

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Monday 26 June 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
Margaret MacDonald
Arwed Wenger
Stephen Leask

In Attendance:

Agenda Items

1. Introduction and Apologies:

The Chair opened the Meeting and welcomed guests and members to the hall. He asked for any objections to recording the meeting – there were none.

Apologies were noted from:

Amanda Sinclair
Joanna Fraser

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 26 June 2023 and sought their approval. Proposed by Kath and seconded by Richard.

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

CAP1. Island Broadband Provision. No further forward. Last month we discussed satellite enabled broadband however this is ridiculously expensive, £350 to £1500 per month plus initial hardware. Interestingly this piggy-backs on Starlink, it too is expensive at £75 a month and the set-up hardware has gone up to £450, it was unlikely this would reduce with multiple connections in an area. There is not a lot to further explore so the action will be put aside for the moment however Richard will keep an eye on anything in the future that is relevant. Shetland Telecom will need some kind of restructure in the future to be able to have an impact on the Shetland situation and some kind of government assistance. The ASCC will be taking the collective concerns regarding the switchover from analogue to digital telephony to government level with approaches to Beatrice Wishart and Alistair Carmichael.

CAP2. Funding for Footpaths. Action for Shirley – no further progress this month. Shirley will discuss with Joanna and obtained the phone number for Andrew Archer. This topic had also greatly featured in BDL's survey and clearly shows the need and the risk.

Action: Shirley

CAP3. Community Resilience plan. The Chair is currently working on this and we can discuss in more depth later in the meeting with grant funding available from SSE. Where we can have greater thoughts on pulling it together, linking it with other contingency plans, for instance transport, where although there is a resilience plan there is an inconsistent or inadequate response across the department as demonstrated during recent two ferry breakdowns. This extends to the transportation of disabled passengers on the older ferries - where they cannot access the passenger accommodation there should be a vehicle nominated for their seating and space allocated to that vehicle. This seems to have been forgotten and all this needs to be revisited with the Head of Infrastructure.

Action: Chair

AP1. Update on Concession Runs – we have now heard back from the Tall Ships organisers to let us know they have put two additional late runs in place on the Wednesday and Thursday nights at 1.00am. pre-booked. Now that is in place, we can revisit the two applications for late concession runs for Up Helly Aa night and the Hop. Everyone was in agreement that these should go ahead. One negative about the alterations to runs for the Tall Ships was the suspension of service for the Ships parade where people working on the Island and finishing work at 4.00pm couldn't get to Lerwick. This shows up the total lack of consultation to Islanders or the Community Council. The chair will make representation to the head of Infrastructure on these issues.

Action: Chair

AP2. Follow up on Funding for Ferry and NHS appointments – the Chair has been on touch with Brian Chittick regarding this, who is fairly supportive and has passed up to the Joint SIC/Health Board to work out a plan/timescale etc. The Chair will bring this up in his meeting with Beatrice Wishart. Alistair could inform the Council this had previously been in the "Caring for Bressay" plan and the methodology of being issued with a token which could be handed in to the ferry crew for future redemption by the SIC. This was an initiative with Transport Planning since fallen by the wayside.

Action: Chair

AP3: Liaison with Groups re garden project – The Gardening Club is in a bit of a lull at the moment so this will need quite a lot of work to pull together with BDL. With some community interest and perhaps a polycrub/mens shed.

Action: Chair

AP4: Explore Tunnels Sounding Board group – Alistair and the Chair were unfortunately unable to attend Neil Grant's meeting however they are now on the contact list and will have a meeting with him to get brought up to speed.

Action: Chair/Alistair

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

Carriage posters – The damage inside the waiting room has been repaired however the window in the door has not yet been installed. The Carriage of Dangerous Goods posters are in place and on our Face Book page. It was also clarified that these regulations applied to all Ferries, however was more pertinent to the Bressay run due to the number of foot traffic and lack of alternative fuel sources on the island.

AP6: Confirm & publish Voar Redd Up cut off dates – awaiting confirmation of participation from the Amenity Trust.

AP7: Share up to date constitution with members – Complete

5. Member and Visitor Reports: The SIC Councillors had been involved in the usual Council business, Licencing board and Orkney and Shetland Joint Board, none of which involved Bressay issues. A few seminars regarding the Knab and the Fair Isle Ferry. There had been meetings and seminars regarding the Community Councils Review, one thing that has been highlighted was for Community Councils to be better funded, for numerous years funding has been static and lack of empowerment held back Community Council engagement. This was very much echoed in the "Democracy Matters" event that Kath had attended (online) where it was noted functionality and funding had not changed since Community Councils were first formed fifty years ago. The report is due to be issued to the full Council in June. Regarding the Open Reach move to fibre from copper – we have

already partly discussed and we will discuss further in August when the ASCC slides are available.

6. Planning Applications: None

7. Infrastructure – We have already discussed the ferry situations. Roads – there has been some “solution” poured into the cracks in the Beosetter road, and some patching on the Pettifirth road. There have been no further updates from Roads – other than last month they had said they would patch at the end of June.

Island Resilience plan and SSEN grant funding - we really need a plan pulled together to see what we need before we apply for funding – e.g., a generator at the hall, we also need to be looking at somewhere like the hall to be a rendezvous point for emergency services – need a risk assessment for what could happen then what is needed, e.g., a landing point for a helicopter, coordination for coastguard in the case of a wreck etc. Not just what happens on the island but what could come to the island.

