

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Monday 29 May 2023 in Bressay Hall.

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

Present:

Lindsay Tulloch (Chair)
Shirley Gifford
Richard Burrell
Kath Duffus
Alistair Christie-Henry
Arwed Wenger
Stephen Leask
Gary Robinson

In Attendance:

Agenda Items

1. Introduction and Apologies:

The Chair opened the Meeting and welcomed guests and members to the hall. Before commencing the meeting, he explained to members this was the first of our paperless meetings, hence the projector and screen and as part of that we would like to record the meeting: he asked if there were any objections. – there were none. There was one query as to what plans there were to retain the recording – it will be held until the minutes are approved at the next meeting then deleted. To trial the paperless meeting, we had hired the equipment – if successful we would look to buy our own equipment. The suggestion was made that the Hall could purchase the equipment, with a grant from ourselves, thus the equipment would be available for the whole community to use. This was unanimously agreed.

Apologies were noted from:

Amanda Sinclair
Margaret MacDonald
Joanna Fraser
Kevin Main

The Chair had notification from Dee that she wished to resign from the community council due to work pressure. On behalf of the Community Council the Chair wished to record his and the Community Council's thanks and appreciation for her support and contribution to the Community Council during this and previous terms of office.

2. Declarations of interest:

The Chair asked for declarations of interest – none received.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The Chairman reviewed the draft minutes of the meeting 24 April 2023 and sought their approval. Proposed by Kath and seconded by Richard.

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

CAP1. Status of Trowlands Road. No further ahead as the SIC is reluctant to commit spend to anything other than upkeep due to capital constraints, the capital outlay is basically maintenance only. This has periodically been on the agenda since 2000, and gets resurrected every time there is a planning application for that side of the Island, it was discussed with Neil Hutchinson at the last meeting and advised that it was usually the first road on the Island to get snowed up. It was decided to delete it off the agenda but keep it as a priority item on the Infrastructure Report.

CAP2. Island Broadband Provision. No further forward with Marvin Smith who is snowed under. Richard is looking at other options. There is currently a trial in Pappa Stour by a company called "Oneweb", essentially low earth orbit satellites allowing remote places to have clearer broadband access, Richard has set up a call with their representative. There is also Thomas Coutts in Economic development who was involved in this. Starlink is currently being trialled in Lerwick, it is expensive at £75 a month with a deal of £99 for a dish and Richard will explore more.

CAP3. Funding for Footpaths. Action for Shirley – Was discussed Neil Hutcheson last month regarding funding, particularly in regard to the project in Whiteness/Wiesdale/Tingwall where the contact was Andrew Archer. Joanna also had some knowledge of this and was keen to assist. Sustrans funding has been channelled into this, there was potentially some funding available. The whole issue of the Maryfield road is a safety issue, so the whole thing should be looked at via a risk assessment especially with the lack of lighting. This was looked at two years ago when we were told there should be no problem getting it done – however it seems promises are made but nothing happens. **Action: Shirley**

AP1. Review of Infrastructure Report. Covered in more detail later in the meeting.

AP1. Community Resilience plan - Ongoing. We now have some templates and this is being pulled together. **Action: Chair**

AP2. Update Infrastructure Report – This was done and further updated for this meeting, following an email and some photographs from an Islander showing considerable cracks in the Beosetter Road. These were sent to Infrastructure and the reply was "We are currently busy with patching the roads that are to be surface dressed this summer. When that work is complete one of the squads that has been working on that will be moving onto Bressay to patch in Glebe, fill the pothole on the road between Voeside and the Marina and then undertake a haunch repair of this section of cracked carriageway. They should be in Bressay toward the end of June".

AP2. to AP5 & 8. Complete/Clarified

Some discussion ensued regarding the bus service. A number of people had been surprised at the comprehension of the service although it was queried whether a bus going to Noss in winter mornings, or on when Noss was closed, was a necessity! Alistair explained the history of the funding, which came from the Scottish Government to improve rural transport, if it wasn't used for this funding it would have to be returned and we would lose the service. We could ask to diversify the service but we have been told in the past that this cannot be done. There has been a change of operator so it may be worth revisiting.

