

THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING on 20 October 2014 at 21 Mayfield Terrace

Apologies : Ray Footman *post hoc* (RF)

Present : *Chair* - Hazel Fletcher (HF); Bob Cupples (BC); Becky Colegrave (Bec); Sheila McLeish (SMcL); Hugh Mackay (HMac); Richard Seligman (RS); Ian Chisholm (IC); Richard Scothorne (RSA); & Johnny Kruuk (JK)

MINUTES : Minutes of 1 September 2014 were approved.

COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS : Fiona Courtney was introduced and enthusiastically welcomed to the meeting. She has agreed to be nominated as the Minutes Secretary, as part of the new Committee operating structure. However HF reiterated the need to look for more Committee nominations, in particular for the role of Secretary as BC had supplied a document which detailed the retirements from the Committee (and their roles) of BC and RF but also including AS.

RSE had spoken to Pina Lang & Pauline Platt both of whom might be involved at some stage in the future but who were both unable to do so currently. JK suggested that Lindsay Johnston had been very useful in the work on the website and he would ask if she would consider joining the Committee.

New Action 20Oct14(a): JK to approach Lindsay Johnston re joining the Committee.

2014 AGM : Arrangements : Venue is confirmed as Salisbury Arms on 17th November with same costing basis as last year against an expected turnout of 70. Efforts will be made to improve acoustics for speakers & audience by having the chairs laid out in a shallow curve on the long axis of the room.

Since the last meeting, BC had circulated eMAIL outlining documents required for the AGM but after some discussion, this was then amended to the following :

1. Printed copy of a combined one page Newsletter & AGM Invitation to be delivered to each household by the NW Coordinators.
2. Electronic copies of the 2013 AGM Minutes & the combined 2014 Reports would be sent to each eMAIL address – with request to print if they wish to consult at AGM.
3. Fifty copies of document in 2 to be printed and available at AGM.

HF & BC would finalise the Newsletter/AGM document on Tuesday for printing on Wednesday. IC will arrange for the NW coordinators to deliver as soon as possible. IC and his wife Joanna have volunteered to act as Newsletter Editor & distribution coordinator via the NW team.

Expansion of Blacket Association area : It was regretted that, for various reasons, this item (namely that, with the acquiescence of West Blacket Association, ALL households in the East Blacket area within the Conservation Area should be invited to join the Association), had not been followed up more diligently since the last AGM. It was agreed that it would be raised at the AGM in a short presentation followed by a discussion during the social part of the meeting.

New Action 20Oct14(b): HF & BC to finalise the combined Newsletter/AGM invitation by 21/10.

New Action 20Oct14(c): HF to organise printing of Newsletter & to hand over to IC by 24/10.

New Action 20Oct14(d): IC to organise delivery of Newsletter via NW Coordinators asap.

New Action 20Oct14(e): BC to finalise AGM 2014 Papers and pass to HF.

New Action 20Oct14(f): HF to get 50 copies printed of AGM 2014 Papers.

New Action 20Oct14(g): HMac to make short presentation on expansion of Association area.

PLANNING

Summary of Planning Matters – 8th September to 13th October

Applications – weekly Planning list dated 8/9

34 Mayfield Terrace - **14/03606/TCO** – Request for advice regarding felling large Poplar tree situated in the garden towards East Mayfield - it follows work to remove dead limbs. At least 15 years ago, Planning advised the planting of a large number of native saplings against the day when the poplar and/or the nearby sycamore had to be felled - this work was carried out. Council have issued an RNO.

Decisions – weekly Planning list dated 15/9

18 Mayfield Terrace - **14/03157/TCO** – RNO issued.

34 Mayfield Terrace - **14/03606/TCO** – The RNO already issued allows owners to proceed.

2 Blacket Place - **14/02915/LBC** - Planning permission granted for the reinstatement of railings.

Weekly Planning list dated 22/9 - No Applications or Decisions affecting the Blacket area.

Applications – weekly Planning list dated 30/9

1, Middleby Street - **14/03877/LBC** – Corresponding planning application **14/03252/FUL** should have been included in the 19/08/2014 list. Dealt with by West Blacket Assoc but included for completeness.

