

THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

(the “Association”)

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

(the “Committee”)

Held on 20th February 2023 at 7pm

Present: Susan Hezlet - Chairman and Communications (“SH”)
Ian Chisholm –Newsletter Editor (“IC”)
Anne Starsmeare – Sustainability representative (“AS”)
Stanley Bird - Neighbourhood Watch (“SB”)
Arlene Doherty – New Residents (“AD”)
Colin Blair – Website Co-ordinator (“CB”)
Richard Scothorne – Planning (“RS”)
Anne Henderson - Treasurer (‘AH’)
Hazel Clark – Minutes and Social Convener (“HC”)

1. WELCOME

SH, the new Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Colin as it was his first meeting.

2. MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2022 were approved.

3. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

The list of open actions was discussed, including those from the AGM back in November. The table of actions at the end of these minutes has been updated accordingly.

The Committee discussed the recent removal of 12 trees at Pollock Halls. Everyone agreed that it looked much worse now. IC had been unable to find any permissions granted for their removal, but that may have been because they weren’t required. The area was a car park, so perhaps they were planning to develop the area. HC was aware that they were short of rooms for students. AS wondered whether the Association could ask the University to replant the trees.

Action – Feb23.01 – SH to ask Council if the trees at Pollock Halls could be replanted.

IC advised that the cycle route report from 2017 which was to link the railway to Ratcliffe Terrace was **finally** about to be put on the Council’s 2023 agenda. The Committee agreed that it was in favour of the cycle route in principle, provided Blacket Avenue remained accessible from Minto Street. The Council would be producing plans for the Committee to review in due course and IC assured everyone he would keep chasing until they appeared!

4. PLANNING

RS advised that work had commenced on the extension at the back of the Thrums Hotel. There were a lot of heavy goods vehicles which worried the Committee given the proximity to the local nursery. It was agreed that RS would ask the contractors to increase their health and safety signage.

Action – Feb23.02 – *RS to ask contractors at Thrums Hotel to increase their health and safety signage to warn the public of ongoing dangers.*

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

IC told the Committee that the planning expert in the GPCC had left. SB explained that the Council’s budget had been cut by £60m which was clearly having an impact.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SB advised that the biggest issue remained on-line scams as opposed to physical thefts.

7. SHRUBBERY WORKING PARTY (“SWP”)

IC told the Committee that he felt the the SWP would benefit from having a young committee member to represent it. Discussions ensued as to whether it would be easier for the Committee just to pay a gardener to keep the shrubberies tidy, given the ongoing problem of getting volunteers.

Action – Feb23.03 – *SH to put Hugh in touch with her gardener, Jerry.*

8. SOCIAL IDEAS

The Committee took a vote and it was unanimously decided not to hold a street party for the King’s coronation. Everyone felt that having an Open Gardens evening was preferable, so SH would ask for volunteers. It was agreed that Friday 9th June was to be the date, which would be mentioned in the Spring Newsletter.

Action – Feb23.04 – *SH to email all residents, asking who would like to volunteer their garden as a venue on the Open Gardens evening.*

9. UPDATE ON BLACKET SUSTAINABILITY GROUP (“BSG”)

AS advised that she would produce an update for the Spring Newsletter.

10. COMMUNICATIONS WITH RESIDENTS

The Committee discussed whether the Newsletter sent to residents should still be delivered on paper. Despite the obvious environmental benefits of emailing it, there are still too many residents who don’t have an email address.

RS brought up the subject of energy efficiency and thought it would be a good idea to canvas the opinions of residents on developments such as solar panels, heat pumps, ground pumps etc. Should the Committee become a place of exchange where people can share experiences? RS had been gathering what’s been happening in planning terms. It was probably prudent for the

Association to align with the other 24 conservation groups in Edinburgh. One idea would be to have a speaker at the next AGM talk about energy saving measures.

Action – Feb23.05 – SH to liaise with IC and RS and draft an email to residents asking who would like to find out more about home energy efficiency.

11. WEBSITE UPDATE

CB advised there was nothing major to report.

12. NEWSLETTER

This would be produced in May for distribution to the residents.

