

BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held Thursday 6 August 2020
via Zoom Video Conference, 6.30pm-7.30pm

BCC members present via Zoom:

Joan Macaulay (Chair, JM), Cllr Norman Macdonald (NMD), Calum Richings (Treasurer, CR), Rhiannon Teather (Secretary, RT), Madeleine Macaulay (MM), Norman Macdonald (ND).

Apologies: Cllr Ranald Fraser, Chrissie Macdonald, Neil James Macaulay, Cllr Angus Morrison.

Matters Arising

It was noted that Sue Long resigned after the last meeting.

Previous Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on 11 June 2020 were approved by Madeleine Macaulay and seconded by Joan Macaulay. The meeting scheduled for 9 July was cancelled.

Finance Update

CR provided an update. Current balance: 4,906.63. Cleaner for the Kirkibost toilets still to be paid. MM requested an update for upgrading the bank account. CR still to investigate. JM raised whether Callum Macaulay had been paid for works completed in relation to Kirkibost Pontoons planning (Great Bernera Development Trust); CR responded that he had not received an invoice yet.

Bernera Bridge Works

Bernera Bridge closed Monday night – Friday night (10th-14th August), 9.30pm-5.30am. Angus Gillies (Bridges Engineer) had been in touch about facilities for contractors. ND liaised with Mr Gillies to extend Bridge opening hours to make sure nurses, care workers, and visitors were not inconvenienced. It was discussed how best to keep the community informed – signage at road ends provided for already, as well as emergency numbers. Details posted on social media. CR raised concerns about raising awareness for people not on social media and who might not have received the info.

We had a request from money for paint for the Bridge from the BCA. All in agreement to provide this. CR queried how much and when it would be required; still to receive details.

Covid-19 Update

NMD raised the issue of parent's concerns about schools reopening. Specifically parents had concerns about children travelling on public service buses, especially if they have underlying health conditions. These cases have had the opportunity to appeal. A significant number of people will be driving their children to and from school in their own cars. NMD reported there are still issues in certain rural areas and CnES may need to provide taxis for them. It will be a phased process and a difficult few weeks for some families. NMD advised that if there any

children from Bernera suffering from affected health conditions, to encourage families to speak to the Education Department with a GP note/recommendation. This will help guide Council decisions. If you know of anyone with concerns, encourage them to contact the Education Department.

Mangar Cushion

MM updated everyone that the Mangar Cushion has now arrived. The issue is now storage and access. The Fire Station was raised as an option and ND agreed that it could be stored there, and in terms of access, it was also agreed that the mobile numbers of some Firefighters could be posted publically so people can contact them in an emergency to gain access to the Cushion.

The issue of training was discussed. MM reported that when the Community Centre Hall can be accessed, a trainer can provide an evening's training for as many people as is possible to learn how to use the Cushion (as social-distancing restrictions apply, etc.). Everyone agreed it would be good to get this up and running as soon as possible.

The specifics regarding the Cushion were also discussed. It does not take up much space when deflated (1ft/1ft ½). CR queried whether it required an extension cable. MM detailed that the Cushion should be fully charged and so should not need plugging in when in use. CR requested that RM bring the Cushion to the Fire Station so the Firefighters can learn how to use it. It was agreed that the Cushion would be looked after, tested etc., like the rest of the equipment in weekly/monthly checks.

iPads

No direct requests for iPads. Please contact berneracomcouncil@gmail.com if you or your family would be benefit from access to Community iPads. Demand needs to be proven for funding applications.

Petrol Pumps Funding

ND has been investigating this. The pump and gubbings should cost £15,000, and a shed will have to be built to accommodate it. This should cost less than the £60,000 originally estimated, and mean that the £31,000 allocated for the project should be sufficient. NMD said there is agreement, in the event that not all Crown Estate monies are needed for pump, that we can look to allocate to other local projects. The next round of funding will be considerably more funds and it is very important that all the money is allocated.

JM cited a report done by the Council, that there were a few additional jobs to be done for pumps – lights, drainage. NMD stated that works need to start quickly; BCA property so liaising with them essential. It was also discussed that there does need to be a financial contribution from the organisation receiving money. ND agreed to ask about this and it was noted that in-kind contributions also fall within this (for example, if in an in-kind contribution was work on the shed).

Human Remains on Little Bernera

The gabion baskets have been delivered and are in Croir. The practicalities of shoring up the Little Bernera graveyard were discussed (where to get the rocks for the baskets, how to transport them to the Little Bernera; the money issue). The owner of the island has been contacted but no word on his possible contribution. ND to follow up with Callum Macaulay.

Kirkibost/Bosta Toilets

JM had an email about whether Kirkibost and Bosta toilets are open. It was confirmed that they both are and they continue to be cleaned.

AOCB

Tourism Fund. Bosta funding at stage 2 – extended the deadline date. ND to help JM with the application, JM will sort out the form if ND provides info. All in agreement.

BBC email. On waste disposal at Croir; they requested a volunteer to speak to them and contribute. It was agreed there would be no comment from the BCC on this issue.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 10 September, 6.30pm.

Please write to berneracomcouncil@gmail.com to raise any issues or suggest ideas.