

THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING on 29 August 2016 at 42 Blacket Place

Present : Hazel Dunn (HD); Ian Chisholm (IC); Becky Colegrave (BC); Fiona Courtney(FC); Johnny Kruuk (JK); Hugh Mackay (HMCK).

Apologies: Arlene Doherty (AD); Pauline Platt (PP); Richard Scothorne (RSc).

1.MINUTES : Minutes of 16 May 2016 were approved.

2. OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS

Mainly cleared, see Closed Actions schedule at end of Minutes.

3. COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

Committee members reelection: BC willing to stay on. JK wishes to step down in December. IC to be proposed as Chair and GPCC rep, willing to continue with Newsletter but would prefer to hand over Neighbourhood Watch coordination to one of the local coordinators who would join the Committee. FC noted need to spread responsibilities beyond Chair. There are vacancies for further members on the committee.

Action May16.01: IC to discuss with Neighbourhood Watch coordinators.

Action May16.02: Seek new committee members – roles event coordination, IT, Neighbourhood watch

4.PLANNING

Duncan Street garage (West Blacket): Refused, fresh application submitted. Objection made.

Minto Hotel (16/17/18 Minto Street): Permission granted. FC noted that the objections coordinated by the Association had resulted in significant improvements to the plans and thanked the Committee for their efforts.

23 East Mayfield: Permission granted.

5.QUIETROUTE 30 CYCLING ROUTE CONSULTATION

The proposed route joins up Holyrood Park with Ratcliffe Terrace via upper Blacket Place, Blacket Avenue and Duncan Street. HD and IC reported on the prestakeholder meeting with CEC and their consultant and representatives of the West Blacket Association held on 17 May. Noted that:

- this was very useful and the CEC and consultant took points on board
- the University have not allowed the route to go through Pollock Halls grounds
- the west end of Blacket Avenue will be one way for traffic other than cycles and lights will be installed at the junction with Minto Street
- there will be a full public consultation, probably in September/October.

The Committee agreed that, while residents are likely to have varying views, the Association will focus on core points including ensuring that access to and from Blacket at both east and west entrances is maintained.

6.GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (GPCC)

- Noted Newington Cemetery will be open on Doors Open Day.
- The Committee nominated IC replace HD as the BA's delegate to the GPCC. This was agreed unanimously.

7.NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

IC reported on the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership on 9/8/16:

- Limited police contribution
- Many complaints re erratic refuse collection post CEC reorganisation of collections.

Crime: no major incidents in Blacket but continuing concerns re high level of housebreaking in south Edinburgh. Police Burglary unit reinstated but historic intelligence lost.

8. BLACKET AVENUE WORKING PARTY

- Shrubbery beside Aln Lodge (east end Blacket Avenue): HMCK discussed with Council. Current owner of Aln Lodge is not using the ground so responsibility rests with CEC to maintain fence and shrubbery. Agreed to split fencing cost 50:50 with CEC. HMCK coordinating contractor, awaiting CEC approval.
- Email appeals for help generated 6 volunteers for tree pruning and 1 for shrubbery tidying.
- No major plans for expenditure.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Open Gardens generated £95, much less than previous years (£200-£250). Attributed to lower turnout due to cold damp weather.
- Agreed no immediate requirement to increase subscription from £5 pa.
- Possible move to direct debits discussed. Agreed to investigate process, while immediate focus should be on reducing proportion of "nonpaying" residents who are up to one third of subscribers.

Action Aug16.01: Direct debit process to be investigated.

Action Aug16.02: Target nonpayers with specific addressed emails

10. NEW RESIDENTS – Carried forward.

11. SOCIAL EVENTS:

a/AGM/social:

Agreed merging with wine & cheese & deemphasising AGM may increase turnout. Date agreed Tuesday 29 November.

Action Aug16.03: Investigate locations & costs

b/Plant sale:

To be held 1 October 10-11 at north end of Alfred Place.

Action Aug16.04: Email advertising Plant sale to all residents

Action Aug16.05: Set up table & manage event

10. WEBSITE Nothing to report

13. COMMUNICATIONS/NEWSLETTER

Timing of next Newsletter to be agreed.

14. AOB

Blacket Avenue east – Noted that the ground in front of 3 houses at east end Blacket Avenue is part of the shrubbery and Council owned. Despite this one resident has put up a "Private no parking" sign. Query why this is not meter or residents parking.

