

BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

Originally scheduled for Thursday 7 September 2023

Rescheduled Friday 8 September 2023

Berner Community Centre, 7.30pm - 9pm

BCC Committee Present: Madeleine Macaulay (Chair, MM), Robert Mackenzie (RM), Chrissie Macdonald (CM), Rhiannon Teather (Secretary, RT).

Apologies. Calum Richings (BCC), Neil James Macaulay (BCC), Cllr Norman (Misty) Macdonald, Alice Murray (CnES).

In attendance: Norma Macleod (BCA Chair), Joanna George (BCA), Karina Macaulay (BCA), Ella Macaulay Fraser and Calum Fraser.

1. Welcome / Opening Discussion

The members from BCA welcomed to meeting and thanked for joining us.

The focus of this meeting is the structure/agenda of public meeting and to make the practical arrangements. It was noted that GBCDT were invited to this meeting and provided with an electronic copy of the BCC Opinions Survey on 5 September 2023 but we have received no response from them as yet.

It was discussed that BCC were copied into John Porteous's resignation as Chair of GBCDT. He stated the resolution to remove him as Chair at the board meeting on 21 August 2023 was not in accordance with the Articles and he technically remained as Chair, however he has since chosen to resign due to differences with the board. Norma Macleod explained she has resigned as Secretary of GBCDT and spoke about her experience of that board meeting; both herself and Tom Macdonald were sent out of the meeting and left outside the room for one and a half hours; treated poorly. We understand Sallie Porteous, Brenda Jones, Finlay Calum Maciver and Katie Booth, have also all resigned from GBCDT. It was agreed that these events will need to be raised at the public meeting and that the community deserve an explanation regarding what has been going on.

2. Agenda for Public Meeting

All agreed we want the public meeting to focus on the issues in Opinions Survey Report and not target individuals; not about undermining anyone but we do want to find a constructive way forward and ideally present some solutions.

BCA members present emphasised the need for a strong and focused agenda to keep everyone on track and avoid matters getting out of hand or digressing. The anticipated number of attendees was discussed; some present thought we were not likely to have many people present; others anticipating a big crowd. It was decided to prepare for a big crowd, and then if not many present, there will not be an issue. It was agreed we would nominate some people as 'moderators' on the night to assist; Cllr Macdonald not present at this meeting but previously agreed he will attend and be able to Chair.

Possible agenda / issues to focus on:-

Our Survey

- Lack of transparency no.1; this needs to be emphasised, since the highest number of respondents on this issue

GBCDT Survey / Hatchery

- Hatchery survey issues; stage two community survey was not distributed to every household as highlighted in our report and too narrowly focused
- MM highlighted they should be congratulated for achieving the funding

Goals / Solutions

- Better communication; need to think about what we want to put forward; do not want the meeting to be negative and without solutions posed

MM and RT to action putting together agenda and circulate for approval ahead of meeting.

3. GBCDT & Public Meeting

It was noted that since much of the Opinions Survey responses focus on GBCDT, it will prove difficult to have a meaningful discussion without any of the GBCDT board present to answer residents' questions. It was agreed GBCDT would be approached again via e-mail to confirm whether they will send a representative and give them advance sight of questions we intend to ask. The possible questions were discussed and following list agreed:

1. How did the Trust arrive at the proposals included in the business plan and how the survey was completed/distributed?
2. Why have so many Trustees resigned? Please confirm the current board members and who has resigned.
3. Who can become members of the Trust and how can residents find out whether they are members? We note the membership form has been updated. Please confirm how these changes were authorised.
4. When will the next GBCDT AGM be held?
5. Please supply a copy of the up to date Articles.

We agreed we would set the Trust a deadline to respond of Monday 11 September at 5pm. E-mail drafted and sent at the end of the meeting.

Meeting ended.

[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/>]