

BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AGM Minutes of Meeting

Thursday 12 December 2024
Berner Community Centre, 7.30pm-9pm

Present. Madeleine Macaulay (Chair, MM), Rob Mackenzie (RM), Cllr Norman 'Misty' Macdonald (ND), Ella Macaulay Fraser (Vice Chair, EMF), Calum Richings (Treasurer, CR), Rhiannon Teather (Secretary, RT), Neil James Macaulay (NJM).

Apologies. Chrissie Macdonald, Cllr Ranald Fraser.

1. Welcome & Year overview (Madeleine Macaulay).

It feels like it has been a short year and that the committee only really got off the ground after elections in February. There is still much to accomplish but we hope the coming year will finally bring the outstanding projects to a close. Thanks to everyone for attending the meetings and for the progress that has been made to move the projects along.

2. Previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 November 2024 were approved by Madeleine Macaulay and seconded by Ella Macaulay Fraser.

3. Matters Arising

- *Berner Surgery.* No further reports and just to be kept an eye on.
- *Signage.* To be taken forward. ND notes that the glass recycling bins have now arrived at Bosta.
- *War Memorials.* Now due a tidy up and a paint. It was noted a bench would be a good addition and allow people somewhere to sit but also noted not much available space. The railings could do with being freshened up by being treated and sent away. Previously lighting was discussed for a previous project and this was raised again - if could be run from the street lighting across the road or a spot light, or a solar light.
- *New CnES community council website.* Noted this is now up and running and our minutes can be found at:

<https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/council-and-committees/bernera-community-council>

4. Finance Update

CR update. Balance is £18,284.00; no change from last month. MM noted toilet wages to be paid. As noted last meeting, issue with lower panel of toilet door. MM to e-mail CnES about getting this replaced.

5. Carloway Estate Trust / West Coast Community Energy Debrief

There was a West Coast estate group £4.5 million negotiated for west side communities. They are working on how the practicalities will work in terms of the fund and distributing funding/how people will apply for it. It was just an update, ongoing. It was interesting to know the work they have done to date.

6. Bosta Works / Toilets Update

To be taken forward into the spring once weather improves.

7. Challenge Fund 2022 (Joan's Bench & Garden)

The bench, fencing, plants etc. are ready to go. We will wait until the spring to install. Not possible to put the garden in until the fence is up to avoid the sheep eating everything.

8. Crown Estate Fund

ND. The latest round of funding is to be announced with the budget in due course.

9. Bernera Bridge – Safety Changes

ND reported the meeting with CnES rep has not taken place yet. They originally said 3 weeks, now elapsed, so will probably be after Christmas. Some debate on the committee about the best location for the right of way. ND will be contacted with the date and ideally two members of committee will attend the meeting. Query regarding the mesh originally proposed but it was noted A. Gillies had said the quote was far too expensive; possibility for cheaper options.

10. Graveyards / Little Bernera

CR to e-mail archaeologist. Potential sites to be scoped but likely needs to be an approach to Grazings committees. Sand dominant site already would be ideal. The alternative is to put an additional layer on top of graveyard.

11. AOCB

- **Resignation.** Ella Macaulay Fraser announced that she is stepping down due to work commitments. All noted that we are very sorry to lose her as a member of the committee, we thank her for her contribution over the last year and wish her every success.

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>