

THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING on 12 May 2020 held on Zoom

Present : Ian Chisholm (IC); Stan Bird (SB); Mhoraig Blair (MB); Fiona Courtney (FC); Arlene Doherty (AD); Anne Henderson (AH); Hugh McKay (HMCK); Pauline Platt (PP); Richard Scothorne (RS).
Apologies: Laura Mackintosh (LM).

1. MINUTES : Minutes of 17 March 2020 were approved.

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

3. COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

Social Convenor – Laura Mackintosh has volunteered. She was unable to attend the meeting but has agreed to be co-opted on to the Committee.

Committee roles/Succession - The list of Committee members' tasks collated by PP was discussed. The Committee acknowledged that there is a gap in terms of the traditional voluntary organisation "Secretary" role; the current distribution of tasks reflects the roles that current members are prepared to take on, and the historic "Secretary" role had been split into several parts. Noted that the activities that the Association engages in, beyond its limited constitutional mission, are driven by the willingness and enthusiasms of volunteer residents, and these may change over time. Agreed that the Association's functions and Committee roles should be reviewed and set out clearly in advance of the AGM.

Action May20.01 – Chair to draft paper on Association's mission, activities and volunteer roles for discussion.

4. COVID-19 RESPONSE – MB updated the Committee on the coordination of neighbourhood volunteering. A number of willing volunteers had come forward, and the offers of help to residents has been well received. A limited number of residents had taken it up, often for short term assistance with shopping.

5. PLANNING - Thrums Hotel - After consultation with interested residents, the Association submitted a letter commenting on aspects of the planning application (not an objection). Noted that West Blacket Association has written in support of the revised scheme.

- The Committee noted that 23b Minto Street is being refurbished after many years empty. This is welcomed by the Committee.

5. GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (GPCC) – Meetings are being held remotely. Noted that the City of Edinburgh 2030 Plan is under consultation.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Reports of current "scams" have been circulated to residents and this has been well received. Noted that that local reps have had little involvement recently and that the scheme needs to be reinvigorated.

Action Mar20.04 – SB to Contact local reps and reestablish group.

7. SHRUBBERIES WORKING PARTY – HMCK thanked MB for a donation of plants. Volunteers have worked to clear ivy from trees, walls and fences.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT - No significant matters to report.

9. SOCIAL EVENTS:

- Open Gardens cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions.

- Future events - LM has suggested a plant sale, agreed this would be a good events to hold in the autumn once restrictions on small outside events are lifted.

- Alternative activities – SB proposed a competition to design a Blacket flag; also a photographic competition was suggested.

Action May20.02: SB to circulate proposals for flag design competition.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

a/MB updated the Committee on progress on the website. MB has updated content, still waiting on updates; once complete she will build a new page.

Action May20.03 – Committee members to review website and submit any changes to MB by the end of June.

b/The Association has received several requests to distribute personal notices (eg deaths & funerals) to the database of residents. After discussion and noting timing and privacy concerns, it was agreed that this is outwith the remit of the Association. The potential for a local Facebook page or other means of local group messaging between residents was discussed; noted that this would require volunteer input to administer and potentially monitor content.

Action May20.04 – PP to respond with sympathies to the residents concerned.

c/Database – Updated and cleansed. Committee agreed that residents who have moved out of the area should be removed from the database unless they specifically request to stay on.

11. AOB

FUTURE MEETINGS

Committee: Tuesday 25th August