

BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Approved Minutes for Meeting held on
Thursday 11th November 2021, 6.30pm-8pm
Bernera Community Centre

Present

Cllr Norman Macdonald (NMD), Madeleine Macaulay (MM), Neil James Macaulay (NJM), Chrissie Macdonald (CM), Alice Murray (AM).

Apologies

Calum Richings, Norman Macdonald, Cllr Ranald Fraser, Cllr Angus Morrison.

1. Welcome

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 8th July 2021 were approved by Chrissie Macdonald and seconded by Madeleine Macaulay. The meetings scheduled for September and October were postponed.

3. Matters Arising

- *Finance.* CR apologies. MM requested a comprehensive overview of current income/expenditure. It was noted CM is a signatory on account but still needs to be added to online access. There was a discussion about the need for greater oversight of statements etc. at meetings. It was suggested that bank details and statements should be lodged with the Secretary to help facilitate this; these issues to be carried forward for next meeting.
- *Bosta Toilets.* Update on Bosta toilets needed. Joint meeting suggested with GBCDT to help co-ordinate/progress update.
- *Little Bernera Graveyard.* It was noted the stones for gabion baskets are still at the Pier waiting to be carried over. NJM to speak to fish farmers; also to follow up with Misty on outcome of Historic Scotland input.

4. Joan Tribute / BCC Going Forward

The whole committee expressed their deep sadness at the recent passing of BCC Chair Joan Macaulay. She was a much-loved member of our committee, as well as the whole community, and she is greatly missed. All affirmed their commitment to continue Joan's legacy on the BCC and in the community.

Due to the absences of CR and NM, it was agreed we would postpone discussions regarding the appointment of a new Chair and Vice Chair until the next meeting. Madeleine Macaulay was appointed acting Chair.

5. War Memorial Wreath / Remembrance Sunday Service Attendance

NMD provided an update: two wreaths at the Church for BCC and BCA, with another expected on behalf of SFRS. Madeleine/Neil James to co-ordinate who will attend on our behalf; also to be discussed with CR. RT to follow up with Rev. Hugh Stewart.

6. Housing Update / TiG Meeting

RT provided an update. GBCDT taking current plan forward for Glebe site; this is currently being valued. TiG report on Housing Needs and Demand Assessment on the islands is due out mid-November.

NMD explained that from March next year for the next 5 years, 43 million has been allocated for housing spending on islands. It was noted that the Comhairle can only spend 20 million and it is not possible for HHP to be the sole provider, which will require more flexibility and innovation in terms of delivery. NMD outlined his housing plan for a grant system that would facilitate building homes in rural areas (individuals identify and secure a suitable plot, receive a lump sum grant to build a home, then pay housing-association level rates as a mortgage to repay over 15 years). This type of plan would be suitable for Croft land, if access to road included. NMD to provide details of financial breakdown etc. but all expressed support regarding the suitability of this type of plan for building in rural areas.

7. Funding / 'Community Shout Out' Initiative

Alice Murray provided an overview of Community Shout Out Initiative (circulated via email prior to the meeting); the initiative requires hosting an event to get all community groups together for consultation, £1000 maximum budget. Questions to be put to attendees about what they want to see in the community going forward and how they want to be consulted. All agreed a joint committee event/meeting was long overdue and it would be a good way of thinking about Bernera's future. RT and CM to co-ordinate potential dates with GBCDT and BCA; follow-up with Alice regarding progress once a date is agreed; form to be filled out to access funding.

8. Bridge Update

Mr Calum Mackenzie (CnES) provided an update via email, circulated prior to the meeting. He informed us:

The bridge is now positioned on its abutments and the road formation complete on the north side.

South Side wing walls have been cast and backfilling to road formation will be complete w/c 15 November.

Tarring is programmed for 25 November.

All going to plan the bridge will be fully open to traffic w/c 6 December.

Official opening is expected to be around 15 December.

Between 25 November and 6 December some large vehicle crossings can be facilitated by appointment.

Scottish Government yesterday confirmed funding of £2.62m towards the total cost of £3.1m for the bridge.

9. AOCB

- *Resident Query Regarding Disabled Car Parking at Bosta.* It was noted we would need a concrete slab for this. Any new parking space would be the jurisdiction of Tobson Common Grazings. CM to follow up with Misty (Grazings Clerk) about options.
- *Drainage.* It was noted the drainage at Hacklete is poor. NMD reported similar problems across the island and that this has been raised.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 9th December 2021.

Please contact: 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/>