

# THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

(the "Association")

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

(the "Committee")

Held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7:30pm

**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 ("MB")  
Anne Henderson - Treasurer ('AH')  
Hazel Clark – Minutes and Social Convener ("HC")

### 1. APOLOGIES

Richard Scothorne – Planning ("RS").

### 2. MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were approved.

### 3. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

The list of open actions was discussed. The table of actions at the end of these minutes has been updated accordingly.

### 4. SOCIAL EVENTS

The Committee began by discussing the forthcoming Open Gardens event and agreed that it was important for residents to sign a disclaimer. IC suggested that a disclaimer notice be placed in the Newsletter and that a sign stating that the Association was not liable for any injuries be placed at the front gate of each of the gardens. Residents would be responsible for their own children and dogs were not permitted.

**Action – May23.01** – IC to provide the wording for the disclaimer notices and email to HC for printing and laminating.

It was agreed that the Open Gardens event should begin at 6:30pm, with the final party starting at 7:30pm in the last garden. The suggested donation was £5 per adult. Discussions then ensued as to how many bottles of wine and soft drinks would be required.

**Action – May23.02** – SH and AH to order supplies from Majestic and CB would pick them up.

### 5. NEWSLETTER

It was agreed that the main topics to be included in this edition of the Newsletter should be:

- Open Gardens event;
- Residents setting up direct debits to pay their annual subs;
- Neighbourhood Watch;
- Shrubbery Working Party;
- Sustainability Group; and
- Chance to buy Blacket cards at the Open Gardens event.

The deadline for submissions was 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

## **6. PLANNING MATTERS**

RS had advised SH that the Scottish Widows building was being renovated. It is outwith the Association's area but the Grange and Prestonfield Community Council were monitoring it.

Work was ongoing at the back of the Thrums Hotel, with the associated parking chaos on Blacket Avenue.

## **7. GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (the "GPCC")**

IC mentioned that he thinks Blacket residents are not sufficiently aware of the GPCC. SH suggested that it be mentioned in the Newsletter, which everyone agreed was a good idea. IC explained that the GPCC meetings took place in person but that it was also possible to dial in and watch them online. Residents becoming aware of the GPCC may lead to some of them wanting to run for the GPCC board in future elections. The GPCC were interested to hear that the Association had given residents a sustainability briefing on solar panels etc.

## **8. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ("NW")**

SB informed the Committee that he was receiving fewer alerts from NW Scotland. As usual, the biggest issue remained on-line scams as opposed to physical thefts. There had been a number of complaints at the GPCC meetings that the Police no longer attended and only provided reports quarterly in arrears. There had been a issue concerning people going round houses and offering to wash cars – if the residents refused, the people got aggressive. The Police were doing nothing to intervene.

CB told the Committee that there had been an incident with students on the wall of his house at Dalkeith Road, right outside his children's bedroom window. There had also been a lot of broken glass outside Pollock Halls.

## **9. BLACKET SHRUBBERIES WORKING PARTY ("SWP")**

SH suggested that as the Association had a decent amount of money in reserve, that it should pay for any heavy lifting jobs. Discussions then ensued as to whether the elm stump at the corner of Blacket Avenue and Blacket Place should be removed. It was decided that it would be best to leave it in place as a feature, which would also encourage biodiversity.

SH advised that Austin Flynn was keen to join the SWP and may also be interested in joining the Committee in the future.

IC would ask Hugh MacKay for a contribution to the Newsletter in relation to the SWP and for dates he needed people to help with the clearing of leaves going forward.

**Action – May23.03** – SH to ask Hugh for a contribution to the Newsletter re the SWP.

**10. UPDATE FROM BLACKET SUSTAINABILITY GROUP (“BSG”)**

AS reported that they were working on a piece for the Newsletter, including a section on secondary glazing by Jenny Dunbar and a section on fires and stoves by Fiona Salzen. Alan was working on a section about electric cars. AS was very pleased about how much awareness there was about the BSG. SB suggested that the BSG get in touch with the GPCC as the Association was really taking the lead in relation to sustainability matters.

**Action – May23.04** – AS to contact the GPCC to update them as to the Blacket Sustainability Group’s ideas and progress.

**11. TREASURER’S REPORT**

AH advised that the Association still had approximately £2,800 in the bank. Ian McLeish had recently been paid £73.80 for manure. The Committee agreed the importance of emphasising in the Newsletter that residents should set up direct debits to pay their subscriptions going forward.

**12. NEW RESIDENTS UPDATE**

There were two new couples who had moved into 23 and 25 Blacket Place respectively. AD would produce wording for the Newsletter to welcome new residents.

AS had to leave the meeting at this point.

**13. WEBSITE UPDATE**

CB advised that the history page had been updated and suggested that on the page about local facilities, the GPCC should be emphasised more.

**14. AOB**

The Committee discussed their delight at Mayfield Terrace having just been resurfaced – not before time! However, a number of residents and Committee members had mentioned how lovely the street had looked when the old tarmac had been scraped off, thus exposing the original cobbles and gutters. It was agreed that in future the Association should petition the Council to leave the cobbles exposed.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was to be 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7:30pm at 4 Dryden Place unless otherwise determined.

**SUMMARY of OPEN ACTIONS:**

<b>REF</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESP</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<i>Jan17.04</i>	<i>Committee members to email AD with details of new residents for follow up.</i>	All	Ongoing and working well. AD has given membership details to new residents at 3 Dryden Place.
<i>Jan19.05</i>	<i>Blacket Awards proposal concept to be developed further.</i>	RS	Ongoing. RS promised to make progress on this once his work hours reduced.
<i>Sep19.05</i>	<i>Review the website and provide MB with updated content.</i>	All	Ongoing but doing well.
<i>Mar20.05</i>	<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.
<i>Feb21.01</i>	<i>IC to raise with GPCC matter of illegal one-way entry to Dalkeith Rd from Blacket Place</i>	IC	Ongoing.
<u><i>May21.01</i></u>	<i>Committee members to look at the website and give MB their feedback</i>	All	Ongoing.
<u><i>Jan22.02</i></u>	<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.
<u><i>Jan22.04</i></u>	<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. Ongoing.
<i>Apr22.01</i>	<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. Ongoing.
<b>AGM Action22.01</b>	<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. He didn't attend the meeting so SB has emailed Mr Tully.
<u><i>Feb23.02</i></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	Ongoing.
<u><i>Feb23.03</i></u>	<i>SH to put Hugh in touch with her gardener, Jerry.</i>	SH	Ongoing.
<u><i>May23.01</i></u>	<i>IC to provide the wording for the disclaimer notices and email to HC for printing and laminating.</i>	IC	
<u><i>May23.02</i></u>	<i>SH and AH to order supplies from Majestic and CB would pick them up.</i>	SH, AH & CB	
<u><i>May23.03</i></u>	<i>SH to ask Hugh for a contribution to the Newsletter re the SWP.</i>	SH	

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