

Berneray Community Council

Minutes of Meeting 4th March 2024

Present: Margaret MacLean, Donald MacLean, Eilidh Carr, Sharon MacPherson, Willie Fraser, Lorna MacKillop, Mustapha Hocine and Uisdean Robertson.

Apologies: None

Margaret MacLean (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Minutes of 15/01/2024 read and adopted. Proposer – D MacLean Seconder – W Fraser

1. Matters Arising

Newsletter was circulated to residents with information on Buy-out, skip, on back bin collection dates and feedback forms for suggestions which could be dropped in box at shop. 3 Feedback forms were received.

1. Regarding ditches, toilet facility at ferry terminal and signs for skip. Email has been sent to Angus MacDonald re ditches. Councillors to inspect toilet. S MacP to speak to Lorraine regarding sign for skip which states for use by Berneray residents only.
2. Regarding Brusda Road surface where surface is badly damaged with potholes and is uneven. Also, the verge cutting to extend to Brusda Road. An email to be sent to Angus MacDonald regarding this request.
3. A feedback showing appreciation for the newsletter and the information contained in it and the response to the letter regarding the erosion on Traigh Bheasdaire.

The letter from B Hunter regarding the erosion on Traigh Bheasdaire – no update as in crofters hands at the moment.

Bays of Harris Buy-Out – no update as yet.

D MacL asked if people could be opted on to committee. M H and U R said yes and committee to take this forward.

2. Councillors' Reports

Mustafa Hocine. Discussed last Budget on Education. Kept staffing levels for school counselling but to be kept down as more spent and to be reviewed. Donald MacLeod visit cancelled, re-schedule March. North Uist and Berneray Forum. BCC to support forum, NUCC and N Uist Development Group to support. A support worker to be funded by N Uist Development Group. Forum to be created to plan needs of economic HS6 areas. Inviting employers also. Secured commitment for worker to research and develop policies. This needs to be discussed with the Bays of Harris.

Uist and Barra Housing Group. Has existed for 3 years but worker dis not move to Uist. New committee met last month and chair met with housing manager in Stornoway. Nothing in the pipeline for housing in Berneray. M MacL explained history of housing in Berneray and issues with land. There are 4 sets of housing in Berneray and discussed HHP owning houses. If we owned land Berneray could control housing and may change with buy out. Housing allocation process needs control.

ATM – Bank – Lochmaddy M H discussed cash machine to be retained and where possible, Coop in Solas was an option.

Uisdean Robertson. Discussed the budget with and extra £400,000 but strings attached. Money was short where gritting was concerned. No update on Ward Funding and Levelling up. U R thanked

committee for email regarding Cal Mac Feedback. E C for drone work and D MacL for feedback. U R had sent email regarding various options for Cal Mac and concern with outcome of that. D MacL expressed concern with ferry situation. Decision to be made 5th March. Roadshow CMAL, Cal Mac, Transport Scotland in Lochmaddy Hall 13 March 2024.

Concern raised regarding Benbecula Stornoway flights. Decision on 5th March.

Island Connectivity Plan to be sent to BCC tomorrow.

M MacL thanked councillors for their reports.

3. Correspondence.

N/A

4. A.O.C.B.

1. M H Thanked for money received for dinner much appreciated.
2. Treasurers Form sent away to change details.
3. Christmas Tree invoice. M MacL to message A Johnstone

5. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 15 April 2024 @ 7.30pm