**BERNERAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**COMHAIRLE COIMHEARSNACHD BHEARNARAIGH**

**MINUTES**

**23 February 2015**

**at**

**Berneray Community Hall**

Present: Donald MacLean (Chair), Andrew Rodger (Treasurer), Margaret Paterson, Ian Hoyle (Clerk), John MacLean (Vice), PC Paul Fletcher.

Apologies: Cllr Uisdean Robertson, Cllr Neil Beaton, Mary McCormick.

1. Minutes from the previous meeting read and approved.
2. We welcomed PC Paul Fletcher to the meeting.

He was concerned about the lack of appropriate gritting on the roads in the Uists. He urged anybody who has an accident involving icy roads to contact the Police so they can collate statistics on the black spots on the roads to present to the council. He said that he would close a road if the ice posed a serious risk to motorists, and reopen when the road is gritted or the ice has melted.

1. The new Berneray Coastal rowing club has received an award of money from Ward funding, they now have almost reached the target.
2. The BCC has approved the purchase of a 100m long loose net to assist with rabbit control in the dunes. The rabbits do not seem to be using burrows, so gassing is not appropriate at present.
3. We need to restock Loch Brusda, but there is now lots of red tape to cut before this can happen. We need to decide the best strategy for the long-term management of the loch.
4. PC Fletcher brought up the issue of the latest 3 day power cut. As most of the HHE houses are now all electric, with no fireplaces, this makes those tenants much more vulnerable to power cuts.

Berneray needs an emergency plan to assist those less able to survive the inevitable long periods without heat, light, or hot food and drink.The BCC will discuss this issue at the next meeting. If any member of the public has any helpful ideas they should let us know.

1. Plans are well underway for the Curry night. It has been decided that the BCC will fund the food costs for the evening to raise funds for the Berneray defibrillator. Hopefully the evening will raise most of the money needed.

Next meeting is on 23rd March.