

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Monday 29th April 2024, in Bressay Hall.

Minute subject to approval at the next Bressay Community Council Meeting.

Present:

Lindsay Tulloch (Chair)
Shirley Gifford
Richard Burell
Matt Mason
Katrina Gifford
Margaret MacDonald
Gary Robinson

In Attendance:

Andrew Inkster (SIC infrastructure)
Michael Duncan
Joanna Fraser

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
Arwed Wenger

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 19th March 2024 and sought their approval. Matt explained some clarification on details in section 6 which will require adjustment, agreement was proposed by Margaret, seconded by Shirley.

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

Continued AP1 Community Resilience plan

He is waiting for DH Marine to do a site visit to determine final costs before we look at additional funding for the project.

Action: Chair

AP1: Feedback on Ferry timetable and other issues

Will continue later in meeting

AP2: Follow up on funding for Ferry and NHS appointments

A further reply from Niel Grey had been circulated with little further information. The Chair has been in contact with Brian Chittock to arrange a meeting, he is having further discussions with his team to see if any solution can be found.

Action: Chair

AP3: Advise the public to check their ferry charges –Completed

AP4: Obtain flag stones, equipment & signage for Ella's Park – will be updated later in the meeting. **Action: Katrina**

AP6: Advertise Voar Redd Up funding availability – Completed

AP6: Invite Transport Group volunteers to meeting 15/04, a new date will need to be set to get this organised to feed into the transport forum.

AP7: Enquire with Hall as to a T loop System.

Ongoing

5. Member and Visitor Reports: he SIC Councillors did not have a lot to report this month as the first half of the month was still in recess. The Education and Families committee met which focused on the mothballing of the Skeld School. The licencing board met and discussed the over provision of licenced premises, across Shetland there had actually been a reduction of premises. The review of the Lerwick by Laws had not yet come before the council. At the transport meeting a question came up regarding the future of the gritter in Bressay, Niel Hutchison could confirm the desire is to be able to recruit a Bressay operative when that time comes and keep the gritter in Bressay, when this is necessary this will be advertised and it would be good if members could encourage suitable persons to apply. One solution could be a job share across a number of local HGV drivers to ease the burden on one operative; the Community Council will support finding a replacement.

6. Infrastructure – Andrew Inkster

The Linkspan essential maintenance is going ahead as planned.

There was a question about an earlier ferry which Michael Craigie had discussed with Andrew. Andrew's role is purely operational to run the ferry to the timetable set by the SIC. Operations does not determine the timetable; this is set by the Council and ZetTrans. From an operational point of view an earlier ferry is not too difficult – it will mean the day shift will start a bit earlier, finish a bit earlier with the backshift starting earlier and finishing later. The crews have been canvassed as to an earlier start and a significant majority are not keen. This gives Andrew a problem as he is not in a position to force a change to terms and conditions. What Michael has now planned is to take this to ZetTrans and Environment and Transport to seek formal authority to investigate; this will involve negotiation with the unions and Human Resources, and if the crew is not willing then enforcement will take time. Even if this went to a booking only system this would still require a change to Terms & Conditions, although this may help getting crew agreement. A number of queries had been raised regarding the FaceBook posts detailing the restricted timetables for the Linkspan works, these had been redirected to Ferry Operations and Andrew could confirm a number had been received. The timetable has been set in discussions with the RouteMaster and is set to allow the extra time needed to engage gangways, getting passengers on board etc. He was asked to confirm if the bus will pick up enroute to Heogan, to save folk from that end going to the Hall – he could not see a problem with this but will confirm. It was noted there had been quite a lot of queries on social media regarding the Health Care provision for that week end. Matt has been working on this, each organisation has had different priorities, it has highlighted the need for consultation, so lessons could be learnt. The latest information is that an ambulance will be stationed on the Island that weekend, the new Resilience Advisor is picking this up next week with a multi-agency approach. We have had it confirmed there will be overnight ferry call out available, all be it on a passenger only basis, more clarification will be available next week. Clarification will also be needed whether overnight support will be by the NHS or Ambulance services. The change will be in the delivery, contact will still be the same.

Ferry Fares – four people got in touch regarding this, one was incorrect billing and a credit was issued. The other three were regarding multiple billing appearing on the bank account

all on the same day, two have been identified as correct and were due to a delay in the uploading of the system, this is an issue with the WiFi on board and Starlight will be trialled on the ferry to see if this can improve things, especially when cruise ships are in. There is one query still to check and it is anticipated this will be the same.

