

THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

(the “Association”)

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

(the “Committee”)

Held on 8th October 2025 at 7:30pm

Present: Susan Hezlet - Chairman and Communications (“SH”)
Ian Chisholm –Newsletter Editor (“IC”)
Stan Bird – Neighbourhood Watch (“SB”)
Anne Sturrock – New residents (“AS”)
Hazel Clark – Minutes and Social Convener (“HC”)
John Usher – Shrubbery Working Party (“JU”)
Colin Blair – Website Co-ordinator (“MB”) – via videolink
Stewart Whiting – Shrubbery Working Party (“SW”)

Apologies: Craig McMahon - Treasurer (“CM”)
Richard Scothorne – Planning (“RS”)

1. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2025 were approved.

2. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

The list of open actions was discussed. The table of actions at the end of these minutes has been updated accordingly.

In relation to who holds various items on behalf of the Association, IC agreed to provide SH with a written list. IC has given the mattock to JU for use by the Shrubbery Working Party. AS offered to ask a previous resident – Sandra Carter – if she could remember who holds the embroidery.

Action Oct25-01 - AS to ask previous resident, Sandra Carter, if she could remember who holds the Association’s embroidery.

JU advised that he was able to contact the students in the university halls via a Whatsapp group to ask them if they were able to help at SWP events. This was working well but may not in the future as the student members of the group move on.

3. AGM

The date has been agreed as Wednesday 19th November 2025 at the Old Bell. IC will organise the drinks. RS can’t make it, neither can CB. SH said she hopes SB and RS will renew their

positions for another 3-year term. CB will be standing down but he will interview any potential new member who wishes to take over the IT role. SW offered to take over in the interim if required. CB explained that the website is well set up and doesn't take much to maintain. SH reminded the meeting that CM was to be formally elected as the Treasurer at the AGM.

The AGM reports must be with SH by 31st October in order to meet the print deadline.

4. DISCUSSIONS WITH WEST BLACKET ASSOCIATION

As expected, the West Blacket Association have decided they don't want to merge with the Association. They were keen to have RS's planning expertise at their disposal, but he has kindly volunteered to give them advice on planning matters going forward anyway.

5. CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION

SH suggested that an amendment be made to stipulate that the Chair cannot do more than two consecutive terms. SB suggested wording such as "not do more than two terms normally". It will be put to a vote at the AGM.

IC suggested that the remit of the Association be extended to cover the rest of the Blacket conservation area. Several residents on Dalkeith Road have already sought the Association's advice. RS will draft the wording on this and it will go out in the Newsletter. To pass it needs two thirds of those present to agree.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

The two linked planning applications for the large site opposite the petrol station on Ratcliffe Terrace have been refused. Two applications were submitted by two different bodies for the adjacent sites but are clearly working closely together to produce a unified scheme. This involves clearing the whole site (29 - 41 Ratcliffe Terrace) and building a substantial 4 story block of student housing. The Association objected on the basis of the scale of the development and the demolition of some appealing local buildings (i.e. the historic Edwardian red brick Lads Institute and the stone cottage that is now a barbers). The Council refused the two proposals for slightly different reasons - but essentially because of the overdevelopment of the site in terms of height, scale, massing and built form; the lack of amenity for occupants; the impact on the Blacket Conservation Area (in terms of the rear development of the site at 4 South Gray Street), and the failure to justify the demolition of the existing buildings in terms of the whole life carbon footprint. The Council also felt that the proposals failed to demonstrate that they would not compromise the development of the adjacent site to the north (Jewsons). This is quite a list so it looks like the developers will have to have a substantial rethink about it.

7. GRANGE & PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (the "GPCC")

IC reported that the new committee was more active, including plans to have more local newsletters. There are 5 residents' associations, but there is no Prestonfield association which is a problem. IC's main role has been to input on planning matters. IC will mention to the visiting councillor about the plans that have been approved for 13 Dryden Place.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SB was pleased to report there had been no more car crime. Things had been quite quiet – just videos from the police about how to stay safe. There was a video about how to stop people stealing keyless cars. SB agreed to send it to SH so she can email it to residents.

Action Oct25-02 – SB to send video about keyless car safety to SH so she can email it to residents.

9. BLACKET SHRUBBERIES WORKING PARTY (“SWP”)

SW expressed his massive thanks to JU for covering for him while he was on paternity leave. JU advised that the next big clean-up will be the leaf collection. The SWP still needs to decide on a date – probably end of November. JU will get back to SH with a date.

