

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Monday 31st March 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
Gary Robinson
Arwed Wenger

In Attendance:

Janice Jones (Clerk)
Richard Burrell

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
Stephen Leask
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 24th February and sought their approval, proposed by Kath and seconded by Shirley.

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

AP1: Feedback on Ferry timetable and other issues

Still ongoing, we had hoped Andrew Inkster would have been here for an update but nothing as yet.

Action: Chair/Shirley/SIC ferry Operations/Transport

AP2: Follow up to installation of Bus Shelters

The foundations are in place and the structure is arriving soon!

Completed

AP3: Investigate electronic notice-boards:

Ongoing

Action: Clerk

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

This took place on the weekend, very successfully, with a very full skip and two trailer loads of metal and white goods.

AP5: Arrange 2025 Infrastructure report:

The Chair and Vice-Chair met with Neil Hutchinson and did a drive around. Most of the roads were surprisingly good apart from one pot hole. Some cattle grids need attention particularly the one at Heogan. He has taken away instructions regarding creating a barrier to prevent the build-up of snow on the Trowlands road. A number of signs needs refreshed. Shirley will contact Neil to get a copy of the items agreed.

Action: Shirley

5. Member and Visitor Reports: The main thing has been around the setting and agreeing of the SIC budgets, there had been a notification to the Scottish government last year we would have to raise council tax by 7.5%, however, with the increase in NI costs this has increased. In the future we should be able to keep it to inflationary rises. There has been a visit from a Faroese Delegation, they are interested in a number of things we are doing, including tunnels and ferries. It had been thought we might have to replace all our ferries however with a rolling programme this may not be necessary and with the additional £10m from the Scottish Government with a strong emphasis on spend on transport, this may be cushioned. The Faroese were also interested in our telecoms projects with a view to some work for them in Shetland, particularly as the whole of Faroe now operates under 5g, through tunnels and a distance out to sea. Some good contacts have been reestablished and more meetings (virtually) to look forward to. Gary has also been working on the issues with side roads, with little hope as budgets just do not stretch enough. Arwed has heard that BT is coming to an open meeting at Mareel in early April regarding the migration to digital.

The update on the Community Council Scheme review has been released. A number of tweaks but the biggest change impacting us is on funding where out three previous categories of core budget, Distribution and Project budgets are now all rolled into one. Core budget no longer has to be broken down into areas of spending, however we do have to create a budget for our entire spend and at year end show how we met those commitments. We will visit this further when we come to finance. Some discussion ensued on how the allocated budgets were allocated as initial suggestions has been budgets were to be assessed on the area's population, however, in the final proposal whilst population level was the starting point additional weightings were added, for an Island population, for access to services and for minimal local resources; this brought the level up to the past years level. The Chair advised this was a good document for members to review to understand the mechanisms of the Community Council, and for new members to be given. The other principal change was the exclusion of voting rights for elected members – these can be ex-officio but not full members. Youth members from the age of 12 can be co-opted (with notification to Child Services).

6. Infrastructure: Shirley will arrange to get the infrastructure report for the next meeting.

Action: Shirley

7. Projects: Invoices have been received for the artwork, design and initial printing of the leaflets, the balance of the printing budget is to be issued to the History Group to ensure they can provide additional copies. 2025-2026 Project we have discussed previously - the clerk will bring a project plan to a future meeting.

