

BERNERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING

**held on Thursday 13 June 2024
Bernera Community Centre, 7.30pm - 9pm**

In attendance. Madeleine Macaulay (Chair, MM), Rob Mackenzie (RM), Rhiannon Teather (Secretary, RT), Calum Richings (Treasurer, CR), Cllr Norman Macdonald (NM).

Apologies. Neil James Macaulay, Chrissie Macdonald, Ella Macaulay Fraser.

1. Welcome & Previous Minutes

The draft minutes from the previous meeting held on 16 May 2024 were approved by Madeleine Macaulay and seconded by Rob Mackenzie, with amendment that quarry regarding fly tipping was located at Bernera road end.

2. Matters Arising

- RT sent approved minutes from previous meetings to Bernera Bulletin; no update as yet from CnES regarding new webpage for minutes.
- Regarding signage, noted it is already existing for deer, directions to iron age house; noted that we will require planning permission for most of the signs that have been suggested at previous meeting; it was agreed we will proceed to arrange a 'Keep Bernera Tidy' sign as suggested; down at Tobson beach – 'no turning / parking' sign; recycling points as discussed previously.
- Update that the clean up at the Pier is in progress; it was noted that Kirkibost Pier remains a fishing pier primarily and facilities continue to be available.
- Regarding septic tank at Bernera School. Cllr NM updated that this will be emptied; confirmed it is the Council's tank and their responsibility.
- Regarding Bernera School. Cllr NM to follow up who the relevant contact is for taking community registration of interest forward.

3. Finance Update

CR update. The balance is £19,989 according to statement as per last meeting; the next statement has not been issued yet. CM not present for instant bank account update. RT paid remaining wages of £100 since last meeting.

4. Spiorad na Mara Off-shore Wind Farm – Meeting with Northland

RT circulated draft leaflet ahead of the meeting for amendment/approval. Leaflet now approved. It was agreed we will arrange a leaflet drop toward the end of June and plan to print them ready for w/c 24th for distribution. BCA or Museum to be contacted to print leaflets. 200 copies. Helen to be contacted to publicise in Bernera Bulletin. BCA to be contacted re booking hall and refreshments and agreed they will be reimbursed for their efforts. RT to action.

5. Cross-committee Meeting Update

Update that this has been rescheduled to next Wednesday 19th June due to clash with another meeting. RT queried when Crown Estate application decisions will be notified – Cllr NM confirmed the decisions will be made next Tuesday meeting with Alice Murray; decisions should be announced soon after that.

Regarding playpark, it was noted Robert Stubbington (retired) was the previous contact for play parks and matting previously; CR provided phone number. MM noted matting is expensive and we are looking for alternatives. Cllr NM to locate current at contact at CnES for regulations etc.

6. Bins at Bosta & Kirkibost

It was noted there has been an improvement in cleanliness at the Kirkibost Pier with the addition of new bins and at Bosta. All to keep an eye on this and ensure it continues.

MM queried whether oil bins are still in use. Cllr NM to follow up.

7. Fly tipping issues & Signage

It was agreed we will order signs to mark recycling facilities at the hall (x2), litter ‘keep Bernera tidy’ (x1). MM to follow up.

8. Gunnera Control

MM update. The contact came back with the option of a three day training course. There is a cost for the course (per attendee and instructor expenses); there is availability for an instructor end of July/early August. MM to contact Bernera Bulletin to be asked to advertise/see anyone is interested.

9. Bosta Works / Toilets Update

To be taken forward.

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

RB and MM update. We are awaiting a response from CnES regarding proposed digging for fencing/posts; they require to confirm route of utilities/services prior to installing the fencing. Bench to be installed next week when NJM is back.

11. Crown Estate Funding & Other Avenues

CR mentioned a suggestion to purchase industrial washing machines – like at Co-op. To be added to funding list for future projects.

12. Bernera Bridge Safety Changes

Cllr NM confirmed CnES agreement for changes.

13. Graveyards / Little Bernera

To be taken forward. CR mentioned previous suggestion that student archaeologists invited to do a survey of Bernera graveyard – to be followed up. Kevin Murphy (CnES) to be contacted; RT will pass CR e-mail to follow up.

14. AOCB

- Lighthouse. RT to confirm the light house is now operating; Cllr NM said ACER went out 6-8 weeks ago and fixed it but may not be obvious due to the light now it is summertime.

The next Bernera Community Council meeting will be held on Thursday 11 July 2024.