

BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

Thursday 13 March 2025

Bernera Community Centre, 7.30pm-8.30pm

In attendance. Madeleine Macaulay (Chair, MM), Rob Mackenzie (RM), Calum Richings (Treasurer, CR), Rhiannon Teather (Secretary, RT), Alice Murray (CnES)

Apologies. Cllr Misty Macdonald, Chrissie Macdonald, Neil James Macaulay

1. Welcome & Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 January 2025 were approved by Calum and seconded by Rob Mackenzie.

2. Matters Arising

- CR is working on annual accounts and these will be filed shortly
- Noted that Cllr Misty followed up i.e. rotten door at Kirkibost; this was passed to Property Maintenance Delivery but no reply as yet

3. Finance Update

Current balance £16,901.73. Bosta toilets stipend paid in £487.50. Otherwise no change.

We need a new cleaner for Bosta; this will need to be advertised but we will discuss requirements and salary etc. at next meeting when everyone is present. MM to schedule a quick meeting in April perhaps.

4. Joan's Bench & Garden

To be taken forward when weather improves.

5. Bosta Works / Toilets Update

The finishing of works delayed due to weather but plan is to power wash toilets and give them a thorough clean ahead of the summer.

Noted there has been no increase in stipend from CnES for many years despite the increased demand at toilets post-Covid and increasing costs of cleaning materials. Common Grazings have an honesty box but not one for BCC; options discussed for making sure facilities are more secure; perhaps a coin system for entry as in other places. Alice Murray said she would follow up with contacts to see what they do and how much this might cost to install.

6. Crown Estate Fund

Name change to Island Coastal Communities Fund. £24k to be allocated to Bernera; minimum of £5000 applications with some form of match funding at Cllr discretion. The new forms etc. are in process and will be issued in coming weeks. Open to all community groups as usual and other groups who wish to pursue a project can also supply with community council support.

7. Bernera Bridge – Safety Changes

CR met with John Macleod at the bridge last week; nothing definitive came out of it but some recognition that the current giveway is not workable. Signage on Earshader side given priority and this is being looked at by the department. Road video surveys have been done across the island but restricted by focusing on centre rather than peripheral vision. Cllr Misty to chase up.

8. Graveyards / Little Bernera

Kevin Murphy offered a meeting to discuss. MM to respond and Cemetery Committee to be invited.

9. AOCB

- **Funding/potential projects.**
 - **War Memorial** needs upgrading and a bench; perhaps some lighting; land status also to be established; CR to ask crofter but also to be followed up with Bernera Factor, Historical Society.
 - **Water fountain and lighting at bridge.**
- N4 Community Consultation of Windfarm Community Benefit Fund (£4.5 million); scheduled for Bernera event on Saturday 15th March 2025.
- Community Conversation – Housing; currently live. Queried the situation with the Glebe; to be followed up.
- VE Day Flag and Bunting. No flag pole in Bernera though!

Please contact: berneracomcouncil@gmail.com to make suggestions or raise any issues.

Bernera Community Council minutes can be found on the new CnES website at:
<https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/council-and-committees/bernera-community-council>