

BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING

**Wednesday 7 February 2024
Bernera Community Centre, 7.30pm**

In attendance. Madeleine Macaulay (Chair, MM), Rob Mackenzie (RM), Calum Richings (Treasurer, CR), Chrissie Macdonald (CM), Cllr Norman Macdonald (NM), Cllr Ranald Fraser (RF), Rhiannon Teather (Secretary. RT).
Helen Strong.

Apologies. Ella Macaulay Fraser, Neil James Macaulay, Alice Murray (CnES).

1. Previous Minutes

The draft minutes from the previous meeting held on 11 January 2024 were approved by Chrissie Macdonald and seconded by Rob Mackenzie.

2. Matters Arising

- Marine Directorate (Scottish Government) acknowledged BCC response regarding Spiorad na Mara Offshore Windfarm scoping opinion and said our comments would be incorporated into the report.
- It was noted we received a request for this year's list of BCC meeting dates; RT to action.
- We received a misc. invoice for meeting in November; £5 to be paid; CR to action.
- We queried whether Challenge Fund running this year – Cllrs NM and RF confirmed coming after budget; approx. beginning of March; Crown Estate – money allocations also to be decided in coming months.
- Cllr NM raised issue of funding for CC – it was noted we should have received money as start up for CC; CR to follow up/action.

3. Finance Update

CR update. CR has asked for invoices to date from MacGregor Supplies for review and to make sure we are being invoiced correctly. £1,300 for spending on toilets, should be enough. Balance is £15,987.85 as per 15 January 2024. Up to date balance (checked at meeting) is £16,962.85. £10,000 of funds are for Bosta. It was noted £975 funds have come in meantime from CnES for Bosta toilets maintenance.

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

No further forward; due to weather visit was postponed. Plan to be made for a new date for projects walkabout.

5. Challenge Fund 2023 (BCA Kitchen Equipment)

MM reviewed invoices/receipts regarding Challenge Fund 2023. £1,177 spent; £322 (or thereabouts) owed to BCA as Challenge Fund; to be paid direct for spending and receipt to be provided for our records.

6. GBCDT AGM

MM queried whether we have any questions to put forward for coming GBCDT AGM. CR said key questions are around finance; MM noted funding was applied for and we still do not know what it was for. The lack of transparency was highlighted once again. It was noted all of the GBCDT board have stood down except for Callum Macaulay but ill feeling remains in the community due to questions remaining unanswered. No up to date accounts have been provided despite multiple requests over the past year. The dissatisfaction with the current situation was noted regarding the accounts and the lack of information provided about the work GBCDT undertook for the Bosta project. The buyout was discussed and the falling support was noted in light of recent events.

7. Bosta Works Update

To be taken forward; due to weather site visit was postponed. Work to be reviewed and then Callum Macaulay to be asked for an update. A site visit will be set once the weather has improved.

8. MacGregor Supplies for Toilets

To be reviewed item by item. CR explained that some items are bought in bulk which explains the costs. NM to ask whether more funding available for cleaner wages, as funding not increased at all over the years despite inflation etc.

9. Bins at Bosta & Kirkibost

NMD reported bins still have not arrived; there is supplier issue. At Kirkibost Pier, MM recounted that the bins had been made into a circle and waste dumped in the middle; household waste is being left there. NMD said if it continues bins will be taken away.

RF reported there will be additional collection of bins at Bosta over the summer, together with Callanish and Garenin, which are also busy over the summer months.

There was a discussion about bottle waste at Bosta – people are leaving bottles outside the main bins because they do not want to put them in the main bins as waste. The idea of putting a sign up at Bosta to indicate there is a bottle recycling place at the Community Centre was discussed and all agreed this is a good idea and to be actioned.

10. Bernera Bridge – Safety Changes

NM update. No progress. He will e-mail Calum Mackenzie about the safety changes to follow up; it would assist if BCC also e-mailed.

NM confirmed light is not working at the light house (at the edge of Carloway/visible from Croir). The new light was supposed to last 10 years and installed only 6 months ago. NM

received an e-mail that ACE Electrical will go and check it in order to restore operation of light house.

11. Petrol Pumps Shelter

Review to be incorporated into site visit to be scheduled. Polycarbonate to brought over. MM queried whether we need fixings. It was noted there is some banding to hold the wood together but CR will arrange to buy fixings; RM to assist CR with this toward the end of next week.

12. Tourist Board Signage

The bottle/recycling sign to be made for Bosta as above. It was suggested a sign is also made for Kirkibost Pier.

13. Graveyards / Little Bernera

To be taken forward.

14. AOCB

- Defib. The battery has been replaced but it is still beeping; it likely needs a service. Lucky2BeHere. Cllr Angus Morrison assisted last time. The pads have likely expired. RT forwarded previous correspondence to CM/MM to follow up.

The next BCC meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday 14 March 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 \(e-sgire.org\)](http://CommunityAssociations(e-sgire.org)). Great Bernera is currently listed under Ward 6: <https://e-sgire.org/communities/ward6/community-associations/>