16, Blacket Place - **14/03869/TCO** – Application for work on a number of trees, including felling three, one of which is an early-mature Bhutan Pine. It has already received an RNO from the Planning.

Decisions – weekly Planning list dated 30/9

2, Blacket Place - **14/02915/FUL** - Permission has been granted for the erection of railings along the front garden wall. Style of railings consists of vertical metal posts with traditional finials.

Decisions – weekly Planning list dated 6/10

16, Blacket Place - **14/03869/TCO** – Confirmation of RNO from Planning.

1, Middleby Street - **14/03252/FUL & 14/03877/LBC** - Approval was granted.

National Library of Scotland, 159, Causewayside - **14/03017/FUL** - Approval was granted.

Applications – weekly Planning list dated 13/10

1, Upper Gray Street - **14/04002/LBC** - Another a West Blacket application - replacement of existing window glass with Slimlite double glazing. As it does not affect the exterior look of the property, it should not need Planning Permission.

Revised Proposed Local Development Plan : RSE submitted responses to the Council on this. In these, he welcomed the safeguarding of the designated Edinburgh South tram route from Prince's Street and the retention of the two halts on the South Suburban rail line; he regretted that there were not more cycle routes planned particularly those to enable children to cycle safely to school; & welcomed the continued designation of open space in the Craigmillar Park Conservation Area and the Waverley Park Conservation Area.

RSA reinforced the significance of explicit retention of this last principle in the Revised Plan given the recent application to build on some of this open space (East Suffolk Road - **14/03632/FUL**), pointing out that nothing has changed since the Reporter made this finding in 2002 after a long public inquiry.

GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (GPCC) : The following are the salient points raised at the meeting on 15th of October.

Recycling : There was a presentation from Justine Taylor, Waste & Community Engagement Officer for CEC who talked about the new Kerbside recycling service. It has been trialled in Prestonfield and the feedback after 8 weeks appears to be positive. Recycling rates are up from 40% to 50%.

The second phase will commence in November and will include areas to the West of Edinburgh. There will be three more phases in March, June and September of next year, but we don't know which areas will be in each phase. Lots of information will be given before the trial starts.

Cycle Routes : None of the current routes affect the Blacket area directly - current plans relate to the Meadows to the Union Canal route, and Marchmont to Kings Buildings route.

Planning : Nothing directly affecting the Blacket area was raised. GPCC will not object to the revised plans for student accommodation on Causewayside but did object to a planning application to install uPVC windows in a conservation area at a house in Lauder Road. GPCC do not plan to submit any objections to the proposed student accommodation proposal for the Homebase site on Dalkeith Road.

Post box collection times : There will not be a second collection from the pillar box on Blacket Place. The post will be collected from the pillar box when deliveries are being made to houses nearby. GPCC has requested that a notice is put on each pillar box that is affected stating the location of a pillar box where a later collection will be made.

OTHER CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS : No reports presented.

WEBSITE : Draft website had been updated by JK – agreed to be an improvement but JK intimated that there were more planned. JK will report ongoing progress at each Committee meeting.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH : IC reported that he was pleased to say that there was little to report which would be reflected in his report to the AGM.

BLACKET AVENUE WORKING PARTY : HMac's report would be in the AGM papers.

COMMUNICATIONS : **Newsletter** : See AGM item above.

NEW RESIDENTS : SMcL was unaware of any new residents arriving in past month. IC will get NW Coordinators to notify SMcL about any new residents and to make any changes in eMAIL addresses per instructions issued by JK.

New Action 20Oct14(h): IC to get NWCs to record new residents & update eMAIL addresses.

SOCIAL EVENTS : There was no groundswell of interest in a Halloween event but Bec would seek other suggestions as part of her AGM report.

OTHER BUSINESS : **TV reception & 4G mobile signals** : Lindsay Johnston reported that around 25 households had been affected and lost their Freeview signals – of these, 11 of those called out aerial companies with varying success, costing over £1200 in total. Only Lindsay and Helen Cassells from West Blacket took the matter to adjudication but both lost.

This decision was on the grounds that 'although they accepted that everything we said was true, they did not find that At800 had broken their Customer Charter'. In other words, they insisted that we had all been informed about the disruption, and had received filters, but had 'forgotten'. Everyone was offered £50 as a goodwill gesture, but they needed to contact At800 to ask for it.

