

# BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Held on Monday 22 August 2022 in Bressay Hall.

*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  
Stephen Leask  
Arwed Wenger

### **In Attendance:**

Janice Jones (Clerk)  
Pat Christie  
Michael Duncan  
Andrew Inkster (Executive Director Ferry Operations)  
Sheena Summers (Team Leader Ferry Operations)

### **Additional attendees:**

Five members of the public

### **Agenda Items**

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

The Chairman opened the Meeting and welcomed guests, members and public to the hall.

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

Gary Robinson

#### **2. Declaration of interest:**

The Chairman asked for declarations of interest – none received.

The scheduled agenda was revised and item 5 moved up to enable visitors and additional attendees to address their item earlier, to enable them to catch ferries etc.

#### **3. Ferry Operations:**

Andrew Inkster explained the current constraints and challenges regarding staffing which had created the recent emergency timetable.

- The ferry requires a minimum of five crew. These come from four staff categories: permanent staff, crew pool, relief bank staff and agency staff. Due to Marine working hours directives the crew must have rest periods, the only exemption for this is for emergency cover for ambulance or fire engine call out. The SIC is actively recruiting for all types of crew and has had some success for new pool staff that can be trained and deployed on any ferry and in building up the relief bank. However, one of the issues is you can only ask a bank crew member to work but cannot insist they are available.

Similarly in asking other crew to work overtime – you cannot mandate overtime or the giving up of agreed holidays. This last time the pool engineer came down with covid and the only available agency engineer was on a 5.5 hour contract – hence timetable restrictions. Retaining staff is challenging as they are governed by SIC pay and conditions and single status and find it difficult to compete with private business – this is an ongoing discussion with HR and the sea staff Union.

- There can be no assurances the ferries will not be shut down again because of illness – there will be ongoing gaps of service. Ferry Operations are doing what they can to fill the gaps with agency/relief bank but this will be significant across the fleet.

In response to questions from BCC members and members of the public the Executive Manager answered or discussed the following:

***I would be helpful if ferry users could know in advance what to expect should a restricted timetable need to be imposed at short notice.***

One big help for future situations would be for Ferry Operations to have understanding of islander's priorities so these could be taken into account when devising an emergency timetable. The Community Council offered to be of assistance gathering local input then sitting down with Operations to devise a timetable that meets as many needs as possible and advertise "the worst case" scenario, perhaps timetable B, although it was hoped an emergency situation could be somewhat looser than that. Whilst it would be impossible to please everyone it would be "best fit" for the community. This timetable could be advertised alongside the ferry to enable islanders and visitors to be aware of what ferries were available rather than the electronic board just saying emergency timetable in operation.

***Recently passengers had been stopped from travelling with fuel and paint cans – why? What is being done to circumvent this?***

The carriage of certain goods is determined by Carriage of Dangerous Goods legislation, enforced by the SIC Safety Management System which is audited by Maritime and Coastguard Agency. At the recent docking the MCA rescinded the Leirna certification and it has taken a lot of work to get her first level certification. This allows bulk fuel to be carried by an approved vehicle and imposes a limit of 5 liters fuel or 47 kg gas to be carried in a private vehicle. Foot passengers cannot carry any. Ferry operations need to sit down with the MCA and come up with a working alternative; the priority has been to get the first certification. Discussions will start in the next few weeks and will take some time and may require some changes to the vessel. Meanwhile it is important the rules are followed as because the MCA has pulled Ferry Operations up on regulations - they will be checking.

***Restrictions had recently been imposed on a load of hay being transported in an open trailer. The driver had been advised the load needed to be covered.***

Ferry Operations could confirm this was the case and is part of the same regulation.

***A driver had been stopped from traveling into Bressay with 3 gas cylinders, he had travelled outwards earlier with the same empty cylinders without restriction.***

There were a number of criticisms of how the regulations have been communicated and enforced, for instance the crew should have advised the passenger going to Lerwick with the empty gas cylinders. Members of the BCC suggested that a list of what can or cannot be carried and how it can be carried should be posted on board and in a prominent position at both terminals. Ferry Operations took this on board and explained it was only a short time since received the changes had happened. Ferry Operation

agreed and will put up notices on board the vessel and in the waiting rooms so passengers know the regulations.

