

## **BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of Meeting held on  
Monday 18 January 2021, 7pm-8pm  
via Zoom Video Conference

### **BCC Members Present (via Zoom)**

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

### **Apologies**

Cllr Ranald Fraser, Cllr Angus Morrison.

#### **1. Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 November were approved by Norman Macdonald and seconded by Neil James Macaulay.

#### **2. Matters Arising**

#### **3. Finance Update**

CR provided an update. Balance: 20,768.09. Most of the remaining funds are payment for Petrol Pumps; 12,000 already been paid. Wages now paid and the new viewing point benches (for when the Bridge is completed) have also been paid for.

#### **4. Bernera Bridge**

JM provided a written update from Angus Gillies. NMD reported coordination still ongoing and works on schedule for completion. It was agreed that Angus Gillies or (another representative working on the Bridge) would be invited to the next meeting to provide an update and answer any questions. JM to ask Mr Gillies' permission to put his written bridge update on FB for the community.

#### **5. Funding Applications (Bosta, Crown Estate)**

JM provided an update. Rural Tourism Fund application outcomes now known and no projects on the Western Isles have received any funding. This has provoked criticism across the islands; NMD, alongside other Cllrs, to write a letter and speak to the press in opposition to the decision. NMD suggested exploring some other avenues for funding for the Bosta project, the Crown Estate Fund may be an option as well as HIE. JM to make enquiries about alternatives.

#### **6. Petrol Pumps**

ND provided an update. The shed and the fuel pumps have arrived. Planning permission was received yesterday but still waiting for card connection from BT for payments. There has been an issue getting petrol (diesel can be supplied locally) but Scottish Fuels are organising a solution. A bowser will be brought from Orkney to supply the petrol next month. JM queried how fuel will be paid for. CR has been approached from a local willing to donate money for fund this; CR to follow up; RT to write to them and thank them on behalf of BCC. RT queried

the date of completion. ND suggested a possible completion date of the middle of February but everything has to be ready before they can be open for business.

### **7. Little Bernera**

There has been little change since Christmas. As reported previously archaeologists from Historic Scotland visited for three days and took samples but there has not been any news since. The stones for the gabion baskets still waiting at the Pier to be taken to Little Bernera (weather and transport has caused delays), these may need to be transferred to new bags as these do not last a long time. NJM to follow up at Pier about getting the stones transported to Little Bernera.

### **8. Drainage and Ditches**

RT raised the issue of ice and gritting in Croir in recent weeks and was concerned this may also be a problem elsewhere. RT had been in touch with CnES about the issue and also said she would follow-up with the list of other problem areas (previously drafted before Covid-19 last year). NMD suggested these issues should be easily resolved and is just a case of digging off-leets where the water pools; not a big operation. NMD to follow up with Mr MacRitchie about organising this maintenance. JM and RT to coordinate circulation of existing list on FB so residents can put forward any additional areas that need attention.

### **9. AGM**

It was agreed this will be held in April.

### **10. AOCB**

**Mangar Cushion.** MM reported that this was used for the first time this week and was very helpful for those involved. CR suggested circulating the contact numbers again.

**Funding for Solar Panels.** Crown Estate application for this year was for 15,000-16,000 toward the Solar Panels and 9,000 for Bosta project. NMD stated that it is worthwhile holding onto the funding for Bosta, despite the RTF outcome. HIE should be approached about the funding shortfall (35,000 required).

**Bernera School.** NMD reports no change. There are meetings to be held next week to discuss schools generally, discussions ongoing, especially about executive headships.

**Housing in Bernera.** Heath Park area and Free Church Glebe have been previously highlighted as good areas for new housing. There was a brief discussion about next steps, NMD advised that the Development Trust is the best vehicle for taking this forward; they will need to purchase land from Grazings Committees and/or Free Church. Housing Partnership should also be approached for advice.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 11 February 2021 at 7pm.**

**Please contact: [berneracomcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:berneracomcouncil@gmail.com) to make suggestions or raise any issues.**  
The minutes from previous meetings, dating back to 2012, can be found at: <https://e-sgire.org/communities/ward4/community-associations/>