13. NEW RESIDENTS

AD reported that new residents had moved into 17 Mayfield Terrace and 3 Dryden Place and she had spoken to both families and given them information about the Association.

The Committee discussed the method of payment membership fees and it was agreed that a paragraph should be added to the next Newsletter asking residents to set up direct debits going forward.

Action – Feb23.06 – AH to add wording into the Newsletter requesting that residents set up direct debits to pay their annual membership fees going forward.

14. TREASURER'S REPORT

AH announced that the Association had recently paid £40 for membership of the Cockburn Association and that left approximately £3,800 in the bank.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

IC was sad to inform the Committee that Elspeth Zanks had recently passed away. AD added that Charles Kerr, had also died too.

AH reported that her husband had been making a lot of noise in respect of the pot hole issue on Mayfield Terrace and felt he was making some progress.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was to be Tuesday 9th May at 7:30pm at SH's house.

SUMMARY of OPEN ACTIONS:

REF	ACTION	RESP	STATUS
Jan17.04	Committee members to email AD with details of new residents for follow up.	All	Ongoing and working well. AD has given membership details to new residents at 3 Dryden Place.

REF	ACTION	RESP	STATUS
Jan19.05	<i>Blacket Awards proposal concept to be developed further.</i>	RS	Ongoing. RS promised to make progress on this once his work hours reduced.
Sep19.05	<i>Review the website and provide MB with updated content.</i>	All	Ongoing but doing well.
Mar20.05	<i>Illegal one-way entry to Mayfield Terrace – raise with GPCC</i>	IC & SB	Council have been informed that we want a proper NO ENTRY sign. Still ongoing. To be kept under review.
Feb21.01	<i>IC to raise with GPCC matter of illegal one-way entry to Dalkeith Rd from Blacket Place</i>	IC	Ongoing.
May21.01	<i>Committee members to look at the website and give MB their feedback</i>	All	Ongoing.
Jan22.02	<i>IC to chase up the nursery for a response to his complaint about nursery parents parking on Blacket Avenue.</i>	IC	Ongoing. IC to keep chasing for a response.
Jan22.04	<i>Japonica shrub to be bought and replanted beside 8 Dryden Place.</i>	IC	Shrub has been replaced but IC to check if residents have been refunded.
Apr22.01	<i>AS to finalise Sustainability Group paper for inclusion in next Newsletter.</i>	AS	Meeting coming up so AS will prepare update to be included in Newsletter for AGM.
May22.01	<i>AS to establish whether there is a website through which litter issues can be reported to the Council.</i>	AS	Doesn't appear to be one – put in Newsletter that residents pick up litter in the area.
AGM Action22.01	<i>SB to ask university residence rep at GPCC meeting to stop blowing leaves onto Blacket Avenue.</i>	SB	SB would ask at meeting with Stuart Tully on 22/02/23
AGM Action22.02	<i>IC to check whether permissions to take down 12 trees at Pollock Halls were given before their removal.</i>	IC	IC unable to find any permissions but perhaps they weren't required?
AGM Action22.03	<i>RS to find out whether planning permission for changes to 16 Blacket Place has been granted.</i>	RS	Ongoing.
<u>Feb23.01</u>	<i>SH to ask Council if the trees at Pollock Halls could be replanted.</i>	SH	
<u>Feb23.02</u>	<i>RS to ask contractors at Thrums Hotel to increase their health and safety signage to warn the public of ongoing dangers.</i>	RS	
<u>Feb23.03</u>	<i>SH to put Hugh in touch with her gardener, Jerry.</i>	SH	
<u>Feb23.04</u>	<i>SH to email all residents, asking who would like to volunteer their garden as a venue on the Open Gardens evening.</i>	SH	

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<u>Feb23.05</u>	<i>SH to liaise with IC and RS and draft an email to residents asking who would like to find out more about home energy efficiency.</i>	<i>SH</i>	
<u>Feb23.06</u>	<i>AH to add wording into the Newsletter requesting that residents set up direct debits to pay their annual membership fees going forward.</i>	<i>AH</i>	