***The current timetable is restrictive to people who wish to take up shift work starting before 7.00am or wishing to catch the early flight from Sumburgh.***

Andrew Inkster explained they were ferry operations and only had timetable leeway to move time 5 or 10 minutes. Timetables were within the remit of Zet-Trans and Transport Planning; however, he would pass this message on. It was added the Community Council has asked for attention to this many times along with subsidised travel for healthcare, nursery provision etc. As well as Ferry Operations passing this along Michael Duncan was asked to bring it up with his colleagues in Planning. BCC members agreed to invite the Executive Manager – Transport Planning to a future meeting.

**1. Action - Chairman & Clerk**

***It was pointed out the Leirna is 30 years old and it will take time for fixed links to become reality.***

There is a policy on fleet resilience built into the overall progression plan. A new ferry for Fair Isle is top of the list. Again, this is the remit of Transport Planning and all operations can do is pass on the message.

***In response to the Chairman's request for an update on the long awaited restructure of the ferry car park Andrew Inkster advised:***

The work on the ferry car park is expected to start in the next month. It was pointed out they need to talk to the Community Council before work starts. There will be disruption but together with careful planning it would be kept to a minimum.

Chairman thanked Ferry Operations and members of the public for their attendance and valuable input and invited all to remain for the rest of the meeting.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

The Chairman sought approval of the draft minute of the meeting 26 May 2022. It was noted there was an error in the approval and seconding of the previous minutes (May 2022) as Richard had not been at that meeting therefore could not approve the minutes. This was amended to Alistair proposing and Dee seconding. The July minutes were approved, proposed by Amanda and seconded by Shirley. Minute will be amended to reflect this correction.

**2. Action - Clerk**

**5. Matters Outstanding (actions not elsewhere on agenda):**

**AP1: Fuel project feasibility study and Bottle Bank, additional bins & Ferry Car Park Works** – Chairman reported he had had a meeting with Director of Infrastructure regarding the outstanding items and until now had had no feedback, however we are now hearing this is to start in the next month. To be continued.

**3. Action - Chairman**

**AP2: Small allocation Quarry Cleanings:** – this has been advertised with a deadline of the 25<sup>th</sup>, however only one expression of interest. It was decided this would be readvertised with the deadline removed.

**4. Action Clerk**

**AP3: Investigation into broadband provision:** - Marvin Smith of Shetland Telecom hopes to come to Bressay in the next few weeks to survey the 4g provision. He has recently done the same exercise in Burra and Trondra. Pat could detail an exercise recently done by Skerries on community needs and she will see if we can tap into this and do a similar exercise. Richard agreed to continue with this.

**5. Action Richard**

**AP4: Kirkyard masonry repairs** – this is included in the infrastructure survey, so no further action.

#### **6. Member & Visitor Report**

Stephen and Arwed have had constructive meetings regarding the ferries and the Covid situation. The main SIC focus has been on discussing the Councils ambitions for the next term and the financial audit and valuation board governance. A very productive meeting took place regarding fixed links and giving priority to Islanders needs, with of course promoting Bressay's need highest! Not forgetting the round the Islands Tunnel Vision meetings.

#### **7. Infrastructure Update:**

Most of the infrastructure survey has been completed with just graveyards to be added It is hoped to have this completed and out to members before the next meeting for questions and comments. The identified defects will be prioritised at the next meeting. **6. Action Richard**

#### **8. Planning Applications:**

None

#### **9. Correspondence:**

A number of emails has been circulated to members and no queries were raised.

A further email had been received from James Paton with a number of further questions regarding housing and development. Clerk to reply explaining and reiterating the previous reply this would be outwith the Community Council remit etc. **7. Action Clerk**

The Chairman detailed an email exchange with NHS Shetland where he had received a last minute invitation to meet with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care at Speldiburn while they reviewed the clinic space. He had subsequently declined the invitation after discussion with the Vice Chair and members. Two and a half years ago the project, which had been led and driven by the Community Council was approved – in the intervening time there has been no communication from either the Health Board or BDL as to the current situation and with the lateness of the invitation he considered he was not the best person to attend. Stephen Leask expressed his disappointment at the Chair receiving a “fiddlers bid” given the amount of time and effort he and BCC had put into the project.

