

# **BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APPROVED MINUTES**

**Thursday 12 January 2023  
Bernera Community Centre, 7.30pm**

**Present.** Madeleine Macaulay (Chair, MM), Calum Richings (Treasurer, CR), Neil James Macaulay (NJM, BCC), Chrissie MacDonald (CM, BCC), Rhiannon Teather (Secretary, RT, BCC), Callum Macaulay, Glynis Davies, Alice Murray (CnES), Joanna George (GBCDT Development Officer).

**Apologies.** Cllr Norman MacDonald (NMD), Cllr Ranald Fraser.

### **1. Welcome**

### **2. Previous Minutes**

The minutes of previous meeting for 1 December 2022 were proposed by Madeleine Macaulay and seconded by Calum Richings.

### **3. Finance Update**

CR provided an update. No change to report. The current balance is £8576.38. Toilet wages have been paid. Bank details for Kirkibost toilet cleaners in; still awaiting for Bosta. No outstanding bills other than sundries for petrol pumps.

### **4. Challenge Fund Update 2022 (Joan Tribute)**

Scheduled for April 2023. NJM provided an update: 5 x 6 mahogany bench ordered, there are some additional options for pots etc; NJM to follow up. The practicalities regarding installation were discussed. It was noted the area needs to be stockproof prior to the garden being planted. MM suggested a field visit prior with plans to be drawn up on that basis.

### **5. Challenge Fund 2023 (deadline 27 January 2023)**

Ideas were discussed for the next Challenge Fund application, including:

- Renovation of Youth Club Room at Community Centre, including possible to upgrade of window into double door to make autonomous space, possibly an option for shop
- Callum Macaulay suggested battery packs for solar panels as something that benefit BCA; storage device for energy; Callum to follow up costs.
- Fast boil kettles and toasters for Community Centre kitchen; Quooker tap
- New extractor fan for Community Centre kitchen; needs to be done within next 2 years before next licence. It was noted this costs between £10,000-£20,000.
- Storage for barbeques
- E-bikes for Community Centre
- Furniture for the bar

Actions:

- RT to follow up with BCA Chair regarding the ideas discussed at the meeting and preferred options for the application
- MM to get a quote for double doors in the event there is interest in renovating the Youth Club room
- MM proposed a cross-committee evening to brainstorm funding ideas and discuss community priorities

## **6. Bernera Bridge – Safety Changes**

The dangers for pedestrians crossing near the bridge or children climbing fences was discussed as an ongoing issue and it was noted this needs to be resolved urgently. The main suggestions are to make the fencing safer and/or install a gate for pedestrian crossing. It was noted that even a basic barrier would assist.

The provision of the benches was discussed; there are currently three benches on the bridge, with one more to be moved from the Community Centre. It was noted that previously we were promised funding for more benches from the Ward Fund and this requires to be followed up.

Actions:

- NMD to follow up with Angus Gillies; to be taken forward since not present at the meeting
- CR to follow up with former Cllr Norman MacDonald regarding funding that was supposed to be allocated to Bridge from Ward Fund.

## **7. Bosta Works Update**

BCC members noted their continued dissatisfaction at the lack of progress. The update received from the GBCDT Chair on request prior to the AGM was not well received and the narrative put forward disputed. It was noted that this project has been going in circles for years and very little has been achieved. It was established that the work yet to be completed includes the installation of septic tank, toilets, pipes and filter system.

MM made the point that information is and has been shared by some groups through personal email accounts. All information or correspondence should be sent through the BCC email system going forward, incorporating the formal email address that is being dealt with and not just private correspondence addresses thus allowing us to have the correct paper trail for any future issues arising.

Actions:

RT instructed to write to GBCDT and request the following:

1. an urgent joint meeting – w/c 30 January to be suggested
2. copies of original applications, quotes and the up to date accounts
3. that either (1) £10,000 funds from Crown Estate, still unspent we understand, be returned to BCC or (2) a firm commitment for the job completion to made with a timetable. BCC wishes the works to be completed by beginning of March 2023.

## **8. Petrol Pumps Shelter**

CR provided an update: concrete is done, shutter to come off and the framing to be put up. CR and Misty to follow up.

## **9. Graveyards**

To be followed up and taken forward.

- Little Bernera. Update. It was noted CnES put a stop to progress until survey completed last September, then the weather/swell too poor to take stones over. Gabion baskets still at Kirkibost Pier and will have been to be transported. Callum M and Misty to follow up.

## **10. Future Funding Projects & Bernera Action Plan**

It was proposed that a cross-committee meeting to be scheduled for Feb/March.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 9 February 2023, 7.30pm.**

**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: [Community Associations \(e-sgire.org\)](http://CommunityAssociations(e-sgire.org)). Great Bernera is currently listed under Ward 6:  
<https://e-sgire.org/communities/ward6/community-associations/>