

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Monday 27 February 2023 in Bressay Hall.

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

Present:

Lindsay Tulloch
Shirley Gifford
Dee Henderson-Haefner
Richard Burrell
Amanda Sinclair
Margaret MacDonald
Kath Duffus
Gary Robinson
Stephen Leask
Arwed Wenger

In Attendance:

Janice Jones (Clerk)
Joanne Fraser
Kevin Main

Agenda Items

1. Introduction and Apologies:

The Chair opened the Meeting and welcomed guests and members to the hall.

Apologies were noted from:

Alistair Christie-Henry
Michael Duncan

2. Declarations of interest:

The Chairman asked for declarations of interest – none received.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The Chairman reviewed the draft minutes of the meeting 23 January 2023 and sought their approval. Proposed by Richard and seconded by Shirley.

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

AP1. Island Impact Assessment. This has been done and circulated to members

AP2. Funding for Footpaths. Shirley had spoken to Neil Hutchinson who was attending a meeting on the 28th where funding for active travel was to be assessed and more information would be available after that. **Action: Shirley**

AP3,5,6, 7. All Complete

AP4. NHS Project, Update later in meeting

5. Member and Visitor Reports: Much of the SIC councillors' time this month has been spent dealing with the fall out from the ferry ticket announcement last week. Stephen had been given an update from the Director of Infrastructure to be shared with the meeting. It is as follows:

"There will be a report at the Environment & Transport Committee on the 14th March setting out changes the Council needs to make around the ways Ferry Tickets are paid for.

The Council's Internal Audit service recently reported the need for the Council to stop generating large numbers of low value credit transactions around Ferry Fare collection, a measure introduced during Covid to reduce paper handling between users and crews.

That requires the cessation of Covid credit accounts; therefore cash, card payment and Multi-Journey Ticket Books will be the payment options from the 1st April 2023, these changes have already been described to users. Credit account facilities will still be available to businesses who had SIC accounts before Covid, in line with general SIC Finance credit conditions

Following user and community feedback, the report will also include the proposal that holders of Covid Account Cards will continue to be charged discount fares at the same price as Multi-Journey Ticket Books for individual journeys, but will need to pay cash or use contactless / card payment. A route will also be provided to allow any Shetland resident who does not have an SIC Covid Account Card to be able to access single journey discounted fares going forward.

These changes will resolve the high volume / low value accounts issue, but no ferry user will have to pay any more for their journey that they are doing at the moment; they will be able to pay for individual journeys separately at the same rate as present, if they don't want to use a Multi-Journey Ticket Book.

All of these arrangements will be reviewed through a "Fares Policy Review" which will be completed by ZetTrans later this year."

The other business of the SIC this month has been meetings regarding next years budgets, culminating in a 4.5% increase in rates – the lowest increase in Scotland. The cap on rent increases has remained due to the knock-on effect on maintenance.

6. Planning Applications: None

7. Infrastructure (Ferries, Roads, Transport, Communications):

Ferries: The main item of importance was the significant lack of notice to the Community Council and SIC Counsellors, regarding changes in ticket provision. Essentially the Audit review had found a significant amount of back-room work had increased which led to the knee jerk reaction and PR disaster. The Island councillors have been firefighting and are looking forward to the update detailed by the Director of Infrastructure (above) on 14th March. This raised questions such as the need for an Equalities Impact Assessment and the criteria for assessing the entitlement for red tickets. It was evident that whilst the operator has to run a service these decisions were made by people not using the ferry on a regular basis.

The Infrastructure report was discussed with priority given to roads, Kevin took the action to notify of priorities and timescales for actions.

Action: Kevin

Waiting Room: Alistair sent an update that a window was to be put in the door so anyone inside could be seen. CC tv installed and a notice informing users of the CC tv would be put up. A speaker linked to the Port Authority office will be installed which can relay a message to users.

Carriage of dangerous goods on Ferry: the MCA had ignored the community aspect of transporting items; this has led to modifications on the ferry. Alistair shared the draft update which essentially allowed the use of a specific area for the carriage of unstable materials in prescribed containers. Which would be filled on a first come first served basis by notification to the crew. The carriage of hay/straw would be by notification to the crew.

8. Correspondence:

Emails have been circulated throughout the month. The Clerk shared detail of Social Security Scotland Local service which now has a representative in Shetland and is offering a face to face service. It was decided that we would invite them to the next meeting to enable us to inform Islanders of their services.

Action: Clerk

9. Financial Report and Grant Applications:

There were no grant applications. The Clerk shared the current financial position with projections for year end. The Distribution Fund has all been allocated and our core fund should come in at year end with a small amount within the scope of being able to carry over.

10. Community Council Plan. The Chair shared a draft of the proposed Community Council Plan for the term of this Council, it was agreed this will be adopted and published inviting comments from the public.

Action: Clerk

11. NHS Project at Former School:

Members recently met with a delegation from NHS Shetland, including Brian Chittick, Kim Anderson and Rita Rendall from the Living Well Hub in Brae.

There were three main topics:

- on Island Health Care Provision
- Inequality of Islanders having to pay ferry fares to attend appointments
- Medical evacuation plan

It is important we have appointments here in Bressay rather than always having to go to Lerwick – a “House of Care” arrangement. A healthcare support worker at the clinic to feed back to clinicians or support virtual appointments; the ability to have longer appointments and joined up care; dealing with medications etc. – a “Living Well Hub”.

An evacuation plan is being looked at for all the Islands of Shetland to provide a joined-up system. Meanwhile Gary shared details of a new NHS app which we will inform Islanders about via Facebook.

Action: Clerk

12. Household Hardship Fund:

Richard has investigated this and with help and advice from VAS thought this would work well in Bressay. Grants are available up to £5,000 and awards would be at the discretion of the Community Council. Joanna Fraser volunteered to assist, particularly on how to administer and will find out how other places have approached doing this. Richard will proceed with the grant application.

Action: Richard/Joanne

12. Bressay Groups Update: The Hall representative outlined the recent very successful Up Helly Aa and the continuing refurbishment by the Community Payback Team.

13. Any Other Business: Richard attended a zoom meeting on creating a Home Emergency Plan and will circulate details.

14. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 27th March.

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: Status of the Trowlands Road with Roads/Capital Action: Gary

Continued AP2: Status of Carriage of goods on ferry Action: Alistair

Continued AP3: Island Broadband provision Action: Richard

AP1: Investigate Funding for Footpaths Action: Shirley

AP2: Infrastructure Report Prioritisation and timescales Action: Kevin

AP3: Invitation to Social Security Scotland for next meeting Action: Clerk

AP4: Publish Community Council Plan Action: Clerk

AP5: Publish details of NHS app Action: Clerk

AP6: Household Hardship Fund application's Action: Richard/Joanna