

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Monday 27th October 2025, in Bressay Hall.

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

Present:

Lindsay Tulloch (Chair)
Margaret MacDonald
Ruth Mackenzie
Kath Duffus
Stephen Leask
Arwed Wenger

In Attendance:

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

Agenda Items

1. Introduction and Apologies:

The Chair opened the Meeting at 19.15 and welcomed members to the hall noting that the meeting was quorate.

He also made note of the recent death of a previous resident of Bressay, Rex Fearnough and expressed the condolences of BCC to his friends and family.

Apologies were noted from:

Alistair Christie-Henry
Katrina Gifford
Michael Duncan
Gary Robinson
Shirley Gifford
Matt Mason

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 6th October and requested their approval: proposed by Margaret and seconded by Lindsay.

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

Continued AP1 Community Resilience plan & Generator

Action: Chair

The Chair had presented the plan to the Hall Committee which was quite well received. This is to be shared further with other Island Groups. There has been further consideration to share this wider with the Ambulance, Fire and Police services, in relation to getting their views on it. He has spoken to the Ferry Skipper regarding ferry call outs and it would be an idea to build emergency call outs into the plan and it can be re-engineered as a Resilience and Emergency Plan; emergency services accessing the Island is perhaps the greatest area of concern for residents. The Director of Ferry Services (Andrew Inkster) concurred, pointing out the existing arrangements is very clear, all the emergency services know that the arrangement is they contact the Coastguard, the Coastguard in turn contact the duty crew. Now with the change in shift arrangements the crew is already there.

AP1. Respond to Michael Duncan re deferring decisions on dates to the new Committee.

The Clerk will respond to inform the SIC it will be up to the new committee to arrange dates.

Action: Clerk

AP2. Contact Hall and Sports Club to arrange manning of a skip before the end of November.

The clerk has arranged the Sports Club to man a skip on 15th and 16th November, we are currently waiting on confirmation from the SIC for the supply of the skip, but don't anticipate a problem.

Action: Clerk

5. Member and Visitor Reports: Stephen confirmed the SIC had been in recess during the October holidays, however earlier in the month there had been a seminar on the corporate plan. The major factor was looking at ideas to avoid drawing down on reserves as well as looking at mid-term rents. The biggest correspondence to both Councillors is regarding the 20-mph speed limit and speed bumps in Lerwick. He had also been interested in seeing what BDL had planned for the Lighthouse. Arwed pondered if it was really worth the cost of adding speed bumps as well as the 20-mph limit. The main consideration was being able to cross the main roads between parked cars.

6. Infrastructure: Andrew Inkster, Director Ferry Operations.

Andrew had updated Neil Hutchison regarding the Maryfield Path and ditches, he has got back to us regarding the path but nothing as yet regarding the ditches. At the moment there has been no update regarding the noticeboard. Ferry Ops had been waiting for the Community Council to get back to them and vice versa. There had been some confusion as to whether BCC was applying for grant funding or Ferry Operations was providing the full project. Andrew could give assurance this will be fully funded by Ferry Operations. The shelter at the end of the pier is proving to be problematic as there is not a lot of room at the ferry end, however he will continue to investigate possibilities. The festive timetable has been published on the SIC website with increased runs. It was pointed out there had been no consultation with

the Community Council. Sunday morning runs are not practical, Leirna because of the frequency of it's runs gets less time during the week for drills and maintenance therefore the only way a 9.30 run could be accommodated would be to move e.g. the 10.30 run to leave a two-hour daytime block. Some discussion took place as to whether the 10.30 run was for people going to the kirk in Lerwick. People with children going to sports events had been in touch because of the long delay time in Lerwick going over earlier. Andrew will look at usage from the ticket machines and see what the popular times were.

7. Resilience Plan: Already discussed.

8. 2025-2026 Project: Already discussed. It was pointed out we still had some funds available to spend on complimentary items for the noticeboard. Publishing software was muted, perhaps the members would come up with some suggestions.

