

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Thursday 20 January 2022 in Bressay Hall and by remote video conference

This minute is unapproved until adopted at the next meeting of BCC

Present:

Alistair Christie-Henry
Shirley Gifford
Dee Henderson-Haefner
Amanda Sinclair
Richard Burrell
Sally Christie-Henry (via Zoom)
Malcolm Bell (via Zoom)
Stephen Leask (via Zoom)
John Fraser (via Zoom)

In Attendance:

Janice Jones (Clerk)

Agenda Items

1. Introduction and Apologies:

Chairman opened the Meeting and made sure that attendees on Zoom were able to hear and see each other, welcomed members and guests to the hall and ensured seating was in adherence to Covid-19 protocols.

Apologies were noted from:

Michael Duncan
Pat Christie
Kevin Main

2. Declaration of interest:

The Chairman asked for declarations of interest – one received from the Chair regarding item 10 - Royal Jubilee.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Chairman sought approval of the draft minute of the meeting 04 November 2021, previously circulated to members. The minutes were approved, proposed by Dee and seconded by Amanda.

4. Matters arising (actions not elsewhere on agenda):

AP1: Maintenance of Woodland site/Ownership of UHA hut - still no response from UHA Committee. **1. Action Chairman**

AP2: Fuel project feasibility study and Bottle Bank, & Ferry Car Park Works - no new information. **2. Action Chairman**

AP3: Anti-social team & Ferry Operations re waiting room:

Following the last meeting the Chairman had raised the issue with Ferry Operations and had now had a reply to say they (Ferry Operations) were meeting with Environmental Health to see what options could be available. One option could be to shut down the WiFi to make it less attractive to the teenagers. The members unanimously felt this was a poor option as it was unfair to Bressay residents/legitimate Ferry users and the Chair will reply to this effect. Some discussion ensued whether temporarily locking the room could be an option – again it was decided this was unfair to Ferry users. General consensus was that it was the responsibility of the Ferry crew to supervise which raised the question of whether this was in their remit. The Chair explained the Vessel Officers are empowered to look after shore side infrastructure and the Mates are trained in crowd control and management. It was considered the solution lay in a number of things: more involvement from the Anti-social Behaviour team, A poster with the SIC number to call if there were problems. Meanwhile an early solution could be to simply ask them to move on. A reply from the Anti-social Behaviour team re-iterated the above as well as asking the LPA to keep an eye on things, asking them to move on then calling the Police if they don't.

3. Action Chairman

AP4: Small allocation Quarry Cleanings: – no new information

4. Action Clerk

AP5: Clearing of grids: The action was on Stephen. He suspected it would be added into the cutting of the verges in spring. It was pointed out Shirley was told in October that it was a priority however the sub-contractor had since prioritised other works. It was also queried if it was in the 21/22 budget then it would need to be done before the end of March.

5. Action Stephen Leask

5. Membership:

- All new co-opted full members had to be on the electoral roll and it had been pointed out by the SIC Governance Officer that Richard did not yet appear on the register, although forms had been sent out. Richard is sure he registered on-line and had an email confirmation. It was pointed out this does take some time to come through particularly with Covid delays. He will investigate and address accordingly, meanwhile he was welcome on the Council as a non-voting member.
- As discussed at the last meeting, there was a vacancy for a vice-chair. This was particularly important this month as the Chair could not attend the next meeting as he would be away for 6 or 7 weeks.
- Alistair nominated Shirley; this was seconded by Dee and carried unanimously. Shirley accepted the nomination
- Sally stood down as Community Council representative on the Hall Committee: the Chair asked for volunteers, Richard volunteered and this was agreed by all.

6. Member & Visitor Report

- Malcolm Bell detailed much of his time had been taken up with the SIC five year plan and the annual report on the plan – what they had achieved particularly in the light of Brexit and Covid. Next month will be spent working on the budget, February being budget setting time when they will get details of their income from the Scottish Government and will know the gap between that and spending needs. Council tax is designed to fill that gap: most councils just had the option of raising council tax or cutting services. This year there is no cap on council tax however the SIC would draw down on reserves.
- Stephen Leask detailed much of his time in the last month has been taken up with the Transport Policy and Resourcing Committee and full council meetings. It had been a difficult time in transport service due to Covid and isolation. Staff had done over and

above their duty but it showed the fragility of the service and need for fixed links. Next month he had the agricultural forum which was of importance to Islanders and it was important the council was aware of issues from the island as well as links to climate change. He was pleased to confirm he would be standing again as councilor for Lerwick North and Bressay at the May election.

