

# BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## **Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:**

Held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025, in Bressay Hall.

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

### **Present:**

Katrina Gifford  
Lindsay Tulloch  
Margaret MacDonald  
Ruth Mackenzie (By video link)  
Andrea Sanchez  
Graham March  
Stephen Leask  
Arwed Wenger  
Gary Robinson

### **In Attendance:**

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

### **Agenda Items**

#### **1. Introduction and Apologies:**

The Clerk opened the Meeting at 19.15 and welcomed members to the hall noting that the meeting was quorate. New members and SIC representatives were introduced.

#### **Apologies were noted from:**

Michael Duncan

#### **2. Election of Chair:**

Nominations were invited for the position of Chair. Lindsay was proposed by Margaret, seconded by Ruth. He accepted the nomination and with no further nominations was appointed as Chair.

#### **3. Election of Vice Chair:**

Nominations were invited for the role of Vice-Chair: Ruth was nominated by Lindsay, seconded by Margaret, Ruth accepted the nomination and with no further nominations was appointed as Vice-Chair.

#### **4. Introduction of ex-officio members, and process for co-option.**

SIC Representatives were introduced and their role explained. The Clerk outlined the procedure for the co-option of new members, both full members and associates. There had been some people who had expressed an interest and it was decided members would get in touch with them and invite them to the next meeting. Full members can be anyone over 16 however associate members (non-voting) can be over 12.

#### **5. Declarations of interest:**

Arwed declared an interest in any planning applications as he is a member of the Planning Committee.

#### **6. Minute review:**

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved. Proposed by Margaret and seconded by Katrina.

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

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

**AP2. Look at Sunday Morning Ferry usage from the ticket machine to assess run frequency.** Action: Andrew Inkster  
Andrew will address this in his infrastructure report.

**AP3. Forward Public Protection Committee posters for FB publication** Action: Chair  
One came in today from Police Scotland others will be added as they arrive.

**AP4. Enquire with Waste Management if there is any ability to advise essy kert breakdowns in a timelier manner.** Action: Andrew Inkster  
Andrew will address this in his infrastructure report.

**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  
This is on the agenda for later discussion.

**8. Member and Visitor Reports:** Stephen could confirm November had been busy, for himself; the Licencing Board & Committee had been in action although nothing there pertained to Bressay. Education & Families – Bells Brae got a really good report; the Harbour Board dealt with the problem with small boats which will lead to instruction for small boat users probably next year. There had been various seminars including one on the Dales Voe ammonia plant which had irked him due to the attitude other councillors displayed to spills that the plant should be at the other side of the voe as there were not many people at the North End of Bressay to be affected. The re-dedication of the Memorial Plaques had been a pleasure to attend. He had also been emailed regarding the waiting room and has passed this on to the appropriate people. Tonight while waiting for the ferry he decided to have a look at

the waiting room – it was full, and after the youngsters had left he visited. The place was a mess with bottles and wrappers and even a curry on the outside. He has taken photographs and will pass them on to the relevant people. Gary has also been on a number of committees – this week the Development Committee met and various strategies regarding housing, etc. Last month he was at the COSLA conference with the other local authority groups and attended fringe groups including NISO the electricity distribution group, they expect Shetland to come fully on to the National Grid and the Battery Park connected by the end of October next year. The empty homes partnership is keen to work with us to get homes into full use especially to get workers in. The Sub-sea cable is discussed in the Council on a regular basis; it is good to see the appropriate bodies take responsibility. Arwed had been to the meeting of Sustainable Shetland and advised the meeting of Kergord II has been deferred to Thursday.

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

Andrew has passed on the details about the signage for deep ditches to Niel Hutchison. The shelter at the Linkspan has been looked at by the SIC staff and are considering options. Maintenance day on board the ferry moving the time on a Sunday – the crew feedback was that moving it to the middle of the day would work well to give more service in the morning. He could confirm they needed the full two hours and from ferry usage statistics it would appear that around lunchtime would be the quieter part of the day. It was thought we would need to consult users rather than just moving the problem. Andrew will come back with some options which the Community Council can put forward. The problems with the Essy Kert has been flagged. All communications are handled by one team which is outside departmental control. It would be helpful if delay details could be emailed directly to the community council – these sent by the ferries are sent direct from the department and he can suggest to waste management this could be a solution. The waiting room is difficult to find a solution for. Issuing keys would limit access, therefore is not ideal. It is not something the crew can take responsibility for, it is not part of their role or their training. Andrew has had a meeting with the Anti-Social Behaviour team and the Youth Hub. It needs a wider Council approach and to this end he has also contacted the Director of Education for a multi-agency approach. The police are aware but will only get involved in the case of criminal activity. Currently the Community Wardens are not around in the evenings as their hours have been cut. It was suggested if people are complaining to us and are intimidated, they do need to contact the police as there is criminality involved in this. If nothing has been reported the Police have no information to act on, so we would encourage people to report any incidents. The bottom line is the teenagers having somewhere to go – the hub is very underutilised. Meanwhile Andrew will keep up the discussions especially with the Education Department.

**10. Health Update:** The lack of appointments in Bressay has been highlighted to Kim Anderson who will look at the figures of usage. There have been no ferry tickets available for patients. The front staff don't seem to understand the scheme. The Chair has emailed Brian Chittock but is awaiting a reply, meanwhile we will keep this on the agenda for future updates.

**11. Correspondence:** Everything has been shared during the month. The new members have been added to the group emails and will be added to the WhatsApp group. Community Conversations has been shared on Facebook and members should consider attending.

**12. Planning Applications:** None

**13. Finance: Grant applications & Financial position:** there has been no grant applications nor much movement on the financial side. The clerk will look at doing some year end projections for the next meeting. We will need to plan for further skips.

**14. Bressay Groups Update (Hall, Sports Club, Boating Club, BDL etc.) -** Ruth attended the last Hall Committee meeting; their survey has been very successful.

**15.. Any other business:** Dates were set for the meeting for the new year with the meeting moving to the last Tuesday of the month, with the January meeting being a week earlier to avoid clashing with Up Helly Aa. Andrea queried the relationship between BCC, the Hall and BDL – and the sharing of information. The BDL Chair had attended the BCC last meeting, it would be good if we could send a representative to the BDL meeting as we do to the Hall. The Clerk will email BDL and request a list of their dates to see if we could send a representative.

**16. Meeting Review:** No comments

**17. Date of next meeting:** will be on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026. 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](mailto:bressaycc@gmail.com) or telephone 07532054521 or contact any Community Council Member.