

BERNERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

CHAIR:	Norma Macleod
TREASURER:	Iso Macdonald (Co-opted)
MINUTE SECRETARY:	Carolyn Prosser (today's meeting was minuted by Karina)
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Callum Macaulay, Catherine Macaulay, Chrissie Macdonald, Detta Macleod, Ella Macaulay Fraser, Glynis Davis, Jess Macaulay, Jo George, John Latimir, Karina Macaulay, Matt Locke and Zoe Macinnes
BCA ADMINISTRATOR	Victoria Rudge
IN ATTENDANCE:	Norma, Iso, Catherine, Chrissie, Ella, Glynis, Jo, Karina, Vic and local resident, Helen Strong

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Callum, Carolyn, Jess, John and Matt.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the BCA Meeting dated 13 August 2025 were approved (proposed by Catherine and seconded by Glynis).

3. HANDYMAN POST

It was agreed to re-advertise this post.

4. FINANCE

There was no Financial Report available for tonight's meeting. Kath will provide an update at the next meeting.

5. FUNDING

(a) **TSI Fund:** A previous minute agreed to allocate £250 to Soup Stop, £500 to Polytunnels and £1,000 towards Community Activities/Craft Day Workshops. We have now been given a grant of £1,750 and Vic is completing a TSI evaluation to show how the fund has been spent.

(b) **CLLD Grant:** On-going. Vic is waiting on a few committee address details then will apply.

(c) **WIDT – Alleviation of Fuel Poverty Fund:** Awaiting reply from Vic's application enquiry. Vic reported that Alice has sent across fund which gives successful applicants a total of £1,500 which we could possibly use for the gym equipment.

(d) **TESCO Groundworks:** Vic reported that we came third in the Tesco Counter Fund and have now received a total of £500.

6. REPORTS

Vic's Admin report attached, covers Workshops, Candle Making, Facebook, Hall Bookings and all grant info up to current date.

(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. On-going.
- (c) **RUNNING & CROSS FIT MACHINES:** John had previously reported that the two cross trainers were now working. However, one running machine required PAT Testing before it could be put back into service. On-going.
- (d) **EV POINT:** Callum had previously agreed to view an associated “Webinar” and report back. On-going. Vic reported that a new commercial supplier needs to be chosen before May 2026.
- (e) **SECURITY CAMERAS FOR COMMUNITY HALL:** Norma had previously advised that she had passed a mobile phone to the Association and all that was now required was a SIM card. A decision regarding cameras is awaited and who will be responsible.
- (f) **BATTERY STORAGE UNIT:** Barnes informed Vic that an incorrect part came and they are waiting on a replacement.

7. SIGNS FOR TOILETS/DONATIONS/ELECTONIC DONATIONS

It had previously been 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. On-going.

- 8. **HEBRIDES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:** This year’s film festival is scheduled to take place from 24th to 27th September – the full schedule of films/venues has now been advertised on the BCA’s Facebook Page.

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:** rescheduled to **Saturday 25 October**
- **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 – this was really well attended and raised over £1,000.

TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE: This event (originally scheduled for 13 September) had been postponed and, unfortunately, the Bernera Historical Society had advised that they did not wish to hold an event.

MUSIC EVENING “BERNERA HAS TALENT” – This event is scheduled to take place on 25 October. Helen reported she has many artists booked to take part and was hoping to have a couple of evenings beforehand for anyone who wants to learn some of the country dances for the ceilidh at the end of the music night.

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. On-going.

DEFIBRILLATORS: It was agreed to seek the services of a member of the community who would be willing to regularly check the defibrillator located at the school 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 AND TIR MOR WEBSITE: Helen reported that a new website was under construction. This would focus on what Bernera and Tir Mor had to offer residents and visitors alike and would encompass the work of the BCA, BCC and the Trust. A group of local folk was now involved and Helen would continue to provide updates on progress.

SEPTIC TANK: On-going issues.

FIREWORKS: Karina to ask Callum to order the fireworks.

LAWNMOWER: Parts have come. Stuart and John will sort.

SIGN AT ROAD END: Glynis will speak to Stuart to change the times for the winter season.

TEAPOTS: It has been noticed we are short of silver teapots for events. Glynis to look at purchasing some more.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The BCA AGM is scheduled to take place at 7.30 pm on Monday 27 October.

Next meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm on Wednesday 8 October 2025