

# BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025, in Bressay Hall.

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

### Present:

Lindsay Tulloch (Chair)  
Shirley Gifford  
Margaret MacDonald  
Ruth MacKenzie  
Katrina Gifford  
Gary Robinson  
Stephen Leask

### 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  
Kath Duffus  
Arwed Wenger

#### 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 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**

The Chair and Matt have had a meeting with Ian Taylor the SIC Resilience Advisor on how to facilitate a workshop and received some pointers on how to go forward. The Chair has made a proposal to Matt in his role of Chief Fire Officer that the Community Council could buy a generator which could then be transferred ownership to the Fire Service here in Bressay, housed and maintained by them. We could pay for the hook up at the Hall to be used in an emergency when needed. Matt thought this was a good idea however would need approval centrally in the Scottish Fire & Rescue, although he could not see an issue.

**AP1: Feedback on Ferry timetable and other issues**

**Action: Chair/Shirley/  
SIC ferry Operations/Transport**

We are still waiting for an update from Ferry Operations on the shift system and other related infrastructure issues such as an earlier ferry. Mr Inkster has not attended a meeting for some time with no substitute or written update provided. This will be progressed with senior management in infrastructure service.

**Action: Clerk**

**AP2: Investigate electronic notice-boards**

This will be covered further through the agenda.

**AP3: Obtain a copy of the 2025 Infrastructure report**

Shirley passed round a copy of the list prepared by Neil Hutchison.

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

Mr Nicholson is sending a bench up from south as they would like a sturdier bench than those available here. This will be engraved on the bench rather than just a plaque.

**AP5: Advise the Planning Department on the timings of planning application**

Completed

**AP6: Arrange the application for 2025-2026 funding**

Completed

**5. Member and Visitor Reports:**

There have been few meetings since the end of March when the Community Council plan was approved. The SIC members have been approached by an individual regarding housing in Bressay, whilst the Councillors thought this was very much down to individual landowners, they wondered what the Community Council approach was. The Community Council agreed there was a need for housing in the island and understood BDL had been looking at this in their Community Survey. It would be interesting to see the results of that. So far, we believe they have just been looking at the need, rather than facilitating. There are issues trying to find house sites. Perhaps this could be driven by a Place Plan. Housing has said there is demand although not huge numbers, similarly in the local plan. This is also part of the bigger picture that goes along with transport and facilities, the cost for young families moving to the Island with nurseries and schools. This is needed in the Place Plan which we do not have the capacity to produce. Scalloway had Government funding for their Place Plan. Lerwick has also decided not to progress with a Place Plan, again due to lack of resources. It needs to be looked at by a Development Company or the Development Department. We really could do with this especially in the light of renewables and large corporations looking at areas which we might need to protect.

**6. Infrastructure:** The Infrastructure report has been circulated. The Telemeter switch off may throw up some issues with mixed messages from providers and issues with new ones working particularly with Wi-Fi updates. The obligation is on the provider to ensure they work.

**7. 2025-2026 Project:** The 2025 project is completed other than one or two tweaks on the signage, hopefully the leaflets will be here for the next meeting. The Clerk shared details of a

suggested noticeboard display which can be mounted on the floor or the roof inside the waiting room window. This can be updated over Wi-Fi or plug and play (password protected/disabled port) to avoid interference. This would need electrical hookup and of course permission from Ferry Operations to install. The total cost is approximately £2,100 plus carriage to Shetland. Some concern was raised regarding the possibility of vandalism – it was suggested this would need to be enclosed, especially in the light of that Lerwick waiting room notice board has been found to be off the wall on one side. This has now been fixed however we need to keep an eye on it. This could be a resource for the whole community. There would be less risk of vandalism on the Bressay side however a cabinet of some kind would add protection. The next step would be to engage with Ferry Operations for their support and approval, this can be added to our approach to the Director of Infrastructure.

**Action: Clerk**

**8. Correspondence:** We have had communications regarding Highland Broadbands solicitations. It would be helpful for someone to go to the meeting and/or speak to the delegate. Ruth agreed to take this forward, especially as we are not on the list for the Island communication scheme. This ties into the electricity meters being reliant on Wi-Fi as well as people working from home etc.

We have had a request for a community run from the Up Hell Aa committee - we have been given the four runs for this year. The chair proposed we should support it and this was agreed unanimously.

Kath is going to attend the Viking gene forum. There has been a lot of emails circulated although no further ones required action.

**9. Planning Applications:** None

**10. Finance: Grant applications & Financial position:**

The funding for 2025-2026 has been applied for based on the breakdown of last year spending. Some discussion ensued regarding the total amount allocated to us due to a misunderstanding by the clerk. Our funding for the year is £9,027 which is the same amount in total from previous years, despite costs increasing. No one has come forward to apply to cut the grass round the benches (although someone has expressed an interest) and not replacing the grass cutting could be looked at as a cost saving, the only two that needs much maintenance is the one at Uphouse and at the Kirk. It was decided to see how this progressed before replacing grass cutting might not be best value for the community. We have a considerable amount available for grants in the Community Benefit Fund which could support services within the community, plus there is the Coastal Communities fund that organisations can tap into.

**11. Bressay Groups Update (Hall, Sports Club, Boating Club, BDL etc.)** - There was some information regarding hall plans for a new kitchen and the public now being invited to their meeting. There is some discussion in the boating club for a fish and chip night in the hall. Nothing from BDL. Ella's Park has planted 100 trees and another bench and compost bin installed.

**12. Any other business:**

A constituent has noted the defibrillator at Speldiburn is not very well lit at night to know how to unhook it, it is in a shadowed corner so they had had difficulty seeing how to access it and

didn't know how to. An easy light with a motion sensor could be a solution. Matt and the Fire services is responsible to maintain it so we will pass this on to Matt.

The Ferry Skipper has advised the Chair that on three or four occasions in the last month the ambulance has arrived however the ferry has not been notified and it was only by luck they had seen the ambulance and went to pick it up – this puts 25 minutes on the ambulance response time because they haven't received the call to go. The Chair will ask Ian Taylor to look into this.

Ferry tickets for Health Centre visit are often unavailable – with patients being told they had to have them posted to them. Other patients have been given the wrong information that they have to apply for them. Health Service staff seems to be quite unsure how this works. This has been happening for a few weeks. Gary will follow this up.

Gary has been further exploring assistance for the Bruntland road and had a further refusal of help so has now exhausted all possibilities.

**14. Meeting Review:** no comments

**16. Date of next meeting:** will be on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

By email: Lindsay Tulloch

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.

# **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**

**Clerk to contact the director for a substitute attendee.**

**AP1: 2025-2026 Project, approach the SIC regarding obtaining approval to site**

**notice-board in the Ferry waiting room window.**

**Action: Clerk**

**AP2: Investigate the lighting on the Defibrillator at Speldiburn**

**Action: Matt**

**AP3: Advise Ian Taylor of the lack of call out for the ferry for ambulance runs.**

**Action: Chair**

**AP4: Follow up with the Health Centre on the lack of ferry tickets and the understanding of staff.**

**Action: Gary**