Incidents since last meeting :

- a. Prowler seen in the new Alfred Place gardens in early morning. Police called, but nothing was found on the man and so he was released. Warning message circulated.
- b. R in Mayfield Terrace west end, reported that her car a Seat Alhambra had in the past 6 months lost 2 wheel trims and a front bumper grill - not reported it to the police as she was not sure when it happened.
- c. Car abandoned in Blacket Avenue in the space uncovered by the fallen fence, on to yew tree and over some plants. Police were informed and found an elderly gentleman parked there. He was issued with fixed penalty ticket and was required to move car.
- d. John Havard is stepping down from NW but has found two people living in 46b Blacket Place who will do the job of co-ordinator between them - Barrie West & Jennifer Fluekiger.
- e. Car belonging to friend of a resident was broken into and a laptop taken in Mayfield Terrace at Dalkeith Road end. She thought might have been done by three boys she had seen messing about near the car on bikes – 2 about 12 and 13 and one was older about 16, with a shaven head. Warning circulated suggesting report to the police if they were doing anything suspicious.
- f. In response to the circulated warning, resident in north Blacket Place reported similar crime on the same day. Driver’s window was smashed and a sat nav taken. Another circular sent out reminding people to take anything easily sold and valuable out of cars (e.g. satnavs; laptops etc) particularly now that the darker days are here.

BLACKET AVENUE WORKING PARTY :

HMac reported that team were involved in routine maintenance.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING : 20 MPH limits : General concern that the traffic is still travelling too fast. The 20mph limits are often being ignored, particularly on East Mayfield where even 30mph may be frequently exceeded. Request from some residents to measure speed of traffic e.g. on Blacket Avenue at rush hour but not clear how this could be done. Raise with Police?

Virtual parking permits : To be kept under review.

COMMUNICATIONS :

Newsletters : It was agreed that a Newsletter should be issued before AGM covering gatepiers; Commonwealth Pool facilities; contents of parked cars; Open Garden 2013 bids; AGM & Social. It would also include the other reports if possible.

New Action 29Oct12(f): RF/HF to produce and distribute newsletter before AGM.

SOCIAL EVENTS :

Open Gardens : RF has gazebo available for these. HMac suggested different dates for Open Garden to see another set of plants in bloom.

Other events : RF to follow up regarding Greyfriars show with Owen Dudley Edwards. Other suggestions to be sought at AGM and/or future committee meetings.

BELLEVILLE LODGE : No progress.

OTHER BUSINESS :

The Association have not paid the invoice for membership of the Cockburn Society in 2012. BC to locate invoice or request new one before AGM.

New Action 29Oct12(g): BC to provide invoice for 2012 Cockburn Society membership for IL to pay.

FUTURE MEETINGS : AGM - Thursday 22 November (***Salisbury Arms***)
Committee - 14 January (***host : HF***)
Committee - 18 March (***host : tba***)

SUMMARY of ACTIONS :

- 16Jan12(h) : KFO re progress of website update facility** – carried forward.
- 6Mar12(d) : Snow shovels - CLOSED.**
- 6Mar12(e) : “Good neighbours” with Belleville Lodge** – carried forward.
- 25Jun12(a) : HF to sound out suitable Committee candidate(s) – CLOSED.**
- 25Jun12(b) : HF to meet with Earthy to agree AGM format/costs & date – CLOSED.**
- 25Jun12(c) : RF to speak to Owen Dudley-Edwards for possible social event** – carried forward.
- 25Jun12(e) : BC to monitor the Mayfield Terrace gatepier repairs** – carried forward.
- 10Sep12(h) : PA to liaise with RS regarding proposed new planning guidelines - CLOSED.**
- 10Sep12(i) : ALL to access and assess the Blacket website** – carried forward.
- 10Sep12(j) : HF to include poll on website useage as part of AGM entry** – carried forward.
- 10Sep12(l) : HF to complete and arrange distribution of newsletter - CLOSED.**
- 10Sep12(m) : RF to assess viability of Belleville music events from responses** – carried forward.
- 29Oct12(a): BC to supply list of tasks and external contacts & meetings to be assigned.**
- 29Oct12(b): Gatepiers - BC to contact Derek Roden and escalate within Council.**
- 29Oct12(c): Thrums wall - BC to escalate within Council.**
- 29Oct12(d): RS to produce report on implications for new planning process.**
- 29Oct12(e): RS to get definitive decision on planning application for 8 Alfred Place.**
- 29Oct12(f): RF/HF to produce and distribute newsletter before AGM.**
- 29Oct12(g): BC to provide invoice for 2012 Cockburn Society membership for IL to pay.**