#### **10. Financial Report and Community Benefit Fund:**

The Clerk has been chasing information on the Project Grant applied for earlier this year for the second defibrillator at the Ham kiosk. This has been mislaid in the SIC but is still available for us pending us sending in quotes and details on the kiosk ownership.

Amanda asked if we were to see the year end accounts and it was explained this was distributed at the May meeting where she had not been present. She asked for a copy to be sent to her. In future financial position information will be distributed to members prior to meetings.

#### **SCBF Applications:**

On 1<sup>st</sup> September the third round of grant distribution funds, £10,000 will be allocated to BCC and added to the underspend from previous years. With the carryover from last year £15,666 is available.

**Application from Shetland Golf Club for £2500 to provide a golf simulator –**

This was unanimously declined as there was no perceived benefit to Bressay residents. Nor was there a removal of cost barriers for islanders to access the proposed simulator. Clerk was instructed to send feedback to SCBF.

**8. Action Clerk**

**Distribution Fund Applications:**

None

**11: Any Other Business**

Richard suggested the area of Woodland between the Galley Shed and the bairn’s play park could make a nice community garden with benches and perhaps a picnic area and/or as a memorial garden. Some discussion ensued as to the history of the site. BDL had looked at it as a space to site a “growing area”. The Community Council had originally secured the area with the Gardening Club maintaining it but it has since become unkempt.

The Up Helly Aa committee is keen to explore extending the Galley shed with the addition of toilets etc. The Community Council investigated ownership and ascertained the garden and the site of the galley shed is still in the property register of the SIC. If the UHA could extend and provide toilets it would greatly enhanced the area. BCC has not been made aware of anyone else looking to do anything with it. Pat Christie recommended we invite Tracy Anne Anderson from SIC Asset Management to a future meeting where she would be able to detail options and obligations and the safety aspect of fencing etc. Pat agreed to take this further with Asset Management and find out Ms. Andersons availability.

**9. Action Pat**

Chairman reminded members that it is now more than a year since BCC had a grant in their own right from BCC SCBF allocation and was now eligible to apply again. He suggested planning a fuel feasibility study and to apply for a grant to fund the study by a suitable independent person. Chair had visited the project at Newcasteton, he believed their set up had cost in the region of £30k and amongst other things had involved much negotiation with SEPA and several funding bodies. Berneray had done a similar project and supported fuel pumps with a population of only around 120, as had Skerries. Pat Christie will seek details from other areas and other Community Workers and agreed to assist in future discussions.

**3. Action - Chairman**

**12. Location and date of next meeting:**

The next meeting is to be on 10 October.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.30 and thanked those attending.

Chairman:

Date

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

Summary of new and outstanding action

<b><u>Continued AP.</u> Status of the Trowlands Road with Roads/Capital</b>	<b>Action: Gary</b>
<b>AP1: Invite Executive Manager Transport Development to next meeting.</b>	<b>Action: Clerk</b>
<b>AP2: Amend previous minutes.</b>	<b>Action: Clerk</b>
<b>AP3: Fuel project feasibility study.</b>	<b>Action: Chairman</b>
<b>AP4: Allocation of small quantity Quarry Cleanings.</b>	<b>Action: Clerk</b>
<b>AP5: Investigation into Broadband provisions</b>	<b>Action: Richard</b>
<b>AP6: Finalise Infrastructure report.</b>	<b>Action: Richard</b>
<b>AP7: Respond to various items of correspondence (Para 9).</b>	<b>Action: Clerk</b>
<b>AP8: Feedback to SCBF failed funding application.</b>	<b>Action: Clerk</b>
<b>AP9: Organise discussion with Tracy Anne Anderson</b>	<b>Action: Pat</b>