

BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held Thursday 5 December 2019
at Bernera Community Centre, 19.30-20.45.

Present: Fiona Douglas (Chair), Callum Richings (Treasurer), Cllr Ranald Fraser, Rhiannon Teather (Secretary), Joan MacAulay, Neil James MacAulay, Madeleine MacAulay, Catriona Macleod, Sue Long, Kevin Long, Virginia Allum and Finlay MacIver.

Apologies: Cllr Angus Morrison, Cllr Norman MacDonald, Shona Cooksey and Philip Dunn.

Approval of Previous Minutes	<p>The minutes were approved by Catriona Macleod and seconded by Kevin Long. It was noted Philip Dunn (attendee) and Rhiannon Teather (apology) were omitted from the previous minutes. These were the only minor corrections made.</p> <p>The Secretary was told that the approved minutes need to be emailed to Belle-Anne in future, so that they can be displayed publically on the main Council website.</p>
Matters Arising	No matters arising.
Finance	<p>Treasurer Callum Richings provided a finance update. The current balance is £2434.46. Callum will follow up whether the Challenge Fund grant payment has been paid in; there was an email that suggested this had indeed been credited. £29 for the Remembrance Wreath and the bill for the Cleaners still to go out. The balance will be approximately £1,903 after this. It was discussed and agreed that the signatories on the bank account need to be updated.</p>
Vice Chair Vacancy	<p>Joan MacAulay nominated by Catriona Macleod and seconded by Fiona Douglas. Joan was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.</p>
Social Media	<p>Philip Dunn has agreed to manage BCC's social media presence once we are issued with the formal guidelines for Community Councils. Derek Mackay is the likely point of contact for further information. In general, still in the planning process as to how we will approach social media outlets but everyone agreed we need our own online platform to circulate information and keep locals informed.</p>
Challenge Fund	<p>The Challenge Fund project was explained for the benefit of new members (grant for Community Councils for a local project, match funded). We discussed the fact that it would be helpful to start thinking about ideas for the Challenge Fund earlier in the year. We agreed to start a list at the beginning of the New Year so that there are several good options to choose from by the summer deadline. We agreed thinking further ahead also allows for better community consultation - the previous successful idea (to improve and replace community benches across Bernera) was a suggestion by a resident. Rhiannon</p>

	agreed to circulate the form and the criteria for the Challenge Fund to Council members to help generate ideas.
Deer and Speed Signs	Fiona Douglas contacted John Macleod at the Council about Deer signs. Two signs are being organised (Bernera Rd end/Uig junction, and at the bridge). It was noted that the Breaclete village has a speed limit of 30mph (most residents seem to think this is 40mph). This issue was also raised with John. By way of a solution, a 30mph limit sign will be incorporated on the back of the 20mph flashing school sign to help residents keep to the limit.
Wild Rhubarb	The problem of Wild Rhubarb is being investigated as it is spreading – Finlay to assemble a squad. It was agreed this needs to be monitored as an ongoing issue into the spring. It is currently the wrong time of year to take action.
Breaclete Glebe	This is an area of unused land behind the Free Church in the village. The issue of a lack of affordable housing is significant in the community. There has been some contact with the owners but no formal approach. Fiona and Rhiannon to co-ordinate writing an official letter.
AOCB	<p>Better Cooperation between all Bernera Community Groups. It was noted that more could be done to facilitate this. The idea of a joint Town Hall style meeting was suggested to enable us to work together better and for greater transparency for residents.</p> <p>Petrol Pumps. There was a brief discussion about the current situation with the petrol pumps. Rhiannon to email Sue with a formal request for an update.</p> <p>Transparency on Community Issues / Action Tracker for BCC. The problem of keeping track of community issues was noted. All agreed that there needs to be a better means of tracking the progress of ongoing community issues. Rhiannon agreed to put together an Action Tracker for BCC so we can monitor our progress.</p> <p>Fish Farms Waste. Hacklete, Valasay and Tobson particularly badly affected. We were advised to work together with the Fish Farms to solve this problem; the Council would provide a skip free of charge. Fiona/Rhiannon to contact both companies to try to organise something.</p> <p>Drainage. This is a pressing issue in many villages as the streams by roads are not being cleared. The water is not draining and crofts are being flooded and properties damaged. Technical Services Department to be contacted about this problem.</p>
Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 9 January 2020