

Present:

In person: Calum, Anna, John, Melanie, Catherine, Helen, Claire

Online: Mark Bryant, Joanna George

Apologies: Zoe Paterson Macinnes

Election of new board took place.

Calum proposes Anna, Jo seconds. John proposes Mark, Calum seconds. Anna proposes Melanie, John seconds. John proposes Catherine, Jo seconds.

Officer bearers were then selected, after a brief explanation from those wishing to hold office of their skills & experience. Calum stated is wish to not continue as chair, given an approaching change personal circumstances. Catherine stated her experience of working at the Pairc Estate Trust and is proposed by Calum, seconded by Mark. Mark was then proposed as vice chair by John, Anna seconded. Melanie explained her experience in finance and suggests she would happy to take on the role of treasurer. Calum proposes and John seconds. Anna proposes Jo to be secretary and John seconds.

Jo agrees to keep on top of e-mails.

Anna agrees to step through the member list & mailing list to ensure they are up-to-date with new members and e-mail addresses received at the AGM.

John shared news of the Bays of Harris Estate and their successful buyout bid and suggests meeting the landlord.

Calum is to add new directors to the Whatsapp group and hand over information to Anna for the member list action.

Jo will send the landlord's contact information to John.

John will reach out to landlord.

Jo is happy to assist John with the mapping of the estate.

Mark agrees to ensure the Articles amended at the AGM are Part 3 compliant in the event of a Crofters' Buyout and will discuss with Dave Thompson at the Scottish Government.

Mark suggested it may be worth finding out if wayleaves would contribute to the value of the estate & what income is generated from croft rents.

Helen provided an update on the website. Domains currently owned are “greatbernera.org” and “great-bernera.com”. It is agreed that we needn’t retain the latter. A four-year web hosting plan was purchased two years ago and will expire in 2027. The payment method was outdated and has been deleted, but will need to be renewed for auto-renewal of the hosting to take place. The total cost of hosting and domain names are currently around £100 (£86 for hosting, £15 for both domains). It is agreed that we continue to use the e-mail address trust@greatbernera.org, but no longer use e-mail addresses with personal names attached, which hasn’t been done for over a year anyway. Helen will set up an e-mail address web@greatbernera.org for website queries. The website will be more of a Bernera-wide website, and not just for the Trust but provide updates from the Bernera Bulletin, BCA and BCC. Helen will carry this project forward and set up a work group.

John asked about the Dubhthob building. An update is provided- the building needs minimal work to achieve a completion certificate, namely a small amount of painting and landscaping. It was explained that CnES offered to sell the land to the community for £6k, or at a 90% discount if a business study is done. Pros and cons of those options to be weighed up and discussed further. John stresses the benefits to owning the land, such as not paying rent and owning considerable usable land on which to develop.

Actions to take forward and be discussed again:

Assembling a team to complete the Dubhthòb building- John and Catherine offer their assistance.

Catherine offers to have a look at and amend the business plan previously worked on by John for the Dubhthòb land. John will share information with Catherine on those projects.

Next meeting is set for 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm.