

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Monday 08 January 2024 in Bressay Hall.

Present:

Lindsay Tulloch (Chair)
Shirley Gifford
Kath Duffus
Margaret MacDonald
Matt Mason
Katrina Gifford
Gary Robinson
Arwed Wenger

In Attendance:

Janice Jones (Clerk)

Agenda Items

1. Introduction and Apologies:

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

Apologies were noted from:

Joanna Fraser
Michael Duncan
Alistair Christie-Henry

2. Declarations of interest:

The Chair asked for declarations of interest – once received from the Chair for AOB

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The Chairman reviewed the draft minutes of the meeting 30th October 2023 and sought their approval. Proposed by Margaret, seconded by Lindsay.

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

Continued AP1 Community Resilience plan

Ongoing – the Chair is attending a Hall Committee meeting tomorrow.

Action: Chair

AP1: Feedback on Ferry timetable and other issues

Michael Craigie was to discuss with Andrew Inkster with a view to extending the timetable earlier in the mornings. It is understood Michael was off work for most of December so no update has been received.

Action: Chair/Shirley

AP2: Follow up in funding for Ferry and NHS appointments

An email detailing the response to Beatrice Wishart from Michael Matteson, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Health, has been circulated. His response is very disappointing. The Chair is planning to respond to Beatrice Wishart, and perhaps have a further meeting with her and Brian Chittock as it seems the Minister has missed the whole point. The suggestion seems

to be to get in touch with the Red Cross for appointment travel, which is not suitable nor what we want to achieve. **Action: Chair**

AP3: Explore Tunnels Sounding Board group

The Chair and Alistair has been attending this group which is now set up, meeting periodically it includes the action groups from Whalsay, Yell, Unst and representations from Bressay – we will come back to this further through the meeting. **Action: Chair/Alistair**

AP4: Raise the issue of Ferry (Lerwick side) parking

Parking issues at the Lerwick side – nothing fed back yet. **Action: Kevin**

AP5: Liaise with “We Shine Brighter” to share our actions on HHF **Action; Richard**

AP6: Review shelf life of Speldiburn defibrillator batteries and obtain quotes for replacements

Matt will forward on shortly – one question will be if we should be looking at an up-to-date unit rather than replacing batteries in a unit which may well become out of date.

Action: Matt

Regarding the installation of a footpath at Maryfield Arwed suggested tapping into the Coastal Communities Fund to obtain funding. The Community Council is in contact with Niel Hutchison and once a viable time framework is promoted the Community Council will be tapping into any available sources of funding to ensure this can happen.

5. Member and Visitor Reports: Not a huge amount has happened – just a bit more clarity on the funding the SIC can expect for next year. As usual it is not enough and there is still a big question mark over Ferry funding, all this is still at the first stage and the Council needs to keep the pressure on to make sure the government upholds it’s long-standing commitment to fund our local ferries. As with most councils in Scotland there has been some top up to Council Tax fees although the question arises as to whether it is enough to plug the gap particularly with the requests for pay increases, just settled one pay claim and about to start another although there is one saving grace that inflation has come down a little. Very challenging to set this year’s budget as it will be into March which leaves a knock-on effect to the departments. One area that could affect Bressay could be the work on the Lerwick Lanes when it comes to parking etc. This compounds the lack of Parking for the Ferry. The feed-back survey for the Lanes Masterplan is on the internet until 14th February. The other impact on the council is staffing levels and the challenges of recruitment. The SIC representatives were asked in the light of the Chief Executive and the Council Leader has been in discussion with the government regarding fixed links what is the general feeling in the council? The main feeling is around funding, willingness has been shown by the UK Government in discussions with Michael Gove in being able to support borrowing. That may be what it will come down to and using the model they have in Faeroe where tolls run until loans are paid off. That seems to be the affordable method unless the Government(s) come in with capital expenditure. A lot of Holyrood expenditure has been diverted to staffing which leaves less for capital projects.

6. Planning Applications: None.

7. Infrastructure – Already covered all the outstanding ferry items and the path at Maryfield. An update from the SIC regarding the switch over from landlines to digital has been circulated, Concerns has been raised regarding the protection of the vulnerable household with personal alarms (Telecare) following the switch over. Providers have now signed up to a charter to ensure vulnerable households are not switched over until they are fully confident that they are protected.

