

BERNERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2025

CHAIR:	Norma Macleod
TREASURER:	Iso Macdonald (Co-opted)
MINUTE SECRETARY:	Carolyn Prosser
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Callum Macaulay, Careen MacLennan (co-opted), Catherine Macaulay, Chrissie Macdonald, Detta Macleod, Ella Macaulay Fraser, Glynis Davis, Jess Macaulay, Joanna George, John Latimir, Karina Macaulay and Matt Locke
BCA ADMINISTRATORS	Joanna George and Victoria Rudge (currently on maternity leave)
IN ATTENDANCE:	Norma, Callum, Carolyn, Catherine, Glynis, John, Karina and local resident, Helen Strong

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the BCA Meeting dated 12 November 2025 were approved (proposed by Catherine and seconded by Glynis).

3. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICE BEARERS

Following the election of Chair and Minute Secretary at the November meeting, Iso Macdonald was co-opted back onto the Committee at this evening's meeting (proposed by Norma and seconded by John) and re-elected as Treasurer. In addition, Careen MacLennan was also co-opted as a Committee Member (proposed by Catherine and seconded by Karina).

4. HANDYMAN POST

Norma reported that Mark Jones had been appointed to the role of Handyman and, following a handover with Richard Booth, was due to start work week commencing 6 January 2026. An added bonus was that Mark was registered to undertake PAT Testing.

5. BCA ADMINISTRATOR

Norma reported that due to conflicting work commitments, Joanna George had recently tendered her resignation as a BCA Administrator (she would work up until 9 January). **UPDATE:** *Joanna subsequently reported that she would continue in her role until the end of February.*

6. FINANCE

Norma summarised the current funding position (as detailed in an email dated 9 November 2025)

7. FUNDING

(a) **TSI Fund (2025):** It had been previously agreed to allocate £250 to Soup Stop, £500 to Polytunnels and £1,000 towards Community Activities/Craft Day Workshops. Having been awarded a grant of £1,750, Vic was completing a TSI evaluation to show how the fund has been spent.

A reply was outstanding on the current TSI Grant application.

(b) **CLLD Grant:** On-going.

- (c) **TESCO Groundworks:** Vic had previously reported that we came third in the Tesco Counter Fund and had now received a total of £500. It was agreed to purchase a bench for the play area (Jo).

8. REPORTS

An Admin Report had previously been distributed.

- (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 groundwork for the new play park equipment. Vic had previously reported that the monies received from Tesco would need to be utilised by December 2025. It was decided to check which items at the playpark could be removed to make room for the newer items.
- (b) **DISHWASHER:** Issues are on-going
- (c) **Oven:** Issues are on-going.
- (d) **GYM CROSS FIT MACHINES:** One cross trainer requires PAT Testing. On-going. (Jo)
- (e) **EV POINT:** A new commercial supplier needs to be chosen before May 2026. Callum reported that EVOLT quoted £350 per year to run the point and deal with finance. It was agreed to go ahead with this arrangement. Jo will send on to Kath for her to accept by agreement by email. (Jo/Kath)
- (f) **SECURITY CAMERAS FOR COMMUNITY HALL:** Norma had previously advised that she had passed a mobile phone to the Association and all that was now required was a SIM card. A decision regarding cameras is awaited and who will be responsible. On-going.
- (g) **BATTERY STORAGE UNIT:** This is now up and running. Gaslight is the current supplier, but we may need to change suppliers to get a smart meter fitted and to start selling electricity. Jo to speak to Kath.

9. SIGNS FOR TOILETS/DONATIONS/ELECTONIC DONATIONS

It had previously been agreed that more prominent signage was required to encourage visitors to the Centre to make a donation for using the bathroom facilities. The use of a "Q" code to be looked at. On-going.

10. 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
- **OVER 60'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH: Saturday 20 December**
- **HOGMANAY: Wednesday 31 December** – celebrations from 10.00 pm
- **BURNS' NIGHT – Saturday 24 January** – details to follow

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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.

DRAINS: On-going.

GREAT BERNERA AND TIR MOR WEBSITE: Helen updated the meeting on the current progress of the new website which was currently under construction.

SEPTIC TANK: On-going issues.

FUEL PUMP: An inspection is scheduled for 15 December. Callum and Jo organising the necessary paperwork. PAT Testing is also a requirement.

SIGN AT ROAD END: Winter times to be added. Detta will speak to Stuart. On-going.

OVER 60'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH: It was hoped that £500 from the Ward Fund can allocated to the cost of this event. All arrangements were in hand.

HOGMANAY – the hall will be open from 10.00 pm for this annual celebration.

CALENDARS FOR 2026: Helen reported that the original print run of 60 calendars had all been sold. A further order for 30 had been placed and it was hoped that these would be available for sale in time for the Christmas Lunch.

FILM NIGHT: Date to be agreed.

BCA/BCC/GREAT BERNERA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST: A date for a combined meeting to be agreed.

REPORT OF HARRASSMENT: The Committee was informed that one of the BCA volunteers had been subjected to harassment from a member of the community and a warning letter had been issued to the perpetrator telling them to stop. The volunteer asked the BCA for permission to request that this person leaves the cafe/shop should they come in while the volunteer is on duty. Permission was granted; it was agreed that no staff member or volunteer should be subjected to abusive and intimidating behaviour while working in the cafe/shop.

Tonight's meeting concluded at 8.25 pm.

Next BCA meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm on Wednesday 14 January 2026