- John Fraser considered Malcolm and Stephen had covered everything and could confirm he would not be standing for Lerwick North and Bressay in May.

7. Infrastructure Update:

Roads & Ferries: No further information.

War Memorial: No further information

8. Correspondence:

- An email has been received from the Area Commander, fire and rescue service, detailing that the defibrillator cabinet at Speldiburn has been damaged beyond repair by the recent high winds and a replacement will be required. Potential suppliers were detailed and replacement will be several hundred pounds plus installation, which may require an electrician or an installation specialist (if a heated cabinet is selected). There are three options for funding. 1) a drawdown on core funding; 2) Outsource to a third party who could then request funding; 3) apply for a grant from the Shetland Community Benefit Fund. Members unanimously selected option 3. **6. Action Clerk**
- The Community Council Election schedule was shared as was as information from Shetland Youth Action Group.
- The ferry dry-docking schedule for 2022 initiated considerable discussion regarding the disadvantages of the replacement ferry, particularly as this year it was for a longer time (five weeks). Sally asked if it was possible to request that in future years the dry-docking happened during the school holidays as school busses and cars conveying infants to nursery take up a lot of room at busy commuting times. It was pointed out we could ask but little attention was paid to residents service although there should be sympathy for nursery age children conveyed to school off island (unlike other islands). It was pointed out the stairs in the relief ferry is a problem particularly for the disabled therefore it was not an inclusive service. Malcolm Bell stated that fixed links were the way forward and there was a big priority for Bressay to be first, although the Scottish Government seemed to be concentrating on Mull. A query was raised whether a bus could be provided to accommodate those unable to use the stairs. One solution could be to let them go (free) in a car as even anyone not disabled who couldn't manage the stairs had nowhere to stand if the ferry was full of cars.

9. Finances:

Grant/funding applications:

There had been no further Grant applications this month and the Chairman pointed out we still had money from last year's Community benefit Fund available, plus £2,700 from the distribution fund. It was decided to approach the Hall to see if they could provide additional heating in the back room and the clerk would advertise on Facebook that grants were available. There are two future skips scheduled and it was hoped the Sports Club and the Up-Helly-Aa committee would take their turn at manning them; we could also plan in four more skips. **7. Action Clerk**

10: Any Other Business

- BCC still have four Ferry concession runs available, more than usual at this time of year because of Up-Helly-Aa being cancelled. At previous meetings the rules and local booking conditions had been established. This has now been consolidated into an application form which Chairman circulated to BCC members, which were approved and adopted.

Meanwhile there had been an application for a community run in February for a Hamefaring, which although in Lerwick was being attended by over 30 islanders and met all the conditions. This was duly approved.

- The Royal Jubilee is happening in June and it was pointed out this would not happen again in any of our lifetimes therefore we should consider doing something. Sally pointed out that anything we were doing should not be autonomous as it is for the community benefit therefor the Community Council should support a Community group rather than instigating an event on their own. It was proposed by Shirley, seconded by Amanda that the council involves itself in a community event. This was carried 3 to 2. Chairman pointed out that although he himself had declared an interest and not taken part in the discussion or vote that a Corporate decision had been made therefore all should assist in the future regardless of voting against or abstaining.
- Prior to the meeting the Chairman and Dee had a meeting with Hazel Sutherland, Chief Executive of the Shetland Amenity Trust (SAT) to discuss options for the future use of the Lighthouse buildings. SAT would like to maximise the use of the buildings and options may include the sell or lease of the buildings in part or complete. Following discussion there was consensus that; 1) that its future use needed to benefit the community and 2) ask to keep it as a complete unit. Chairman informed that there had already been some interest in the site, e.g. from an artist/craft group and by an individual who requested purchase of one of the keepers cottages. The Community Council has been invited to participate in the process and Chairman had agreed BCC would select two delegates to continue the dialogue with SAT. Alistair and Amanda volunteered, Clerk to inform SAT of this. **8. Action Clerk**
- There is a lack of lighting from Maryfield to the ferry car park. There has previously been an accident and this is a public safety concern. It was suggested the lights are less bright to cut down on light pollution. Some lights are also out at Voeside and it was suggested this was council policy – if a light fails it doesn't get replaced. This will be flagged up at the next infrastructure report.

11. Location and date of next meeting:

The next meeting of BCC will be held on Thursday 03 March 2022 at 7.15 pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.20 and thanked those attending.

Chairman:

Date