

Minutes of Great Bernera Trust Development Meeting

2nd February 2023

Meeting held in Bernera Community Centre office

Present: Anne Ryan, Callum MacAulay, Rhiannon Teather, John Porteous, Finlay C MacIver, David Boag, Jullia Higginbottom, Virginia Allum, Sallie Porteous, Joanna George, Norma Macleod

Apologies: Nat Higginbottom, Kevin Long, Katie Booth

Trustees/Articles

Anne welcomed new trustees to the meeting and explained that our Articles of Association state that we can have up to 9 full trustees and 3 co-opted if we feel they have skills that we are lacking within the committee. Following the EGM we received 8 nominations along with a further 2 (who were not eligible to be nominated). By accepting the 8 we would be in breach of our articles as that would take us to 10 trustees therefore we would need to vote on whether to hold another EGM and change the articles or remove one of the trustees. Sallie Porteous had written to the Chair intimating that she would be willing to stand down as she was the last to submit her nomination form and it was after the AGM where all the others were submitted. A vote was taken on whether to hold another EGM to change the articles or to accept that Sally's nomination was invalid, the majority voted to accept that it was invalid and Rhiannon voted to hold an EGM to change the articles.

Co-opted Members

There are 3 vacancies for co-opted members, 1 is for a member who is under 25 however we have had no interest from anyone for this vacancy.

It was felt that the trust could benefit from support around funding, management of employees, and crofting and the following were nominated to meet these gaps

Admin/management – Virginia Allum proposed by Julia Higginbottom, seconded by David Boag.

Funding – Brenda Jones proposed by John Porteous, seconded by Callum Macaulay.

Crofting – Sallie Porteous proposed by Rhiannon seconded by Finlay C MacIver.

Declaration of interests

Julia declared Nat (husband) is a Trust employee

Callum & John declared they are carrying out an unpaid management role on the completion of the building at the pier.

Rhiannon declared that she is secretary of the Bernera Community Council

Previous minutes

John Porteous was present at meeting although not noted on minutes.

Previous minutes were approved by Julia, seconded by Anne.

Financial Update

Payment from TSI for £6,355 has been received. This funding will be used to help to reduce social isolation and promote mental wellbeing.

Bosta Toilets

A vote was taken to return the money to the Bernera Community Council –David, Virginia Julia, John, Finlay and Anne voted to return the money. Rhiannon, Callum and Sallie abstained from voting.

It was decided to return the money. Julia asked to see a copy of the finance that related to this.

Chairperson

Anne has stood down from her post as Chairperson however it was decided to have an interim board for the next 3 months to ensure a smooth transition with new trustees. The interim board will include:

Chairperson: Anne Ryan was proposed by Sallie Porteous, seconded by Julia Higginbottom

Vice Chair – John Porteous was proposed by Rhiannon, seconded by Finlay C Maclver

Treasurer – it was suggested that we ask Katie if she would be willing to help with finances

Buy Out

It was noted that we need to engage with HIE & Land Fund. Our articles have been accepted and the mapping is complete from our side although they need to be updated by Total Design. We will then proceed to ballot however we need to send a letter to those who are unable to vote.

Stage 1 application for funding – Julia to look into and try and get grazings committees on board

Pontoons/Facilities Building

Quote from BT for broadband to be accepted along with Mobile Phone sim. Anne to pass mobile phone to Callum for his work in managing the pontoon berths.

Electric – altered parameters, still not in place. It was suggested that 3 of the e-bikes be stored in the hall and 3 in Kirkibost.

Estimated water bill to be paid.

Expect the building to be open in the next few months, partitions are up and currently working on wiring and plumbing.

Hatchery

Expect report from Community Enterprise in the next few days in time to send application in for the 15th Feb deadline.

Whatsap – all members to be added to group (Jo)

Gleebe Housing

Awaiting for 2nd feasibility study from TIG.

Cost of Living fund

Soup stop every Thursday, good turnout.

Asset Transfer

Expression of interest submitted to CNES, awaiting amount.

Trust staff

Contacted HIE to continue to employ staff

Projects

The following projects were linked to trustee members and staff to take a lead on.

Strategic Plan – Finlay C MacIver & Joanna George.

Funding – Julia Higginbottom.

Housing – Rhiannon Teather.

Hatchery – Virginia Allum.

Dubh Ob/Renewables – Callum MacAulay.

Vice Chair/Pontoons – John Porteous.

Buyout – John Porteous, David Boag.

Crofting/Environmental, Peat Management – Finlay C MacIver, Sally Porteous.

Training for new trustees – to be organised (Anne/DTAS)

Date for meeting to discuss Buyout (Julia to put doodle poll out)

Date of next meeting 20th February