

# THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

(the "Association")

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

(the "Committee")

Held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 8pm via Zoom

**Present:** Ian Chisholm – Chairman and Newsletter Editor ("IC")  
Stanley Bird - Neighbourhood Watch ("SB")  
Mhoraig Blair – Website Co-ordinator ("MB")  
Anne Henderson – Treasurer ("AH")  
Arlene Doherty – New Residents ("AD")  
Richard Scothorne – Planning ("RS")  
Susan Hezlet - Communications ("SH")  
Hazel Clark – Minutes and Social Convener ("HC")

### 1. MINUTES:

IC welcomed SH and HC to the Committee as new members. The minutes of the meeting from 8th September 2020 were discussed and approved.

### 2. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

The list of open actions was discussed. The table of actions at the end of these minutes has been updated accordingly. It was agreed to remove the action relating to the flag design competition.

The Committee discussed the ongoing issue of illegal one-way entry into Mayfield Terrace. MB reported that illegal entry into the one-way system at the top of Blacket Place where it meets Dalkeith Road is also a problem. IC agreed to raise the matter with the Grange & Prestonfield Community Council ("GPCC").

**Action Feb21.01 – IC to raise the matter of illegal one-way entry to Blacket Place from Dalkeith Road with the GPCC.**

### 3. COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee discussed the paper entitled 'The Blacket Association: Aims and Activities'. It was agreed that the wording in relation to planning applications should be amended to reflect the fact that the Committee does more than simply send letters of objection.

**Action Feb20.02 – RS to update 'The Blacket Association: Aims and Activities' paper and send to MB for uploading to website**

### 4. ROLES REVIEW

IC was pleased to report that the empty positions on the Committee had now been filled.

**5. COVID-19 RESPONSE**

IC reported that support networks within the community were in place and working well. MB advised that a lot of support was being given through the local church group and people had been very appreciative.

**6. PLANNING**

RS updated the Committee on the following planning applications:

Thrums Hotel	Still ongoing. An application has been submitted to build a two-storey mews in the back garden. The Association had been involved in the application but had objected to it.
19 Minto Street	An application has been approved to change the use from a guest house to a single dwelling.
9 Minto Street	An application has been submitted to divide the property into two separate dwellings. The garden is to remain undivided. The Association has not objected on the basis that the subdivision is to be carried out in such a way that it could easily be restored to one property.
23 East Mayfield	The boundary wall to East Mayfield has been rebuilt to a lower level than per the permission. The Association has objected and the planning department have agreed. Enforcement action is therefore being taken.

It was agreed that upon receipt of any interesting planning applications going forward, RS would circulate them to the members of the Committee.

**7. GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (the “GPCC”)**

IC explained to the new members of the Committee that he represented the Association at GPCC meetings and that SB was an elected member of the GPCC Board. The GPCC meets once a month and is a very useful way of finding out the wider issues within the community. Cycle lanes are currently a big issue. Discussions ensued about cycle lanes and IC reported that the cycle route from Holyrood Park to Ratcliffe Terrace through The Blackets has been approved but has been shelved for now due to the pandemic. Furthermore, the residents’ parking spaces and visitor spaces were now classed as joint use. This change was effected as part of the emergency measures Edinburgh Council took at the start of the Covid-19 outbreak and will now be permanent. The street signage is, however, still to be changed.

**8. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

SB reported that there had been no major activity, just the usual warning about online scams which he had circulated to residents. AD remarked that the fact everyone was at home due to the pandemic must be reducing the prevalence of burglaries.

**9. BLACKET SHRUBBERIES WORKING PARTY (the “BSWP”)**

IC explained for the benefit of the new members that Hugh Mckay, who organised the BSWP, had recently left the Committee. However, Hugh was still happy to continue to send a report on the activities of the BSWP for inclusion in Committee meetings. IC reported that there had recently been 25 volunteers clearing the streets of leaves. The Committee agreed that this was a very useful pool of volunteers who could perhaps be called upon in the future for other

projects. The Committee then discussed the removal of weeds from the end of driveways and on pavements and IC confirmed that the use of pesticides was not permitted.

Discussions moved on to blocked drains, with AD reporting that the Council had unblocked her drain within days of her filling out the necessary form online. SH suggested it might be beneficial to send out a communication to the residents informing them about the correct forms to be filled out for the different Council services. IC mooted whether it would be best to send that information in an ad hoc newsletter. SB reported that there was no grit box within The Blackets area. IC said he would mention this to the GPCC.

**Action Feb21.03 – IC to request grit box at next GPCC meeting.**

**10. TREASURER'S REPORT**

AH reported that there had been a steady flow of income after the AGM, in the run up to Christmas. New resident forms were to be passed to AH, who would then pass them to MB for inclusion in the database. AH had recently started asking people to pay the Association's dues via standing order which was working well with many residents giving more than £5 per annum. There were no other significant matters to report.

**11. NEW RESIDENTS**

AD reported that no new residents had moved into the area since Anne's new neighbour. It was noted that 64 Dalkeith Road and a property on Mayfield Terrace had recently been sold, so new residents would be arriving in due course. HC mentioned that Torwood (1A Mayfield Terrace) was also up for sale.

**12. SOCIAL EVENTS**

It was agreed that due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, it was impossible to plan for any social events. There was a small chance that the Open Gardens event could occur in June, but the decision to proceed with that would have to be taken nearer the time, depending on the restrictions then in place.