9. Correspondence: Various items have been circulated, of importance was the Cyber Crime protection. This ties in with the Public Protection Committee and Protection in the Community Sub Committee. The Chair can access promotional and awareness material in relation to online harm which we can use to circulate on social media. The Chair will look further into this with a different topic each month. An invitation to a heritage workshop will be forwarded to the History Group.

Action: Chair/Clerk

10. Planning Applications: None

11. Finance: Grant applications & Financial position: There was a grant application for the Seniors Christmas Party, this was unanimously approved, having been previously discussed at the last meeting. The Sports Club has requested a £11,480 from SCBF, to improve the parking area at the sports pitch. It is the only sporting ground on the Island and with funds available this was unanimously supported. The Voar Redd Up funds were released. The Clerk shared the financial position, and detailed the funds available. The clerk will prepare projections to the end of the financial year.

12. Rededication of War Memorials: Back in spring time the Community Council discussed that the War Memorials have been refurbished, the kirk owners had done so at their own expense. At that time, it was decided it would be a good idea to have them re-dedicated and the Community Council would help to make this happen. The Chair has been on touch with the owners and Bressay History Group and it has been decided Remembrance Sunday (November 9th) would be the ideal occasion. A re-dedication ceremony and wreath laying has been organised followed by teas and a talk at Speldiburn. The members unanimously agreed to support this by purchasing the wreath and making a donation to the teas.

13. Bressay Groups Update (Hall, Sports Club, Boating Club, BDL etc.) -
The Sports Club is actively fund raising to supplement the grant for their car park. The Boating Club is looking at a Fish & Chip night. Stuart Barton attended the meeting and outlined the BDL proposals for the refurbishment at Speldiburn, and

also the details of the sale of the Lighthouse. Funding for Speldiburn has been secured for the first phase, HIE funding will pay for the building warrant. The first phase will be the refurbishment of the old toilets and outside area. Funding for Amiee and Jo's positions has now finished however they still have some part-time roles in the organisation. Part of HIE funding is for work policy which is above minimum wages which pushes the wages bill up. The price of the Lighthouse is now reduced to £300,000 and the refurbishment cost less than originally anticipated although material cost has increased. They have been looking at the community buyout route, with housing a mixture of long-term rental and holiday lets. There are a few hurdles to go through. Community Energy and Development have a new person coming on board and looking at consultation & surveys. One of the remits is mapping ownership of the Island, whilst BDL don't want to build it could be a case of facilitating land ownership and housing. There are some council houses in Bressay with no applicants and council officials advising applicants not to come to Bressay because of the cost of living here. Plus, there is the difficulty of Bressay being lumped in with Lerwick in housing surveys etc.

14. Any other business: There had been a lack of communication regarding the breakdown of the Essy Cart. It had only been put on the SIC website/FB page in the afternoon. However, notification of the second breakdown was earlier. Andrew will pick this up with Waste Management.

There is an increasing number of patients being told to get their blood tests done in Lerwick rather than in Bressay. Is there any kind of audit to see how many people can't be seen in Bressay. The Chair will share this in an email to Kim Anderson. The Chair pointed out this was the concluding meeting of the current Community Council term and paid thanks to the members who were standing down. Kath Duffus and Matt Mason of the last three years and long-standing members Shirley Gifford and Alistair Christie-Henry, who have both continued to volunteer their time to support the work of the community council for Bressay. Alistair serving for 31 years, a good part of that time as Chair.

The new Community Council will convene at the end of November and there are a few people who have expressed interest. Once the first meeting has been convened and officers appointed, new members can be co-opted at that meeting (and after).

14. Meeting Review: No comments

15. Date of next meeting: will be on 24th November 2025. There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21.00.

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

AP1. Respond to Michael Duncan re deferring decisions on dates to the new Committee. Action: Clerk

AP2. Look at Sunday Morning Ferry usage from the ticket machine to assess run frequency. Action: Andrew Inkster

AP3. Forward Public Protection Committee posters for FB publication Action: Chair

AP4. Enquire with Waste Management if there is any ability to advise essy kert breakdowns in a timelier manner. Action: Andrew Inkster

AP5. Email to Kim Anderson to explore the numbers of people who have been unable to get appointments in Bressay rather than the actual usage. Action: Chair