

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Monday 30th June 2025, in Bressay Hall.

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

Present:

Shirley Gifford (vice-Chair)
Margaret MacDonald
Ruth MacKenzie
Katrina Gifford
Kath Duffus
Alistair Christie-Henry
Gary Robinson
Arwed Wenger

In Attendance:

Janice Jones (Clerk)
Andrew Inkster (SIC Ferry Operations)

Agenda Items

1. Introduction and Apologies:

The Vice- Chair opened the Meeting and welcomed guests and members.

Apologies were noted from:

Lindsay Tulloch
Matt Mason
Michael Duncan
Stephen Leask

2. Declarations of interest:

The Chair asked for declarations of interest – Alistair declared an interest in ferry matters and sat out of those discussions.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The Chairman reviewed the draft minutes of the meeting on 26th May 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

Action: Chair

As the Chair was not present this is carried over.

AP1: Feedback on Ferry timetable and other issues**Action: Chair/Shirley/
SIC ferry Operations/Transport**

Andrew offered his apologies for being unable to attend previous meetings, but could inform the meeting that getting the new shift patterns in place would enable accommodating the early runs the Community Council has been asking for, beyond that he would be happy to liaise with the Community Council on any other timetable changes required, with a future degree of flexibility. He was asked how this would affect future Community runs given there would be a crew at the ferry all the time. He explained Community Runs were actually set by transport planning and whilst the crews would be more flexible it would have to be addressed to Michael Craigie. It would mean the issue of getting a crew for a community run, which sometimes was problematic, was taken away as there was a crew there. The crews through the night would be busy doing maintenance, admin and catching up on training, areas which currently are difficult to schedule and address. They will be open to discuss any changes to the timetable in the future although there was a need to be aware it would not be a "ferry on demand" service, runs would have to be timetabled by need as flexible as possible. They would of course be available for any emergency runs. Currently they were on a recruitment drive for the additional crew required for the extended services so this would not happen before September at the earliest. Obviously, things still had to be finalised with shift patterns but they were possibly looking at a 5.30 am start for crews which would open up the morning runs.

AP2: 2025-2026 Project, obtain approval to site notice-board in the Ferry waiting room window.

The clerk appraised Andrew of the suggested plans to site an electronic notice-board in the waiting room which is the Ferry Operations structure. He intimated he would not stand in the way of this and would be happy to help facilitating this, with power supply and even the installation. Obviously, it would need to be installed to their standards so it would be just as well they were involved in the installation. We will send him a formal email outlining the details and he will be happy to make this happen.

AP3: Discuss the illumination of the Defibrillator with BDL

To be updated in the future.

AP4: Explore the details of the recent Planning Application for Speldiburn and the rationale behind the plans, and the possible provision of Shower and washing machine facilities.**Action: Chair**

To be updated in the future.

AP5: Update from Ambulance Manager on the lack of call out for the ferry for ambulance runs.**Action: Chair**

To be updated in the future.

AP6: Follow up with the Health Centre on the lack of ferry tickets and the understanding of staff.**Action: Gary**

Gary has replied to the Community Council via email on these issues, from NHS Shetland:

“There has been an issue with getting tickets from the Council. This led to a period when the Lerwick Health Centre had none to give out. All the tickets we have received are dated 2024, but this should be ignored as they are still valid for use.”

“From what they can see the clinic has been consistently used and it may be that the clinician is keeping to allocated time slot and that may be why the perception is that it is not busy (one patient in and one out at the allotted time slot) – we wouldn’t want multiple people waiting for appointments to try and time things appropriately, which I would say is a good thing. “

AP7: Advise SIC Environmental Health regarding abandoned car. Action: Clerk

This has been notified to Environmental Health who have sent a receipt for the details, as yet the car has not been removed however the SIC are operating to a longer time schedule than usual.