**13. COMMUNICATIONS**

IC introduced SH, who has replaced Pauline as the member in charge of communications with residents. SH advised that she had recently forwarded on to residents the Council Leader's Report and messages about a missing cat. IC suggested to SH that it will take a bit of time to get to know the different categories of communications – some can be forwarded straight on to residents, whilst others should be run past IC or even the whole Committee. SH reported that Pauline had given her a useful note on the subject.

IC explained that MB maintained the Association's database of information about residents. MB would let the Committee know about any missing information going forward. SH will have access to the database within the next few days and could therefore forward information to MB or could add it in herself.

MB advised that the database was still owned by Becky Colgrave which was an issue from a data protection point of view. Therefore, ownership needed to be transferred to the Association.

**Action Feb21.04 – MB to organise transfer of ownership of database into the name of the Association**

MB also reported that the database contained a considerable amount of out-of-date information, which it was agreed she should remove.

**Action Feb21.05 – MB to remove out-of-date information from database of residents' information**

**14. WEBSITE UPDATE**

MB advised that she had updated the website to show the names of the new members of the Committee. Documents from before 2016/17 had been removed from the website as they were irrelevant now. MB confirmed she would carry out a back-up of the website twice a year.

MB reported that she had discovered a 16-page report on the types of railings which are acceptable within the Blacket Conservation area. It was agreed that MB would put a note on the website requesting that any residents thinking of changing their railings first ask AH for the hard copy of the report.

**Action Feb21.06 – MB to add note on website that residents thinking of changing their railings first ask AH for the hard copy of the report on acceptable types of railings**

Discussions then turned to building new sections of the website. It was agreed that it was too time-consuming for MB to build large documents, such as the architectural walking tour, into the website herself. MB agreed to arrange for a quote from an IT company.

**Action Feb21.07 – MB to arrange a quote from an IT company to build large documents into the website**

**15. NEWSLETTER**

IC mentioned that the Committee would usually produce a Spring Newsletter to be physically distributed to residents at this time of the year, informing them about the upcoming Open Gardens social event. It was agreed that as that event was unlikely to occur, it was best to simply send out an email to residents about any recent matters and also outline the types of form to submit to Edinburgh Council for different services.

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

IC reported to the Committee that he had a large amount of physical and electronic material in relation to the Association which he had inherited from his predecessor, Ian Carter. He had thrown out old papers relating to the planning department, but has kept interesting things, such as an old guide to The Blackets. MB advised that all the electronic information should be transferred from IC's personal drive to the Association's drive. In relation to old planning material, RS commented that it would be best to keep hold of information relating to substantial objections made by the Association. IC said he would give the matter some thought, and it was agreed that it should be added to the next meeting's agenda.

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the Committee should hold its next meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 at 8pm.

**SUMMARY of OPEN ACTIONS:**

<b>REF</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RES P</b>	<b>Status</b>
Nov16.10	<i>Painted signs: Follow up with quotes from painters known to the Committee.</i>	RS, HD	2/2/21 – SB has taken photos and will take measurements
Jan17.04	<i>Committee members to email AD with details of new residents for follow up.</i>	All	Ongoing. Ritchie and Helen Kitt had been identified as new residents
Jan19.05	<i>Blacket Awards proposal concept to be developed further.</i>	RS	Ongoing. Recognition for people doing something to improve life in the Blackets. RS to prepare concept for Committee.
Sep19.05	<i>Review the website and provide MB with updated content.</i>	All	Ongoing
Mar20.04	<i>Reconfirm local Neighbourhood watch reps' interest in continuing, and re-establish group.</i>	SB	Formal network no longer exists. Residents tend to go directly to SB. MB to update website accordingly.
Mar20.05	<i>Illegal one-way entry to Mayfield Terrace – raise with GPCC</i>	IC & SB	Issue with the sign being difficult to understand and see has been raised. Ongoing.
May20.0 3	<i>Committee members to review website and submit any changes to MB by the end of June.</i>	All	Ongoing
May20.0 4	<i>PP to respond with sympathies to the residents re death notices</i>	PP	Ongoing
Sep20.01	<i>Appeal for new committee members</i>	IC	Closed
Sep20.02	<i>AGM papers to Chair by end September</i>	All	Closed
<b>Feb21.01</b>	<b><i>IC to raise with GPCC matter of illegal one-way entry to Blacket Place from Dalkeith Road</i></b>	<b>IC</b>	
<b>Feb 21.02</b>	<b><i>RS to update 'The Blacket Association: Aims and Activities' paper and send to MB for uploading to website</i></b>	<b>RS &amp; MB</b>	
<b>Feb 21.03</b>	<b><i>IC to request grit box at next GPCC meeting</i></b>	<b>IC</b>	
<b>Feb 21.04</b>	<b><i>MB to organise transfer of ownership of database into the name of the Association</i></b>	<b>MB</b>	
<b>Feb21.05</b>	<b><i>MB to remove out-of-date information from database</i></b>	<b>MB</b>	
<b>Feb21.06</b>	<b><i>MB to add note on website that residents thinking of changing their railings first ask AH for the hard copy of the report on acceptable types of railings</i></b>	<b>MB</b>	

<b>REF</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RES P</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b><u>Feb21.07</u></b>	<b><i>MB to arrange a quote from an IT company to build large documents into the website</i></b>	<b>MB</b>	