

**BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL****Approved Minutes for Meeting held on****Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021****6.45pm-8pm (via Zoom)****BCC Members Present (via Zoom)**

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

**Also Present (via Zoom)**

Calum Mackenzie (CMK, CnES).

**Apologies**

Alice Murray, Cllr Ranald Fraser, Cllr Angus Morrison, Cllr Norman Macdonald.

**1. Welcome****2. Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 June 2021 were approved by Calum Richings and seconded by Neil James Macaulay.

**3. Matters Arising****4. Finance Update**

CR provided an update. The current balance is 13154.57; 2,500 still to be paid to the Hydro, ND also informed that there is a bill outstanding for the pumps (2800), as well as a few bills from Callum Macaulay for fixing blockage in the water pipes. There was a discussion about the progress of the works at Bosta and what this includes: new toilets, wash hand basins, painting, solar panels and a new septic tank.

On the accounts, CR reported that 2,000 was paid in from CnES, 457 for Bosta toilets maintenance grant. CR to check the sum we are owed for Bosta and Kirkibost toilets (possible backlog due to Covid-19). He explained we are also likely to receive our CC running costs grant soon. The toilets cleaner's wages are up to date. There was a discussion about the lack of funds available for the toilets (2000 received, it costs more to run than this). It was noted that we require back up savings in case repairs are needed. Last year: 1400 received for Kirkibost, 700 paid out for for Kirkibost, 1950 for Bosta, a further 900 paid out for running costs. More than half is wages. The exact break down for running costs/materials was requested to see if these can sourced more cheaply.

**5. Housing**

JM and RT provided an update. The community housing meetings held Monday 5th July and Saturday 11th were discussed. It was noted that the conversation, especially during the online meeting, was productive and a clear way forward was established with cross-committee support. The focus will be primarily on the Glebe site and creating a plan for a holistic housing development that will meet the needs of our community. The Development Trust is to take the lead in approaching the owners and developing the feasibility plan; further consultation to follow. It was also agreed that to solve Bernera's long term lack of investment in housing stock there will need to be more active engagement with Grazings Committees (BCC to co-ordinate with GBCDT). There was a discussion about the obstacles associated with land ownership.

The original TiG housing meeting scheduled for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to be rescheduled on account of clash, likely an evening later in the week. Details to follow.

## **6. Funding (Crown Estate, HIE, Bosta)**

ND provided an update regarding the works at Bosta. He reported the septic tank is still to be put in but the beach is too busy at the moment for this to be installed. CM has made progress with internal works in the ceiling/roof, including internal lighting.

## **7. Petrol Pumps**

All expressed their happiness about the recent opening of the Petrol Pumps and gratitude for all the hard work which went into getting this done for the community. Congratulations extended to BCA and all involved. ND noted a Petrol delivery is arriving next week.

## **8. Bernera Graveyards**

NJM provided an update. He has been in contact with individuals about moving the stones from Kirkibost Pier and to follow-up if he has not heard by the end of the week.

## **9. Bernera Bridge Update (w/ CnES representative Calum Mackenzie)**

CMK provided an update. Things are still on track as per the statement last week. Contractors are due on site 19<sup>th</sup> of this month, everything is arranged for their transport etc. They have a place to stay on Bernera. 21<sup>st</sup> September remains the official date for allowing traffic. He explained that CnES are working with local house builders individually to help them. Early plans are being drawn up for a bridge opening ceremony.

MM queried the picnic area landscaping and whether this is to do with the contractors. CMK responded there will be further discussions about this in due course and what to do with existing bridge.

NJM queried what will happen to the old bridge. CMK said that we will be making plans for contingency measures: it will last 25 years, but once this bridge is up and running we will have more permanent arrangements.

CM asked whether the old bridge be safe for walking. CMK replied in the affirmative but explained the relative costs of inspection vs. demolition will need to be weighed up. Plans will be made for this once the new steel bridge is in place. CMK there may be an opportunity for a site community council visit.

## **10. AOCB**

**Correspondence from Croir.** It was agreed that these points should be addressed. RT to draft a response and all agreed it should be passed to the Cllrs.

**Memorial Professor Donald Macaulay.** The possible locations for this were discussed: wall, causeway, picnic area. It was agreed that the new picnic area might be a suitable site.

**There will be no Community Council meeting in August. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

**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/>