

THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING on 12 January 2015 at 42 Blacket Place

Present : *Chair* - Hazel Fletcher (HF); Hugh Mackay (HMac); Becky Colegrave (Bec); Richard Seligman (RS); Ian Chisholm (IC); Johnny Kruuk (JK); Fiona Courtney(FC)

Apologies : Sheila McLeish (SMcL); Richard Scothorne (RSA)

MINUTES : Minutes of 20 October 2014 were approved.

COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS :

Communications – In the absence of a communications officer RS volunteered to take calls and act as a general point of contact on a temporary basis.

Action: Jan 15.01: BC to redirect communications to RS.

Election of Vice Chair – role agreed to be in abeyance. No need to change constitution at present; agreed roles will be spread across other members of the committee.

Identify new Secretary – agreed that with the agreed division of responsibilities between Minutes, Newsletter & general communications, the role should be renamed Communications Coordinator. A number of potential candidates have been identified and will be approached.

Action: Jan 15.02: Potential candidates for Communications Coordinator to be approached.

REVIEW OF 2014 AGM :

- **Draft Minutes** received, will be presented for formal approval at the next AGM.
- **HF's paper** on the AGM was noted & key points discussed:
- **Venue** While the Salisbury Arms was considered to be adequate as a venue, there were concerns that many people had problems hearing the proceedings due to background noise. It was agreed that a PA system would be required in order to continue using the venue. The possibility of using alternative venues and of providing refreshments at the start of the proceedings was raised and left for discussion at a later date.
- **Documentation:** It was noted that very few copies of the AGM papers were actually taken by attendees. Fewer copies will be produced next year.

Action: Jan15.03: List of AGM attendees to be reviewed to ensure all are on membership list & subscription list.

OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS

Progress on dealings with lighting department AS – concerns over lack of cleaning of streetlights discussed. Agreed unlikely Council will act. **Action: Jan15.04 Bec to approach window cleaner for quote.**

Report on new Planning dept structure – RS has distributed paper on new structure. Planning & building control staff being brought together and organised by area. Should lead to better co-ordination. Action closed.

Newsletter Distribution – Per IC, reorganisation to distribute through Neighbourhood Watch coordinators successful. Action closed.

PLANNING

Summary of major Planning Matters – 14 October – 1 January

Applications - Only matter of significance noted is 24 Blacket Place – proposed replacement of stone outbuilding (garage & store) with glass garden room. This will not be visible from the street & no objections were raised by the committee.

Weekly planning lists – Discussion of distribution of lists; agreed HMac to distribute to HF, RS & RSA. RS will take over review role if HMac is away.

Woodburning stoves -: Discussion of the popularity of woodburning stoves and what is allowed under the Clean Air Act. FC noted that such stoves are allowed providing they are DEFRA approved models. It is illegal to burn wood on open fires in the city. It was agreed that though this is not a planning matter as such, there is considerable confusion as to what is allowed and that this may be a useful point to cover on the website.

Action Jan 15.05: RS to review position and prepare guidance

GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (GPCC)

HF reported salient points raised at the meeting on. The following were discussed:

- Potential for speeding survey – a survey is being carried out on Priestfield Road and could be requested for other roads;
- Possibility of one way running on East Mayfield/Queen's Crescent – this was discussed. It was agreed that, were this to go ahead, the Association would press for East Mayfield traffic to run west to east to ease traffic into Blacket; however overall there was little enthusiasm for the proposal.

WEST BLACKET AGM : HF had attended and circulated notes to the committee. The Association has a membership of around 40. They have an active social group with a number of annual events.

Action Jan15.06: Invite West Blacket to send rep to AGM (HF)

Action Jan15.07: Suggest links to other Associations websites (West Blacket, Waverley)

WEBSITE : JK has made progress on the draft website, but requires input on content from other committee members to move this forward. **Action Jan15.08: JK to circulate draft & specify input required from committee members & members to supply/review.**

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH : No major incidents reported. IC commented that it appears that much criminal activity has moved to online & phone fraud. IC noted that our police contact has moved to Craigmillar Police Station. Police Scotland appear to be cutting back their time commitment to community activities and are less willing to attend meetings.

BLACKET AVENUE WORKING PARTY : Winter maintenance underway. Holly sales raised £75.

