

BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING

held on Thursday 8 May 2025

Bernera Community Centre, 7.30pm-9pm

In attendance. Madeleine Macaulay (Chair, MM), Cllr Misty Macdonald (ND), Calum Richings (Treasurer, CR), Chrissie Macdonald (CM), Rhiannon Garcia (Secretary, RG).
Helen Strong (Bernera Bulletin)

Apologies. Robert Mackenzie, Neil James Macaulay.

1. Welcome & Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 March 2025 were approved by Madeleine Macaulay and seconded by Calum Richings.

2. Matters Arising

- Overdue invoice re Remembrance Wreath to be paid; CR to action
- It was raised that we have received a complaint re rubbish, peat and human waste at Croir quarry. MM will telephone Joan MacRae regarding installing rubbish signage to try and help alleviate the problem but unfortunately it was noted there is a little else the Community Council can do as we have no jurisdiction. No funding available for a warden or ranger post unfortunately
- ND has ordered an additional 1100 litre bin to be added at Bosta
- Disabled toilet was blocked with a glade air freshener. It took MM two hours to clear and concern that it was intentional. Community Council encourages everyone to help keep the toilets as clean and tidy as possible. No applicants for the cleaning post at Bosta so far and therefore we would be grateful if anyone interested can put themselves forward
- Discussion about camper van toilet waste; ND noted that SEPA no longer emptying camper van waste facilities due to the chemicals used

3. Finance Update

CR reported that he has now submitted the annual accounts.

Query re income from CnES – toilets £1,900 & admin grant £1,000; invoice for Pier toilets to be issued by CR in due course.

New mop required for toilets. MM to be reimbursed for any outstanding expenses for the works she has completed.

4. Joan's Bench & Garden

The works at bridge are almost completed now – special thanks to MM and RM for their hard work. All agreed work is looking really good. Only the pots and plants to go in now and a picnic bench on the bridge; two benches (Joan's bench and Elizabeth Eddie's bench) also to be placed. MM noted good barrel pots available at Crofters and cost could be put on the account. Crofters also to be paid for fencing and gate items.

Placement of Donald Macaulay sculpture to be agreed; noted plinth may be required.

Grass to be cut. MM suggests a get together to finish it off.

5. Bosta Toilets Cleaner Post

As noted previously, no applicants for Bosta toilet post. Helen Strong suggested instituting a rota so not too burdensome for one person. The toilets need cleaning minimum three times a week in the summer months but ideally more frequently; in winter time only once a week; wages negotiable. Helen has offered put a call out in the Bernera Bulletin to recruit volunteers. ND offered £500 contribution to wages from Tobson Common Grazings. It was agreed we will install a key safe box to allow cleaner(s) access.

6. Bosta Works

MM provided an update that there are now new toilet roll dispensers, hand towel dispensers, disabled handles, new keys and locks. At some point noted toilets will need to come out and have handles replaced as there are issues flushing. The painting is still to be done but this will need to be done when toilets are quieter or do one at a time at a convenient time slot.

Thanks to everyone who has completed the works so far, toilets are looking much better, clean and tidy.

Discussion about suggestion put forward for picnic tables or benches at Bosta but noted issues in the past with visitors burning them as fire wood; also noted do not want to disturb the natural state/beauty of the area without too many installations. It was agreed perhaps one or two would be possible but they would need to be concreted or nailed down; agreed to leave as they are for now but perhaps replace the existing or take it away.

7. Crown Estate Fund

Deadline for applications was last Friday. ND confirmed these have not been reviewed yet. It was noted we have sufficient funds to install a water fountain ourselves but a water connection needed; ND to follow up. MM will price it out.

8. Bernera Bridge – Safety Changes

ND spoke to them again; decision not yet made but recognition there is a problem. There is real danger of accident because cars are not slowing down crossing the bridge.

9. Graveyards / Little Bernera

Meeting to be arranged with CnES archaeologist Kevin Murphy; CR to make contact and arrange meeting as Fire Service crew deal with the grave digging.

10. AOCB

- Dogs at Bosta. A reminder to all that dogs should be kept on leads at Bosta beach.
- War Memorial. To be taken forward.

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>