8. Island Connectivity - In relation to fixed links the Active action groups are now meeting with representatives from Bressay. We cannot just be looking at fixed links at this point as this may not address the whole community. What was suggested is the Community Council

hosting an evening for people to come and make their opinions known and may wish to form an action group to feed into this, separate to the Community Council. Whalsay did similar. Looking for a date within the next month or so and see if the Project Manager (Louise Shearer) could come across to address the audience.

Action: Clerk/Chair

9. Future of Telephone Kiosk at Ham – We have recently been contacted by Stephen Anderson who advised the door has blown off the kiosk. This was bought for £1. There is concern about keeping it safe and the liability if causes harm to a member of the public. It needs to be made into good condition before either being passed on to a community group or put to good community use. The cost of this with Stephen doing the work is £365 plus VAT and delivery. If we keep it in our possession, we will have to maintain it. The shop one has been reinstated – because it is within a mile of the sea. We don't have sufficient funds in this year's budget for the repairs so would have to look for alternative funding (e.g. SCBF) perhaps also adding in other elements to enable a project for its use. Alternatively, it could be handed over to another group who could apply for the funding for the maintenance. As a first step the Chair will speak to the History Group.

10. Scottish Forum of Community Councils: Kath is attending this via Teams. There is some progress in this getting setup and some setbacks, the main setback being in the form of the Scottish Government, whilst thinking it is a good idea there is a lack of funding. A website has now been set up "ScottishCC.com" and Face Book page. Democracy Matters feeds into this – a Scottish Government initiative to get more people involved in having a say at local level, there is a fund to facilitate meetings. It was suggested to add this into a meeting regarding the ferries/fixed Links. There are 16 questions on the website which can be answered by any member of the Community.

11. Women's Aid Presentation: Kath represented the Community Council at this event. Ideally the Community Council could act as a signposting mechanism to direct women and young people to get the help they may need. The co-ordinator would be very happy to address a meeting if we wished. It was suggested the Health Hub could be an ideal forum for this. Women's Aid sits within the remit of Protection so this would fit in with the information recently circulated from the Public Protection Committee and a pack is due to be sent to us soon, meanwhile Kath will arrange for the co-ordinator to visit and circulate some posters.

12: Review of Community Councils Consultation: the survey has to be completed by the 12th. The members reviewed the options and prepared a collective response.

13: Financial Report and Grant Applications: The hall submitted a grant application for their Senior Citizens Christmas party which we discussed and agreed in principle at the October meeting before the application was submitted. As we had no meeting in November (after the application was received) normally this could not be awarded as we cannot issue grants retrospectively. However, as a one off, due to the circumstances, and because it had been discussed, we have been granted disposition to award if the members all agree. This was unanimously agreed. This leaves the Distribution Fund with £2,750. The Core Fund is running low and we will have an update next month, currently we are running to an estimate of £350, however the Christmas vouchers have come in below initial budget of £1,500 so there will be some savings there.

The Garden Project has still not yet been spent – Katrina would like to get some bird feeders and seed and some spring bulbs. The big issue is to get the undergrowth cleared, paths and siting for the benches. It is hoped once it is cut down the public may take a greater interest. Katrina will take an action for finding quotes. A suggestion was made to see if we could get

the Community Payback Team in however their use can only apply to registered charities. Police and Fire Cadets could be another avenue. The possibility of a name for the garden was discussed, the piece of ground previously belonged to Ella Deyel, Larry and Lawrence Deyel has been approached and they have no objections to it being called Ella's Park. It was unanimously decided this was quite suitable. **Action: Katrina**

14. Bressay Groups Update: Hall is now busy preparing for Up Helly Aa, the Chair is attending their next meeting to address the acquisition of the generator and see what is required to move this forward. The History Group has made representation via the Amenity Group to bring the Bressay Stone to Shetland for a period of time. It cannot come to Bressay because it needs to be kept in a protected environment. They have specifically asked if we can send a letter of endorsement to support this idea. The Boating Club have had their AGM but have nothing further to report. **Action: Chair**

15. Any Other Business: We have had one application for a Community Ferry Run for the early hours of Saturday 6th April, for a wedding, the Chair declared an interest in this discussion which was unanimously approved. Members enquired as to the status of the Bressay Profile – we had expected details of a survey. Members also proposed their thanks to Emily Gifford for the time she spent delivering the Senior Citizens vouchers.

16. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 29th January, back to the normal schedule of the last Monday of the Month. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.00 and thanked those attending.

Chairman:

Date

To contact the Community Council please email us at bressaycc@gmail.com or telephone 07532054521 or contact any Community Council Member.

