

West Blacket Association Annual General Meeting November 26 2018

Present: Maggie Stevenson (Chair, **MS**), Nigel Cumming (Treasurer, **NC**), Kate O'Brien (Membership Secretary, **KoB**), Mike Hunter (Hon Sec), Ian Carter, Evelynne Hill, Alice Foster, Rosemary Wake (**ERW**), Charles Warlow, Cathie Wright; Tim Barnes, Philip Bennett, Sandra Carter, Christine Gough, Jackie & Richard Grant, John & Jane Griffiths, Ron Hill, David Hope, Lise Morel, Roger Pountain, Jane Rubens, Chrissie Smith, Colin Stevenson, Cathie Sudlow, Stuart Wallace, Lucy & Mat Williams, Peter Wright, Harvey & Lindi Young.

Apologies: Helen Bennett, William Walker.

AGM Minutes 2017: these had been circulated by email, posted on our website, and paper copies tabled. Proposed **ERW**; seconded **KoB**: *Approved nem con.*

1. Chair's report:

MS welcomed everyone and gave a quick resume of current events in the West Blacket area, most of which were reported in the WBA Autumn newsletter.

Planning: Ian Carter has ably and meticulously monitored planning applications in the WBA area and immediate environs, responding and commenting as appropriate. *Thanks to him.*

Duncan Street/ Upper Gray St site. Ian has tried to contact Seton Developments, by email and phone inviting them to send a representative to this meeting, no response as there has been no action on the corner site unfortunately.

Hendry & Macdonald. Various development proposals regarding this garage workshop which is also a listed building have been made by the owner. In March 2018, WBA commented on the 5th proposal - the size of the student units, the adverse impact on other residents nearby and concerns about parking. Finally in the summer, the application was refused by the Council and the owner appealed. The Scottish Government Appeal reporter visited the site and upheld the Council's decision in October 2018 on the grounds of Hendry & Macdonald, a former horse bazaar being an industrial archaeological asset of special architectural/heritage interest. It is worth noting that the Reporter felt that the proposal to change the property to student use was not negative, was in line with student Housing guidelines and would not disrupt WBA community. *Thanks to all who made comments.*

Minto Hotel. Building work is progressing and units are expected to be occupied shortly.

Social Activities: The History group visited the City Archives and there was a convivial evening re 'A Taste of the Past' reminiscing about WW2 cooking and the implements last winter. Thanks to Rosemary for organising both these events and Nigel and Kate for hosting the WW2 evening.

New Town Walk. Jean Bareham, Green Yonder Tours offered an interesting tour of gardens behind Register House and the New Town with about 20 members coming along.

WBA had a local **Open Garden evening** with Fiona & Chris, Val & Bob and the Stevensons opening our gardens and ending up at Alice & Roger with a jolly evening under canvas. *Thanks to all.*

2. Treasurer's report: **NC** had tabled a full report for the year to 31/10/18. Our finances remain healthy. A small surplus has accumulated over several years.

3. Election of Office-bearers & Committee: all were willing to continue and were duly re-elected.

Following formal business, **Cathie Wright**, known to most of those present, talked about the Salisbury Centre, the local institution with which she is and has been for some years heavily involved.

The meeting ended about 830pm.