

## BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held Thursday 13 February 2020  
at Bernera Community Centre, 19.30-21.30.

**Present:** Fiona Douglas (Chair), Joan Macaulay (Vice Chair, JM), Cllr Norman MacDonald (NMD), Rhiannon Teather (Secretary, RT), Phillip Dunn (PD), Madeleine Macaulay (MA), Catriona Macleod (CM), Sue Long (SL), Kevin Long (KL), Shona Cooksey (SC), Virginia Allum (VA), Finlay MacIver (FM) and Stuart Witts (Scottish Salmon, Area Manager, SW).  
**Apologies:** Callum Richings (Treasurer, CR), Cllr Angus Morrison (AM), Cllr Randal Fraser (RF).

Previous Minutes	The previous minutes for the meeting of 9 January 2020 were approved by Philip Dunn and seconded by Sue Long.
Matters Arising	No matters arising not already included on the agenda.
Finance	Treasurer Callum Richings submitted his apologies and was therefore not present for a finance update.
Crown Estate Funding	<p>Prior to the meeting RT drafted a letter in consultation with the Development Trust and the Community Association raising concerns about the Comhairle's decisions regarding the Crown Estate Funding (the allocation of funds across the nine wards, the fact this was primarily earmarked for road rather than marine infrastructure, as well as questions about transparency for accessing funding for our community). RT had circulated the letter to Bernera's main committees prior to the meeting. The Development Trust had approved it the letter in writing beforehand. The letter was discussed. SL, on behalf of BCA, relayed their approval of the letter with a request to remove one sentence in paragraph two about means-testing and wind turbines. RT agreed to remove this and was instructed to send the letter to Malcolm Burr after the meeting.</p> <p>The main issues addressed in the letter were then discussed and members were advised by NMD that there would be ongoing debate about how the Crown Estate Funds would be allocated. The deadline for projects to be identified/applications submitted is the end of March, with the projects to have a 1<sup>st</sup> April-March 2021 deadline for completion.</p>
Shoreline Clean Up	Stuart Witts, Scottish Salmon Area Manager, was present and introduced himself. SW indicated that he and the company were happy to be contacted by residents who have concerns about fish farm waste – this helps to identify areas that are a particular problem. There was a discussion about how the company can help with the shoreline clean up; SW informed us that in other areas they had supplied manpower, boats and a skip in order to help. SW told us that the company is keen to be a

	<p>good neighbour and expressed his personal willingness to attend future meetings and be contacted about any issues.</p> <p>There was a discussion about putting the Shoreline Clean Up forward as a firm proposal for the Crown Estate Funds. The practicalities of this application were discussed, including the possibility of getting drone footage of the waste (viewed from the sea), it was also suggested that fish farmers, accompanied by a community member, could scope out the worst spots. There was also a discussion about doing a risk assessment for road closures, especially in Hacklete, during any proposed clean ups.</p> <p>It was also noted that the tanks on the trail are a real eye-sore. We were advised that the main Council may be able to help identify the owners and then enforce a removal.</p>
Challenge Fund	We discussed our collective desire to think ahead for this year's Challenge Fund application. It was suggested that we use the social media platform to generate ideas from residents. It was noted that there are no benches between Bosta-Tobson – one possible option?
Social Media	PD has launched both the Facebook and Twitter BCC accounts. He reported that there has been good feedback so far and that it is being consulted by residents. The historic record of BCC minutes are available on the Comhairle website – once the stable link for this is found, this will be added to the social media pages so people can look them up.
AOCB	<p><b>Town Hall Meeting.</b> FD to meet with John (Development Trust) and Ken (BCA) about organising a joint Town Hall style event for Bernera residents.</p> <p><b>Housing.</b> The problem of empty homes was discussed. On the Breaclete Glebe, FD and RT to meet about writing a letter. There was also discussion of approaching the Affordable Housing contact at the Council for a full explanation about the decision-making process about 'where to build/not to build' homes.</p> <p><b>New Energy Efficiency Rules?</b> This issue was raised as something which may affect residents; clarification to be sought.</p> <p><b>Road to Bosta (traffic, passing places).</b> This road is still listed on the unadopted roads list, which is especially problematic as the Comhairle struggles to maintain existing adopted roads. It was agreed the issue would be followed up.</p>
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	Thursday 12 March 2020

Please write to [berneracomcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:berneracomcouncil@outlook.com) to raise any local issues or comment.