AP7: Approach the SIC for additional Concession Runs – Lindsay has approached Andrew Inkster regarding getting additional runs to allow residents and visitors to the Island to access later Tall Ships events, some of the other Island Communities have also had representation on this. Andrew Inkster considered having extra late runs would not be an issue and would be approaching the Ferry Crews regarding additional overtime to

accommodate. Lindsay will follow this up with Andrew Inkster. Some precedent has already been set in the past with late runs granted to Unst, Yell and Fetlar for shows and community events etc.

Action: Chair

5. Member and Visitor Reports: April had been quiet however May has been very busy with various forums and seminars. The Agricultural Forum could be of interest to Bressay – this deals a lot with the peat restoration programme both as far as support payments and getting involved in restoration and development, and generally better deals for the rural population. Gary has been involved in a series of seminars around the Asset investment plan and capital programme and what the SIC will be doing in future years, the big challenge is we only get £4 to £5 million a year for capital projects so to have the £15 million capital programme we have had in the past questions how that can be maintained. A number of items were commercially sensitive – e.g., Scatsta leasing. The councillors in every area have their own area to fight for so a balancing act to allocate. Ferry Terminal refurbishment (not a requirement for Bressay) was ring-fenced in the Ferry and capital budgets. Belmont has been done and Whalsay coming up will cost about half a million. There is starting to be discussions with the tunnels groups in the North Isles. These are independent groups and are pushing to have their areas highest up the list, so Bressay needs to make sure they don't get left behind. A Tunnels Sounding Board group is supposedly being set up (Via Neil Grant) and someone from Bressay needs to get on it. It was originally set up to have a representative from each island on it so it is disappointing we have not been approached, the meeting is now scheduled for the 8th June, Lindsay will contact Neil Grant for an update.

Action: Chair

6. Planning Applications: None

7. Infrastructure – Main thing on Ferries was the further vandalism to the Lerwick waiting room, this was reported to the police and rumour alludes that two people have been charged, information had come via the CC TV coverage. A formal update will be coming meanwhile a repair is necessary.

Dangerous Goods Carriage – the wheels are now on the trolleys and posters have been seen in the waiting rooms. They were supposed to send us a copy for approval for us to put out on FB. Alistair will follow up on both these items.

Action : Alistair

8. NHS Project: The Chair has had an email from Kim Anderson that they will be starting monitoring Bressay traffic from the 21st June with a view to slotting in to the clinic here. He has also spoken to Brian Chittock regarding the travel cost of Bressay people going to Lerwick for treatment they are looking at some options and he had some proposals to put to the executive however he has not yet updated this.

Action: Chair

9. Community Garden Project – We have submitted our application for funding and have been awarded a £1,000 Project grant to invigorate the garden space up at the Glebe. We were also keen to get some younger residents involved in the Community Council and circulated a FB advert for some young people to come forward. The proposal was for a mixture of picnic benches and seats. Richard has followed up on this and as well as finding the availability to purchase some locally made benches has obtained the offer of donated benches and discounts on plants and supplies as well as the possible memorial bench. It was considered important we included assistance to put a path suitable for wheelchair access. Alistair also advised we could possibly look at a SCBF grant. It was pointed out this was not a project the Community Council could maintain themselves and it was disappointing no youth members had come forward. There was a large need to get other

groups involved particularly for the ongoing aspect. The Up Helly Aa committee had expressed an interest in doing something with the ground. A bit more engagement with the other Island groups would be a help. In Nothmavine the establishment of the hub garden had very much been a community engagement. Lindsay will put this to BDL and the Heritage Centre/Gardening Group and see if there is interest in other groups being involved. Particularly the Development Workers, Lindsay will put out feelers at the next BDL meeting.

Action: Chair

10. Young Persons Programme – It was disappointing no young people had come forward and this is hand in hand with the Garden Project and we will revisit again.

11. Concession Runs update – Discussed earlier. Decisions on the two submitted applications (BUHA and Hop) had been delayed until we had a reply from Selliness regarding additional runs and we had a clearer picture of needs.

12. Correspondence: Quite a variety of items has been circulated, of particular interest had been the Scottish Conference on Community Councils which Kath said she would Zoom into. SSE Stakeholder engagement surveys, Cross Party Group on rural poverty. Etc.