Action: Chair

8. NHS Project: The first patients had been to the new clinic this week however we have not had any feedback on how it went. Currently it is open one day a fortnight and appropriate Bressay residents seeking an appointment with the Health Centre is offered the choice of Bressay or Lerwick.

9. Community Garden Project – Already discussed under AP3

10. Correspondence: Quite a variety of items has been circulated. The clerk had had an interesting discussion with the Tingwall Whiteness and Weisdale Community Council on the use of technology for meetings. It was suggested this technology should perhaps be looked at in the Community Council review and provided as a standard across all community councils. Other items circulated were the VAS AGM, which is being attended by Lindsay, the police report, and Shetland Women’s gather.

11. Financial Report and Grant Applications:

One SCBF was received for equipment for the Shetland Canoe club. This was unanimously approved and the members were very impressed with the calculation of the request where it was obvious some thought had been put into it. We have advance notification of applications coming from the Hall after their meeting this week. This will be for meeting room technology and as it had been previously discussed at length this can be approved by a circulation of emails so equipment can be installed before the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

12. Household Hardship Fund Update. All the £3,000 of vouchers has been distributed and redeemed at the shop. There is a slight amount (£77.65) left from the administration element of the fund. It was agreed this should be sent to the shop for them to issue goods to the food bank. Thanks was made to the Bressay Mail Shop for their assistance in making this all happen.

13. Bressay Groups Update: Hall is having a Chinese night on the 14th July, this can be a sit in or takeaway and the bar will be open. BDL draft survey has been issued, one comment was made on the disappointing number of responses that had been received.

14. Any Other Business:

The First item was regarding road maintenance quarry cleanings – because of standstill budgets there was little funding available as this has to come out of the Core Fund. If we use the Core Fund, we would only get a couple of loads which would not allow any funding for skips. It was decided skips were of more assistance to the wider public. Previous years criteria for allocating skips were to go to organisations who had had funding from BCC, if

they could provide a trailer for metal/white goods and take it to the scrap yard they get any proceeds from the disposal to their funds as well as being seen to help their community. To this end it was decided to ask the boating club to manage a skip, as the representative to the boating club the Chair will ask them to give us some dates and we can arrange the location.

Action: Chair

There have been more complaints about speeding on the Heogan Road, and there was some discussion as to what could be done. It was decided to write to the haulier in the first instance, Richard will draft an email to be sent officially to the haulier. In addition to the speeding lorries, they are coming in with an open skip which is then spilling onto the road and creating a hazard, plus chemicals in the effluent can damage the road surface. This shows the load is not secured properly as well as speeding round corners and on the crests of hills.

Action: Richard

It has been pointed out to Richard that there is Mare's Tail in the ditches at Heogan by the factory. This is invasive and toxic to animals. It was decided this came under the remit of road maintenance and needed to be added to the infrastructure report.

It is now nearly a year since the infrastructure report was reviewed so another inspection (by BCC) was coming due – this would also tie in with verges being cut. A developing hazard at the top of the Voehead road was highlighted where trees had been planted on the right-hand side of the road (going down the hill) and in a couple of years' time will block visibility of oncoming vehicles. This is already the case on the other side of the road. Richard will add these to the Infrastructure Report.

Action: Richard

It is some time since we had an update on the refurbishment of the war memorials. The last action had been a meeting with the new owners where they had accepted maintenance was the responsibility of them as owners and they were applying to the Memorials Commission for a grant for repairs. It was pointed out that currently we have access to (Windfarm) funding that could be put to use for this. Alistair intimated he would be happy to go along with someone to discuss this with the owners.

Action: Alistair

The Hall Committee have approached the owners of the two abandoned cars in the hall car park who are trying to get the Amenity Trust to up lift. The Amenity Trust will be stopping this scheme and meanwhile there is a long waiting list. Disposal charges are built into the tax at purchase of a vehicle therefore there is an onus on Government to provide this service within a certain radius (which Bressay Falls within). The first point of contact would be Environment Services. We will also add this to the infrastructure report to assist in facilitating.

The early Ferry was discussed with Michael Craigie last year and a scheme suggested to him. Michael offered to discuss with Ferry Operations however we have been given no further information. We will invite Michael (or his representative) to the next meeting.

Previously the service could not be expanded under the terms of the funding, however this funding now has been expanded and the service in both Whalsay and Fetlar increased.

A further discussion ensued regarding bins and dog waste bins which was promised last year and has not yet been resolved.

15. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 28th August as there is a recess in July. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.15 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

<u>Continued AP1:</u> Investigate Funding for Footpaths	Action: Shirley
<u>Continued AP2:</u> Community Resilience plan	Action: Chair
AP1: Feedback on Ferry timetable for Tall Ships	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/Alistair
AP5: Confirm & publish Voar Redd Up cut off dates	Action: Clerk
AP6: Feedback to SCBF Grant application	Action: Clerk
AP7: Feedback to Hall on sourcing of Projector	Action: Clerk
AP7: Consult with Boating Club regarding skip manning	Action: Chair
AP8: Write to Fish Factory Haulier regarding Lorry safety	Action: Richard
AP9: Update Infrastructure Report re Toxic weeds and dumped Cars	Action: Richard
AP10: Facilitate a meeting with church owners re war memorials	Action: Alistair
AP11: Invite Michael Craigie or his representative to next meeting	Action: Clerk