

THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING on 8 September 2020 held on Zoom

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

1. MINUTES : Minutes of 12 May 2020 were approved.

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

3. COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

Association aims and activities - The Chair's paper on the Association's aims and objectives was discussed. The core objectives of the Association were agreed to be:

- Protect and enhance the amenity of the area (e.g. planning, maintenance of shrubberies etc)
- Represent the interests of Blacket residents on relevant forums in the wider community (e.g. Community Council, interactions with City of Edinburgh Council on issues)
- Encourage and support Blacket community activities (e.g. social events, Neighbourhood Watch)

It was noted that the extent of the Association's activities will depend on the interests of residents and the enthusiasms of Committee members and other volunteers, which may vary over time.

Committee succession - Noted that Hugh McKay, Pauline Platt, and Fiona Courtney are standing down at the AGM and Laura Mackintosh has informed the Chair that she is not able to take on the Social Convenor role. So new Committee members are sought to take on their roles – Communications, Minutes secretary, Social convenor, organisation of shrubberies maintenance.

Action Sep20.01 – Appeal for new committee members.

4. COVID-19 RESPONSE – It was noted that MB's organisation of volunteers to support local residents had been well received.

5. PLANNING -

Thrums Hotel – Noted that planning permission for a revised extension scheme has been rejected (unacceptable change to listed building). The association had submitted comments on the application, but no objection.

23 E Mayfield – The boundary wall to E Mayfield has been rebuilt to a lower level than per the permission. The association had reported this to CEC planning.

Minto mews – Resident's concern noted re works on end mews house balcony.

5. GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (GPCC) –Noted that university plans for the Peffermill site had been changed in response to consultations, but issues are still ongoing. The proposed cinema at Cameron Toll has been approved.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – No major activity. Some alerts, mainly to current "scams" have been circulated to residents.

7. SHRUBBERIES WORKING PARTY – HMck reported on volunteers' efforts in Blacket Avenue to cut back shrubs and clear vegetation, which has widened the pavement. The aim is to clear leaves to keep the pavement to its full width.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT - AH reported a generous donation of £100 had been received. No other significant matters to report.

9. SOCIAL EVENTS:

- cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions.

- AGM – to be held remotely. Date agreed as 28 October. Papers will be circulated in advance in the form of a Newsletter.

Action Sept20:02 – Papers for AGM to Chair by end September

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Noted that as PP is stepping down from the Committee, Communications responsibilities will require to be transferred to PP's successor, failing whom the Chair on a temporary basis.

