

West Blacket Association
Annual General Meeting
November 26 2012

Present: Richard Grant (Chair, RG), Evelynne Hill (Treasurer, EH), Mike Hunter (Hon Sec, MJH), Ian Carter, Alice Foster, Jane Griffiths (JG), Kate O'Brien, Rosemary Wake, Rosie Addison, Judy Alexander, Helen & Philip Bennett, Sandra Carter, Nigel Cumming, Pam Duncan, Jackie Grant, Christine Gough, John Griffiths, Ron Hill, Dave Hope, Peter McGowan, Fiona & Iain MacLaren, Peter Smolka (PS), Colin & Maggie Stevenson, Chris Theobald, Carolyn & William Walker, Cllrs Jim Orr (JO) and Cameron Rose

Apologies: Georgina Clayton, Val Lees, Charles Warlow, Cllrs Steve Burgess and Ian Perry

AGM Minutes 2011: approved

Chairman's report:

RG outlined the main activities of the Association during the past year. The Association sought to protect the amenity of the area by responding to Council initiatives and monitoring planning applications. Under the first heading we had been in a constructive dialogue with relevant Council officials over the detailed implementation of the 20 mph proposals which had led to some changes and we had been keeping an eye on the new refuse and recycling collection arrangements introduced in the autumn. There were relatively few planning applications at the present time and our general position was not to object unless there were concerns by a number of local residents. During the year, we had also circulated a questionnaire to all members on possible local amenity issues and this had led to a number of approaches to the council and other bodies together with advice to members where they had a very specific concern. This had resulted in some welcome improvements such as the removal of graffiti and the construction of an island for pedestrians on Causewayside, but longstanding problems such as the derelict site at the corner of Duncan St and Upper Gray St and the need to improve the surface of South and Upper Gray streets remained. We had also been unable to progress improvements to the residents parking scheme to provide more spaces and the possibility of temporary permits for long term visitors (as was normal in the new parking zones). The council had drawn up plans for improvements across Edinburgh but had abandoned these, ostensibly on costs grounds. RG thanked all those members who had responded to the questionnaire. In addition to the amenity activities, the Association had also continued with its programme of "social" activities during the year including the successful summer walks programme and the annual social, held this year in the foyer of Bartholomew House. The glut and history groups had also continued to operate successfully and a new Bridge group had been launched. RG thanked all those Committee and other members who had helped with the organisation of these activities and who had supported them by taking part.

Treasurer's report:

EH had tabled a full report for the year ending October 31 2012, including:

Membership 41 households (69 members); Balance £734.37 (bank) + £36.69 (cash); Surplus £72.26

Election of Office-bearers & Committee:

Jane Griffiths had decided to stand down from membership of the Committee and was thanked for her invaluable contribution. Maggie Stevenson had agreed to stand for election and was nominated by JG, seconded by EH and duly elected. Office bearers and other committee members agreed to continue.

Discussion:

Some residents were concerned about the 20mph pilot zone. MJH described the success of our request to CEC for clearer signs in Duncan Street, and provided information on speed monitoring and warning letters issued to motorists exceeding the 20mph limit. JO asked whether the West Blacket Association supported the 20mph limit; overwhelming agreement by show of hands.

Residents' parking spaces remain insufficient. PS suggested additional bays on the north side of Duncan Street, which might also discourage speeding. Agreed this proposal merits further discussion.

Following formal AGM business, an illustrated talk by **Jean Bareham** on 'Hidden Gardens of the Royal Mile' was much appreciated by all present.

The meeting ended about 930pm.