

# **BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

---

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

Held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026, in Bressay Hall.

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

### **Present:**

Lindsay Tulloch  
Margaret MacDonald  
Ruth Mackenzie  
Graham March  
Katrina Gifford  
Andrea Sanchez  
Eric Perdu  
Stephen Leask  
Gary Robinson

### **In Attendance:**

Janice Jones (Clerk)  
Sonny Thompson (Community Involvement & Development Officer)

### **Agenda Items**

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

The Chair opened the Meeting at 19.15 and welcomed members to the hall.

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

Andrew Inkster  
Michael Duncan  
Arwed Wenger

#### **3. Declarations of interest:**

None.

#### **4. Minute review:**

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

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

The meeting commenced with the formal process of co-opting a new member – Eric Perdu, proposed by Lindsay and seconded by Ruth and co-opted unanimously.

**Waiting room problems:** The Chair has written to a number of agencies regarding the problems with the Lerwick side ferry waiting room and extended this approach to the Police and the Lerwick Community Council. This was also picked up by the local media. This was widely debated at the Lerwick Community Council and the Police and Billy Mycock (Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour Officer) have stepped up patrols and will monitor the situation going forward. They will also be looking at the bigger picture (for instance the activity in the Lanes) and put together a group of agencies to respond to/prevent activities. Meanwhile any problems experienced by the public should be reported to the Police so they have awareness of the extent of the problem and the bigger picture.

**Vehicles Parking at the Glebe in disabled and Ambulance Bays:** Vehicles come and go therefore it is not a case of a vehicle being abandoned. The markings on the ground has worn out therefore it might not be immediately apparent that it is a no parking zone. We will pass this to the roads department to get these painted up and once it is an obvious no parking area details of anyone parking there will be passed to the Police.

**5. Member and Visitor Reports:** Gary and Stephen have been immersed in budget planning. Policy and Resources Committee met last week and although they were successful in pulling back £9 million, they were still considerably adrift which means things like capital project will be pushed into next year, next years unsubstantiated overspend is running at an estimate of £20 million and it is important this gets back to an even keel. There has been a best practice review from Audit Scotland and members need to work with officials to get spending under control. Departments have been challenged in cutting their costs. Considerable discussion continued regarding the proposed Ammonia Plant at Dales Voe. This has been discussed at the Lerwick Community Council although its remit is in the central ward. As this is only two miles from Bressay it's impact could be significant, and this raised significant discussion and concern for the community council and there should be more discussion and consultation with the wider public. It would be important to write in to the planning to declare our concerns and engage with the appropriate Community Council.

Sonny explained he had just started in his role and is getting round to meeting the groups. Michael has informed him there is Community Council training coming up and will be sharing that next month.

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

Although unable to be at the meeting Andrew has sent through an update. The Information Screen has arrived and the next step will be getting the electrics installed. We will prompt Ferry Operations to invoice us for our contribution. Fery tie-ups in adverse weather – he has found no evidence of any formal arrangement that the ferry has to tie up in Bressay, it is purely down to the Masters decision which is the safest option.

Waiting Room – he was pleased to see the multi-agency support for the waiting room problems was positive and Ferry Operations will continue to monitor the situation.

He has appraised the roads department regarding the lighting at the corner of the road towards Maryfield and is awaiting their response.

**7. Bressay Outdoor Activity Group:** Andrea outlined the background to the creation of BOAG. There were two sessions regarding gardening in Bressay and options were discussed for having a community growing area, allotments or a Polycrub, on the Island. They have been granted to apply for funding as a Climate Initiative for a Polycrub, in association with the Sports Club. A piece of ground has been identified and a lease and planning permission applied for. A new group constitution been set up and SIC Asset transfer will meet with the group shortly.

**8. SCBF Directorship:** Directors for the Shetland Community Benefit Fund has to stand down every three years, and the Bressay Director stands down in May. Currently this is Alistair Christie-Henry and the Community Council has to nominate a new Director before then. The Chair proposed Alistair was nominated again as he was well thought off and had served the community well and had a wealth of experience in the role. This was unanimously agreed.

**9. Correspondence:** We have had quite a lot shared; One important one is the reminder of vacancies in the Council – we are doing something about this! And we can also co-opt associate members. The Voar Redd up has been announced and we have allocated a share of £200 for any groups participating. We had an email for someone who had gone to the health centre as a passenger in a car, however on obtaining their ferry vouchers could not get a ticket for the car and driver and a passenger as well. This was given previously but currently not given, the members belief was that the patient could use the Red Car as an alternative. It was also queried why you could not get a ticket for a hospital appointment – it was explained this was because there was no Doctor in Bressay and hospital appointments related to the status quo across the whole of Shetland. Another circumstance that has come up was where a patient had already gone to Lerwick then had a phone call cancelling their appointment then they were refused a ticket. In this instance it would be up to the patient to put in a complaint to the Health Board. In all instances be it the waiting room, roads problems, NHS, etc. it is much better for the individual to issue the complaint to the relevant organisation thus obtain restitution or information directly rather than going through the Community Council. In reality this will be more effective and quicker. In the case of NHS complaints, the email address is: [shet.feedbackandcomplaints@nhs.scot](mailto:shet.feedbackandcomplaints@nhs.scot)

**10. Planning Applications:** None

**11. Finance: Grant applications & Financial position:** There has been no applications for grants. The Clerk outlined the current financial position with Projected spending for the remainder of the year. We have had five applications for quarry cleanings (and a further one anticipated) and this is now reflected in the year-end financial projections. The members reviewed the applications and allocated quarry cleanings against the governance criteria. At the moment we have not yet

had a reply to an organisation manning a skip in March, hopefully this will be resolved in the next week or so, the chair will approach the Boating Club.

**12. Bressay Groups Update (Hall, Sports Club, Boating Club, BDL etc.) -**

There a couple of dates for events at BDL. The chair went to the last Hall committee meeting and the Hall has agreed to take ownership of the generator with the caveat they will not be responsible for any future maintenance etc. and a resilience group will need to be set up to be responsible for it. The Chair has been approached from the Shetland Times for an interview regarding the Bressay position on fixed links. He has reached out to the Bressay Tunnel Action Group (BTAG) which was set up in 2024 for responses, this was somewhat inactive and he will encourage the group to come together.

**13. Any other business:** Ruth attended the Local Place Plan training earlier this month, there is a statutory requirement for us to do this. Essentially you look at your area and identify places that are important to the community. It is then identified for planning purposes which will flag development for protected areas. It has to be produced by September and have to do some consultation with the Community. This was previously presented at the Association of Community Councils and across most Community Councils there was a consensus that they did not have the resources to create this. BDL has been approached and they do not have the capacity but would support it. There needs to be a steering group of three to five people. Ruth will investigate further on Friday.

**14. Meeting Review:** No comments

**15. Date of next meeting:** will be on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21.30.

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.