13. Financial Report and Grant Applications:

We are in the beginning of our new financial year and have received all our requested funding for the next year. The clerk outlined each of the grants, how they are made up and purposed, £5,802 core grant (for the day to day running of the Community Council and basic items in the Island) £3,000 Distribution Grant (to provide assistance to other Island organisations) and £1,000 Project Grant (for the garden re-generation Project). It is worth noting the Grants have not changed for 10 and 12 years so in real terms Community Councils have less to spend on comparable services.

We had one grant application from the Bressay History Group for the Voar Redd Up. The members discussed the history of funding for the Voar Redd up – during covid there had been no Voar Redd up so for the last two years no funding had been set aside. Last year the history group had applied for funding however, as we had not had confirmation of the Redd Up happening, funds for it had not been set aside and we had to decline the grant application. At that time, it was agreed to set aside funding for the 2023 Voar Redd Up and £200 was ring-fenced for applications of £50 for up to four applications, or pro-rata distribution if a lesser number of applications, subject to confirmation from the Amenity Trust of organisations taking part. This Grant application is applying for retrospective funding for 2021, 2022 and 2023, as retrospective funding cannot be granted, we cannot award this, however we can make an award for this year. We will establish and advertise a cut-off date for applications for funding and confirm dates of confirmation from the Amenity Trust. Meanwhile we will acknowledge the application from the History Group.

Action: Clerk

14. Household Hardship Fund Update. All the £3,000 of vouchers has been distributed and currently £1,750 redeemed at the shop. We will need another advert on FB to advise vouchers need to be redeemed by the 28th June, any surplus needs to be accounted for in our submission back to the Corra Foundation. A couple of people had returned their vouchers as they felt embarrassed at redeeming them. Some discussion ensued on either to use any surplus to put to the food bank in Lerwick or to establish a point for surplus on the Island, where we could find other people might donate additional surplus items as well. A decision was deferred on this until we see what the surplus is at the end of the scheme.

15. Bressay Groups Update: Hall has a quiz this Saturday, and a Chinese night on the 14th July, this can be a sit in or takeaway and the bar will be open. BDL is having a meeting regarding the Lighthouse and there is a Film to be shown next Wednesday afternoon about the Lighthouse Lives and display of photos of Bressay Lighthouse. The Chair has seen the basic data from the BDL island surveys and he will share these in due course.

13. Any Other Business:

With Dee's resignation we now had a vacancy on the Community Council and will need to look at what we need to do to bring the membership up whether by co-opting or a by-election the regulations may be different due to the short term of this session of the community council and we will seek clarity from Anne Cogle before we proceed, meanwhile some thought can be given to anyone we know who could be encouraged to come forward.

A number of times the clerk has been asked what their role in the Community Council was therefore she outlined her duties and what she should herself be doing and not doing, explaining her role was to support Community Councillors and not do everything for them. The last three months had seen most of the actions on the minutes put to the clerk the result being a doubling of her contracted 15.5 hours, whilst much of this will balance out over the year, especially with there being two months with no meetings, it is important to be mindful that that time is not infinite. Some discussion took place regarding the Clerks contract which was based on the SIC Clerical Officer role and remuneration and pay awards and tailored to the BCC specific needs. A bonus was paid to the clerk on longevity in the role to assist retention and late pay awards backdated only while the clerk was employed in the role – as with normal local government practice.

Some discussion took place regarding the Community Council Constitution. A copy had been given to a member from the bank and it was established this was well out of date. The Constitution is created by SIC Governance and Law for all Community Councils. The Clerk could tell the meeting she had an up-to-date copy and would circulate.

The Chair asked for feedback on the paperless system for the meeting and the overall response was positive. We will continue the trial and hire the equipment for the next month's meeting.

14. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 26th June.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.45 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

Continued AP1: Island Broadband provision Action: Richard

Continued AP2: Investigate Funding for Footpaths Action: Shirley

Continued AP3: Community Resilience plan Action: Chair

AP1: Update on Concession runs Action: Chair

AP2: Follow up in funding for Ferry and NHS appointments Action: Chair

AP3: Liaison with Groups re garden project Action: Chair

AP4: Explore Tunnels Sounding Board group Action: Chair

AP5: Follow up on repairs to Waiting room and publishing of Dangerous Goods

Carriage posters. Action: Alistair

AP6: Confirm & publish Voar Redd Up cut off dates Action: Clerk

AP7: Share up to date constitution with members Action: Clerk