

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Tuesday 26th May 2026, in Bressay Hall.

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

Present:

Ruth Mackenzie
Graham March
Katrina Gifford
Andrea Sanchez
Eric Perdu
Stephen Leask
Arwed Wenger
Gary Robinson

In Attendance:

Janice Jones (Clerk)
Sonny Thompson (SIC - Community Planning & Development)

Agenda Items

1. Introduction and Apologies:

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

Apologies were noted from:

Lindsay Tulloch
Margaret McDoonald
Michael Duncan
Andrew Inkster

3. Declarations of interest:

None.

4. Minute review:

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

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

Gary has followed up with the roads department on the need for new white lines, Ruth had also followed up on this and had been told they were coming into the Island shortly to do top dressing after which any lines would be addressed, she has relayed this to the person who raised the query.

5. Member and Visitor Reports:

The road-shows for Inter-Island connectivity had started here in Bressay. The costings have been received from three companies who build tunnels, they used the Ulsta to Toft route as the example to cost up. There were a range of prices built into the model which is then extrapolated into all the other routes. That report will go to the council on the 30th June. Alongside they have added in a "Do Minimum" which is just replacing the ferry and a "Do Max" which adds considerable new infrastructure. The Do Max has been added as the nearest equivalent ferry service to a tunnel for capacity and regularity of service, almost a 24-hour service, to compare to a tunnel when speaking to Government. Inflation Costs are a big factor with ferry replacement on 30- and 60-years inflation. Tunnels do come back favourable when compared to ferries over the 60-year time period. Last week Gary had the opportunity of going to Westminster and speaking to the Scottish Affairs Minister (with the leader of the Western Islands Council and the Orkney leader on Teams). They had longer than the allotted time span and were told this was because he was interested in what they had to say. As there is little borrowing power in Scotland, we are really reliant on Westminster doing something, either allowing Holyrood to borrow or underwriting borrowing on our behalf. They are trying to get the two governments to co-operate together. Previously (10 years ago) Holyrood had indicated that we could not keep ferry funding to assist the cost of tunnels, however now they have agreed we can keep that in play. The Space Port is a big attraction with the Westminster Government.

For Stephen this month had been fairly quiet because of the election, he had attended some collaborative work with developers, the best value audit report and Living Lerwick. The SIC has six units and councillors had to vote on whether the bid for Living Lerwick as a project for sustainability in the future of we withdraw. Arwed has been in touch with Stradkraft regarding the ammonia plant, they will not come to Bressay at the moment however should the plans develop further they will think about it.

6. Infrastructure

We will put the infrastructure report on a future meeting. The Clerk will look up the previous Infrastructure report and circulate. Ruth raised the issue of coastal erosion and flooding which will be discussed further in the Local Place Plan.

7. Correspondence: All correspondence has been shared. There have been two applications for two Community Ferry runs one for Up-Helly-Aa and one for the Hop. We have four for the year. These were approved by a majority of four to one.

It was noted that now with the new ferry schedules it would be useful if we could have more ferry runs for the future as this often holds back events in the Hall, where a band has to finish up early to catch the last ferry.

8. Planning Applications: None and none reported on the website.

9. Place Plan: Andrea shared the draft Place Plan at the Plant Sale and engaged with quite a number of people, included in this was the effect of flooding and coastal erosion. The starting point for devising the plan was the Bressay Community Plan the Community Climate Action Plan, the energy study and more consultation which has already been done. They identified seven priorities. Housing was the first, active travel, energy, resilience, tourism, climate action and community growing, and community assets. Each priority is mapped and expanded and actions detailed. The deadline for submission is the end of September and there is a 30-day consultation period prior to that. Meanwhile the draft will be shared with the members. Some time was spent looking at flooding risk and coastal erosion, which had attracted a lot of response at the plant sale. There is some funding from the Scottish Government for coastal protection but the majority of solution will be the responsibility of the landowners. The Tunnel is not currently included however could deserve consideration especially regarding the protection of the future infrastructure.

10. Anti-Social Behaviour: A multi-Agency Community Cohesion Group has been formed to include Police, Anti-social Behaviour Officer, Youth Services Development, Lead for Child and Adult Protection, chaired by the head of Children's Services. The group will look at casual factors and how to support the community and how to address these factors for the longer term. They are in the process of launching bi-standard awareness in the local media. Sonny also will sit on this group and could tell members about an app called "Fearless" which allows young people to report issues and document/distract anti-social behaviour until appropriate response can arrive. He will also be happy to feed any concerns into the group. There have been little problems recently with the suggestion that the problem is seasonal. Some of the issues may be down to how loud noisy teenagers are perceived.

11. Community Council Training: Members had been circulated with a list of training opportunities prepared by Community Planning. They were urged to visit the list and select training they would like to attend. If not all members could attend training, they could perhaps share any knowledge they acquire.

12. Noticeboard: Although Andrew Inkster could not be at tonight's meeting the Chair had discussed it with him and could share the information that the conclusion was that the noticeboard was in the wrong location, hence it being affected by heat. He will explore moving it to the north end of the waiting room. Public feedback was that it was a good idea.

13. Finance: Grant applications & Financial position: There were no grant or SCBF applications so no new updates.

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

The Bressay heritage group is having a stone carved and that will be ready September 2026. The Lerwick Museum will be hosted the real Bressay stone in spring of 2027. The BHG is also working on an audible tour of a walk from the BHG to Cullinsburgh.

Ella's Park is looking for volunteers.

The Fish and Chip night hosted by the Boating Club was very successful fish as was the plant sale.

BOAG has no further update on their planning for the PolyCrub.

15. Any other business: Nothing

16. Meeting Review: No comments

17. Date of next meeting: After some discussion on members availability, it was decided the next meeting will be on MONDAY 6th July 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.