

BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
for meeting held on Thursday 15 June 2023
Bernera Community Centre, 7.30pm

In attendance. Madeleine Macaulay (Chair, MM), Robert Mackenzie (RM), Calum Richings (Treasurer, CR), Cllr Misty MacDonald (MMD), Chrissie Macdonald (CM), Rhiannon Teather (Secretary, RT).

Apologies. Alice Murray, Neil James Macaulay.

1. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Chrissie Macdonald and seconded by Robert Mackenzie, with one minor correction regarding an action point.

2. Matters Arising

- E-mail re Withdrawal of RBS Mobile Branch. It was noted that since the service has not been stopping at Kirkibost, the withdrawal of the service in and of itself would not necessarily be noticeable. RT to e-mail bank and query the situation, noting that it has been raised as a point of a concern by a Bernera resident. It was noted that the service was used previously but had not been in operation for some time. It would be useful if bank could reintroduce visits to the island and allow us the opportunity to publicise the service prior to any proposed withdrawal.
- E-mail re Bin Collection dates. MMD to request a list of collections narrowed down to the Bernera dates. BCC will then circulate this to the community so that everyone knows and understands the collection dates going forward.
- Stones at Kirkibost Pier. NJM to follow up.

3. Finance Update

CR to provide an update. CM queried whether there was a receipt from Willow Glen as yet, CR to sort out the week. Current balance is £21,113.23, including £10,000 funds returned for Bosta. £900 was received for Challenge Fund; this money will go to the BCA but project arrangements to be confirmed.

4. Challenge Fund Update 2022

The bench has been purchased together with the plaque for it. The bench needs to be installed but the setting at the bridge will need to be prepared first. MM to order some plants from Maybury. Committee will organise fencing an area with a gate, ideally a ranch style fence. The area will need to be measured and a fencer organised in due course.

5. Challenge Fund 2023

RT contacted BCA Chair regarding the funding and how they wished to take this forward. We are now awaiting news regarding the new admin assistant to be appointed (as this project will be part of their remit).

6. Tourist Board Signage

MM is possession of signs from GBCDT, received for free from Tourist Board. It was noted they require to be mounted and placed. Members agreed one should go at the bridge and one at Bosta; the 'no parking' be placed on the Croir road en route to Bosta. It was agreed that once the first signs set are put up and situated, we will order more as required.

7. Joint Committee Meeting / Bosta Works Update

It was noted that the sinks require to be changed and this was part of the original quotes. MM reported she had e-mailed Alice Murray regarding the toilets, who indicated she would contact HIE contact for an update. We subsequently received an e-mail from HIE; MM to respond/follow up. MM e-mailed Callum Macaulay for an update but received no reply. Callum Macaulay and John Porteous to be invited to next meeting to provide an update. It was noted GBCDT have been contacted repeatedly about having a meeting, and while they have agreed in principle, a meeting is yet to happen after many months. MM to follow up.

8. Bernera Bridge – Safety Changes

MMD provided the update that the safety mesh will be installed at the bridge next week. CM noted that there is a loud noise at one edge of the bridge when cars go over; MMD to query. MMD reported he had also raised the issue of signing. The stop sign needs to be moved to the Earshader side for safety.

9. Petrol Pumps Shelter

It was reported crows are attacking the petrol pumps. The sooner the shelter goes up, the better folks! MMD reported that he has the sheeting ready to come over; more timber is needed to finish it. MMD to pick up some timber and should be able to deliver it in the coming days.

10. Graveyards / Future Funding Projects & Bernera Action Plan

CR queried whether CnES archaeologist could organise a ground survey, including students, to ascertain which plots are occupied and unoccupied. It was noted it is in the Comhairle's interest since the Bosta graveyard cannot be extended. MMD to follow up.

11. AOCB

- E-bikes. MM contacted GBCDT on 18 May 2023, requesting information regarding how the bikes can be accessed, whether they are available to hire and hire charges. It was noted in MM's email that it makes sense for some of the bikes to be located at the Community Centre where they can be used and charged using the current facilities. Jo (GBCDT Development Officer) informed us this would be discussed at the next board meeting; awaiting a response. It was noted the GBCDT board had previously voted to apportion some of the bikes to the Community Centre earlier this year but this has not happened.
- Meetings Schedule 2023. MM to ask the Historical Society whether our meeting schedule list can be put up on the board at the Petrol Pumps etc. so everyone knows when they are and that they are welcome to attend.

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: [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/>