

West Blasket Association Annual General Meeting November 23 2020

Present: Maggie Stevenson (Chair, **MS**), Nigel Cumming (Treasurer, **NC**), Kate O'Brien (Membership Secretary), Mike Hunter (Hon Sec, **MJH**), Ian Carter (**IC**), Evelynne Hill, Alice Foster (**AF**), Rosemary Wake (**ERW**), Charles Warlow (**ChW**), Cathie Wright (**CaW**); Helen & Philip Bennett (**PB**), Laura Bradley, Sandra Carter, Lucy Charrington, Ian Farrington, Nathalie Fournier, Jackie & Richard Grant (**RG**), Jane Griffiths, Ron Hill, Linda Martin, Lise Morel (from 820pm), John & Louise Robertson (**LR**), Chrissie Smith, Peter Smolka (**PS**), Colin Stevenson, William Walker (**WW**), Stuart Wallace, Mathew Williams, Peter Wright, Harvey & Lindi Young

Apologies: Jane Rubens, Lise Morel (until 820pm)

1. **MS welcomed everyone** and thanked Cathie Sudlow for hosting the Zoom meeting
2. **Minute of AGM November 2019**, precirculated by email. **Approved nem com**
3. **Chair's Report** (precirculated by email)
 - a) **MS** reported that the WBA "WhatsApp help 2020" group had 68 members, not all members of the West Blasket Association though there is much overlap. Before lockdown, there had been two early 2020 social activities enjoyed by many WBA members.
 - b) **Planning**. The main details were covered in the Chair's Report and Autumn 2020 Newsletter
 - i. Duncan Street corner site has continuing unresolved problems. **IC** was thanked for pursuing these in correspondence with City of Edinburgh Council. Responses, in particular from Cllr Cameron Rose (and on behalf of other Cllrs) have not yet answered our concerns. **WW** said that CEC seems not to be responding and asked whether **IC** knows why, or whether there has been consultation.
 - ii. **AF** informed the meeting that Barony social housing in Upper Gray Street appears subject to further proposals (Neighbour notification received by Alice: details not yet known but will be explored).
 - c) **Traffic**. **LR** had observed traffic problems at the Duncan Street / Blasket Avenue crossing of Minto Street, which could result in bike accidents. **IC** noted that there had been various schemes on which WBA had been consulted, including a cycle route planned by CEC but currently "on ice". **RG** spoke strongly on the need to improve cycle routes and road/pavement users' safety in WBA/Blasket, as did others. So although there may have been years of inadequate Council action, now may be an opportunity to campaign for improvements under the policy of Active Edinburgh. **AF** believes rat running is a response to difficulty of right turns from Salisbury Place into Minto Street and asked whether traffic surveys had been carried out (**IC** had counted cars over several years and reported results to relevant CEC officials). **PS** would like more/better 20mph signage or provision of physical traffic calming (such as "sleeping policemen") and had noticed that a no entry into Duncan Street sign is obscured by ivy.
4. **Treasurer's Report** (**NC** had circulated a financial report by email, for the year to October 31 2020)
 - a) Our finances are healthy although there has been some reduction in subscription income. Members should be encouraged to pay (as many already do) by Standing Order, or annual bank transfer, so that memberships do not lapse through forgetfulness.
 - b) Expenditure is a little down this year, due to unavoidable cancellation of social events.
 - c) The Financial Report was agreed.
5. **Election of Office Bearers and Committee**
 - a) **MS** noted that Rosemary Wake did not wish to continue as a member of the Committee, for which service she was thanked, but we hope she will continue her involvement in the WBA Local History group. Other members of the Committee all agreed to continue.
 - b) Two active members of the Association had agreed to be nominated for election to the Committee and both were duly elected
 - i. **Lucy Charrington**: Proposed **ChW**; Seconded **CaW**
 - ii. **Lise Morel**: Proposed **ERW**; Seconded **PB**
6. **AOCB**. **ChW** proposed an informal street meeting, December 26th noon, with appropriate social distancing
7. The Meeting concluded about 830pm

Minute for approval at next AGM