

BERNERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 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, Kath, Matt and Zoe
In attendance: Norma, Iso, Carolyn, Callum, Detta, Glynis, Jess, John, Karina and Vic (BCA Administrator)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Catherine, Chrissie, Ella, Jo, Kath, Matt and Zoe.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes from the BCA Meeting dated 15 January 2025 were approved (proposed by Glynis and seconded by Karina).

(a) APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER

Iso indicated that she was willing to take on the vacant position of BCA Treasurer. This was proposed by Norma and seconded by Detta. Iso was elected by a unanimous show of hands.

3. REPORTS

Copies of Vic's Admin Report and Richard's Handyman reports had previously been distributed.

- (a) **TSI Fund:** An application for the TSI Fund Grant had been submitted on 6 December 2024 and Vic reported that a response was still awaited.
- (b) **CLLD Grant:** The Committee discussed the current status of this grant. Via her 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 circa £17,900 (although cheaper models are available). Vic and Jo are still working on this.
- (c) **TESCO COMMUNITY GRANT:** It had previously been suggested and agreed to use this money 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. Voting for the Tesco Community Grant had closed in January and the exact award was currently awaited. It was understood that a cheque presentation and photo opportunity might be forthcoming once the vote counting had concluded and the award was to be made.

It was also noted that there is over £3,000 from BCA funds which is to go towards the Play Park. Vic to discuss with Richard.

- (d) **CROWN ESTATE:** Need to apply for this again. Norma suggested that it might be helpful to hold discussions with both the GBCDT and BCC on this. On-going.
- (e) **COOKER HOOD:** Councillor “Misty” has spoken with a Lewis Builders’ Director with a view to expediting this outstanding issue. On-going.
- (f) **SEPTIC TANK:** The tank has now been emptied.
- (g) **CAFÉ & SHOP:** Winter timetable as follows: Wednesdays 12.00 - 3.00 pm for the Café with the Shop open Monday - Friday 12.00 - 3.00 pm (10% discount on Fridays for locals).
- (h) **Running Machine:** John and Callum agreed to examine the gym running machine that was currently out of action to establish what was required in order for it to be repaired.
- (i) **EV Point:** After discussion, Callum agreed to view an associated “Webinar” and report back.

4. KEY HOLDER CHECK

A list of current Key Holders has been drawn up. A key “amnesty” notice was advertised in the February edition of the Bernera Bulletin encouraging folk to return unused (or unwanted keys).

5. FINANCE

- In Kath’s absence, a detailed update was provided. Iso reported that Kath was now working on Year End Accounts.
- A Virgin Bank Account had been opened. Signatories and debit cards to be finalised.

6. 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 include:

- **SEASONAL SOUP STOP:** Running every Friday from 12.00 – 2.00 pm until the end of March 2025.
- **FILM NIGHT:** Callum advised that a favoured choice “Gladiator II” would not be available for hire until March 2025. It was suggested to show Gladiator I prior to Gladiator II (date to be agreed).
- **MUSIC NIGHT:** An approach had been made by Black Bay Studios for the Community Hall to host a music night on **Friday 28 March** featuring Willie Campbell and Findlay Napier. It was agreed for this event to go ahead. Tickets would be charged at £10.00 per head (16 and under go free). Carolyn will take the lead in the organisation of this event. ***Update:** Findlay Napier has been in touch to advise that they are waiting to confirm that their workshop is definitely going ahead before committing to this event!*
- **TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE:** To be held on the evening of **Saturday 19 April** – details to follow.
- **ITALIAN NIGHT:** The results from the recently completed survey concluded that an Italian Night was preferable. **Saturday 10 May** was agreed – details to follow.
- **WEDDING:** A wedding has been booked for **20 June 2025** – renewal of the entertainment license (which is due in May 2025) to be brought forward. Vic to begin preparations for renewal. Karina will oversee the call for volunteers to help run this event.

- **COMMUNITY BEACH DAY:** A Community Day to be held on **Saturday 5 July** – details to follow.
- **BIG BREAKFAST:** A Big Breakfast to be held on **Saturday 9 August** – details to follow.
- **TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE:** To be held on the afternoon of **Saturday 13 September** – details to follow.
- **GUY FAWKES/FIREWORK NIGHT:** To be held on **Saturday 8 November** – details to follow.
- **CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR:** It was agreed to hold this event earlier this year to encourage more folk to attend. **Saturday 22 November** was agreed upon – details to follow.
- **OVER 60'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** To be held on **Saturday 20 December** – details to follow.
- **HOGMANAY:** To be agreed, but Hall likely to be open to celebrate on **Wednesday 31 December**.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

FEAST FROM THE EAST: Catherine reported at the November meeting that the proprietors of 'Feast from the East' had approached her with a view to running another hot food catering event at the Centre. A suitable date for this event to be discussed when Catherine is next in attendance.

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.

SOUP STOP FUNDING: The seasonal "soup stop" is due to run until the end of March 2025. Diversion of some of the funding for this initiative was discussed with a view to perhaps putting some monies towards, say, the Over 60's Christmas Lunch (which has historically been put on free of charge). This to be explored further at the March meeting.

PHONE BOOK: The compilation of a new "local" phone book to be discussed again at the March meeting. Helen had indicated that she might be able to get copies printed for circa £2.00 per book and had created a Google Form which could, for example, be sent out via the Bernera Bulletin.

TENNIS COURT: Richard reported that the chain link fencing is in need of replacement – the cost of this to be established. Meanwhile, it was suggested that "Hydro" be approached for a donation. Norma agreed to make an enquiry.

RUNNING CLUB: Brenda Jones had requested free use of the small hall to hold a meeting to sound out local residents who might be interested in joining a proposed Running Club. After discussion, it was agreed that an initial meeting could be held free of charge; subsequent use would be charged at usual rates.

Meeting finished at 8.45 pm. Next meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm on Wednesday 12 March 2025.