

Benera Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

9 May 2019

7.30-9.15pm at Benera Community Centre

Present

Fiona Douglas, Chair (FD)
Rhiannon Teather, Clerk (RT)
Callum Ritchings (CR)
Joan Macaulay (JM)
Catriona Macleod (CM)
Madeleine Macaulay (MM)
Cllr Norman MacDonald (NMD)

Apologies

Cllr Angus Morrison (AM)
Cllr Ranald Fraser (RF)
Phillip Dunn (PD)
Neil James Macaulay (NJM)
Chrissie MacDonald (CMD)

Actions

- FD to pass on the details of van owners to NMD to follow up.
- FD to follow up with Andrea Rutherford on the Broadband event slides; PD to distribute to mailing list.
- RT to contact Iain Norman Campbell about ordering a skip for electrical goods and establish its size; also to request a larger bin to replace those that are frequently too full.
- FD to ask for an update about the fuel pumps from BCA; RT to circulate BCA minutes to the Council in future.
- It was agreed that the Free Church should be approached about their vacant building; details still to be established.
- RT to contact Bernard Chisholm about scheduling a Notice Community Conversation for Benera residents.

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2019 were approved by Fiona Douglas and seconded by Joan Macaulay. The meeting scheduled for Thursday 11 April was cancelled.

Matters Arising

The red van has still not been removed from the pier. FD contacted the previous owner and established it was sold on. FD to pass on details of van owners to the NMD who will contact owners through the Council and/or arrange for its removal.

Finance

CR provided an update. The current balance is: 5,714.86. 2,000 to come in from the Challenge Fund for the War Memorial.

Broadband

Nothing new to report on the rollout. FD currently awaiting a response from Andrea Rutherford on the Broadband event slides and will follow up again. When these are available, PD will distribute the slides to the mailing list. The process for residents to order home installation was discussed and it was agreed that a coordinated approach would be ideal; practicalities as to how best to facilitate this are still to be established.

Publicising role of Community Council

Benera Community Council

We agreed in principle that a newsletter informing residents what we have done recently (events etc.), the type of issues we address and how we can be approached would be useful. A paragraph about our recent activities was submitted for inclusion in the BCA newsletter.

Membership of CC

The elections will be in October this year.

War Memorial

JM reported that we are waiting for the Challenge Fund money to come through. There are outstanding jobs, including that the base needs to be painted and tidied up, and the gate needs to be widened. It was established that lights can be put in and connected to the street lighting.

Challenge Fund

This funding (approx. 2000 pounds) is available for community projects. The deadline for this is August-time. It was suggested that we could invite ideas from locals. Ideas were discussed including concreting around the recycling bins, redoing the skip area or creating a new area. We also discussed applying for part-funding for the fuel pumps on behalf of the BCA if this would help the project. FD to approach BCA for an update on the fuel pumps.

Road Signs

It was established that the spelling of the Kirkibost sign is correct.

There was a discussion about the general increase in litter. FD shared that she had proposed that the youth group create a sign about litter and NMD provided some advice as to where this should be located and the best approach. Below the notice board at the bridge was suggested as a potential location because it will not require planning consent. The sign is a potential project to be put forward for the Challenge Fund.

BCA News

Nothing to report.

AOCB

1. No news to report from the Community Development Trust.
2. The Notice Community Conversation in Uig is scheduled for next Tuesday evening. It was agreed that we should ask for our own public meeting for residents to attend; RT to approach Bernard Chisholm to request this.
3. Bins. It was agreed a skip for electrical goods would be useful. RT to contact Iain Norman Campbell. RT will also request a 1100ltr bin for the end of the Bernera road; the current small bin is always full.
4. Land available for housing? The Empty Housing Officer at the Council is working to get empty homes renovated and back into circulation. It was discussed that some land is out of crofting tenure. The vacant Free Church building was suggested as an option for new housing and it was agreed the Calanais office should be approached.
5. Fuel pumps. The pumps were discussed and its importance for the community was highlighted. FD to ask for an update about the current situation from BCA.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 13 June 2019