Action Oct25-03 – JU to provide SH with date for next SWP leaf collection, so she can email residents.

Some of the fence posts on Blacket Avenue are rotting. SH advised that the Association has money to replace them. Hugh Mackay might remember who put the fence in. JU suggested he ask whether the Council could replace them.

Action Oct25-04 – JU to ask his contact at the Council if they will pay to replace the rotting fence posts on Blacket Avenue.

10. TREASURER’S REPORT

In his absence, CM had sent an email reporting the following:

Summary of Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Opening Bank Account as at 1 September	£4,325	£3,934
<i>Income</i>		
Subscriptions	£750	£685
Card sales	£160	£70
Open Gardens – bank transfer	£110	-
Open Gardens – Cash collected	£255	
Ceilidh ticket sales	£241	-
	<hr/> £1,516.00	<hr/> £755.00
<i>Expenditure</i>		
Printing	£147.50	£57.60
Landscaping and plants	-	£92.00
Open Gardens	£313.19	£65.70

AGM drinks	£149.50	£108.35
Cockburn Association	£40	£40.00
Website costs	£35.31	-
Ceilidh costs (hall, band and welcome drink)	£449	-
Bank service charges	£8.50	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£1,142.70	£363.65
Increase in funds	£373.30	£391.35
Closing Bank account as at 31 August 2024	<u>£4,698.30</u>	<u>£4,325.35</u>

SH is still trying to become a second signatory. Craig is chasing this up.

11. NEW RESIDENTS UPDATE

AS advised that the new residents at 6 Blacket Place are expected to move in soon unless there is too much work to be done. Lots of lovely families have moved in.

AS reported that her new strategy for selling Blacket Association cards seems to be working – she has been delivering new resident packs to those moving in and also putting flyers promoting the Blacket illustrated cards through letter boxes, 10 at a time.

AS had done a stock take of all the cards held by the Association. There were 3 boxes of orchid cards, with 373 cards in each box. AS had packaged them into bags with 12 cards per bag priced at £3 per bag. Pillar cards were selling well at the top of Blacket Place. AS will try to sell more cards at the AGM.

12. WEBSITE UPDATE

CB said there was nothing of note to report and he had just been doing essential updates. HC was to send the latest minutes to CB for upload.

Action Oct25-05 – HC to send CB copy of latest minutes for upload onto website.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SH asked the Committee to think of new people to ask to open their gardens next summer.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting ended at 8:50pm and the date of the next meeting was to be confirmed but would likely be in February.

Hazel Clark
Secretary

SUMMARY of OPEN ACTIONS:

REF	ACTION	RESP	STATUS
<u>Jan17.04</u>	Committee members to email AS with details of new residents for follow up.	All	Ongoing and working well.
<u>Feb21.01</u>	IC to raise with GPCC matter of illegal one-way entry to Dalkeith Rd from Blacket Place	IC	Ongoing.
<u>May21.01</u>	Committee members to look at the website and give CB their feedback	All	Ongoing.
<u>Jan22.02</u>	IC to chase up the nursery for a response to his complaint about nursery parents parking on Blacket Avenue.	IC	Situation has improved. Once the street becomes one-way the problem will be solved. For now, CLOSED.
<u>Mar25-04</u>	IC to make up a list of who holds which items on behalf of the Association.	IC	Ongoing
<u>Mar25-06</u>	JU to ask his contact at the university accommodation to spread the word about forthcoming SWP clean ups.	JU	Ongoing
<u>May25-01</u>	AS to do a stock take of all the note and Christmas cards created for the Association and ask Arlene Doherty about the envelopes	AS	Done. CLOSED.
<u>May25-02</u>	SB to inform JU about the weeds on Dalkeith Road at the end of Mayfield Terrace so they could be removed during the next shrubbery working party.	SB	Done. SWP will keep on top of. CLOSED.
<u>Oct25-01</u>	AS to ask previous resident, Sandra Carter, if she can remember who holds the Association's embroidery.	AS	
<u>Oct25-02</u>	SB to send video about keyless car safety to SH so she can email it to residents.	SB and SH	
<u>Oct25-03</u>	JU to provide SH with date for next SWP leaf collection, so she can email residents.	JU	
<u>Oct25-04</u>	JU to ask his contact at the Council if they will pay to replace the rotting fence posts on Blacket Avenue.	JU	
<u>Oct25-05</u>	HC to send CB copy of latest minutes for upload onto website.	HC	