

# **BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 from 19:30 – 21:30

## **Present**

Robin Budge, Chair (RB)

Cllr Norman MacDonald (NM)

Michelle Amourdedieu, Clerk (MA)

Callum Ritchings, Treasurer (CR)

Catriona Macleod (CM)

## **Apologies**

Cllr Angus Morrison

Cllr Ranald Fraser

Glynis Davis

## **Absent**

Chrissie Macdonald

Neil James Macaulay

Fiona Douglas (Deputy Chair)

## **Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were agreed with only administrative amendments (Dates incorrect)

Action updates from previous minutes are now on the attached Action Tracker.

## **Matters Arising**

### **Finance**

1. CR gave the financial situation of the Council to the meeting. The total money now in the account is £11,631.07. A payment of £2,487.50 has been received from the Council.
2. The cleaners for the toilet area's will be paid in March which will be deducted from the above amount. The updated figure will be given at the next meeting.
3. CR indicated that the consumable cost for the running of the public toilets at Bosta outweighed the funding received from the Council.
4. CR agreed to provide MA with the total annual cost so that MA could write a letter to the local Council asking that consideration be given to increasing the funding to cover all costs.

### **Ward Priority Fund:**

There has been no update regarding the funds available, this action is ongoing and has been added to the action tracker.

### **War Memorial**

This action is ongoing and has been added to the action tracker.

RB offered his services on a voluntary basis and MA suggested that there could be more people who may be willing to get involved to update and improve the appearance of the memorial. Obviously, some of the renovations can only be carried out by a specialist. The attached action tracker has the detail.

### **Shoreline**

The action relating to the shoreline being tidied up has been added to the Action Tracker.

Following a successful planning application from Scottish Salmon to use the slip and former site in Hacklete as part of a storage area for waste, they have applied for planning permission to install a wind turbine at the site in Hacklete to power any premises which is to be located there.

### **Broadband**

MA suggested that when HIE attend to discuss broadband services to Great Bernera, as many resident and small businesses based on Great Bernera be invited to the meeting. RB suggested that a better option may be to have a separate meeting so that members of the public interested in High Speed Broadband can attend, rather than sitting through the whole of the BCC meeting. MA agreed to take this option forward.

NM stated that there were two projects being considered to bring broadband to Uig and Bernera and the proposed supply may be sooner than once hoped. There should be an update regarding the decision within the next two weeks but certainly by the next BCC meeting.

### **Land for sale to HHP for building.**

Some residents contacted Janice Maciver regarding the potential sale of private land to HHP for building housing in Bernera. Everyone who made contact has been directed to John Maciver at HHP.

Janice Maciver, in her capacity as Clerk, filling in until MA took over did make contact with the BCC members regarding who the Grazing Committee contacts were but has to date had no response. This action will be added to the tracker, but it was agreed by the BCC that any further search should be postponed until the Bernera Trust have their public meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March to establish if the island buy out is going ahead.

## AOB

1. MA asked for a Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Community Council – NM stated that there would be a basic TOR available from the council and he would forward MA a copy.
2. The issue of rubbish at Bosta during the peak summer season was raised and it was agreed that the Cleansing Department at the Council should be contacted and an additional 2 1100 litre bins should be ordered from June and removed by the council at the end of the summer.
3. It was also suggested that in order to keep the area accessible and safe, a compound of sort should be built to contain the bins to stop them from moving. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting regarding how we go about doing that.
4. CM and MA updated the Community Council with regards to the Lewis Community Council proposal. CM and MA explained that the benefits of the larger council were that more weight is added to issues that communities as whole face in the Western Isles. Uist and Harris each have their own Island Council and they are of huge benefit. The group agreed that it would be of benefit for at least one member to attend the quarterly meetings. MA and CM explained that Tolsta Community were doing very well from a financial perspective and MA asked NM if there were any projects that Bernera could be involved in.

NM explained that there was a renewables project being looked into, where communities only (not private companies or private individuals) could 'buy in' to a windfarm project between Stornoway and Cameron Terrace. This project would potentially see a substantial income being provided to the BCC and people of Great Bernera. Details were given of a contact. MA has agreed to take this forward.

NM and MA gave examples of what the sort of income predicted could go towards – an annual sum to the elderly residents of Bernera to combat fuel poverty over the winter months as well as (if the petrol pumps get fixed) subsidised petrol/diesel to all residents of Great Bernera – there were just two examples of how the resident of Great Bernera could benefit from income.

5. MA asked the BCC members for permission to have a key cut for the hall as the last one cannot be found. CR suggested that the funds for this be taken from the Petty Cash which MA holds. CM stated that permission would need to be sought from the Community Association. MA agreed to contact Ella Macaulay who is the CA Clerk.
6. The issue of tendering for paid work arose during the meeting. MA explained that the comments made in the last meeting were merely to ensure that BCC are transparent in their awarding of work should an audit ever take place. NM said that if the work was small jobs, up to approximately £1,000, no tender process would be required.
7. There will be an agenda available for the next meeting. Should any residents require us to take forward any issues, please let Michelle, the BCC Clerk know. 01851612302

**Date of next meeting is Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March from 19:30  
at the Bernera Hall (Upstairs)**