

## Minutes of Great Bernera Development Trust

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 held at the Dance Studio, Bernera Community Hall

Present: Anne Ryan, Virginia Allum, Brenda Jones, Julia Higginbottom, David Boag, Kevin Long, Callum MacAulay, John Porteous, Norma MacLeod, Nat Higginbottom, Joanna George

Apologies: Finlay MacIver, Katie Booth, Sallie Porteous

### MATTERS ARISING

Trustee - Rhiannon had stepped down from the Trust and Anne noted all the good work she has done in her time as a Trustee.

Declaration of interest – Callum and John are still involved in pontoons, Callum and Norma are members of BCA and Julia's partner Nat is one of the Development Officers

Previous minutes - were approved by David Boag, seconded by Julia Higginbottom.

Financial Update – Julia provided a Financial update up to end Feb 23 for HIE and this was circulated round group members. Katie is to meet with the Accountant.

#### Membership & Expenses –

- GDPR – we are members of ISO and need to renew and continue working to their standard. Virginia will become the responsible person for GDPR.
- Outer Hebrides Tourism – renewal due. It was agreed to renew and include bikes, pontoons, campervan slots etc.
- Pontoon insurance – awaiting quote.
- Bikes insurance – awaiting quote.

Strategic Plan – Jo & Finlay have met and have 1<sup>st</sup> draft which will be put on Google Drive.

Fair Work Policy – Julia to have a look at template.

HIE – Submit application for ongoing support for development officers. We are currently awaiting response from recent application.

Buy Out – Nat has completed Business Plan tender and forwarded on for comment. Email received from Dave Thompson to confirm changes to articles are compliant with Crofting Community Right to Buy.

Mapping – issue re areas not estate and boundaries not following O.S. features. John is currently working on this.

Alasdair Allan visit – letter is being sent from Alasdair to Malcolm Burr, CNES. This was read out to all present and amendments noted. He is also approaching Cyran for a meeting.

Support for buy out with conditions – an email received by Callum was read out. It was decided to respond saying that the land is under crofting tenure and therefore we have no authority to do anything.

Donation – a donation of £1,000 was offered by a local gentlemen. Anne to respond. Donation is to be kept in a separate account. Nat will speak to other trusts to see how they manage donations.

Pontoon & Facilities building –electrical connection should be mid April. Taping and filing has been carried out, awaiting electrical, plumber and finishing joiner. John to pass original contract on to Nat for files.

CNES Asset Transfer – have been advised that it would be easier to do a Community Negotiated sale.

Hatchery Buyout – application in for stage 1 has been accepted and Nat to have phone call meeting this week re Stage 2. Quote of £27,000 has been received to make the building safe and watertight however it was felt that this quote was very expensive. Scottish Salmon have said they will not be emptying the building therefore we would need to do this ourselves. Nat to see if we can get a cheaper quote.

Social housing /Glebe – with Rhiannon stepping down we have a gap. Brenda offered to work with Jo. Finlay is to speak to TIG as they are questioning the crofting tenure. Jo to invite Maryann (CNES) and Donna (TIG) to next meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> April.

HIE funding – last claim is with HIE. Management Accounts have been done and Callum is to prepare a completion report with photos on Bosta work and pass on to Anne.

Development Officers – application has been submitted, awaiting decision and need to sign contract by 31<sup>st</sup> March if successful.

Social Isolation Fund & Loneliness fund – Julia and Jo to submit application.

SNH Fund for Rangers – it was felt too early to apply for grant as the paths need work to be carried out on them.

CLOH – looking for action on Gunnera plant as it is taking over some areas in Bernera and very difficult to remove.

Board training – Digital – IT/Marketing/Governance training, check date and invite BCA and BCC.

Media/Social Media – need guidelines for media requests. The telegraph meeting went well. Thanks to Glynis and Catherine for their support on the day in the cafe. David Ross (Herald writer) is interviewing Anne. Community Land Scotland are working on a study trip.

A.O.B

Updated MOU for West Coast Energy – Anne to sign.

Minutes – Nat suggested it may be easier to record minutes.

Pontoon Building – letter of disappointment to go in at end of Project.