

THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING on 21 January 2020 at 7 Alfred Place

Present : Ian Chisholm (IC); Stan Bird (SB); Fiona Courtney (FC); Anne Henderson (AH); Hugh McKay (HMCK); Richard Scothorne (RS).

Apologies: Mhoraig Blair (MB); Arlene Doherty (AD); Pauline Platt (PP).

1.MINUTES : Minutes of 10 September 2019 were approved.

2. OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS : some ongoing see listing of open Actions at end of minutes

3. COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

The post of Social Convenor remains vacant and volunteers are sought.

4.PLANNING The Thrums Hotel is working on a scheme for a smaller extension to the main building and wishes to consult neighbours. RS reported on his meetings with the architect and neighbours. The Committee welcomed the consultative approach and discussed draft plans for the extension.

Action Jan20.01 – Arrange neighbours meeting at hotel & investigate impact on Avenue trees.

5.GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (GPCC) – The Committee congratulated IC on his election as Chair of the GPCC and Stan Bird as a member. IC noted the major current planning issues for the GPCC are the University development at Peffermill and a proposed cinema at Cameron Toll. The meeting noted issues with the Cameron Toll development, notably overdevelopment of the site with loss of parking and impact on nearby roads especially the junction with Craigmillar Park.

6.NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – SB reported no major issues.

Action Jan20.02 – Warning re online scams to be included in the Newsletter.

7.BLACKET AVENUE WORKING PARTY – HMCK reported that the appeal for help at the AGM generated new volunteers. A working party of 10+ has cleared ivy from fences and cleared the corner flowerbeds. Next move is removing ivy from trees.

8.TREASURER'S REPORT - Limited activity since the previous report. The Committee thanked AD for her efforts to sell Christmas cards - £150 was raised this year and stocks remain for sale in future years. Committee noted a resident's comment at the AGM that the Association should seek to spend all its funds eg on refreshments at the Open Gardens. After consideration, the Committee confirmed that the policy of maintaining a small reserve of funds to meet potential future costs for the benefit of all Blacket residents eg on planning advice, investment in the shrubberies etc) is reasonable and should be continued.

9.SOCIAL EVENTS:

a/AGM 2019 – This was felt to be reasonably successful with a good level of participation and attendance by several new residents.

b/Open Gardens – Suggested this be held in May rather than June to showcase gardens better.

Action Jan20.03 – Gardens sought for Open Gardens event.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

a/The Committee noted PP receives requests to distribute communications to database on behalf of specific residents and others – the Committee agreed that our GDPR permissions/"legitimate interest" only extends to matters directly relevant to the business of the Association, Neighbourhood Watch and/or Blacket residents. Requests to distribute communications from third parties will be refused.

b/Protocol for responding to residents emails/contact – Carried forward to next meeting.

11. AOB –it was agreed that the Committee should review old Blacket Association files and retain only essential documents. Hmck noted that some files had been deposited with [Edinburgh World Heritage].

Action Jan20.04 – Review old files held by Ian Carter & seek volunteer assistance with archiving

FUTURE MEETINGS

Committee: Tuesday 17 March 2020, Mayfield Terrace; 12 May 2020