

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Tuesday 31st March, in Bressay Hall.

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

Present:

Ruth Mackenzie (Vice-Chair)
Margaret MacDonald
Graham March
Katrina Gifford
Andrea Sanchez
Eric Perdu
Stephen Leask
Arwel Wenger

In Attendance:

Janice Jones (Clerk)
Andrew Inkster (SIC - Ferry Operations)
Michael Duncan (SIC - Community Council Liaison Officer)
Nicole SIM (SIC - Community Planning & Development)
Stuart Barton (Bressay Development)

Agenda Items

1. Introduction and Apologies:

The Vice-Chair opened the Meeting at 19.15, welcomed members to the hall and initiated introductions.

Apologies were noted from:

Lindsay Tulloch
Gary Robinson
Sonny Thompson

3. Declarations of interest:

None.

4. Minute review:

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

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

There had been no actions at the end of the previous meeting, however there had been much discussion regarding the Ammonia Plant, at Tagdale. Ruth has done some further investigation, firstly to ascertain that it is Whiteness & Weisdale Community Council who administer the area in which the plant will sit, Statkraft are proposing to develop everything from scratch, so installing roads etc. Currently it is a scoping application (not a planning application) and Whiteness & Weisdale have submitted comments regarding landscape, visual impact and air quality. Subsequent discussion revealed they are planning to construct a significant pier into Dales Voe, for limited usage. There are questions about where the electricity will come from and they were not interested in relocating to the industrial area in Lerwick. There are indeed questions regarding the viability of the scheme because of its small size. A lot of the drivers seems to be due to the grants available from the Scottish Government. Statkraft has a similar but larger development planned for Scatsta, which could be a much larger scale. We have little say in the plans and can only offer comments. It is puzzling why they are exploring plans for two sites. It is suggested the only viability is due to grant funding. The use of fresh water is paramount, de-salination of salt water is possible as done in Saudi Arabia, however the release of the salt back into the sea will cause environmental issues

Morag Lyle has attended a Rural Scottish Community Council convention on renewable energy; they are producing a signatory request to the Scottish Government to halt any further large scale renewable energy projects without a clear National policy which takes into account the views of the community and outlines any benefits the community should expect. The Highlands and Islands and some MSPs have signed up for this and she is calling for a convention of all the Community Councils in Shetland in order to discuss whether they would be interested in being signatories. This has been submitted to the Association of Community Councils for discussion after the forthcoming elections. Small scale Community driven projects would not be affected, but large-scale developers hopefully would be held more accountable to ensure the affected communities have a clear understanding of the risks and benefits of their proposed projects and there is a fair community benefit. Feedback from the community would be important, not just vested commercial interest. Michael could confirm this will be on the agenda for the next Association of Community Councils in June for discussion once we are out of the pre-election period.

5. Member and Visitor Reports: There has been a busy month in March on the SIC meeting agendas. Brian Peterson was confirmed as the new convenor. The issue of second homes and Council Tax had much discussion and concluded with the 50% discount being extended for a two-year period to allow more time for home owners to complete renovations. This goes in hand with appointing an Empty Homes Officer who would be an asset in assessing how properties could be brought back into occupancy. We are the only authority in Scotland that does not have a person in post for this.

The licencing board met and dealt with the extension for the Legion for hosting World Cup games – which will open the door for other applications.

Michael outlined plans for training for Community Council members, he is hoping this will be available in June and again in September.. He is currently encouraging Community Councils to archive older documentation. They are also exploring equipment and facilities to enable hybrid meetings for all Community Councils, His other reminder to Community Councils was the recruitment of new members for any vacancies. He was asked about a consultation which is doing the rounds on more powers for Community Councils – he could confirm local governance reviews are looking at some things, the scheme reviews had looked at some elements and expected more would come through the year. Many Community Councils are finding it difficult to find time to devote to the many reviews and development requests required of them.

