

# BERNERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL 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, Carolyn, Catherine, Detta, Glynis, Jess, Jo, John, Karina and Vic (BCA Administrator)

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Callum, Chrissie, Ella, Iso, Matt and Zoe.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes from the BCA Meeting dated 12 March 2025 were approved (proposed by Glynis and seconded by Karina).

### 3. REPORTS

Copies of Vic's Admin Report had previously been distributed. There was no report this month from Richard.

- (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.
- (b) **CROWN ESTATE:** Norma reported on the meeting that she had recently attended with both the BCC and GBCDT. Of particular importance to the BCA was continued funding for the posts of Administrator and Handyman. Further, the necessity for a washing machine for Kirkibost Pier.
- (c) **COOKER HOOD:** Councillor "Misty" has spoken with a Lewis Builders' Director with a view to expediting this outstanding issue. On-going.
- (d) **DISHWASHER:** After discussion, authorisation was given for the purchase of a new dishwasher for the back utility kitchen. It was agreed that this should be fitted (and tested) in time for the wedding on 20 June.
- (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:** Catherine and Glynis reported on the current state of these toilets. Norma agreed to bring this to the attention of the Community Council.
- (i) **SECURITY CAMERAS FOR COMMUNITY HALL:** Vic reported that these cameras would need to be linked to two mobile phones. It was suggested that a “stand alone” pay-as-you-go mobile phone might be worth considering too.
- (j) **BATTERY STORAGE UNIT:** This was due for delivery within 10 days.

#### 4. FINANCE

There was no Finance Report available for tonight’s meeting.

#### 5. FUNDING

- (a) **TSI Fund:** A grant of £1,750 had now been received. It was suggested that this be allocated as follows: £250 towards the Soup Stop, £500 towards the Polytunnels and £1,000 for Community Activities/Craft Day Workshops. Vic reported that the first workshop (an Easter Felting Class) had taken place and had been well received.
- (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 is their max. award) had been made. To-date no reply was forthcoming.

#### 6. WEDDING – booked for 20 June 2025

Karina is liaising with the family and is co-ordinating volunteers and requirements for this event.

The renewal of the Public Entertainment License had been completed (this will now run until April 2026).

PAT testing will be required for all electrical appliances 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 annual requirement. Norma agreed to speak with Richard in this regard and Vic would check on where courses are held. On-going.

#### 7. BERNERA/TIR MOR COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

The compilation of a new “local” Phone Book/Community Directory is on-going. It was hoped that a drive to encourage all residents to partake could be accomplished by the end of May 2025. 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
- **ITALIAN NIGHT: Saturday 10 May** – A meeting to discuss arrangements will be held on 23 April
- **COMMUNITY BEACH DAY: Saturday 5 July** – details to follow
- **BIG BREAKFAST: Saturday 9 August** – details to follow
- **TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE: Saturday 13 September** – 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**

Norma presented two quotations received from Kevin Macdonald Electrical Services regarding a required upgrade to the Centre's Fire Alarm and Smoke Detector System. After discussion, it was agreed to accept the more detailed option (despite this being the more expensive).

#### **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**WINDOW:** The window in the toilet area outside the Museum needs to be replaced. The Extractor Fan also needs attention. Callum to ask Richard if he can repair this. Carolyn agreed to copy this minute directly to Richard.

**SIGNAGE:** It was agreed that new signage at "road end" be erected to advertise the Community Centre, Shop, Petrol Pumps and Play Park and, following an observation made by Anna Macdonald during the March Meeting, it was also agreed that Gaelic be incorporated.

**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 (Karina and Detta to discuss).

**FUNERAL TEAS:** After discussion it was agreed that a cost increase for providing Funeral Teas be implemented.

**LIBRARY INIATIVE:** To celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Penguin Books is providing 90 Little Book Stops for local communities to promote book sharing. If her bid is successful, local resident Katie Booth, was seeking permission to have a book stop erected in Bernera. This was agreed although permission would need to be sought from the Hacklete Grazing Committee for its installation.

*Meeting finished at 8.40 pm. Next meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm on Wednesday 14 May 2025.*