

BERNERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 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, Chrissie, Glynis, John, and Karina plus local resident, Helen Strong.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Callum, Catherine, Detta, Ella, Jess, Jo, Matt, Zoe and Vic (BCA Administrator).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes from the BCA Meeting dated 16 April 2025 were approved (proposed by Karina and seconded by John).

3. REPORTS

Copies of Vic's Admin Report had previously been distributed. There was no written 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. On-going.
- (c) **COOKER HOOD:** Councillor "Misty" has spoken with a Lewis Builders' Director with a view to expediting this outstanding issue. A new fan to be installed.
- (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. Richard and Callum were sourcing a new part.
- (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 current state of the toilets which Norma agreed to bring this 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 had 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:** This was due for delivery within 10 days.
- (k) **HAND TOWEL USAGE:** Richard had reported that the use of paper green towels in the 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 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 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 is their max. 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.

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.

All arrangements are in-hand and designated tasks for the day will be drawn up soon.

7. BERNERA/TIR MOR COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Helen updated the meeting on the compilation of the new “local” Phone Book/Community.

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 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

Helen reported that she was contemplating an event for the night of 18th October (as nothing was currently diarised). This would take the form of a “Bernera has Talent” evening. More details to follow in due course. Further, Helen advised that she would be adding a “Births, Deaths and Marriages” section to the monthly Bernera Bulletin.

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. These items have been added to Richard’s list of jobs.

SIGNAGE: New signage for “road end” (advertising the Community Centre, Shop, Petrol Pumps and Play Park) has now been approved.

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.

INDUCTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS: A paper setting out the legal responsibilities for Trustees of the BCA was presented by Norma.

Meeting finished at 8.55 pm. Next meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm on Wednesday 11 June 2025.