

# BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Approved Minutes for Meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 7.30pm Bernera Community Centre

### Present

Madeleine Macaulay (BCC Chair, MM), Chrissie Macdonald (CM), Calum Richings (BCC Treasurer), Rhiannon Teather (BCC Secretary, RT).  
Cllr Norman Macdonald, Alice Murray (CnES, Community Learning & Development).  
Careen MacLennan (BCA, Administrator/Development Officer), Glynis Davis (BCA), Karina Macaulay (BCA), Katherine and Kenneth Macaulay (BCA).

### Apologies

Neil James Macaulay (BCC, NJM), Norman Macdonald (BCC, ND), Cllr Angus Morrison, Cllr Ranald Fraser.

#### 1. Welcome.

MM and RT expressed thanks to everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting and for all of their hard work recently with reference to the 'Community Shout Out Initiative' (Chat, Cheese and Wine Evening, and the Take Away Night scheduled for the coming week).

#### 2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 10 February 2022 were approved by Madeleine Macaulay and seconded by Chrissie Macdonald.

#### 3. Matters Arising

- **The shop.** RT to email GBCDT Chair and Development Officers about completing an application for funding to purchase Bernera Shop. There was widespread cross-committee support for preparing an application, both at the present meeting and at the joint committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022. It was agreed the application should be an urgent priority.
- **New Sign for Bridge (5<sup>th</sup> May).** NMD noted that a new sign for the Bridge was announced today. CM made some points about road safety near the bridge and suggested moving the stop sign and adjusting the road markings (currently confusing for drivers). It was also noted that there are concerns that the wooden fence at the end of the Bridge could be mistaken for a climbing frame for kids, as it so close to picnic area. There is a dangerous shear drop on the other side.
- **Shelter for Petrol Pumps.** It was agreed this will need to be a bus shelter type structure. It was noted it is possible to purchase one for 1,500-2,000. CR to contact I M Murray's in town for a quote for the framing (Perspex sheeting to be fitted by CR and/or ND). CR estimates dimensions needed to be approximately 6ft wide, 3ft deep, with access to the back for maintenance and a gap at the base for the wind to pass through.

#### 4. Finance Update

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CR provided an update. The current balance is: 7,611.01. BCC laptop now purchased and cost £550 (cost included in the balance). RT still to invoice for ink and paper.

### 5. Crown Estate Fund Application

**Update.** NMD provided an update that project applications need to be submitted by 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022. £22,183 for allocated for Bernera. CM queried whether the fund will carry on beyond year three. NMD confirmed there will be a year 4, which will start May or June of this year. Year 3's fund has been slow to come through due to Covid delays. The project ideas for Bernera were discussed. At the cross-committee meeting on 2 March 2022, it was agreed that the best ideas were for a Pod for rental as well as regenerating the Polytunnels.

**Criteria.** NMD advised that part of the CnES criteria for awarding the funding is that the projects are income-generating and can be grown over time. AM advised that the criteria now includes a section for match funding and suggested that we try to generate some of our own money for the project. Ideal if it is a joint application with all three committees on board.

**Pods Idea.** NMD advised that a two-person Pod is standard (6mx4m). For the Pod-only, some websites quote £6,000. Electrics and Plumbing will add more. If the plan is to add further Pods in future years of the funding, put all of the services in when the first Pod is installed. Elsewhere, these have been proven to be excellent income generating projects. It is ideal timing to do this for the community.

**Polytunnels Idea.** Also support for regenerating the Polytunnels, queries as to whether there are other sources of available. NMD noted HiE funding of up to £3000, which might be an option for Polytunnels. AM queried the estimated cost; ND quoted approximately £5,000 for new sheeting. AM advised that £1,000 may be available from 'Community Shout Out' fund. It was suggested that this money could be used for the Polytunnel still in use. AM to follow up as to whether the funding can be used for the Polytunnels. CM and Careen MacLennan to follow up with Sandy about what tools, compost, plants, he needs for the Polytunnel. It was noted the Polytunnel land is on long term lease. It was advised that we submit the application for the Polytunnels regardless, as this application can be recycled for next time (the next round of Crown Estate Fund is coming up quickly, May or June 2022). Get the works costed (approx. £5,000) and application completed.

### Next Steps.

- **Land.** RT to write to the GBCDT querying the mapping of the land we hope to use for the Pods and establish title, as well as whether there will be any access issues depending on the boundary.
- **Planning Permission.** RT queried whether we will need planning permission. NMD confirmed that consent of some sort will be required and advised that we contact the Council offices and ask to speak to a planner.
- **Applications.** Joanna (GBCDT) and Careen (BCA) to take the lead with the applications, with support from AM and RT as needed.

### 6. Take Away Night / 'Chat, Cheese and Wine' Evening

BCA update. The event is now all organised and shopping done. The food will be served out of the hatch in the hall. The Community Shout Out leaflets now printed; RT given the receipts.

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The remaining invoices to be given to RT for the paperwork; some others expected next week. The deadline for the monitoring forms is the end of the month. RT to complete.

### **7. Changing Day/Time of BCC Meeting**

No change.

### **8. Challenge Fund – Joan Tribute**

MM to follow up with NJM. Bench may have been ordered from Cornet's Crafts.

### **9. Bosta**

Project still to be completed.

### **10. AOCB – to be taken forward to next meeting**

- Resident Correspondence. BT Landlines becoming obsolete, poses issue for emergency FAIRE alarms and what to do in event of power cut.
- LACC Meeting Feedback
- HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration Weekend 2-5 June
- BCC Facebook Page/Publicity/Email account access

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022.**

**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/>