

West Blacket Association
Annual General Meeting
November 28 2011

Present: Rosemary Wake (Chair, RW), Evelynne Hill (Hon Treasurer, EH), Mike Hunter (Hon Sec, MJH), Ian Carter (IC), Richard Grant (RG), Jane Griffiths, Kate O'Brien, Rosie Addison (RA), Philip Bennett (PB), Nigel Cumming, Jim & Jane Davidson, Helen MacDonald, Peter McGowan, Fiona MacLaren, Iain MacLaren (IM), Jackie Grant (JG), Patrick Hickey, Ron Hill, Tommy Sheppard, Chris Theobald, Cllr Cameron Rose, John Palmer (speaker)

Apologies: Alice Foster, Helen Bennett, Georgina Clayton, Pamela Duncan, George & Maggie Ross, Judith Sischy, Cllr Steve Burgess

Approval of AGM Minutes November 29 2010: proposed IM; seconded IC; agreed.

Chairman's report (RW):

The Chairman began by welcoming the invited speaker (John Palmer, Chair of the Grange/Prestonfield Community Council) and Cameron Rose (one of the Councillors for the ward) and expressing gratitude to the Minto Hotel for once again making a room available for the AGM. She went on to highlight three matters:

- **Events:** The year's events, two socials, a history group meeting and visit, and a series of walks had been most enjoyable, but it could be disappointing when considerable effort went into planning but relatively few members showed up, this applied in particular to the summer walks series. It had not yet been decided whether to have walks in 2012. Having events was important: they helped a community to get to know each other, and contributed to an organisation being a vibrant body.
- **Communication:** The WBA now used email to reach members, with several advantages. We could provide relevant information more often, more cheaply and using less paper. It increased WBA's visibility to residents, and encouraged membership and the discussion of local matters. Perhaps in future it would be possible to expand the use of email to include two-way communications.
- **Elections:** The WBA would welcome some new faces, or rather new voices, on the Committee, because new members bring refreshing new perspectives. Being on the Committee was not onerous. The Committee was a talking shop in the most positive sense: a chance to discuss local issues over a glass of wine every six weeks or so.

Regarding the Autumn Social, in addition to a pleasant get-together it had been decided to add a charitable activity, selling books and harvest produce in support of Barnado's Children's Charity. The magnificent sum of £150 was raised with an additional £42 claimable by the charity in Gift Aid as surplus books were taken to the local Barnado's shop.

Finally, the Chairman thanked the Committee for their efforts in the past year and also all the members who had supported WBA activities.

Treasurer's report (EH):

- During the year to 31/10/11 we had 78 members in 45 households
- There is a surplus of £87.73 and a balance of £698.80
- The main expenses have been: Cockburn Association subscription; Annual General Meeting expenses; Autumn 2011 Newsletter printing costs

Election of Office-bearers & Committee:

- Members had been informed that Rosemary Wake wished to stand down as Chairman, but was willing to continue as a member of the Committee. Other office-bearers and committee members were willing to continue. No further nominations for election to the Committee had been received.
- Richard Grant had agreed to stand for election as Chairman. Nominated by MJH; seconded by RW; duly elected.

After the formal AGM business Richard Grant, as new Chairman, thanked Rosemary for her work in chairing the Association and introduced our speaker **John Palmer** who gave an entertaining and informative **talk** on '**The Role of the GPCC**'. This was followed by discussion including: on-street parking and parking on pavements (PB); street lighting (RA); Zone 7 parking (JG); Street parties (RG).

The meeting concluded about 930pm