

**BERNERAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
COMHAIRLE COIMHEARSNACHD BHEARNARAIGH**

**MINUTES  
27 August 2018  
at  
Berneray Community Hall**

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Present: Donald MacLean (Chair), Andrew Rodger (Vice), Ian Hoyle (Clerk), Margaret Paterson, Cllr Uisdean Robertson, Cllr Iain MacLeod.

Apologies: Pamela MacAskill (Treasurer), John MacLean, Mary McCormick, Cllr Roddy MacKay.

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1. Minutes read and approved.
2. Broadband is now up and running for a lot of the island. There are still issues with one of the boxes, but work continues. No one on the network is getting more than 28Mb/s, well short of the promised 60Mb/s.
3. We have had a disappointing response to our survey on housing on Berneray. We asked if people thought we needed more houses on Berneray, as the council have a large pot to spend. 3 out of 4 responses were in favour of new housing for Berneray.
4. The proposed fixed link to Harris was discussed. This may seem like a good idea when looked at from the council offices in Stornoway, but in the real world it is a very bad idea. If this were to be built most of our services would be at risk. We would lose the existing council offices, then the Hospital, some of the Doctors and remaining Dentists. The airport could be next, and why do we need 4 ferry services to the mainland? Home delivery by Tesco could eliminate the local shops in North Uist. If the causeway ran from Berneray, then we would destroy the peace and tranquillity we currently enjoy, as our quiet roads would become the main road to Stornoway. If the causeway runs from Cheese bay, we would lose the footfall for the local shop and the local hostels, not to mention the loss of jobs on the ferry. We can see very little, if any, benefit to this being built, but we can see many uses for the millions it would cost.
5. CalMac are continuing to show scant regard for the essential nature of the service they are contracted to provide. There have been issues with the service provided throughout the summer. We enter the winter timetable period with trepidation.

**Next meeting is on 8<sup>th</sup> October, at 7:30pm.**