8. Correspondence: As well as the usual issue of emails we have had an interesting contact from an Iain Nicholson whose ancestry comes from Bruntland. He would like to site a memorial bench somewhere in Bressay for his late sister as Bressay was somewhere they enjoyed coming to, possibly Ella's Park. This was unanimously approved and his details passed to Katrina to contact Mr Nicholson and action and source. There was an email from the surveyor from the company who on behalf of the BBC are responsible for the infrastructure on the Ward. The Chair has made initial contact and will detail the road issues to him. There had been contact regarding flooding at the back of Fullaburn and this has been passed on to the landowner. We have also had a community tool-kit for the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII, we will share this with the Hall Committee and any other community groups. Sepa have also published the latest flood maps which include Shetland. Changes to the environment and climate is affecting Shetland as well as other areas. Bogs and peat restoration helps as well as tree planting. We have had our Ferry Community Council Community runs allocation issued – four for the coming year. Also circulated was a survey on the visitor levy. It was pointed out this originated from a business owner in Uist so was biased. The SIC is reviewing the proposals along with Orkney and the Western Isles. They may or may not adopt the same strategy as different considerations applied in each area. The Chair has replied to the SIC regarding creation of our local space plan, pointing out we did not have the capacity as a small community council to address this project. He had previously suggested to BDL this could be a joint project however they too were devoid of capacity to take it on. Michael will feed this back to Planning and hopefully they may be able to allocate some resource to assist. At the ASCC meeting last month this had been the feeling across the board that few had spare capacity.

9. Planning Applications: We received a planning application just after the last meeting for a further house at Pettifirch. The window for comment has passed, this is not the first time we have not had the opportunity to comment when notification comes in with closing times between meetings. Whilst we would support any housing in Bressay we should have the opportunity to raise, for instance, a point of concern, regarding access roads etc., in this case the capacity of the Twartlands Road to carry additional traffic. We will voice our concerns with the Planning department that these are coming in between meeting and not allowing adequate time for comment. Arwed is on the planning Board so he was requested to also feed this back.

10. Finance: Grant applications & Financial position:

The Clerk outlined the end of year financial situation. The three grant applications were unanimously approved, proposed by Lindsay and seconded by Margaret. This brought the Project and Distribution funds fully allocated, the balance of grant allocation to the history Group being allocated from the Core fund where we had a budget for grant funding (over and above the Distribution Fund). There are a couple of outstanding payment due from the Core Fund, most pertinent being the costs relating to last weekends skip and a provision for this year's Voar Redd up, which brings the balance of the Cose spend to approximately £919 – within the £1,000 we are allowed to carry over. The members unanimously approved this

as the final position. 2025 – 2026 funding was explained, this will all be rolled into one sum. The Clerk will address the calculation for this year's funding, based on previous funding and submit the application.

11. Bressay Groups Update (Hall, Sports Club, Boating Club, BDL etc.) - One suggestion has been made to the Chair regarding proposed generator for resilience for the generator to be gifted to Scottish Fire and Rescue to be housed and maintained by them and brought to the Hall at a time of need. This still has to be agreed with the Fire Service but could be a possibility. The Hall Chairman was in attendance and could confirm they were still looking at solar as an option for the Hall so they have moved on from the previous position and are keen to work with other parties to provide a solution. Gary pointed out solar might not be the right solution for resilience as most need would be in winter where there was less input or snow-covered panels, so the generator may well be needed to complement panels. The Hall Chair hoped there could be a more collaborative relationship with the Community Council and other groups going forward attending meeting etc. The skip manned by the Boating Club and Ella's Park went well at the weekend, again this shows the benefit of community groups coming together. Ella's Park are hosting afternoon teas and now with funding are hoping to advance projects at the garden.

12. Any other business:

Richard has intimated he may not be able to cut the grass round the public benches this year. The Clerk will confirm this with him and if so, advertise for someone to replace him.

13. Resilience Plan: A specific meeting for this will be required and perhaps extend this to other parties, it was suggested the Community Council was in recess in July so this could be the appropriate time to pencil in a specific meeting.

14. Meeting Review: no comments

16. Date of next meeting: will be on 28th April.

Chairman:

Date

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

DRAFT

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: Investigate electronic notice-boards

Action: Clerk

AP3: Obtain a copy of the 2025 Infrastructure report

Action: Shirley

AP4: Laise with Iain Nicholson and source memorial bench for Ella's Park

Action: Katrina

AP5: Advise the Planning Department on the timings of planning applications

Action: Clerk

AP6: Arrange the application for 2025-2026 funding

Action: Clerk