Action Aug16.06: Follow up with C.E.C

University Residence- Noted large accumulation of rubbish and open bins at Blacket Avenue Halls, health & safety issue.

Action: Aug16.07: Follow up with University Accom office.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Committee:	Thursday 3 November	7.30	32 Blacket Place
Committee:	Monday 16 January 2017	7.30	11 Dryden Place
AGM:	Tuesday 29 November		Location & date TBC

SUMMARY of OPEN ACTIONS :

REF	ACTION	RESP
<i>Jan16.09</i>	<i>Invite photographer to Garden Open Evening</i>	<i>HD</i>
<i>Mar16.09</i>	<i>Agree timing of next Newsletter</i>	<i>IC</i>
<i>May16.01</i>	<i>New Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator</i>	<i>IC</i>
<i>May16.02</i>	<i>Seek new committee members – roles event coordination</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>Aug16.01</i>	<i>Direct debit process to be investigated.</i>	<i>BC</i>
<i>Aug16.02</i>	<i>Target nonpayers with specific addressed emails</i>	<i>BC/PP</i>
<i>Aug16.03</i>	<i>Investigate locations & costs for AGM</i>	
<i>Aug16.04</i>	<i>Email advertising Plant sale to all residents</i>	<i>PP</i>
<i>Aug16.05</i>	<i>Plant sale: Set up table & manage event</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>Aug16.06</i>	<i>Shrubbery parking:Follow up with C.E.C</i>	<i>HMCK</i>
<i>Aug16.07</i>	<i>Halls of Residence rubbish: Follow up with University Accom office.</i>	<i>FC</i>

SUMMARY of CLOSED ACTIONS

REF	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
Oct15.06	<i>New residents 2nd floor flat 40 Blacket Place to be invited to join</i>	AD
Oct15.08	<i>Website contact list to be cross checked with subscriptions</i>	BC/JK
Jan16.01	<i>Circulate Minto template objection letter by email. Any residents directly affected not in email to be contacted separately.</i>	PP
Jan16.02	<i>HD to raise with Community Council.</i>	HD
Jan16.03	<i>RS to contact planning</i>	RS
Jan 16.06	<i>Investigate Bowling Day costs and format</i>	HD
Jan 16.07	<i>Agree webhosting contract</i>	JK, BC
Jan16.10	<i>Research Newington Cemetery Friends request.</i>	HD
Sep12.03	<i>Request for residents to carry out routine maintenance to be included in the newsletter</i>	IC
Jan16.04	<i>Request for more gardens for opening to be included in Newsletter.</i>	IC
Jan16.08	<i>Newsletter drafting (Topics see minutes).</i>	IC
Mar16.01	<i>Suggestions for new Chair & new Committee members</i>	All
Mar16.02	<i>Respond to meeting request from architects</i>	HMCK
Mar16.03	<i>Letter to Councillor Rose pointing out lack of consultation</i>	HMCK
Mar16.04	<i>Contact known objectors re new plans and need to submit further objections.</i>	FC
Mar16.05	<i>New trees for North Blacket plantings</i>	HMCK
Mar16.06	<i>Request for more gardens in Newsletter.</i>	IC
Mar 16.07	<i>Approach garden owners</i>	All
Mar 16.08	<i>Finalise Bowling Day and advertise in Newsletter/email.</i>	HD/PP
May16.03	<i>23 East Mayfield objection</i>	HMCK
May16.04	<i>Meet Council and Lodge owner re Blacket Avenue shrubbery fence.</i>	HMCK
May16.05	<i>Subs and direct debits to be on Agenda for next meeting.</i>	FC
May16.06	<i>Bowling Club report for next Newsletter</i>	IC
May 16.07	<i>Approach possible garden opener</i>	FC
May 16.08	<i>Liaison re emails & stewarding</i>	All
May 16.09	<i>Change form to include consent for photography</i>	PP
May 16.10	<i>Details of costs of recent AGMs available for next meeting</i>	BC
May 16.11	<i>Update website with details of Garden Open Evening</i>	JK
May16.12	<i>Respond to resident re tradesman reference</i>	PP
May16.13	<i>IC to follow up Cycle Route Proposals</i>	IC