

BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday 14 March 2024
Berner Community Centre, 7.30-9pm

In attendance. Madeleine Macaulay (Chair, MM), Calum Richings (Treasurer, CR), Chrissie Macdonald (CM), Cllr Norman Macdonald (ND), Rhiannon Teather (Secretary, RT), Helen Strong (Berner Bulletin) and Alan Strong (GBCDT).

Apologies. Neil James Macaulay (BCC), Rob Mackenzie (BCC), Ella Macaulay (BCC), Cllr Ranald Fraser, Alice Murray (CnES).

1. Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 7 February 2024 were approved by Madeleine Macaulay and seconded by Chrissie Macdonald.

2. Matters Arising

- **Local defibrillators.** Discussion about moving old defib. from school to the Community Centre but it was noted to be cost prohibitive to set up connection between the buildings; the pads require to be replaced; all defibs. have to be registered with Ambulance Service so that they can direct members of the public to locations; it was noted 3 defibs are available locally but only 1 is registered (the one at school will be out of date next month). CM reported that BCA are working on making one available at Community Centre.
- **Local information in emergencies.** It was agreed that information about what to do in emergencies should be circulated locally, including details about equipment available locally, as it is a while since the Mangar Cushion etc. has been publicised. Action to be co-ordinated with existing newsletters in circulation.
- **Lighthouse at Carloway (visible from Croir).** ND provided an update that CnES are working on arranging the repair with contractor but it is taking some time.

3. Finance Update

MM provided an update that she has put together copies of all the invoices and monies spent regarding Challenge Fund; now passed to CR. CM reports that BCA have ordered kitchen equipment for remaining sum available, £325 to be paid to them.

SSE CHQ of approx. £300 issued and CR to follow up as this needs to be banked soon; to be double-checked whether this is due to us. It was noted we received an e-mail from Joanna George (BCA administrator) about a letter/CHQ intended for BCC; to be followed up.

CR reported the balance on the latest statement is £16,957. CM checked online banking at meeting and the current balance is £18,357.85; We received £1,400 credit - £1,000 Ward Funds

in for fencing; £400 in for All Sorts Wednesday Club; CM has paid £5 BCA invoice. Wages not due to be paid for a few months.

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

MM provided an update that the project is in hand. The wood, fencing and 3 gates in process of being ordered for installation in due course.

5. Challenge Fund 2023 (BCA Kitchen Equipment)

As above. BCA have ordered last batch of equipment.

6. GBCDT

Alan Strong (GBCDT) provided an update. The new board are awaiting access to accounts and paperwork. The current website is due to expire; a new one will not be set up right away. The priority for the new board is to put everything in order and get up to speed with the current projects. It is a big task and the new board would welcome assistance/input from other committees.

It was noted Kirkibost Pier in poor condition and appears to be getting worse. MM followed up bins/rubbish issue and is awaiting a telephone call back from Cleansing Services Manager. ND following up status of land purchase at the Pier.

Bikes. 2 are being brought to Community Centre; BCA are working out the insurance issue. ND to look into what CnES do with their community bikes in town (it was noted these are kept in lockers in carpark for example) and whether any support is available for replicating this locally.

7. Site Visit - Bosta

Some BCC committee members did a site visit to Bosta to review outstanding works. The plan is to finish the project urgently, including:

- Septic tank landscaping - building a retaining wall; backfill with soil
- Toilet blocks to be painted and materials to be ordered
- Disabled toilet to be ordered with new handles – CR to action.
- Baby changing station; it was noted these can be ordered from MacGregor's
- Cheap cleaning supplies to be ordered and stored
- Fence to be fixed and the part that is sticking out is to be cut down
- Rusty handles need to be replaced.
- Sinks and taps to be replaced.

CM to contact Callum Macalua to establish whether he has any of the items required to avoid duplication. Project to be put out to tender/quotes obtained.

8. Bernera Bridge – Safety Changes

To be taken forward; still awaiting an update from CnES.

9. Petrol Pumps Shelter

CR/ND update. The installation of the new frame is in progress.

10. Tourist Board Signage / Recycling

To be taken forward. It was noted we require a notice board for the bridge plus 3 signs to direct visitors to recycling point at Community Centre; this to be priced. It was noted BCA also looking for a notice board, so perhaps combine orders. MM to follow up.

11. Graveyards / Little Bernera

To be taken forward.

12. AOCB

- MM registered for free King's Portrait.
- RT noted we received Muirburn leaflets via e-mail from SFRS; to be circulated.

The next BCC meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday 11 April 2024

Please contact: berneracomcouncil@gmail.com to make suggestions or raise any issues. The minutes from previous meetings, dating back to 2012, can be found at: Community Associations (e-sgire.org). Great Bernera is currently listed under Ward 6: <https://e-sgire.org/communities/ward6/community-associations/>