

# West Blacket Association Annual General Meeting November 27 2017

**Present:** Maggie Stevenson (Chair), Nigel Cumming (Treasurer, **NC**), Kate O'Brien (Membership Secretary), Mike Hunter (Hon Sec, **MJH**), Rosie & Dave Addison, Judy Alexander, Philip Bennett, Laura Bradley, Christine Gough, Jackie Grant, Richard Grant (**RG**), John & Jane Griffiths, Evelynne Hill, David Hope, Val Lees, Helen Macdonald, Fiona & Ian McLaren, Linda Martin, Peter Smolka (**PS**), Colin Stevenson, Cathie Sudlow, William Walker (**WW**), Stuart & Nathalie Wallace, Charles Warlow, Lucy & Mat Williams, Cathie Wright, Harvey Young, Ian Chisholm (Blacket Association).

**Apologies:** George & Margaret Ross, Ron Hill (**RH**), Ian Carter (**IC**), Helen Bennett, Rosemary Wake, Alice Foster, Roger Pountain.

**AGM Minutes 2016:** these had been circulated by email, posted on our website, and paper copies tabled. *Approved nem con.*

## 1. Chair's report: Welcome to all

**Planning Matters:** WBA's role is to review and comment on some planning applications which may affect our area adversely. Ian Carter monitors the Council's weekly list of applications.

**Corner Duncan St/ Upper Gray St site** – there has been no action on the site, as most of you will be aware. An application for building warrant was submitted in May but **IC** reports that there have been no developments. (*In discussion: (i) WW was concerned that water had accumulated. The Water Board investigated whether it was broken drains or failure to turn off water supplies to demolished buildings but it may instead be a historic well. (ii) PS noted that there is a long backlog in approval for building warrants. He has spoken to the developers, who are keen to begin work.*)

**16 Minto St** – The current activity on site is scaffolding in preparation for raising the roof structure slightly. Proposed are eight flats and 3 terraced town houses.

**Henry & MacDonald site** – At the 2016 AGM, we reported there had been various planning applications for 20 Duncan Street. Historic Environment Scotland confirmed listing of the façade and workshop premises, following a Government reporter's site visit. Since then, a revised application for 29 student 'studio apartments' on this site has been refused. Henry & MacDonald's owner and architect presented further revised proposals, at a recent GPCC meeting which **MJH** attended, for student accommodation with fewer and larger studio flats. This planning application was still not registered at the date of the AGM so full details were not available.

**Cycle Route: Quiet route 30 in WBA** – A consultation took place by Active Travel Action Plan, from the Council in June 2016. There was a presentation at the local library which some of you were able to attend. The main suggestion affecting WBA was a reversal of traffic flow at the east end of Duncan St. Various comments were made and received from residents and **IC** submitted comments on behalf of WBA to the Council. (*RG had contacted the relevant Council officer recently, who reports a long backlog of projects.*)

**Recycling/communal bins** – Committee takes action on these issues as required.

**Social Activities:** We had our eighth series of Summer walks. First to Shepherd House (a garden visit), a railway walk (Roseburn to Leith), an evening Southside walk, and finally a Porty heritage and Arty walk in Portobello. These were well attended with some new members coming along. Many of these interesting walks over the past 8 years have been investigated and organised by Ron & Evelynne Hill, who now wish to retire from this role: please join me in thanking them for all their hard work.

**History Group:** There was a successful history meeting last February re the history of the Duncan St/Upper Gray St corner site by **RH** with maps and other records. Also Maxine and Allan Dundas, of Scott & Brown, gave a history of their firm's life in West Blacket.

We would welcome any new ideas for future social activities.

**2. Treasurer's report:** **NC** had tabled a full report for the year to 31/10/17. This showed increased membership from the previous financial year and our finances remain healthy.

## 3. Election of Office-bearers & Committee:

The Officer Bearers had all agreed to continue. **RG** did not wish to continue as a member of the Committee, and was thanked for his contribution to the Association since 2009, including 3 years as Chair. There had been no further nominations and remaining committee members were all re-elected.

Following formal business, **Prof Mathew Williams** gave a brief presentation on the scientific case that Climate Change is caused by human activity, and what steps we could take to stop it getting worse. This stimulated a longer period of discussion.

The meeting ended about 900pm.