

BERNERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 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, Glynis, Jo, Karina, Vic (BCA Administrator) and guests, Anna, Macdonald, Dolly MacKenzie and Helen Strong

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Chrissie, Detta, Ella, Jess, John, Matt and Zoe.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

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

3. REPORTS

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

- (a) **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. The BCA were awarded third place for a Tesco Community Grant (which was £500). Richard to look at costs for new equipment.
- (b) **CROWN ESTATE:** Need to apply for this again. Norma had previously suggested that it might be helpful to hold discussions with both the GBCDT and BCC on this. On-going.
- (c) **COOKER HOOD:** Councillor "Misty" has spoken with a Lewis Builders' Director with a view to expediting this outstanding issue. On-going.
- (d) **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. Discounts for residents on shop purchases had now expired.
- (e) **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. On-going.
- (f) **EV POINT:** After discussion, Callum agreed to view an associated "Webinar" and report back.

4. FINANCE

In Kath's absence, a printed update was provided which Iso reported on.

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 Days – a full breakdown was required to be completed by the end of March.
- (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.

6. WEDDING – booked for 20 June 2025

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

As agreed at the February meeting, the renewal of the Public Entertainment License (which was due in May 2025) was brought forward. Vic reported that in support of this application an inspection took place on 11 March. A water diagram will be required, which Callum and Richard will oversee. Further to this, PAT testing will be required for all electrical appliances and Vic has 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.

7. BERNERA/TIR MOR COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Helen updated the Committee on the compilation of a new “local” Phone Book/Community Directory. She reported that the cost, per book, would be circa £2.00 with a view to making these available to sell in the shop for, say, £5.00. The inclusion of a business section was thought to be a good idea as was a map of local houses. Helen agreed to create a Google Form for residents to complete, which would be tested via the BCA Committee in the first instance.

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
- **FILM NIGHT: Saturday 22 March at 8.00pm**
- **MUSIC NIGHT:** Featuring Willie Campbell and Findlay Napier has been indefinitely postponed
- **TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE: Saturday 19 April** featuring Iain Angus Macaulay and Charlie Macinnes
- **ITALIAN NIGHT: Saturday 10 May** – details to follow
- **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. 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.

TENNIS COURT: Richard had previously 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 to follow this through.

SHOP FREEZER: A new upright freezer for the shop is required. The cost was thought to be in the region of £900.00. Catherine and Glynis agreed to look for a suitable model.

PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: Anna Macdonald and Dolly Mackenzie joined tonight’s meeting to seek permission to hold a new Parent and Toddler Group in the Dance Studio (to meet on a Thursday during school term times). This request was agreed, in principle, taking into account the costs of heating and any additional health and safety requirements (in particular a guard being placed in front of the mirrored wall, installation of radiator covers and provision of child proof locks on any cupboards). Anna advised that the church would either make a “cost equivalent” donation or pay a higher booking fee to cover any costs involved. Vic agreed to ask Richard if he could look into making/installing the required safety measures.

LACK OF GAELIC SIGNAGE: Following an observation made by Anna Macdonald, discussion took place around the lack of Gaelic Signage in and around Bernera. It was agreed that Gaelic be incorporated in any future sign making and that the “Road End” sign directing people to the Community Centre and Petrol Pumps be reinstated.

BACK DROP MURAL FOR THE LARGE HALL: Karina 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.

Meeting finished at 8.50 pm. Next meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm on Wednesday 9 April 2025.