

Berneray Community Council
Minutes of Meeting 16th September 2024
Berneray Community Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Margaret MacLean (Chair), Donald MacLean (Vice Chair),

Lorna MacKillop (Clerk), Eilidh Carr, Willie Fraser, Councillor Uisdean Robertson and Councillor Mustapha Hocine.

Members of Public: Iris Steedman, Craig Jump, Lorianna Pauli, Ashley Sian Forster, Casey MacIntyre, Iain MacKillop and Barbara Hunter

Apologies: Sharon MacPherson (Treasurer), Keith MacIntyre and Bob Steedman.

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

Minutes of 12th August 2024 read and adopted.

Proposer – Willie Fraser

Secunder – Donald MacLean

1. Matters Arising

- a) Gerry from 1st Responders did not come to meeting. Ask him to come to next meeting. Margaret MacLean can train people to use defibrillator and hoping to do this Autumn/Wintertime.
- b) **Loch Bhrusda** -Keith MacIntyre sent apologies. Donald MacLean reported that loch could be re-stocked with local fish as fish are poor.
- c) **Campsite Planning Update** – Planning Application needs more paperwork and may be December round of council meetings that it will be looked at. Ruairidh Nicholson was asked for another meeting, but this did not happen.
- d) **Bays of Harris** – Andrew Ross sent update. Waiting for valuation from Hitchcock. Land fund limited to 95% of purchase price till after 2025. Mr Hitchcock visited Berneray with his son and met Donald MacLean but did not discuss Buy-out.
- e) **Sea Grass Restoration** – No further update till October/November.
- f) Questions asked regarding number of campervans parking on Traigh Bheasdaire. Due to planning application ongoing up to crofter to move them on.

2. Councillors' Reports

Uisdean Robertson

Uisdean met with Neil Gray to discuss issues concerning patient travel and finance. Stories of difficult hospital visits with the plane and ferry options. The outcome was to form a working group to look at plane and ferries but 3 weeks later nothing has happened. Looking for an extra day for flight to Stornoway but Scottish Government said no money available to pay for this. Looked at improving services in hospital that have been lost. Cancer patients that are travelling to Stornoway instead of being treated in Balivanich. BCC advised to write to Cabinet Secretary. Uisdean to send template so

people can send to Government. Importance for plane on Thursday when consultants come down. The Stornoway/Inverness poor connection with poor numbers and they are losing money.

Single Island Authority -Uisdean discussed the benefits of a single island authority. Bringing all the various services together would save money.

Ferries – hoping to improve next year. Uisdean will be meeting with Cal Mac, CMAL and Transport Scotland to discuss.

Designing 3 diesel/hybrid of the same kind and could be moved round. Barra, Harris, Mallaig/Armadale.

Ferry for Lochmaddy at least 1 month behind. June 2025 launch of first ferry. Replacement link span has not been replaced yet. Hebrides mezzanine to be fixed till next February, 8 less vehicles.

Mustapha Hocine

Corporate Strategy 2024-2027 Ward 3 Meeting held in Carinish Hall.

Mustapha was seeking the views of the strategy. There are 4 topics: a) strengthen the local economy b) support children, families, and young people c) support caring and resilient communities and quality of life d) deliver community leadership. Childcare was discussed at length and how difficult this is and mothers trying to go back to work. No money provided for 0-2 ages. Looking to encourage child minding but there are issues that are involved which make it hard to do this. Suggestion was to speak to nursery workers. Also, the question of private nursery was asked, Kirkibost was suggested, again funding would be needed.

Eilidh Carr and Lorna MacKillop attended the meeting representing Berneray Community Council.

A playground suggested for Berneray. Suggested that the Community Council could look to the future and ideas for the island. Once the buy-out goes through there will be a group that will have to look at the future. Ideas would be welcome.

Plan for Forum

This forum would be looking to have representation from Berneray where businesses would be involved and a development worker to be employed. Affordable housing was discussed and finding land is difficult at the moment. Best to have control over land and housing and after buyout they will belong to Berneray.

Crown Estate Money

Berneray has been allocated £15,000 from the Crown Estate. The following projects will benefit:

Harbour toilets renovation

Berneray Community Hall, heating system

Defibrillator, pads and training

Berneray Historical Society

Verge Cutting

Community Christmas tree and lights display.

Signage at skip area

Berneray War Memorial

Transport options

Budget cuts

6-million-pound cuts to be made with Scottish Government cutting from budget.

Streetlights to be re-programmed to save money, being put off at 10pm.

Schools

Referrals increased in schools due to bad behaviour and vandalism particularly in Stornoway. A Policeman is going to work with all schools.

3. Correspondence

Email received regarding conference CEUT Relections online on 7th October. All invited to join.

4. A.O.C.B.

a) Road repairs – email given to committee regarding complaint of damage to vehicles with tar and chip. Discussion of tar and chip or leaving tar only. Council policy to tar and chip.

b) Verge Cutting – this happens 4 times a year.

c) Climate Hebrides – feedback from Sharon MacPherson who attended the meeting. Help with projects/funding relating to Traigh Bheasdaire and from Patrick Hughes (Nature Scotland) with link going to Keith MacIntyre re sea levels via Dynamic Coast.

d) Gunnera – has died away, wait till springtime to see it.

e) Waste disposal at Ferry – concern raised regarding sign and waste disposal needing emptied.

f) Country and Western Night – 4th October, fancy dress. Hall has broadband now.

g) Tesco Application – Mustapha to forward details regarding funding application.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 4th November 2024, Berneray Community Hall at 7.30pm