NEW RESIDENTS : New attendees at the AGM noted. SMcL absent - carried over to next meeting. See **Action Jan15.03: Ensure AGM attendees details added to circulation list and subscriptions requested.**

SOCIAL EVENTS :

- Feedback from the AGM suggested enthusiasm for a cheese & wine evening. This was agreed in principle with Parkside Bowling Club as a venue and a date of Thursday 26 March. Tickets to be sold in advance with the aim of covering costs. **Action Jan15.09 – HF to follow up with organising subgroup.**
- The Gardens Open day was discussed, potential to base in Alfred Place; 12th or 19th June proposed dates.
- Potential for other events discussed, will be pursued depending on reaction to Wine & Cheese event.

FINANCE

A summary of the Income & Expenditure account for the year ended 31 August 2014 was circulated. It was noted that funds increased by £261 in the year, compared to a net reduction of £171 in the previous year. The possibility of increasing subscriptions was discussed but was not felt to be necessary at the current time.

OTHER BUSINESS :

Elizabeth Blackadder Cards: Quotes have been obtained for printing a new run of A5 notecards from a Blackadder illustration of a plant found in the area. These were agreed to be reasonable and a print run of 4,000 cards on a cream background was authorised. Ian Carter had also provided copies of Victorian illustrated dance cards as a potential notecard and this may be possible in future.

Action Jan 15.10: Printing to be organised (SMcL)

Blacket Association Archives: It was noted that Ian Carter still holds archive material for the Association. To be considered at a future meeting.

Potholes in Blacket Avenue: A resident (T Borthwick) had contacted the Association on this matter. It is unclear where the potholes are situated.

New Action Jan15.11: Chair to contact resident to follow up (HF)

John the Postman retirement: There is support for a collection. A Mowat & R Blair are willing to collect moneys and organise a retirement card to be signed.

New Action Jan15.12: Retirement date to be checked (HF) & collection responsibility organised

FUTURE MEETINGS : Committee: 23 March 2015 (host: HF)
 Cheese & Wine (provisional) 26 March
 Committee: 5 May 2015 re Open Evening

SUMMARY of CLOSED ACTIONS :

13Jan14(c): ALL – identify new Secretary for 2014 AGM

13Jan14(b): ALL – elect Vice-Chair – agreed to be in abeyance

- 1Sep14(d): RSA to report on new Planning procedures when issued**
1Sep14(m): BC to provide copies of maps for display at
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.
20Oct14(d): IC to organise delivery of Newsletter via NW Coordinators asap.
20Oct14(e): BC to finalise AGM 2014 Papers and pass to HF.
20Oct14(f): HF to get 50 copies printed of AGM 2014 Papers.
20Oct14(g): HMac to make short presentation on expansion of Association area.
20Oct14(h): IC to get NWCs to record new residents & update eMAIL addresses.
20Oct14(i): RSA to liaise with Council on progress and/or safety issues.
20Oct14(j): RSA to make short presentation on Cockburn Association at AGM.
20Oct14(k): HMac to investigate solutions to Dryden Place tree issues.
4Apr14(e): AS – to report progress on dealings with Lighting Department
12May14(a): ALL – to consider Committee structure re workload analysis

SUMMARY of OPEN ACTIONS :

REF	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
<i>Jan15.01</i>	<i>BC to redirect communications to RS.</i>	<i>BC/RS</i>
<i>Jan15.02</i>	<i>Potential candidates for Communications Coordinator to be approached</i>	<i>ALL</i>
<i>Jan15.03</i>	<i>List of AGM attendees to be reviewed to ensure all are on membership list & subscription list.</i>	<i>SMcL/Bec</i>
<i>Jan15.04</i>	<i>Quote from window cleaner to clean lights.</i>	<i>Bec</i>
<i>Jan15.05</i>	<i>Review position on woodburning stoves & prepare guidance</i>	<i>FC/RS</i>
<i>Jan15.06</i>	<i>Invite West Blacket to send rep to AGM</i>	<i>HF</i>
<i>Jan15.07</i>	<i>Suggest links to other Associations websites</i>	<i>JC/HF</i>
<i>Jan15.08</i>	<i>JK to circulate draft & specify input required from committee members & members to supply/review.</i>	<i>JK/ALL</i>
<i>Jan15.09</i>	<i>Cheese & Wine evening organisation</i>	<i>HF/ALL</i>
<i>Jan15.10</i>	<i>Printing to be organised</i>	<i>SMcL</i>
<i>Jan15.11</i>	<i>Follow up Blacket Ave resident parking issue</i>	<i>HF</i>
<i>Jan15.12</i>	<i>Postman Retirement date to be checked & collection responsibility delegated</i>	<i>HF</i>