

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Monday 24th February 2025, in Bressay Hall.

Minute subject to approval at the next Bressay Community Council Meeting.

Present:

Lindsay Tulloch (Chair)
Shirley Gifford
Margaret MacDonald
Kath Duffus
Ruth MacKenzie
Katrina Gifford
Stephen Leask
Arwed Wenger

In Attendance:

Janice Jones (Clerk)

Agenda Items

1. Introduction and Apologies:

The Chair opened the Meeting and welcomed guests and members.

Apologies were noted from:

Alistair Christie-Henry
Matt Mason
Gary Robinson
Joanna Fraser
Michael Duncan

2. Declarations of interest:

The Chair asked for declarations of interest – none received.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The Chairman reviewed the draft minutes of the meeting on 20th January and sought their approval, proposed by Margaret and seconded by Kath.

4. Matters Outstanding (actions not elsewhere on agenda or completed):

Continued AP1 Community Resilience plan & Generator

We had planned to spend some time discussing the Resilience Plan tonight, however due to the number of other items we may have to defer. Regarding the generator we have had a formal correspondence from the (new) Chair of the Hall Committee detailing their reservations and inability to take on responsibility and ownership. Some discussion ensued

on how the SSEN Grant could be spent – solar/batteries, gas heaters etc. Some other group may be able to utilise this. Meanwhile the Chair will reply to the Hall Chair to see if they could suggest any Projects which they could support to use the funding and provide resilience for the whole Island.
Action: Chair

AP1: Feedback on Ferry timetable and other issues

Were still asking the questions, whilst we are hearing rumours, we have had nothing official.

Action: Chair/Shirley/SIC ferry Operations/Transport

AP2: Follow up to installation of Bus Shelters

This has been ongoing for along time. It was agreed last spring; we submitted the annotated map in November and have twice asked for an update with no response. The Chair will chase up and escalate, if necessary. Stephen will also prompt for a response.

Action: Chair

AP3: Investigate electronic notice-boards:

The Clerk had some initial findings and could inform the members the cost would be in the range from £2,500 to £10,000 to provide appropriate weather resilience. One solution could be to mount it inside the waiting room window to prevent weather degradation (and keep costs affordable). Some discussion took place relating to ownership. Funding could be obtained from the SCBF, with the Community Project Grant funding the investigation and planning. One consideration to note is many of the electronic boards were updated from a memory stick – this would not be practical, any system and would require a secure installation updated by Wifi and password protected. Our application for Project Funding will not be necessary (if at all) until after the SIC funding meeting on 25th March and after our March meeting.

Action: Clerk

AP4: Investigate details of the ownership/responsibilities for the Ward Road:

Margaret has investigated this; the road is a private road. The lower section comes under the stewardship of the Grazings Committee and they only have to ensure access to the peat hill. The upper section belongs to a company providing access for the BBC. Information provided is that it is owned by Arquiva. As it is a private road there is no influence the Community Council can bring to bear, with pressure they could well just put a gate on the road. Meanwhile quite a bit has been done on the lower section via the Grazings Committee.

AP5: Advise the public regarding availability of Grants and invite ideas for a future project. Completed.

AP6: Advise on dates the Boating club could be available to man a skip.

Matt has made arrangements with the Boating Club in conjunction with Ella's Park and will advise of the dates in due course.

Action: Matt

5. Member and Visitor Reports: Stephen could report the SIC has been quite busy with meetings especially regarding the next budgets. We have had seminars and meeting regarding the tourist levy/tourist tax, there is still some consultancy and discussions going on. Orkney is keen to bring on a levy with a cap on the bigger ships coming in due to the degradation of areas. It is a balance for preservation and putting off tourist from coming in the first place. This created considerable discussion, in particular regard to the NHS, 4g and WiFi impact as well as degradation of attractions.

6. Infrastructure: In the absence of our infrastructure representative there was little to comment on other than organising the 2025 Infrastructure Report. Shirley will be in touch with Neil Hutchinson at SIC infrastructure to arrange a meeting and a review of the infrastructure report.

Action: Shirley

7. 2024-2025 Project: Ruth shared a draft of the leaflet, QR codes could be imbedded into a lot of the MB Promotions information and the possibility of it being added to the signage. It would be good if the likes of Park Run could add to their websites and information, so people who come to run could explore further, as well as adding to the Bressay Development website. Some logos will need to be changed and still some tidying up is needed. Invoices will be coming in March and will include an element for maintenance of the signs.

8. Correspondence: Many items have been circulated. A Data research Student had been in touch for people to come to a workshop regarding assistance of the Local Government. Unfortunately, the timings did not suit any of the members with a lack of capacity and it was suggested BDL may be more suited. The University of the HIA would like to come along to the next meeting to explore training needs – members did not feel this sat in the remit of the community council and again this would be best directed to BDL. We had considerable correspondence from Dr Wills detailing his proposals for upgrading and creating access to Gorie and the East side of the Island. The Community Council would be quite supportive of this Project in theory; however, this does not fit within the Community Council's capacity for further assistance. It does not fit the criteria for quarry cleanings etc which have already been allocated for this year. We have already been exploring where we could help other unadopted roads which severely needs upgrading and been unable to assist so it would be unfair to assist this project. One further email has been regarding the snow clearance of the Trowlands road, it was clarified by the operator that the gritter has a snow plough attachment. The community council emphasised a sterling job was being done and their meaning was to explore some kind of barrier to stop the snow drifts gathering in the first place.

9. Planning Applications: None

10. Finance: Grant & applications & Financial position:

Three grant applications have been received, and we know of two further probable applications which have yet to be submitted – the advertising had stipulated applications by the end of February. The total of all these will be greater than the current amount of £2,750 available in the distribution fund. There is a further element within our Core Grant budgeted for Community distribution (£500) which can act as a top up for a limited amount of over subscription; it may be possible to defer some of the applications to 2025/2026 funding, or award a partial amount. With these circumstances in mind, it was decided to defer allocation until the March meeting when we will have a completed financial picture for the year.

11. Bressay Groups Update (Hall, Sports Club, Boating Club, BDL etc.) All have been touched on during the meeting.

12. Any other business:

Arwed detailed problems with the digital phone switch over and advised caution when the switchover starts.

Stephen asked members their views of recent local publicity regarding the condition and lack of facilities of local fire stations including the Bressay Fire Station and effects of crew morale. Following some discussion on the subject the view of the committee was SFRS have a responsibility to ensure the safety and health of fire crew and staff is paramount and facilities must be brought up to an acceptable standard as priority. If the standard of facilities of the fire station cannot be improved, they should look to provide shower facilities elsewhere on the island. A solution could be to liaise with BDL at Speldiburn to install the shower facilities in the Old School to be used by SFRS and other visitors to the island.

13. Resilience Plan: Deferred until the March meeting.

14. Meeting Review: no comments

16. Date of next meeting: will be on 31st March.

Chairman:

Date

To contact the Community Council please email us at bressaycc@gmail.com or telephone 07532054521 or contact any Community Council Member.

The remainder of this document does not form part of the public minute

Summary of new and outstanding actions

Continued AP1 Community Resilience plan & Generator

Action: Chair

AP1: Feedback on Ferry timetable and other issues

Action: Chair/Shirley/
SIC ferry Operations/Transport

AP2: Follow up to installation of Bus Shelters

Action: Chair

AP3: Investigate electronic notice-boards

Action: Clerk

AP4: Advise on dates the Boating club could be available to man a skip.

Action: Matt

AP5: Arrange 2025 Infrastructure report

Action: Shirley