

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Tuesday 25th August 2026, in Bressay Hall.

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

Present:

Lindsay Tulloch
Ruth Mackenzie
Graham March
Eric Perdu
Stephen Anderson
Arwed Wenger
Gary Robinson

In Attendance:

Janice Jones (Clerk)
Andrew Inkster (SIC Ferry Operations - Representative SIC Infrastructure)

Agenda Items

1. Introduction and Apologies:

The Chair opened the Meeting at 19.15, welcomed members and visitors to the hall and verified the meeting was quorate. Stephen Anderson has applied to join the Community Council, proposed by Lindsay and seconded by Graham and unanimously accepted, and he joined the meeting..

Apologies were noted from:

Katrina Gifford
Margaret Macdonald
Michael Duncan
Sonny Thompson
Stephen Leask

3. Declarations of interest:

None.

4. Minute review:

The minutes from the previous meeting of 6th July 2026 were reviewed and approved. Proposed by Ruth and seconded by Graham.

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

The previous Infrastructure report has been circulated and the Chair took an action to do a physical review. **Action: Chair**

Skip has been booked for this weekend.

The Annual Report will be discussed under a separate topic.

Ruth has explored to get a logo drawn up and has contacted the designer who is willing to do it although she will need some further details.

5. Member and Visitor Reports:

The SIC is now getting back to normal after the summer recess. The ongoing work is around the development of a new Shetland Partnership Plan; there is a series of meetings ongoing until early next year. This has had good engagement across communities despite consultation fatigue and a lot of previous consultations have been used for information.

Following on from the ASCC meeting requesting a moratorium on energy planning there has been a lot going on at the SIC – they have concerns that their support of such a moratorium could adversely affect their ability to retain and extend existing planning powers. It was pointed out that nowhere at the meeting was there criticism of the Council.

Tunnel meetings have been attended across the Islands - although little or no new ground has been shown it was a keeping in touch exercise. A bigger turnout had been expected however this may be because of the starting time may have conflicted with people coming home from work. The next key decision point will be in September after which time it is important there is no hiatus and funding will need to be on the table. After that time there will not be much happening for a while. It is hopeful funding will still come from both Holyrood and Westminster, particularly that since 1974 Shetland has funded its own ferries. Private funding from the commercial sector has still to be developed particularly from telecoms and energy companies

who can run cables through tunnels rather than across the sea bed. Gary said he was hopeful they can organise the funding.

6. Infrastructure

Andrew will look at the infrastructure report once it has been updated.

There is little to update from the ferry point of view. The uploading of charges seems to be predominately for Fivla travel, with the Leirna back and good connectivity with Starlink it should be much less of a problem. The booking and ticketing system should be coming soon and reports from Orkney who are using those systems are very favourable.

It was reported to him the electronic notice board was still not functioning correctly and really not fit for purpose. There is a cooling fan within the box already but being in full sunlight meant it not only overheated but in full light could not be seen. He was asked to come back with a proposed solution for us to consider.

A shelter at the linkspan is still being worked on.

The Christmas timetable is on the agenda; he pointed out the Bressay service is greater than the other ferries and the crew on board are keen to work. Essentially there are a number of people in Bressay who work shifts and are affected by the runs, therefore additional runs would be needed. A booking type situation was mooted or some increase in service.

Residents on the East side of Bressay are not happy with the bins on the way to Noss where rubbish is packed into the bins and in bad weather (or seagulls) it gets torn out and spread over the end of the Loch. A bin operated with a foot pedal could be a solution. It was agreed we should review the location of the bins and give consideration of relocating them somewhere else in the community.

The grass cutting on the verges was queried. There are a number of complaints of not being able to get a pushchair off the road. Road safety will need to take priority. A recent lorry was looking to find a way up to the Ward and with the long verges had problems turning. The turn off to the Ward Road is not obvious therefore a directional signpost is needed.

In the light of the departure of John Smith as Head of Infrastructure and Michael Craigie retiring from transport could we have details of the departmental structure with an organisation chart. John is in phased retirement; Infrastructure and Development has been merged into one department on a temporary basis pending the council reorganisation; in time some aspects of both may well move to other departments; currently Neil Grant (the director of Development) is acting as head of the combined department and until reorganisation when the conjoined department will be titled the "Place Department" and a new head recruited: that process is due to commence at the end of September. Neil himself is scheduled for retirement next year. Michael Craigie's role and Andrew's role has been combined in a holding capacity, with Neil Grant taking on the Zettrans responsibilities, an organigram will be forthcoming once everything is established.

There has been a lot in local media regarding changes to bus timetables and integration to the ferry network however there was no integration with the Bressay ferry which has been requested earlier. Gary has previously requested this, as well for the bairns going to the Anderson High. Andrew will pick this up with the relevant team.

At this point the non-Bressay attendees left the meeting to catch the ferry.

7. Correspondence: Correspondence has been shared. Love to ride have launched an event; Shetland partnership - Ruth has already signed up for; SSEN are inviting stakeholders to a forum to establish their business plan. The next Island survey event is regarding places of worship.

The Chair shared details of correspondence he had received from a concerned resident regarding the state of the Lighthouse. He has been in touch with the Amenity Trust and could confirm the Lighthouse is under offer and they are awaiting to conclude legal matters in relation to the sale, legal process can take a long time. We will welcome anyone buying the lighthouse and their contribution to the Island.

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

9. Annual Report: The Clerk has drawn up a template. It was suggested we contact the organisations we have supported to ask them for the impact funding has done for them with some quotes and pictures. **Action: Clerk**

10. Finance: Grant applications & Financial position: On the last meeting we agreed SCBF funding for BDL which pushed us over the funding which we had available. We had various options to deal with this: we can draw down against the next funding; we can give a partial grant. It was decided to draw down against future funds. There has also been a request from Park Run for £650 funding to cover Ferry fares. It was decided unanimously to support Park Run in principal and we will take advice from SCBF on how to fund it either as a draw-down against next year's funding or deferring allocation until the funding has been issued.

Action: Clerk

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

The Sports Club is pushing on with their upgrading. The Hall had a Pizza night which was well attended and they are hosting the skip this weekend.

12. Any other business:

The proposed updated logo had some discussion as to iconic images/fonts etc and it was decided to get some options from the designer.

Action: Ruth

The Local Place Plan has been sent to the printers and Andrea has reminded them it has to go for review and comment for the whole of September. It is quite an all-

encompassing document – it was on show at the Plant Sale and was well received then.

We need to have a thought on who would man the next skip and it was decided to approach groups and ask them to consider future manning and explain the benefits of hosting and the revenue they can generate from the metal trailer. **Action: Clerk**

13. Meeting Review: No comments

14. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Tuesday 29th September 2026. There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 20.45.

Chairman:

Date

To contact the Community Council please email us at bressaycc@gmail.com or telephone 07532054521 or contact any Community Council Member.

The remainder of this document does not form part of the public minute

Summary of new and outstanding actions

AP1: Arrange a physical review of Infrastructure report for consideration at the next meeting **Action: Chair**

AP2: Contact local organisations for the impact CC funding has had on their organisations. **Action: Clerk**

AP3: Discuss the drawdown of next year's funding with SCBF administration. **Action: Clerk**

AP4: Investigate the design and cost of a logo **Action: Ruth**

AP5: Contact local groups with a view to creating a skip "rota" **Action: Clerk**