

Great Bernera Community Development Trust

Minutes of Meeting Monday 19th September 2022 (Zoom)

Present: Anne Ryan, Tom Macdonald, Callum Macaulay, Tony Spinks, Angus Macdonald (co-opted), Julia Higginbottom (co-opted), Joanna George, Nat Higginbottom, Roddy Evans (observer), John Porteous (member)

Apologies: Rhiannon Teather, Norma Macleod

Introductions: from all new attendees, and from Trustees to them

Previous minutes – Minutes of previous meeting were proposed by Tom, seconded by Anne.

Staff Updates –

Nat and Funding

- 2 new funding pots available; for buildings, and renewables; expressions of interest have been submitted for both.
- Crown Estate funding will be opening again next year, up to £100K per project.
- Applications for ‘shovel ready’ projects have been unsuccessful
- Asset Transfer for CnES land at Kirkibost Pier – awaiting a decision, on areas for transfer, by Kenny Morrison, CnES Harbour Master. Liz Howard suggests a nil valuation for Stage 1, and going straight to Stage 2.
- E-bikes are awaiting the container, online booking form being prepared. Pricing structure discussed – feedback that locals prefer yearly membership and a nominal amount (or free) for each hire.
- Paths for All for (bikes) – BCA might wish to take this application over
- Hatchery – see later

Joanna

- Welcome Pack – Corrections made after input from Nat & Tom; presentation folder option better; could add the pack to the website, would reduce the number of folders needed

Funding for print costs is uncertain, should be able to come out of project costs, quotes to be obtained from CnES print room before deciding on number of packs.

- Mapping for buyout – Joanna has been through all the title plans, and land and croft registers with Tom & John, 30 to 40 amendments to the mapping are needed. Joanna will get Total Design to do all the changes (and make it a priority), then send the mapping to Scot Gov Land Unit for checking. To save time it was agreed to send the mapping to them as it is, along with the list of amendments

- DATS funding (for cost of living crisis) – application went in last Friday, jointly with BCA and BCC.
- Glebe purchase for housing – no further feedback from Free Church, Joanna will chase them for news
- Membership List – Joanna is updating with all new members
- Media Interest – Eilidh Macleod from the BBC wants to do an update, Tom agreed to be interviewed, providing he is advised on what line to take.
- Offshore Windfarm – the ammonia factory is still an issue at Uig, reps from Northlands will be talking to local communities

Buyout – No feedback yet on Part 3 Articles from the Land Unit, holidays have delayed responses; agreed that the question of 2 votes for crofters, or not, must be resolved soon. John will seek an opinion from Anderson Macarthur.

AGM - Agreed not to delay the AGM. Advert must be published at least 28 days in advance, so agreed on **Monday 14th November for the AGM**. With luck the Part 3 Articles will be ready by then. The new committee will then meet on 21st November.

Angus has a large number of stamps, which he could make available for a circular letter announcing the AGM.

Pontoons – No further forward on electric connection, Callum has been chasing all the potential suppliers every two weeks, with the same results – not offering any new commercial connections. Callum believes it to be an industry-wide issue.

There is a delay in the building construction – the contractor supplied the wrong design of roof trusses; a number of them need to be altered to accommodate the water cylinders, which are to be housed in the roof space. John will ensure the contractor amends without delay, and no cost to GBCDT.

John noted that Building Control will not accept the use of the existing septic tank for the sewer outlet from the building, and a new, larger tank is required. John will obtain prices from contractors for supply and installation; the cost to go into the renewables funding application

Housing – See Joanna's report above.

Hatchery – The Stage 1 application has been successful, and the funders (lottery and land fund) are both very supportive. Valuation, structural survey and business plan are all under way.

The Stage 2 application form will be available next week, and the business plan will provide much of the content. The aim is to have the plan complete by the end of October, to be ready for the application deadline in mid-November. The decision should be released by the end of the year.

AOCB

- Anne noted receiving details from Finlay Maclellan of a new funding route - to be investigated
- Front page splash on the AGM proposed by Nat for the next Bernera News
- Next meeting 17th October 2022