

**BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday 9 February 2023  
Bernera Community Centre, 7.30pm**

Present: Madeleine Macaulay (Chair, MM), Cllr Misty MacDonald (NMD), Chrissie Macdonald (CM), Robert Mackenzie (RM), Neil James Macaulay (NJM), Calum Richings (Treasurer, CR), Rhiannon Teather (Secretary, RT), Alice Murray (CnES), Fiona MacInnes-Begg (CnES) and Kenny Macleod (CnES).

Apologies: Cllr Ranald Fraser.

**1. Welcome**

**2. Previous Minutes**

The draft minutes for the previous meeting held on 12 January 2023 were approved by Madeleine Macaulay and seconded by Calum Richings.

**3. Matters Arising**

*New co-opted member:* Robert Mackenzie was proposed by Chrissie Macdonald and seconded by Neil James Macaulay.

**4. Finance Update**

CR provided an update. No change with the same amount in the account. Balance is £8,575.

**5. New Community Engagement Unit (w/ Fiona MacInnes-Begg and Kenny Macleod)**

Kenny Macleod (CnES) provided an overview of previous projects involved in. MM queried purpose of Vacant Land Fund. Macleod explained Old Mill in Stornoway was a good example and clarified the fund is a fund to help redevelop structures. The advice offered was to focus on projects requiring funding first and locate funding second.

There was a general discussion about the ongoing situation with the landowner, some members reported they are not receiving a response to their requests to buy their crofts and it is a frustrating situation. CR pointed out that we have a stalemate situation regarding access to land. There was general discussion of the ongoing difficulties with aging population and the school closure. It was noted young people do wish to return to the island but cannot get access to land to build houses. NJM pointed out the superficiality of political response thus far and noted that politicians will discuss the Bernera Riots over a hundred years ago but there is little political recognition of current struggles of community.

**6. Challenge Fund Update 2022 & 2023**

Our Challenge Fund application (for a quooker tap, toasters, kettles and heat gloves for Community Centre kitchen) has been submitted in time for the deadline; awaiting a response.

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

NMD reported he has spoken to Angus Gillies. It is agreed CnES will install green mesh on fence to stop kids climbing them. The stop sign/road markings still be resolved; Angus Gillies to follow up.

## **8. Bosta Works Update**

The ongoing situation with Bosta was discussed at length. RT reported that GBCDT Trustees voted to return the Crown Estate funds. It was agreed there needs to be better cross-committee communication going forward. BCC to request a meeting for an update of works completed so far; MM to take forward.

## **9. Petrol Pumps Shelter**

CR provided an update. The frame is ready and we are just waiting for good weather to put it up.

## **10. Graveyards**

NJM to follow up.

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

A Port and Cheese night suggested for a funding project night, perhaps to combine with BCC meeting. Our next meeting of Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March was suggested and all to be invited. MM and RT to take forward.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 9 March 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 \(e-sgire.org\)](https://e-sgire.org/communities/ward6/community-associations/). Great Bernera is currently listed under Ward 6:  
<https://e-sgire.org/communities/ward6/community-associations/>