

# BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025, in Bressay Hall.

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

### Present:

Lindsay Tulloch (Chair)  
Margaret MacDonald  
Ruth MacKenzie  
Katrina Gifford  
Alistair Christie-Henry  
Matt Mason  
Gary Robinson  
Arwed Wenger  
Stephen Leask

### In Attendance:

Janice Jones (Clerk)  
Andrew Inkster (SIC Ferry Operations)  
Alan Street (Scottish Fire & Rescue)

### Agenda Items

#### 1. Introduction and Apologies:

The Chair opened the Meeting and welcomed guests and members and did a round of introductions.

#### Apologies were noted from:

Shirley Gifford  
Kath Duffus  
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 30<sup>th</sup> June and sought their approval, proposed by Margaret and seconded by Ruth.

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

##### **Continued AP1 Community Resilience plan & Generator**

**Action: Chair**

This is now included in the draft Resilience Plan so we will discuss this later in the agenda.

##### **AP1: Explore the details of the recent Planning Application for Speldiburn and the rationale behind the plan, and the possible provision of Shower and washing machine facilities.**

**Action: Chair**

The Chair had invited a member of BDL to come to tonight's meeting however there was no one available to attend. They have indicated they will be having a public session on Sunday in the back room of the Hall at the Garden Show, where their Chair and Vice-Chair would be there to give details and answer queries. The Chair urged members to attend; Ruth and Karina intimated they would be available.

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

**Action: Chair**

This related to a query where on a few occasions the ambulance had come across when they had been seen by the ferry rather than a formal call out. The Chair has spoken to Drew Mayhew who did a review of the call outs during the time periods and there were no emergency calls: although the ambulance had been deployed these had been deemed non urgent therefore did not warrant an official call out. He has offered assurance processes are still in place with no change to call out procedures. These calls had not been blue light calls. The ferry would process ambulances as priority and this will all change with the 24-hour crewing, although the routing via the Coastguard will still be in place to ensure the ferry is across.

#### **5. Member and Visitor Reports:**

The SIC has just come out of recess and going through the exercise of examining budgets with the realisation we are in an unattainable position. A notice of motion regarding the Island games was received which was very favourable. Today Stephen had attended a seminar regarding the SIC estates but nothing specific regarding Bressay. Gary has attended the same meetings as Stephen and also the Stakeholder Group meeting for tunnels. Andy Sloan had attended and explained more about the process. The North Isles are realising the work they are doing may not be quite as helpful as they thought. The SIC has tasked Andy Sloan's company to pull together all the elements, the timeline is looking to be 2030 for definition and the order of what gets done etc. after an interim report next year. There is a further round of consultation coming shortly. Arwed had been to the Lib Dems Tunnel vision meeting across the Islands. There had been considerable confusion over the times which had resulted in a lower attendance.

Alan Street introduced himself as one of two Fire Station Commanders working out of Lerwick and wanted to give an overview of what was happening across Shetland and latterly Bressay. Training has been going well. Recruitment is, as always, an ongoing issue. In Lerwick they have recruited 7 new trainees, Bressay has for a while been operating at minimum crewing levels and has had a member resign which has taken the level below what is regarded as a safe crewing level. A lot of work has been put in which has resulted in one candidate for whom we are finalising paperwork prior to training plus five notices of interest from within Bressay and one application about to be submitted – this is all down to the hard work of Watch Commander James Tulloch. The viability of Bressay Fire Station is down to the community that surrounds it. In the last year the Bressay station had four turnouts,

incidents attended, one fire and three special services. This year so far there has been one turnout, which was a false alarm. There is an ongoing public consultation regarding Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for the whole of Scotland and is an opportunity to shape the direction of the service. He was asked about the estate and the viability of the Leirness fire station. An H&SE notice had been received and the station status and now been moved to garaging and storage. So, the appliance and equipment will be held there but for training etc. the crew will travel to Lerwick. The Watch Commander has a good plan in place to get the crews to Lerwick whenever he can. In the longer mid-term, the Service is looking at some kind of modular units to facilitate improvements (e.g. at Baltasound etc.) It was suggested the current lack of facilities puts off potential recruits.

#### **6. Infrastructure: Andrew Inkster, Director Ferry Operations.**

The new shift arrangements going to 24-hour ferry staffing from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, at this time the first run out of Bressay will be 6.00 am – follow up confirmation will come in writing soon. We are open to further discussion regarding other timetable arrangements at a later date – this will also need to involve transport planning.

There has been movement from Andrew's team regarding the electronic noticeboard and we will discuss this more fully at item 11.

