

Minutes of Great Bernera Development Trust Meeting

20th February 2023 in Dance Studio, Bernera Community Centre

Present: John Porteous (Vice Chair), Callum MacAulay, Finlay C MacIver, David Boag, Katie Booth, Brenda Reynolds, Julia Higginbottom, Virginia Allum, Sallie Porteous, Norma MacLeod (Secretary), Nat Higginbottom (Development Worker)

Apologies: Anne Ryan, Rhiannon Teather, Jo George, Kevin Long

Previous minutes

Change required under Buy Out section. It should have stated that articles had been submitted, not that they had been accepted.

Treasurer - Katie agreed to take up the position of Treasurer. John to pass contact details of Trusts accountant to Katie.

Minutes were approved by Sallie Porteous, seconded by John Porteous.

Buy Out

David has contacted Patrick and has a meeting with Cyran. He will update the group.

The group were circulated note of Dave Thomson (Land Unit) comments, summary of meeting with Calum MacLeod, Duncan MacPherson and Faye MacLeod (who did the original business plan) and Jo Georges email. John is to contact Sandra Holmes (HIE) for a study template which can be used in the tender process.

Mapping – John/Jo to send to Total Designs who have said they should be able to complete the work within 2 months. Some dimensions need to be altered. Finlay to pass Breacleite plan which contains dimensions to John. Sallie/Julia to check with other grazings clerks if they hold plans. Brenda suggested that the group could help the administration process.

Articles – been accepted by land unit and need to be checked by legal staff which should take up to 4 weeks.

Press Release/Media - discussion took place regarding a press release, use of the media and how we need to widen our reach and promote as a Crofting buyout rather than a hostile buyout. Both Brenda and Julia have skills in this area. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to have a timeline with key points and whether there are examples of lack of investment (Nat).

Meeting with Alasdair Allan

Meeting scheduled for Friday 24th February at 10.30. Participants are to update Alasdair on progress since his last visit and ask him to keep pressure on the Land Unit.

West Coast Community Energy

David updated the group on meetings he had attended and suggested that we look at setting up a group to look at energy.

The AGM of Galson Trust is in March (David will pass on details). MOU needs to be signed by Trustees.

David also updated the group on work being carried out by Northlands and the fact that there is a proposal for a windfarm 4 kilometres out of Little Bernera.

Gleebe Housing

The proposal is that 4 houses will be built on the Gleebe site.

Hatchery

Liz Howard Land Fund is to respond on the report and Nat hopes to submit it on Friday 24th February so all trustees are to respond to Nat asap.

A.O.B

The group will need to adopt governance procedures for accounts and check when we would need to apply to be VAT registered as it may be beneficial for the trust.

Next meeting Monday 20th March 7.30p.m.