THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

(the "Association")

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

(the "Committee")

Held on 23rd April 2026 at 7:30pm at 7 Alfred Place

Present: Susan Hezlet - Chairman and Communications ("SH")
Ian Chisholm – Vice Chair and GPCC rep ("IC")
Anne Sturrock – New residents ("AS")
Hazel Clark – Minutes and Social Convener ("HC")
Richard Scothorne – Planning ("RS")
Stewart Whiting – Shrubbery Working Party ("SW")
John Usher – Shrubbery Working Party ("JU")
Stan Bird – Neighbourhood Watch ("SB")
John Rosie – Website Co-ordinator ("JR")

Apologies: Craig Mcmahon - Treasurer ("CM")

1. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

SH welcomed John Rosie to his first Committee meeting as the Association's website co-ordinator.

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2026 were 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.

Caroline Sibbald has been keeping the pressure on the World Heritage Library in the hope that they will find the two boxes of Blacket information, as she used to work there so knows the staff well. AS advised that she had been at a World Heritage Library lecture the previous night. There were now 41 conservation areas within Edinburgh, but Blacket was the very first!

3. UPDATE POST AGM

The Committee reviewed the actions from the AGM and noted that Simon White had suggested that residents shouldn't be paying for drinks at the Open Gardens event – they should be paid for by the Committee. After a long discussion, the Committee agreed that it was inappropriate for the Association to pay for alcohol as that was not in-keeping with the objectives of the Association. However, AS reminded the Committee that it had previously

considered using some money to update and reprint the Blacket Association booklet. The Committee agreed that that was a good use of funds and decided to take it forward.

Action26-April-01 *– SH to look into costs of producing a few hundred copies of a new booklet about the Blacket area.*

4. OPEN GARDENS

Caroline and Charlie Ross-Stewart at 13 Blacket Place have offered their garden to host the open garden drinks. They would like the date to be Friday 29th May as that is when their garden looks its best. The Gammells are going to open their garden beforehand. A third garden is still required, if everyone could please ask their neighbours. Most of the Committee are able to help out on the evening.

SH will organise the wine, glasses and ice. HC will organise crisps, soft drinks, name labels, buckets for cash and ice buckets. SH will also check whether Ross-Stewarts mind the Association selling cards there.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

The Committee congratulated RS on his contribution to securing a C listing of the Lads' Institute on Ratcliffe Terrace. RS reported that The Cockburn Association has noted that the inside of the building is as important as the outside, so the Association needs to monitor that and ensure the developers don't demolish the inside and just leave the façade.

In relation to the redevelopment of Cameron Toll, the public representations are very general at the moment as the development proposals are at an early stage.

At Peffermill, Edinburgh University is trying to get permission to build student housing on the rugby pitches at the corner. RS is monitoring the situation.

The owners of 25 Blacket Avenue have asked for RS's advice on their planning proposal.

6. GRANGE & PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (the "GPCC")

IC reported that the main discussions had surrounded the Lads' Institute and the state of the roads with potholes. Prestonfield Avenue is due to be resurfaced soon. In Priestfield, the residents can't agree on the placement of trees and bollards.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SB reported that there were no incidents of physical issues, with online scams remaining the biggest issue.

8. BLACKET SHRUBBERIES WORKING PARTY ("SWP")

JU advised that there is a major issue of bagged-up dog poos being left in the undergrowth and wondered whether it would be sensible to put signs up on trees to deter people. SH and IC thought it would be better to mention the issue in the next Newsletter.

Action26-April-02 *– SH to mention issue of bags of dog poos being thrown into the undergrowth in the next Newsletter.*

In relation to the re-painting of the street names, SW reported that the painters were scheduling the job in, but that the date still wasn't confirmed. Discussions moved to the need for a grit bin, with JU agreeing to chase that up with the Council.

Action26-April-03 *– JU to chase up the Council to provide the area with a grit bin.*

Finally, a resident had complained about visibility issues at the junction of Blacket Avenue and Blacket Place, but JU had looked at the area and there was no more foliage that could be cut back.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

CM was not present but had reported that the Association still had plenty of funds.

10. NEW RESIDENTS UPDATE

AS advised that there were two houses on market at 20b Mayfield Terrace and 7 Dryden Place.

No cards had been sold since the last meeting, but AS would offer some for sale at the Open Gardens.

11. WEBSITE UPDATE

JR was not present but everything on the website looks good.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SH asked for contributions for the latest newsletter from everyone but asked that they be short and concise.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting ended at 9pm and the date of the next meeting was TBC.

Hazel Clark
Secretary

SUMMARY of OPEN ACTIONS:

REF	ACTION	RESP	STATUS
Jan17-04	Committee members to email AS with details of new residents for follow up.	All	Ongoing and working well.
Feb21-01	IC to raise with GPCC matter of illegal one-way entry to Dalkeith Rd from Blacket Place	IC	Ongoing.
May21-01	Committee members to look at the website and give CB their feedback	All	Ongoing.
Mar25-04	IC to make up a list of who holds which items on behalf of the Association.	IC	Ongoing
Mar25-06	JU to ask his contact at the university accommodation to spread the word about forthcoming SWP clean ups.	JU	Ongoing
Oct25-01	AS to ask previous resident, Sandra Carter, if she can remember who holds the Association's embroidery.	AS	AS had asked around – ongoing.
Oct25-02	SB to send video about keyless car safety to SH so she can email it to residents.	SB and SH	After reviewing it, SB decided it wasn't of any benefit to residents – CLOSED.
Oct25-03	JU to provide SH with date for next SWP leaf collection, so she can email residents.	JU	Done – CLOSED.
Oct25-04	JU to ask his contact at the Council if they will pay to replace the rotting fence posts on Blacket Avenue.	JU	Should happen in new financial year – CLOSED.
Oct25-05	HC to send CB copy of latest minutes for upload onto website.	HC	Done – CLOSED.
Feb26-01	JR to add a link to the Edinburgh Heritage library on the website so residents can find out more about Blacket history.	JR	Ongoing.
Feb26-02	IC to ask Cori Schwabe if she would like to join the Committee.	IC	Sadly, she is leaving the area – CLOSED.
Feb26-03	SW or JU to give SH three or four dates for 2026 SWP clear ups which can be emailed to residents.	SW/JU	May 9th announced, rest TBC.
Feb26-04	JR to provide SH with a link to the Council's website where residents can request to have their water feed changed from lead.	JR	Done – CLOSED.
Feb26-05	CM to remove Anne Henderson as a signatory from bank account.	CM	Ongoing.

REF	ACTION	RESP	STATUS
Feb26-06	*JR to change contact name for the domain name from Bob Couples and to discuss the database with SH.*	*JR*	*Ongoing.*
Apr26-01	*SH to look into costs of producing a few hundred copies of a new booklet about the*	*SH*	
Apr26-02	*SH to mention issue of bags of dog poos being thrown into the undergrowth in the next Newsletter*	*SH*	
Apr26-03	*JU to chase up the Council to provide the area with a grit bin.*	*JU*	