

West Blasket Association Annual General Meeting November 28 2016

Present: Maggie Stevenson (Chair, MS), Nigel Cumming (Treasurer, NC), Kate O'Brien (Membership Secretary, KoB), Mike Hunter (Hon Sec, MJH), Ian Carter, Richard Grant, Evelynne Hill, Carolyn Walker, Sandra Carter, Val Lees, Jackie Grant, Helen & Philip Bennett, Judy Alexander, William Walker, David Hope, Colin Stevenson, Stuart & Nathalie Wallace, Peter & Cathie Wright, Lindi and Harvey Young, Chrissie I Smith, Ron Hill, Anna Hayes & Chris Busby, Lucy & Mat Williams, Charles Warlow & Cathie Sudlow, Laura Bradley, John & Jane Griffiths, Ian Chisholm (Blasket Association).

Apologies: Alice Foster, Iain & Fiona Maclaren, Rosemary Wake

AGM Minutes 2015: approved *nem con*

Chair's report: Maggie welcomed everyone and gave a brief explanation of the Association's aims for the benefit of new members and residents. Planning matters are an important part of this and it has been a busier than average year within the WBA area. The development at the Upper Gray Street / Duncan Street corner has planning approval for two terraced houses on Duncan Street and a 2-storey bungalow adjacent to Devon Cottage. The Association supported development on this site, which has been semi-derelict for decades: demolition of the joiners workshop and lock-ups is now complete; an archeological survey is required before the development can be completed; we are seeking discussions with the developer to keep us in the picture. There have been a number of applications for redevelopment of the Hendry & Macdonalds workshop premises at 20 Duncan Street, the listing of which was contested but has now been confirmed by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and a subsequent appeal refused. *[A revised application to construct 29 student bedsits was reported at the meeting, followed by discussion on grounds and means for objection].* On the edge of the WBA area, demolition of the former Paramount Printers buildings on Causewayside and construction of student accommodation blocks is now well advanced. Conversion of the Minto Hotel into 8 flats, and the function suite to 3 town houses, was approved in August but the building was put on sale prior to planning approval and remains on the market. We have proposed to HES that the Dental Clinic buildings should be given Listed status, with advice from Ron Hill on their history as a pioneering school. There have been long-standing problems with the emptying of communal rubbish & recycling bins on Duncan Street and more recently on South Gray Street. We have been monitoring this over the last 3 months, with weekly photographic evidence to demonstrate the extent of the problem to the Community Council and City Council. Our social activities for members continue – this was our seventh-year programme of summer walks and the History Group meets at least annually.

Treasurer's report: Nigel Cumming had tabled a full report for the year to 31/10/16. The number of members during 2015-16 was slightly down on the previous year, at least partly due to people leaving the area, but our finances remain healthy.

Election of Office-bearers & Committee:

The Officer Bearers had all agreed to continue. Carolyn Walker did not wish to continue as a member of the Committee. Charles Warlow had agreed to be nominated to Committee membership (nominated by MS, with numerous seconders) and was duly elected

Following formal business, Charles Warlow provided a very entertaining talk on his circumnavigation of Britain, mainly under sail, with a medical perspective on the diagnosis and treatment of occasional problems with the boat's motor propulsion system.

The meeting ended about 900pm.