

# West Blacket Association Annual General Meeting November 29 2021

**Present:** Maggie Stevenson (Chair, **MS**), Nigel Cumming (Treasurer, **NC**), Mike Hunter (Hon Sec, **MJH**), Ian Carter (**IC**), Lucy Charrington (**LC**), Alice Foster, Charles Warlow (**ChW**); Philip Bennett (**PB**), Sandra Carter, Chrissie Heughan (**CH**), Colin Stevenson, William Walker (**WW**), Mathew Williams (**MW**), Lindi & Harvey Young (**HY**).

**Apologies:** Helen Bennett, Ron & Evelynne Hill, Lise Morel, Linda Martin, Chris Theobald, Rosemary Wake; Jane & John Griffiths, Jackie Grant, Jane Rubens

1. **MS welcomed everyone**
2. **Minute of AGM November 2020**, precirculated by email and tabled. **Approved nem com**
3. **Chair's Report** (tabled)

**MS** presented the report verbally and invited comments

*Duncan Street/Upper Gray Street corner development.* This neglected building site received Planning approval in March 2017, but since completion of the foundations in July 2019 there has been no on-site activity other than occasional weeding. The fencing and Upper Gray Street pavement are both in dangerous condition. **WW** had written to CEC Planning Dept and received a reply saying there is no limit of time to complete a development. **IC** had also written to Cllrs, and has been promised that this will be investigated. **ChW** suggested we should all write to our Cllrs.

*The CEC Spaces for People initiative.* Opinions on the value and implementation of this scheme vary. **PB** stated that in his view, and others', the new cycle lanes were dangerous to cyclists and pedestrians. **HY** agreed the new cycle lanes, and parking bays, were dangerous: he had written three times to the Council about lack of consultation without response. Others (**MW**, **MS**) felt the cycleways supported more cycling in the City. **IC** pointed out that the Spaces for People scheme, instigated in lockdown, would be subject to further review in 2023-4.

*Amenity Issues.* **MS** had raised continuing issues, including flytipping and overflowing bins. **CH** agreed that the recycling areas often look a mess. Another idea raised was to set up a volunteer 'work squad' to sweep leaves & gullies with help from the Council, as has been done in adjacent areas.

4. **Treasurer's Report** (tabled)  
**NC** noted membership is slightly down over the year but most subscriptions are now paid by standing order or bank transfer and our balance in bank/cash is sufficient for more post-pandemic activity.
5. **Election of Office Bearers and Committee**  
**MJH** reported no nominations to, or withdrawals from, the Committee.
6. **AOCB.**  
**LC** had canvassed opinions, at the last in-person AGM 2 years ago, on setting up a West Blacket Climate Action Group. After a very encouraging response, two meetings were held, the last on Mar 2nd 2020 only a few days before lockdown. The group, which remains independent of WBA, could be revived using either the existing email list or on WhatsApp. There was much interest in the possibility of on-street EV charging points.
7. A convivial Meeting concluded about 830pm