

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Monday 20th January 2026, in Bressay Hall.

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

Present:

Katrina Gifford
Lindsay Tulloch
Margaret MacDonald
Ruth Mackenzie
Graham March
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.

Apologies were noted from:

Andrea Sanchez
Michael Duncan
Stephen Leask
Gary Robinson

3. Declarations of interest:

None.

4. Minute review:

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

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

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.

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

She had looked at clinic capacity and usage and since December has increased capacity. There were appointments available in December which indicated demand was being met, they will continue to monitor usage. It was suggested the Health Centre systems didn't differentiate between Lerwick and Bressay appointments, and the GPs don't see the Bressay facility. Much of the onus is on the patient to remind the reception about booking Bressay and to remember to ask for Ferry tickets. We will put a reminder on FB to Islanders to ask for appointments at Bressay to ensure the facility continues to be used.

5. Member and Visitor Reports: Arwed had little going on as the Environment & Transport Committee had been cancelled. Information on the waiting room will come up under infrastructure.

6. Infrastructure: Andrew Inkster, Director Ferry Operations:

Little new has been going on. The shelter at the Pier Head was still being looked at: the notice board has been ordered; it will be in a stainless-steel housing, which is lockable, mounted on the outside front of the building; the clerk has been sent details and the manual. The display can be operated either by a memory stick or WiFi. Ideally, we would be able to access remotely and look at WiFi for the future. It is important the notice board can be updated remotely to ensure up to date information and notices for the public. All Community notices can be displayed with things like ferry changes, Noss changes, bruk collection, etc. Because of the size it can't be on the corner – people will be aware a notice is there but will have to turn into the car park to view. Other community groups will send us the details/posters for us to update; we will retain the only access and monitor appropriateness. This will also benefit visitors to know if something is going on/Noss changes. We would also need a backup both for this or for FaceBook. Graham volunteered to assist.

It has been notified to the Community Council that the Bridge over the Slukka at some time had side bars put up as a temporary measure. It is a very narrow piece of road and these are causing a problem for big vehicles and the snow plough. They are very unstable with potential erosion/flooding. Andrew will put this to roads at Wednesday's meeting.

Also brought up to the community Council, before Christmas at a time of bad weather the ferry tied up in Lerwick. However, it was understood the ferry should always be tied up in Bressay, for local resilience so an emergency run could take place out of the Island or if not able to run the Pilot boat/Lifeboat could utilise the ferry ramps of embarkation/disembarkation. Andrew was not aware but will investigate. This was also the understanding of some Community Council members who agreed tying up in Lerwick was very unusual. Ultimately it is up to the Master to tie up where it is safe but it may well be a new master who was not aware of local protocol.

The waiting room – a number of photographs were shared and whilst the rubbish lying around was not good much more serious was the intimidation that had been reported, adults being videoed after being told to leave etc. Consensus was there was nowhere else for the teenagers to go, but anything provided has to meet so many protocols. The Chair will email the council anti-social behaviour officer Billy

Mycock and Martin Summers, Youth and Employability officer from the Hub, Chris Sewell from the Police, and Lerwick Community Council as this is anti-social behaviour in Lerwick not just affecting Bressay. He also noted a street pastor initiative is starting soon. Andrew has been in touch with Billy Mycock on a regular basis, the Hub is not always available and many don't want to go there. In the summer there are other places the youths choose to go. The agencies know who the perpetrators are but it is difficult to address. He has also spoken to the Director of Education who is willing to meet and discuss. Much of the problem is lack of resource and Ferry Services has exhausted possibilities, keying the door and issuing fobs is a short-term solution but a multi-agency approach would be the best approach. This is especially the case where youngsters are putting themselves at risk which could be the case here if they should choose to challenge the wrong person! There are bigger questions to be asked and there is a similar problem in the Lanes.

There is a lack of light at the Maryfield corner especially now with Maryfield being closed. Road Services has emailed for confirmation on the ownership of the land on the South side of the proposed path – members could confirm the ownership and the Clerk will respond.

7. Health Update: This was covered earlier.

8. Correspondence: We have had quite a lot shared; Ruth has signed up for the local Place Plans training on 4th February. We had had an email regarding cars parked at the Glebe, one in a disabled space without a Blue Badge and another by the same owner in the Ambulance waiting bay. The Clerk had suggested this was a police matter, which it is, if it is blocking the Ambulance. If they are not taxed this is the Environment Agency. We will pass the details on to the police.

We had had a reply regarding the bottle bank which was emptied today. They have a new bottle truck coming so there will be less risk of breakdowns when the bin needs to be emptied, they are also trialling bigger bins in built up areas and he suggested a second bin should meet the need in Bressay. The Clerk has asked for a timescale for this but so far has not had a response. If people are leaving boxes and bags with bottles that get broken then that is actually fly-tipping.

We had written to BDL to send a representative to their meetings in order to build relationships and closer working between BDL and the community council; a reply has been received from the secretary to the effect that due to the nature of some of the business discussed at their meetings, they thought this might not be suitable and suggested meeting separately could be best. The date they suggested was today so they were invited to this meeting – so far, they have not offered an alternative. We will keep the invitation open to keep supporting their Projects and send an invitation to future meeting.

The buildings at the top of the Ward is very insecure with open doors flapping. Rumours have it a contractor has been approached by the BBC to repair the road however they are unwilling to affect this repair due to the state of the lower road.

9. Planning Applications: None

10. Finance: Grant applications & Financial position: the Clerk outlined the current financial position with Projected spending for the remainder of the year. Extensive discussions ensued regarding potential future spend for various organisations and allocate funds for quarry cleanings and skips.

One application for the SCBF grant has been received from BUHA, this was unanimously approved.

11. Bressay Groups Update (Hall, Sports Club, Boating Club, BDL etc.) - Groups had been touched on in prior discussions and there were no further updates.

12. Any other business: We would still be looking for co-opted members and a couple of names were suggested. The Chair will follow up on this. The Clerk had been asked about flue jabs being done in Bressay – this should be directed direct to the health centre. A number of personal issues are put to the Community Council whilst these should be directed directly to the agencies involved, e.g. complaints to the Health Centre, Police etc.

13. Meeting Review: No comments

17. Date of next meeting: will be on Tuesday 24rd February 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 or telephone 07532054521 or contact any Community Council Member.