

**BERNERAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE COIMHEARSNACHD BHEARNARAIGH**

**MINUTES
27th November 2017**

**at
Berneray Community Hall**

Present – Donald Maclean (Chair), Andrew Rodger, Mary McCormack, Margaret Paterson, John MacLean, Pamela MacAskill

Apologies – Ian Hoyle (Clerk), Councillors

1. Review of minutes of last meeting

Main action from last meeting was for AR to write article for housing needs assessment on Berneray. This was discussed further in relation to existing initiatives underway by HHP, the Comhairle and North Uist Development Company. It was concluded that more background to the overarching initiative(s) be requested/considered and further discussion to be conducted at the next CC before any local needs survey be initiated.

Action – AR to contact NUDC for update on activities.

2. Matters Arising

Dental Practice - PM and MS discussed their experiences from the recent consultation meeting on centralization of the Dental Services in Uist. Although there was an apparent unanimous opposition, by the participants at the meeting, for movement of the Lochmaddy dental practice to Balvanich, the centralization 'wheel' appears to have great momentum already.

Action - PM and MS to continue exploring ways of influencing the process.

Drinking water supply – Scottish Water have completed their work on Berneray to replace all asbestos cement pipework and old iron fittings with modern equivalents. Water pressure and drinking water taste is now reported to be good across the whole of the island.

Action – AR to write to Scottish Water to acknowledge completion of the project and its success.

Broadband – the cabling to supply broadband has been routed around the island up to Church Road. The contractors will return to Berneray in January to continue work. Present estimates for access to broadband is sometime within February / March 2018.

Sgoil Lionacleit Pipeband – the school pipeband committee wrote to all community councils looking for financial assistance with their project to participate in Tartan Week in New York, April 2018. The project is ambitious and costly but will provide the opportunity for 25 youth pipers and drummers (from Berneray to Barra) to perform in NY and act as young cultural ambassadors for the Western Isles. A crowd funding website is in operation. It was agreed the CC donate £250 to this project.

Action – PM to issue cheque to the pipeband.

Christmas Decorations – A community Christmas tree and lights to be set up at the usual spot at Old Nurses Cottage

Action – AR with helpers

Accounts – Year end accounts for the CC to be concluded and submitted to Comhairle for audit. Request for Social grant to be made.

Action – PM

3. Date of next meeting 15th January 1930 hrs.