

BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

Thursday 10 October 2024

Berner Community Centre, 7.30pm - 9pm

In attendance. Madeleine Macaulay (Chair, MM), Cllr Misty Macdonald (ND), Calum Richings (Treasurer, CR), Chrissie Macdonald (CM), Rhiannon Teather (Clerk, RT)

Apologies. Cllr Ranald Fraser, Neil James Macaulay, Rob Mackenzie, Ella Macaulay Fraser.

1. Previous Minutes

The minutes for the meetings held on 13 June 2024 were approved by Madeleine Macaulay and Calum Richings and 11 July 2024 were approved by Madeleine Macaulay and Calum Richings.

2. Finance Update

CR update. Current balance is £18,339.79. £10,000 reserved for Bosta.

MM queried how much paid out to MacGregors; noted it has been busy over the summer. RT checked invoices record and last month (September's invoices) was £202.32; it was agreed too expensive as only on air fresheners, loo roll, hand towels.

Kirkibost toilet maintenance to be invoiced for. CR to action.

Disabled toilet requires to be fixed and cleaned.

CM to order sinks (x3), raised toilet and taps.

Wages for toilets due to be paid.

3. Spiorad na Mara Off-shore Wind Farm

It was noted photos montages now available for viewing. RT provided update that she went to an additional follow up meeting after the last community council meeting; notes from that meeting provided. RT highlighted that concerns raised about the noise are well-founded, since Northland have explained that during the day, the lower limits for wind turbine noise are 35-40dB (or background noise +5dB). Their experts apparently consider 30dB 'a good level for sleeping' and 35dB 'is reasonable'. Other members of committee strongly disputed whether sound will be audible due to the distance from the shore and wind conditions. RT disagreed since the statutory commercial regulations mean the turbines are permitted to make significant noise and this is a big change for life on the west coast and poses a risk to local population.

4. Bins at Bosta & Kirkibost

No further reports of issues with bins at Bosta. ND has ordered two glass waste bins for Bosta.

5. Fly tipping issues & Signage

No further reports or complaints re fly tipping; now been cleared and bath is gone. MM to follow up with regarding ordering signage.

6. Gunnera Control

There is concern about the spread of this locally and the established difficulty in eradicating it elsewhere. No takers for the course but might be worth experimenting with salt to see if this makes an impact (leaves need to be cut; pour on stem; replace leaves to allow salt to work).

7. Bosta Works / Toilets Update

We will arrange a day for cleaning and painting the toilets. Once the items arrive in terms of sinks and taps, we will review the plan for installation.

8. Challenge Fund 2022 (Joan's Bench & Garden) & 2023 (BCA Kitchen Equipment) Updates

MM to write to Angus Gillies regarding layout at the bridge so that fencing can be installed. Benches to be put in place. NJM back in a fortnight and MM hopes to action. ND reported Challenge Fund for this year will come around again; £700; now 22 Community Councils so a reduced pool of funding. It was noted we have not received the application form as yet but it is normally in the new year.

9. AGM

Scheduled for our meeting 12th December 2024.

10. Bernera Bridge – Safety Changes

The issue with the give way at the bridge was discussed once again; blind on approach from the Bernera side. John Macleod to come and meet with us regarding the issue.

11. Graveyards / Little Bernera

We were not able to review the situation at Little Bernera but we anticipate it will have worsened. It was noted very little room for new grave spaces at Little Bernera and a new location is still to be found. Suggestions welcome from the community.

12. AOCB

- **BCA membership.** CM to follow up.
- **Bernera School Septic Tank.** Cllr ND has informed us that this was emptied a few weeks ago.
- **Bernera School.** Cllr ND reports that this is under consultation and community will be consulted; option of a meeting in due course; 6 months to a year process.
- **Bosta cattle grid.** Concerns raised that this is in poor state of repair. Tobson Common Grazings will need to action it as it falls under their jurisdiction.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 14 November 2024.