

# BERNERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Bernera Community Centre  
Breaclete  
Great Bernera  
Isle of Lewis  
HS2 9LT

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST 2025

**CHAIR:** Norma Macleod  
**TREASURER:** Iso Macdonald (Co-opted)  
**MINUTE SECRETARY:** Carolyn Prosser  
**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Callum, Catherine, Chrissie, Detta, Ella, Glynis, Jess, Jo, John, Karina, Matt and Zoe

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Norma, Iso, Carolyn, Catherine, Chrissie, Glynis, Jess, John, Karina and local resident, Helen Strong

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Detta, Ella, Jo, Matt, Zoe and Vic (BCA Administrator).

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the BCA Meeting dated 9 July 2025 were approved (proposed by Karina and seconded by John).

**3. BCA ADMINISTRATOR/HANDYMAN POSTS:** Vic will be taking maternity leave effective 30 September 2025 and Richard had tendered his resignation. Norma was pleased to report that once Vic returned from maternity leave, she and Jo would "job share" the role of BCA Administrator. Richard would, in the interim, endeavour to carry out any maintenance tasks on an ad-hoc basis.

### 4. FINANCE

There was no Financial Report available for tonight's meeting.

### 5. FUNDING

- (a) **TSI Fund:** A grant of £1,750 had been received. It was suggested that this be allocated as follows: £250 towards the Soup Stop, £500 towards the Polytunnels and £1,000 towards Community Activities/Craft Day Workshops.
- (b) **CLLD Grant:** The Committee discussed the current status of this grant. Via her February report, Vic advised that £6,000 had been given in principle (which is less than the £8,000 applied for). The cost of Battery Units is £7,613 and agreement to purchase one battery unit was agreed in principle. On-going.
- (c) **WIDT – Alleviation of Fuel Poverty fund.** Vic reported that an application enquiry to the Western Isles Development Trust for £10,000 (this being their maximum award) had been made. To-date a reply was awaited.

### 6. REPORTS

There were no written reports for tonight's meeting.

- (a) **TESCO COMMUNITY GRANT:** It had previously been suggested and agreed to use this money (£500) for the Toddler Area at the Play Park along with the £1,500 Ward Fund which will go towards the ground work for the new play park equipment. Vic had previously reported that the monies received from Tesco would need to be utilised by December 2025. It was decided to check which items at the playpark could be removed to make room for the newer items.

- (b) **DISHWASHER:** Holm Appliances had advised that they would be unable to supply a new machine as this was deemed a “commercial” unit as opposed to a domestic one. Vic to cost a similar one and Jo to possibly source a replacement.
- (c) **RUNNING & CROSS FIT MACHINES:** John reported that the two cross trainers were now working. However, one running machine required PAT Testing before it could be put back into service.
- (d) **EV POINT:** Callum had agreed to view an associated “Webinar” and report back. On-going.
- (e) **SECURITY CAMERAS FOR COMMUNITY HALL:** Vic had previously reported that these cameras would need to be linked to two mobile phones and it had been suggested that a “stand alone” pay-as-you-go mobile phone would be of use. Norma advised that she had passed a mobile phone to the Association and all that was now required was a SIM card. Need to link camera to mobile phone. On-going.
- (f) **BATTERY STORAGE UNIT:** This unit was now in Stornoway and delivery to Bernera was awaited.

## 7. SIGNS FOR TOILETS/DONATIONS/ELECTONIC DONATIONS

It was agreed that more prominent signage was required to encourage visitors to the Centre to make a donation for using the bathroom facilities. The use of a “Q” code to be looked at.

- 8. **HEBRIDES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:** This year’s film festival is scheduled to take place from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September – the full schedule of films/venues has yet to be released, but the Community Centre will again host an evening in support of this initiative. Volunteers will be sought to help out.

## 9. BERNERA BULLETIN/FUTURE EVENT ARRANGEMENTS

Where applicable, flyers will be distributed and all upcoming events will be listed on the BCA Facebook Page and published in the Bernera Bulletin. These to include:

- **FEAST FROM THE EAST:** A suitable date for this event remains outstanding
- **MUSIC EVENING: Saturday 18 October** – see below
- **GUY FAWKES/FIREWORK NIGHT: Saturday 8 November** – details to follow
- **CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR: Saturday 22 November** – details to follow
- **OVER 60’S CHRISTMAS LUNCH: Saturday 20 December** – details to follow
- **HOGMANAY: Wednesday 31 December** – details to follow

**BIG BREAKFAST: Saturday 16 August** – all arrangements are in hand with 11 volunteers kindly giving their time to help run this event.

**TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE:** This event (originally scheduled for 13 September) has been postponed. Helen offered to speak with the Bernera Historical Society to see if they might be able to run an event in the first quarter of 2026.

**MUSIC EVENING “BERNERA HAS TALENT”** – This event is scheduled to take place on 18 October. Helen reported that a number of local residents had already agreed to perform on the evening culminating in a cèilidh. This would be a free event with donations welcomed. Attendees would be encouraged to bring their own drinks and snacks.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**BACK DROP MURAL FOR THE LARGE HALL:** Karina had previously suggested that photos (kindly donated by Sandie Maciver) from the 2024 Bernera Riot Commemorative Walk be turned into a mural to decorate the back wall of the large hall. This suggestion was welcomed and Stuart Sutherland would be asked to quote for such print work. On-going – it was agreed to revisit this in the winter months.

**DRAINS:** This would be reviewed at the end of the summer.

**BOILER:** A new boiler for the Community Centre was required. A quotation from Lewis Builders to remove the old boiler, and then supply/install/test and commission a new one had been received at a cost of £8,700.00 plus VAT. This item of expenditure was approved.

**DEFIBRILLATORS:** It was agreed to seek the services of a member of the community who would be willing to regularly check the two defibrillators to ensure the batteries were fully charged. A suitable notice to be put into the next edition of the Bernera Bulletin, whilst also making clear that these items of equipment were not the responsibility of the BCA.

**GREAT BERNERA WEBSITE:** Helen reported that a new website was under construction. This would focus on what Bernera had to offer residents and visitors alike and would encompass the work of the BCA, BCC and the Trust.

*Meeting finished at 8.30 pm. Next meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm on Wednesday 10 September 2025.*