5. Member and Visitor Reports:

Gary thought the biggest thing this month affecting Bressay was the Fixed Links project advancing to the next stage looking at how implementation would happen, making a programme on how all four would happen, which includes how ferries would be redeployed etc. So far there is little prospect of either government coming forward with hard cash so for financing they are looking at some kind of a hybrid model – tolls, existing ferry grants and any other money that can be sourced. Probably similar structure to that in Faeroe where when the capital is paid off the tolls end, usually over a 25-year period although when it is paid off sooner the tolls end. They are probably looking at a toll structure similar to ferry fares. Gary was asked - How vigorously are the SIC representatives campaigning to ensure we don’t have tolls on fixed links taking into account what is happening in the Western Isles, the Forth Road Bridge, the Keswick Bridge, the Skye Bridge etc. All the bridges are toll free so why should Shetland have charges on fixed links just because Faeroe has charges? Arwed suggested no decision had been made, however it was reiterated we had to have councillors fighting our corner to say there should be no tolls. Gary reiterated all options are open and if there was no government funding available, we had to be receptive to hybrid offers and to ensure it happens a mixed source of funding. The other issue with a tunnel to Bressay was the accessibility for foot passengers and cyclist. Gary could say this is greatly due to UK regulations and has been passed on to the consultants and how this can be potentially challenged and changed. The Yell and Unst communities have no contemplation of this. Bressay is significantly different and this has been left with Santek.

6. Infrastructure: Ferry timetables have been adequately dealt with. One question was what had happened on Sunday that the ferry service was suspended until 10.00 am? This was an automatic shutdown on the engine kicking in, it is a safety feature so this had now been by passed until the appropriate spares can be received and was not something that would have been picked up on the refit. It was not advertised on public forums, just the voice bank as they got to a solution fairly quickly.

It was noted the youths were again gathering in the waiting room, and this had been noted by the SIC officials and councillors on travelling this evening. Whilst the previous incidents were resolved by the Community Team and Police involvement this has started up again with certain ferries and individuals targeted. The police have been involved, Andrew will ask for this to be kept an eye on, some years ago a window being added to the door was suggested but didn’t happen then as the issue had been resolved but that is something to

consider in the future, meanwhile there is cc tv which can be viewed after an incident. The suggestion of high-pitched noise and unfavourable music was also added. Andrew had no information on the Maryfield Road footpath however he will speak to Niel Hutchison and one of them will provide and update.

7. SIC Strategic outline case for fixed links: General consensus was this was quite a lot to digest and many variables therefore would be best left for an occasion were more time was available.

8. 2025 CC Election Planning: An e-mail had been circulated and members are aware the elections are coming up in November, with nominations in September and the need for members to promote people to consider standing, and in particular young people. Although the Community Council membership is eight full members and there are currently eight members it was noted not all may choose to stand again and there was a need for more than eight candidates to ensure an election.

9. 2025-2026 Project: This was covered under Andrew's update.

10. Correspondence: The clerk outlined the correspondence that was forwarded, the only one that was forwarded today was the one on grass cutting in burial grounds. Some discussion ensued on the robotic grass cutting! Emails had been forwarded on the National Islands plan, on Marine Planning and on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services review.

11. Planning Applications: None

12. Finance: Grant applications & Financial position: There were no grant applications and no major expenditures this month and little to report on the financials.

13. Bressay Groups Update (Hall, Sports Club, Boating Club, BDL etc.) - The Chair of the Hall Committee had popped in before the meeting to tell us about a Pizza night on Saturday and let us know they are looking for feedback from groups who use the hall on improvements the groups would like to see. They are looking to improve the kitchen and disabled toilet; however, they would like to incorporate further suggestions. It was pointed out the windows needed attention particularly in the toilets and kitchen. A tidy meeting room was also meted as a necessity as meetings often attracts people from all over and a scruffy meeting room was not a good look reflecting on the island as a whole. Plus, it was used as the family room for funerals and weddings etc.

Ella's Park is having a picnic in the park on the 26th July and Sunday teas booked for the 2nd of August. On the whole it is looking good and is getting used which is the main thing.

14. Any other business:

We have been issued with copies of the Community Council Code of Conduct and the Standing Orders for the Community Council which all members need to be aware of. Shirley signed both on behalf of the Community Council after proposals by Alistair and seconding by Margaret.

14. Meeting Review: no comments

16. Date of next meeting: will be on 25th August although there will be an informal meeting of members on the 28th July to create the Island Resilience Plan.

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: Explore the details of the recent Planning Application for Spediburn and the rationale behind the pla, and the possible provision of Shower and washing machine facilities.

Action: Chair

AP2: Update from Ambulance Manager on the lack of call out for the ferry for ambulance runs.

Action: Chair

DRAFT