Stuart was able to confirm that Speldiburn had been successful in obtaining significant funding for the Speldiburn re-development project.. They have £1m from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund. Principle funding from HIE for £125,000, Economic Development of £55,000, BDL have invested £10,000 which was from the BCC investment for the Marina Project. They will still be £20,000 short and will look at alternative grants for this. The building warrants is imminent and they will hope to out to tender in May. Then it will be dependent on contractor timetables. Michael suggested they look at the Community Led Local Development Fund which will open after the election. The development will be in various stages so a small project could be isolated for specific funding to be spent in the financial year. The development has been designed in stages in order that as far as possible the building will be able to remain open for business. A Project Manager is to be appointed to oversee the project.

6. Infrastructure - Andrew Inkster, Director Ferry Operations:

It would appear infrastructure was in reasonable shape with little outstanding to be addressed. The new noticeboard was up and running. He is hoping to attend the next Lerwick Community Council meeting to discuss concerns around the use of the Ferry Waiting Room. Currently suggestions around a multi-agency approach are being considered with our Chair taking the lead.

Members were asked to remind members of the public who had encountered any issues to report them to Police.

The Ferry ticket machines are again producing multiple charges in delayed blocks, e.g. several (legitimate) transactions delayed then several coming off together. This makes it very difficult to check transactions and to allow for budgeting. They will be bringing in new ticket machines later in the year which will allow more flexibility and transparency.

7. Local Place Plan: Andrea and Ruth, with some additional assistance, have prepared the basics of a Place Plan, which they will refine in the coming weeks and will present it publicly on the 10th May at the plant sale in the hall. There will be copies in the shop for people to add comments. Hopefully this will be a useful document which will pull together the main issues currently facing Bressay and allow the public some say as to what they feel is the most important. It should also be considered in planning decisions and may be helpful for projects looking for funding. One area can be to assist with public funding.

It will also begin the discussion around Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion Management on the Island. This will probably need further consultation and consideration as folk begin to realise what is involved and also ties in with wider Resilience planning.

8. Correspondence: All correspondence has been shared. We are looking at getting someone involved in the creation of the wider Shetland Plan. Ruth and Graham both expressed interest.

This month's police report and road reports both had nothing happening in Bressay.

9. Planning Applications: None – currently none are issued by the Planning Department, unless they are deemed to be significant, such evaluation is created by the Planning Department.

Andrea could confirm the Bressay Outdoor Activity Group were looking to seek planning permission for their Polycrub. They will be having a meeting with Asset Management in the next week or so.

10. Finance: Grant applications & Financial position: Next year's funding has been approved and we will receive the full award of £9027. There are two local grant applications and one SCBF grant applications which has been circulated. The Clerk outlined the final financial position for the year with provision for the skip costs and wreath cost for which invoices had yet to be received. Quarry Cleanings had come in slightly more expensive than anticipated, mainly due to the huge haulage costs. Taking into account the two local grant applications, lighting in the Galley Shed and the Acoustic panels in the Hall. (The SCBF grant is also for the Galley Shed lighting). The members agreed (unanimously) to grant both local requests which reduced the carry over balance to approximately £350, which will be our final figure for the year. The SCBF grant was also discussed and unanimously approved.

12. Bressay Groups Update (Hall, Sports Club, Boating Club, BDL etc.) - Stuart has already appraised us regarding BDL. Ella's Park is running Sunday Teas and are installing an archway as soon as the weather improves. Woodland planting at the Brough Loch is scheduled. The hall is planning to install acoustic panels and

planning a new kitchen and other big plans. The Resilience Group still has to be set up.

13. Any other business: the signage at the Mail crossroads is still showing directions to the school, it would be good if it could be updated to show Ella's Park as well. Andrew will pass this to Neil Hutchison.

Stuart has installed a light above the defibrator, meanwhile he has contacted Matt Mason regarding the broken lid.

DRAFT

14. Meeting Review: No comments

15. Date of next meeting: will be on Tuesday 28th April 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.