

BERNERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 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, Callum, Catherine, Chrissie, Detta, Ella, Glynis, Jess, Jo, John and Karina.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes from the BCA Meeting dated 14 May 2025 were approved (proposed by Karina and seconded by Glynis).

3. REPORTS

There was no written report this month.

- (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. Richard to look at costs for new equipment. On-going.
- (b) **CROWN ESTATE:** Continued funding for the posts of Administrator and Handyman had been approved.
- (c) **COOKER HOOD:** Councillor "Misty" has spoken with a Lewis Builders' Director with a view to expediting this outstanding matter. There remain on-going issues.
- (d) **DISHWASHER:** It was agreed that the dishwasher in the back utility kitchen should be fully functional in time for the wedding (which was scheduled for 20 June). Richard and Callum were sourcing a new part. On-going (to be revisited at the July meeting).
- (e) **CAFÉ & SHOP:** Shop open times are Monday to Friday 12.00pm-3.00pm. The Café will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week from 12.00pm to 3.00pm effective Tuesday 6 May (until the end September).
- (f) **RUNNING MACHINE:** As previously agreed, John and Callum to examine the gym running machine that was currently out of action to establish what was required in order for it to be repaired. On-going.
- (g) **EV POINT:** Callum had agreed to view an associated "Webinar" and report back. On-going.
- (h) **PUBLIC TOILETS AT BOSTA BEACH:** At the April meeting, Catherine and Glynis reported on the state of the toilets which Norma agreed to bring to the attention of the Bernera Community Council. The BCC was currently advertising for a cleaner and following a discussion Helen Strong had had with BCC Chair, Madeleine Macaulay, it was suggested that a cleaning rota be drawn up.

- (i) **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 has now passed a mobile phone to the Association and all that was now required was a SIM card. Richard had volunteered to be a main contact.
- (j) **BATTERY STORAGE UNIT:** Jo agreed to provide Norma with an update in order that a chaser email can be sent.
- (k) **HAND TOWEL USAGE:** Richard had reported that the use of paper green towels in the Centre’s bathrooms was contributing to blockages. After discussion, it was agreed to look at the installation of hand driers to replace these towels, thus helping to alleviate this problem.

4. FINANCE

Iso updated the meeting on the current BCA Accounts.

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. Vic reported that the first workshop (an Easter Felting Class) had been well received with the next class due to be held on 28 June.
- (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. WEDDING – booked for 20 June 2025

Karina is liaising with the family and is co-ordinating volunteers and requirements for this event. A pre-event meeting will be held on the evening of 18 June to go over the final arrangements.

7. PAT TESTING

This is an annual requirement for all electrical appliances operated within the Centre and Vic had previously arranged for an electrician to visit in April (with gas tests to take place in the coming months). To save on future costs for PAT testing, it was suggested that Richard might be trained to undertake this task. Norma agreed to speak with Richard in this regard and Vic would check on where courses are held. On-going.

8. 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
- **COMMUNITY BEACH DAY: Saturday 5 July** – details to follow
- **BIG BREAKFAST: Saturday 16 August** – 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
- **TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE: Saturday 13 September** – details to follow
- **MUSIC EVENING: Saturday 18 October** – details to follow
- **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

9. FIRE ALARM & SMOKE DETECTOR SYSTEM

Arrangements have been made for Kevin Macdonald Electrical Services to carry out this work.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

WINDOW: The window in the toilet area outside the Museum needs to be replaced. The Extractor Fan also needs attention. These items have been added to Richard's list of jobs.

SIGNAGE: Detta advised that new signage for "road end" (advertising the Community Centre, Shop, Petrol Pumps and Play Park) had been made and would be erected shortly.

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.

FUNERAL TEAS: It was agreed to implement an increase to the cost of providing Funeral Teas. Going forward, Teas would be booked, subject to volunteer availability.

BCA MINUTES: It was agreed that copies of minutes be made available via the Hall Notice Board and in the Bernera Bulletin.

Meeting finished at 8.40 pm. Next meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm on Wednesday 9 July 2025.