

Bernera Community Council- Inaugural Meeting 4th November 2019

Present: Fiona Douglas, Catriona MacLeod, Madeline MacAulay, Callum Ritchings, Kevin and Sue Long, Shona Cameron, Cllr Angus Morrison, Cllr Norman A MacDonald, Derek MacKay

Apologies: Virginia Allum, Neil James and Joan MacAulay, Cllr Ranald Fraser

Inauguration of New Community Council

Derek MacKay, Governance and Election Manager responsible for the election and set up of Community Councils opened the meeting by first explaining what a Community Council is for and how it is to serve the community. Derek explained that there is a Community Council info folder on the Comhairle website that provides information and guidance on the various roles and responsibilities of community councils and regulations regarding GDPR as well as guidance on the use of social media. In addition there will be information on funding sources, and how to link in with Local Development Officers that will be live at the end of this month. Derek mentioned that there is going to be a seminar for Community Councils and will provide details when they become available.

Derek mentioned that minutes of meetings should go to the council and also be displayed publicly (traditionally in the shop and community centre). Phillip Dunn will investigate the possibility of the community Council having a social media presence. There is an annual grant of £1000 given to Community Councils to spend on local initiatives/projects. The constitution of the Bernera Community Council was circulated and no changes made.

Election of Office Bearers

Chairperson- Fiona Douglas- nominated by Catriona MacLeod and seconded by Callum Ritchings

Vice Chair- To be decided at next meeting

Treasurer- Callum Ritchings- nominated by Catriona MacLeod and seconded by Madeline MacAulay

Secretary- Rhiannon Teather

Finlay MacIver was co-opted onto the Community Council at the time of the meeting.

AOCB

Viewfield House; Finlay MacIver raised concerns regarding Health and Safety issues due to the lack of repair; what are the legal powers? Concerns over rat infestation. Decision made to write to legal dept at Comhairle, potential hazard to school children as on route to community centre.

Deer Sign: discussion around issues of deer beside at road end and towards bridge, was agreed to ask Comhairle for a sign to be placed at road end. FD to contact John MacLeod of Technical Services to request sign.

Wild Rhubarb: Wild rhubarb is causing potential hazard at lower part of Breacleite, FD to contact Anne Blythe regarding clearing the area.

Road Signs: Signs have been ordered

National Speed Limit Sign: discussion around erecting a speed limit sign in Breaclete due to the speed of vehicles through the village.

Glebe: Further discussion regarding ownership of Breaclete Glebe, letter to be written to Session Clerk of Callanish Free Church for further information.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 5th December 2019 at 7:30 pm