

# West Blasket Association

## Annual General Meeting

### November 29 2010

**Present:** Rosemary Wake (Chairman, ERW), Evelynne Hill (Hon Treasurer, EH), Mike Hunter (Hon Sec, MJH), Ian Carter (IC), Alice Foster (AF), Richard Grant (RG), Jane Griffiths (JaneG), Kate O'Brien (KoB), Rosie Addison, Helen Cassels, Nigel Cumming, Jackie Grant, John Griffiths (JohnG), Ron Hill (RH), Peter McGowan, Chris Theobald, Cllr Cameron Rose.

**Apologies:** Irene Brown, Georgina Clayton, Jim & June Davidson, Helen MacDonald; Cllrs Steve Burgess, Gordon MacKenzie & Ian Perry.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous AGM, November 23 2009, were approved without objection.

#### **Chairman's Report:**

- ERW welcomed WBA members and Councillor Cameron Rose to the meeting and thanked the Minto Hotel for, once again, supporting the Association by providing a room. She reported that it had been a busy and sociable year starting with a Winter Warmer in January 2010, with the summer marked by a Garden Social in August, in conjunction with Earthy. There had been two meetings of the history group. An innovation, in the summer, was the informal walking group. Also new was the email-operated 'Glut Group' which enables sharing of surplus plants and produce. Many people were involved in these activities and she thanked them all, highlighting in particular the hosts who had made visits to their back gardens so interesting and successful.
- Behind the scenes, it had also been busy. It was not sufficient to monitor planning applications, oversee Neighbourhood Watch, and represent the area at meetings if the WBA were to be an effective community-based association. The Committee had also reviewed the constitution, membership levels and subscriptions. It concluded that the WBA had to have a more secure financial base and flexibility through co-option if it were to fulfil its aims. That was the background to the proposals being put to the AGM.
- In conclusion ERW thanked Committee members for their hard work, especially the Treasurer who had surmounted the unexpected hurdles of moving the bank account as well as managing finances.

**Treasurer's Report:** EH had tabled copies of our accounts, and explained new developments -

- We have established a Treasurer's Account at RBS, which will allow members to pay subscriptions by standing order: this will be possible for the financial year November 1 2011 to October 31 2012; however, subscriptions for 2010-11 must still be paid by cash or cheque.
- Members will now be issued a Membership Card.

#### **Proposed Amendments to WBA Constitution:**

Members had already been notified of proposed amendments.

The most significant of these were to provide the WBA Committee powers of co-option.

Proposed by MJH, seconded by JohnG & approved without objection.

#### **Proposed Increase in Membership Subscriptions:**

Members had already been notified of our proposal to increase the annual membership subscription to £5 (individual) or £8 (household). MJH explained that: a) our subscription hadn't been increased for many years and could no longer meet rising costs; b) increased activity during the previous 2 years had been made possible by a one-off windfall from a TV company filming in the area; c) the proposed new subscription rates are less than for comparable amenity associations.

Proposed by MJH, seconded by RH. Approved after some discussion.

#### **Elections of Office-bearers & Committee:**

Existing members (ERW, EH, MJH, IC, AF, RG, JaneG & KoB) had all agreed to continue.

No further nominations had been received.

#### **Grange/Prestonfield Community Council:**

MJH, representing WBA on GPCC, reported: a) contact details for the Safer Neighbourhood Team, and the Community Beat Officers for our area, are now available on our website; b) application will be submitted to the Capital Roads programme for resurfacing of South Gray Street; c) the GPCC Roads/Transport subgroup will look at the resited parking meter in Upper Gray Street.

Cllr Rose reminded members of current consultations affecting our area: a) pilot 20mph zone; b) proposed Quality Bike Corridor; c) new parking restrictions to the south of controlled parking zones 7 and S1.

**Announcement:** Richard & Jackie Grant have offered to host a Winter Warmer, provisionally Feb 20.

#### **Angus Miller, Geowalks**

*In the volcano's shadow: how Edinburgh's geology has shaped our city*

Following the business meeting, the chairman welcomed our guest speaker, Angus Miller, who provided a most informative and entertaining presentation. Geowalks offer a range of walks to explore the Geology of Scotland. **Contact:**

<http://www.geowalks.co.uk>