23B Minto Street : The Council are working towards getting a financial guardian appointed (who would be able to make significant decisions regarding making the property secure) but have pointed out that, due to the sensitivity of the matter, that this is not a rapid process.

As previously noted, they have carried out work have been carried out to make the outhouse area safe but this was the extent of their remit. Concern was expressed in the meeting, that this was the absolute minimum required and leaves the outhouse in a condition that could be an open invitation to adventurous children and/or vandalism.

The Council officer involved is going to revisit the property again to check on obvious public safety issues and seek a resolution where available but reiterated that their remit is limited to public safety matters. He also suggested that the Local Housing Office might also be able help.

New Action 20Oct14(i): RSA to liaise with Council on progress and/or safety issues.

Trees in Belleville Lodge : Concern was expressed that a well intentioned involvement of local MP, Ian Murray, might result in a more drastic pruning of the trees overhanging west side of Dryden place than was really necessary or desirable. HMac undertook to discuss this matter with the residents of Dryden place and to seek a more acceptable addressing of the issues involved.

New Action 20Oct14(k): HMac to investigate solutions to Dryden Place tree issues.

Cockburn Association membership : As the Member of the Council of the Cockburn Association involved in defining its ongoing role & relationships, RSA gave a brief summary of what it is and what it could be. Given the mixed awareness of Cockburn in the Committee, it became clear that it would be useful to start this dialogue at the AGM. RSA agreed to do a short presentation with the idea of engendering discussion & getting feedback during the social time.

New Action 20Oct14(j): RSA to make short presentation on Cockburn Association at AGM.

FUTURE MEETINGS : AGM - 17 November (***venue : tbc***)
 Committee - 12 January 2015 (***host : HMac***)
 Committee - 23 March 2015 (***host : HF***)

SUMMARY of CLOSED ACTIONS :

- 12May14(h): BC - to report progress on FREEVIEW/4G signalling issues.***
- 12May14(i): RF/HMac - to examine possibility of expanding Association area – carried forward.***
- 1Sep14(c): BC - to provide list of current Committee with re-election dates.***
- 1Sep14(e): JK to report progress on new website project.***
- 1Sep14(f): HF to invite participation in and list arrangements for AGM.***
- 1Sep14(g): RSA to document meeting with Planning - also new processes if available.***
- 1Sep14(h): HF to seek new Committee members - including any unfilled roles.***
- 1Sep14(i): JK to request new or changed eMAIL addresses.***
- 1Sep14(j): Bec to poll interest in and possibly organise Halloween event.***
- 1Sep14(k): HF to negotiate with Salisbury Arms for AGM.***
- 1Sep14(l): BC to request AGM reports from HF, Bec, HMac, IC & RSE.***
- 1Sep14(n): JK to provide RSA with latest contact on Council for RSA to pursue.***
- 1Sep14(o): BC to write to University & contractor re rebuilt wall in Blacket Avenue.***
- 1Sep14(p): RSA to explore Blacket Association relationship with Cockburn.***
- 1Sep14(q): RSE & RSA to review & report on revised Local Development Plan.***

SUMMARY of OPEN ACTIONS :

- 13Jan14(b): ALL – elect Vice-Chair - carried forward.**
- 13Jan14(c): ALL – identify new Secretary for 2014 AGM - carried forward.**
- 14Apr14(e): AS – to report progress on dealings with Lighting Department - carried forward.**
- 12May14(a): ALL – to consider Committee structure re workload analysis - carried forward.**
- 1Sep14(a): ALL - to seek out & approach possible new Committee members - carried forward.**
- 1Sep14(b): ALL - to find candidates for Secretary, Newsletter and Planning - carried forward.**
- 1Sep14(d): RSA to report on new Planning procedures when issued - carried forward.**
- 1Sep14(m): BC to provide copies of maps for display at AGM - carried forward.**
- 20Oct14(a): JK to approach Lindsay Johnston re joining the Committee.**
- 20Oct14(b): HF & BC to finalise the combined Newsletter/AGM invitation by 21/10.**
- 20Oct14(c): HF to organise printing of Newsletter & to hand over to IC by 24/10.**
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