Concerns regarding the youths in the waiting room had been addressed with the police and the anti-social team so hopefully there will be some improvement.

The Maryfield footpath - there has been no information on this.

Changes to the Sunday time-table will be part of the wider discussions on timetables, however the new system will open opportunities.

It was asked if the collection of fares as people came on board the ferry would circumvent the wi-fi problems on board. Andrew agreed they were having a lot of problems with the machines and are looking at obtaining new machines but this takes time.

The community council is aware that some tourists are not aware of the ditches which are covered in grass, this had resulted in a visitor ending up in a & e, would it be possible to have some kind of a warning sign as visitors came off the ferry to intimate it was single track roads with deep ditches. This too can be passed on to Neil Hutchison.

It was asked if some shelter could be added down at the ferry as passengers waiting to board can get very wet. Andrew will discuss this with roads and see what could be done.

**7. Resilience Plan:** This was discussed at the extra meeting in July and a draft circulated to members. This was further discussed and will be shared with other groups, particularly the hall and other individuals who could perhaps volunteer to support the community. The future risk assessment will compliment this as a starting point. As well as sharing with the other groups it could also be shared with Blue Light groups etc. The Chair will share this with the other relevant groups.

**Action: Chair**

**8. 2025 CC Election Planning:** We have had further updates regarding the time-table – nomination forms can be submitted from the 15<sup>th</sup> September to the 16<sup>th</sup> October. The Clerk will print a stack of forms and put to the shop where members and others can obtain copies. Members have agreed to actively pursue recruitment.

**Action: Clerk**

**9. CC Scheme of Arrangements:** At the last meeting the members adopted the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders; this has now been expanded. Members have had it circulated and reviewed, adoption was proposed by Margaret and seconded by Lindsay, and the Chair signed it off.

**10. Removal of Pay Phone:** Members agreed we really do wish to retain this to ensure there is still a payphone available on the island, particularly with its proximity to the sea. The Chair

will respond to BT regarding this. Matt could confirm the shop has been asked to take on the decommissioned box. **Action: Chair**

**11. 2025-2026 Project:** Andrew had actioned this within his department and the clerk met with his staff to review what we had planned. Our plans were not ideal from a building point of view as estates would be reluctant to accept the installation inside, and with discussion an alternative was agreed. This is the same equipment as is used in the Scalloway Fish market, and would be sited on the outside of the waiting room. From the discussion we understand the installation would be facilitated by Ferry Services – Andrew agreed this would be acceptable.

**12. Correspondance:** Quite a lot has been circulated. Details of the telephone switch over has been cascaded and put on FB, The Chair will attend the VAS AGM, Marine renewables was attended by Kath, 9<sup>th</sup> September is the Energy Project engagement meeting which Matt will attend. BDL has requested the council makes the area between the Fullaburn houses a green area, for a growing space. This area had previously had planning permission for five houses. This would be an obvious area for housing with amenities already in place. The Community Council would require further information.

**13. Planning Applications:** None

**14. Finance: Grant applications & Financial position:** The Viking project has invited members to attend a seminar on 22<sup>nd</sup> September for details on the updated grant process. The Clerk will attend (via Zoom) and other members will consider attending. Confirmation of participants of the Voar Redd Up has now been received from the Amenity Trust so we can now allocate these grants. No additional expenditure has been incurred other than the basic running costs.

**15. Bressay Groups Update (Hall, Sports Club, Boating Club, BDL etc.) -** The Chair will attend the next hall committee meeting. The boating Club has had some correspondence from the Water Safety group – PAWS, Partnership Approach to Water Safety, this is a national model. They are asking for people to report any damage to safety equipment. The Boating Club had nothing to report but there are probably other organisations who should be on the circulation list. They also have a safety programme. It would be good if the Community Council could spread that message. The Haar Sauna came along to the Boating Club which was well attended and they will also do a risk assessment on the marina area for wild swimming. Caravan numbers are also up which includes returning visitors. Ella's Park open day went well as did the Sunday teas and the new bench is installed and the wooden fence will soon be started. Feedback from people has been very favourable. There has been quite a few Sunday Teas and all have been very well attended. The Sunday Teas FB page has been very successful.

**16. Any other business:** None

**17. Meeting Review:** No comments

**18. Date of next meeting:** will be on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025. There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 20.40.

Chairman:

Date

To contact the Community Council please email us at [bressaycc@gmail.com](mailto:bressaycc@gmail.com) or telephone 07532054521 or contact any Community Council Member.

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