

BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held Thursday 16 April 2020
via Zoom Video Conference, 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Present via Zoom: Joan Macaulay (Vice Chair, JM), Callum Richings (Treasurer, CR), Cllr Norman MacDonald (NMD), Rhiannon Teather (Secretary, RT), Neil James Macaulay (NJM), Madeleine Macaulay (MA), Sue Long (SL), Kevin Long (KL), Virginia Allum (VA), Phillip Dunn (PD), Finlay MacIver (FM)

<p>Election of New Chair</p>	<p>Fiona Douglas resigned as Chair. Catriona Macleod and Shona Cooksey resigned in advance of the meeting. PD resigned at the beginning of the meeting. The agreed first item was the election of the new Chair, with two candidates:</p> <p>Joan Macaulay, proposed by Neil James Macaulay and seconded by Callum Richings.</p> <p>Kevin Long, proposed by Virginia Allum and seconded by Sue Long.</p> <p>Votes for KL: KL, SL, VA</p> <p>Votes for JM: FM, NJM, MM, CR.</p> <p>Joan Macaulay elected Chair with a majority of one.</p>
<p>Way Forward on Covid-19 Response</p>	<p>The initial BCC response to Covid-19 crisis had been handled by the Covid-19 Response sub committee, set up in March. The role and purpose of this sub committee was discussed again, following on from the debate about this from the BCC meeting the previous week (09/04/20). Resignation letters were read out. There was a split in the committee about whether the response should have been handled including the whole BCC from the beginning or whether the Covid-19 Response sub committee was the right approach. All concluded that the sub committee had put in place the necessary plans and thus served its purpose. The principle conclusion of the previous meeting that the sub committee was now disbanded was reiterated. The Covid-19 Response now includes all BCC members and decision-making will be reintegrated into the usual monthly BCC meetings.</p> <p>NMD highlighted that the agreed preparedness plans – the main contribution of the BCC locally in the crisis – are to be managed going forward principally by the Volunteer Co-ordinator, the post previously held by Catriona Macleod. Several members paid tribute to Catriona’s unrivalled knowledge of the community and her contribution. The post was not filled but SL reported that multiple people have offered to take up this role or support it, including Ken Macaulay and FM. NJM volunteered to help at the meeting. NMD made the point that should the situation escalate, it will be the NHS, Health and Social Care Board, and</p>

	<p>statutory services who will take the lead.</p> <p>There was also a discussion about the role of BCC Secretary. RT had resigned (03/04/20) but returned on request after official approach post-BCC meeting on 09/04/20. RT requested that both the Secretary and the new Chair be copied into all correspondence to avoid past problems. SL said that there had not been much correspondence but agreed to share the existing chain with RT/JM. NMD clarified the role of the Secretary: receives correspondence from CnES and elsewhere alongside the chairperson, the Secretary circulates information to the BCC; all communication goes to and from the Secretary, with agreement from the Chair. VA posed a question whether the Secretary's personal views should be included in correspondence. NMD explained the role is facts-based, as the clerk organises and sends out the correspondence regarding meetings and relays the decisions of the committee. RT reiterated that the letter sent to the committee the previous day had the approval of the Vice Chair.</p>
<p>Clarification on Frequency of BCC Meetings</p>	<p>All agreed that scheduled BCC meetings would now be held in the usual monthly slot (second Thursday of the month). JM will call additional emergency meetings if required.</p>
<p>Progress Update on SSEN Funding</p>	<p>JM and SL reported progress on funding; the application is to include funding for electronic devices for residents who need them. There was a discussion about the types of devices available (iPads, as well as more requirement-specific) that could be funded to help vulnerable people keep in touch with their family/friends during self-isolation/period of government restrictions. These devices would be categorised as community assets and NMD reported that there is a bespoke IT service available from CnES to set these up for individuals according to their requirements, as well as allow devices to be traced and monitored. Library access now available online, also games such as Scrabble. NJM queried whether the devices would work in people's homes, SL confirmed that a Wi-Fi dongle was a common solution.</p> <p>MM previously proposed the purchase of Magnar Cushions to assist those who have had a fall, which is also to be included in the application. These vary in price; cost estimate due tomorrow. She also suggested the provision of a vehicle substitute for the skip (currently closed). For funding applications, SL to get estimate for iPads; JM/MM for Magnar Cushions. Hand sanitizers for public spaces is another possible option but inclusion in application dependant on available funds.</p> <p>NJM queried whether any money was available for port cabins for</p>

	<p>Key Workers to self-isolate, having returned from rigs, ships or hospitals. He shared stories of workers not having anywhere to go. NMD suggested that employers were now obligated to make facilities available for Key Workers but there was some disagreement about the actual provision of these on the ground, although there are supposed to be holiday homes etc. available for use locally. A member also raised some concerns about non-residents self-isolating in holiday homes locally; NMD reported that the Police are taking action on this and any suspected cases should be reported to him.</p>
AOCB	<p>New Mailbox and Email Address. Secretary has agreement to set up a new Gmail account; Outlook account will remain active to forward correspondence.</p> <p>Funding Deadline is next week. CR to supply JM with six months worth of bank statements for application, also last audited accounts. All in agreement that JM will submit the application on behalf of the BCC once cost estimates have been received.</p>
Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 14 May 2020, 7.30pm.