

Berneray Community Council

Minutes of meeting 13th May 2024

Berneray Community Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Margaret MacLean (Chair), Donald MacLean (Vice chair), Sharon MacPherson (Treasurer), Eilidh Carr, Cllr Uisdean Robertson and Cllr Mustapha Hocine. Public: Keith McIntyre

Apologies: Lorna MacKillop (Clerk) and Willie Fraser

Margaret MacLean (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Mustapha Hocine welcomed back after time off. Eilidh Carr to act as Clerk for this meeting only, Lorna away.

Minutes of 15th April 2024 read and adopted.

Proposer – Donald MacLean, Seconder – Sharon MacPherson

1. Matters arising

Keith McIntyre provided an update on Loch Bhrusda and Scottish Water. Daniel Clark still in communication regarding water tanks and pump station. Possibly a site visit in coming weeks with Scottish Water. District valuation, assets etc. Fishing rights discussed. And also which island group on Berneray could take on the Loch and station.

Brusda road – Angus MacDonald and Uisdean Robertson agreed road is in bad condition and needs to be looked at.

Harbour signs – still in progress, waiting to hear back on sizes etc.

Seal point signs – email sent for more information, no reply yet.

Calmac toilets – toilet rolls, tissues going missing as holders are broken and not secure. These need replaced quickly. Mustapha Hocine to look into this.

Harbour toilets – hot water not working, main hot water tank to be looked at.

Bays of Harris Buy Out – no further updates. A Berneray representative to be invited to our next meeting to share progress.

2. Councillors' reports

Mustapha Hocine – Thanked us for his get well card and is back to selected CNES duties.

Crown Estate Funding – this year North Uist and Berneray have been allocated £75,000 (down £25,000 from previous years). Councillors have split the funding between areas, £60,000 to North Uist and £15,000 for Berneray. This funding is to be used to improve economy, island, and communities, create jobs etc.

North Uist & Berneray Forum – new group in the process of being formed to cover this area. Paperwork for a business plan and constitution has been drafted. These documents have been shared to be checked over. First meeting of the Forum group planned for June. (Eilidh to forward these to Community Council Members to read and check).

ATM Lochmaddy – will look into this further.

Education – a new group formed – Childcare forum Uist & Barra. Mustapha met with this group to find out more.

Uist and Barra Housing – this also includes Berneray. Lack of housing, both private and rented still an issue. HHP states lists are not long but are unaware of how many are looking or waiting as many do not join housing lists.

Uisdean Robertson –

Calmac – a new timetable proposal has been drafted for the new ferries arriving to Lochmaddy next year. This timetable is to work around Uig and Tarbert ferry as both new ferries will be using Uig pier throughout each day. Timetable to avoid clashes and work around traffic, bus connections etc. This timetable has been drafted locally as a starting point, instead of a schedule being produced centrally with Calmac or Edinburgh.

Hebridean Air Services – service has been running well between Stornoway and Benbecula 3 days a week. The smaller plane has flown on days with bad weather when Loganair have not. An email sharing experiences from other Hebridean Air Service users on different Scottish Islands has been circulated.

NHS – Letters will be sent to the Cabinet Secretary about facilities and services lose in Uist and Barra over the last 15 years.

Fuel issues on Uist – currently no boats can arrive at Loch Carnan due to issues with the pier. All fuel arriving by road and ferry. Some local fuel pumps have ran out on some days. Fuel will also be arriving across the Sound of Harris.

Funding cuts –

3. Correspondence

Community First Responders - Email from Gerry regarding volunteer first responders on Berneray and if anyone was interested in joining. Idea to share on our Community Council Facebook page and forward details to Gerry.

Scottish Islands Passport – Email from Katy regarding a SIP stamp for Berneray and where to locate it. SIP is a Government funded project which aims to encourage more people to visit more of Scotland’s Islands for more of the year. The rubbing stamp is to be located outside on an easy accessible wall, with 24 hour access for visitors. A digital app and paper travelogue accompany the project. Ideas of locations were discussed and Coralbox Gift Shop was selected.

Community Energy Scotland – Hannah MacDonald – various emails and invites to online meetings. Hannah to be invited along to a future CC meeting to share her work with us.

4. A.O.C.B

Defibrillator - Margaret MacLean installed new pads (expiry 2026). New bag needed for accessories as zip getting old. We will look into ordering new bags etc.

LuckytoBhere – Uist group now have mobile defibrillators for use at events throughout the islands. Training sessions to be organised over summer on how to use Defibs.

Community Council Bank - details still being sorted.

5. Date of next meeting - Monday 1st July 2024, 7.30pm at Berneray Community Hall