7. Community Council Scheme Review Update – Michael Duncan

Michael is visiting each Community Council to detail Phase 2 of the consultation that is running until the end of June. The review is set out on Statutory Legislation and as a result is quite a protracted review, there is three rounds of consultation, the first two is 12 and 10 weeks and the last is six or 7 weeks. Phase one was on boundaries and composition, phase two is the actual scheme, most remains the same with a number of main changes. Which he proceeded to outline:

- 1) Funding, currently there are two main sources of funding, the proposal is to merge that into one scheme.
- 2) This would need some feedback into how funds are allocated and the “pot” divided up across Community Councils whether by population or some other scheme
- 3) Non-attendance at Community Council meetings - currently there is no mechanism to insist on stepping down or removal, Shetland is the only area of Scotland that doesn't have such a mechanism.
- 4) Composition – various Community Councils number of seats are based on historic figures rather than the actual population of the area and look to bring in population bands that gives consistency.
- 5) Standing orders – there are a number of regular queries that comes in and it is proposed we have a set of standing orders which details all the rules that govern process.
- 6) Code of Conduct – currently this is quite light in detail and it is proposed to update to deal with a number of queries that comes into the office, especially conflict of interest and other behaviours.
- 7) Membership – Introducing a youth membership category e.g. a 12 to 16 age group.
- 8) No current rule preventing a Community Councillor also being an SIC member, it is proposed that if elected in a higher electoral capacity it would be ineligible to stand as a Community Council member – you can still be a defacto member (as our current SIC members are) but have no voting rights.
- 9) Currently there are no rules for the period of holding the chair, it is proposed the chair is held for a maximum of four years then steps down and it is a further two years before they can chair in the future.
- 10) The final question is - is there anything else that can be added into the changes that could help Community Councils?

Members were urged to give their feedback both as a group and as individuals and to encourage other members of the public to submit their opinions as well.

Quick feedback from the floor was that on the whole it all seemed good, question two on funding was an area of concern, if it was done on a per head of population, many areas, like Bressay, had a low population but few services and it cost a lot to access facilities outwith the island the Community Council therefore needed to invest in the well-being within the island, and required funding to support and provide alternatives. This is the kind of thing that needs to be “red flagged” and highlighted in the responses, and add things that needs further weighting, Island thing or rural thing, lack of services etc. which could give additional weighting. It was pointed out much of the Community Council business of the Island Councils must be different to that of Mainland councils as a great part of business revolved around ferries transport and health and things like that. This is things that the Council is keen to get the feedback on. It was questioned whether other Councils were able to spend on more holistic

things rather than the necessity of quarry cleanings, skips etc. This is highlighted in other council's minutes where it is harder for island residents to, for example, jump in a car and go to the tip, therefore they need to spend on bulky uplifts and using their grants for that. One way to allocate could be to look at what services are available in an area and disproportionately give more funding to areas that have the least. Overall, the new funding mechanism is a positive change to allow understanding of money allocation. There is an argument for an Islands need allowance similar to the council schemes. It could be good to look at the profile of the spend across the year, as a number of councils have a big panic to spend before year end to use up budget. At the initial discussion of boundaries and the possibility of merging Bressay and Lerwick it was highlighted Bressay had very different issues. It is a long time since budgets were increased and perhaps this might help to do this. Some kind of planning training might be a good idea – some training is available on line, plus for general development as a Community Councillor. Community Profile - there were 104 responses to the Community Profile survey which was a really pleasing response. Further information is still being gathered and collated and they are looking to have this done by the end of April.

8. Ella's Park Garden Project

Still waiting for a bench to be delivered, signs are up, compost planters and a strimmer purchased. Now it is a case of fundraising and recruiting for further help and plants. Some help could be from the Fire young volunteers for specific projects. Youth Services did some work at Speldiburn and Joanna will enquire if there is any scope there.

9. SFRS Consultation – Matt Mason

A consultation on the future of the Fire Service is due to start tomorrow. It is 200 years since the inception of the first Fire Services in Edinburgh. Whilst the services haven't changed the demands have changed. Building fires across Scotland are all reduced, mainly due to prevention strategy. Alarms are a huge contributor to the decrease however demographic changes and an older population adds to changes. Outdoor fires (wild fires) have increased, due to climate changes, with staffing impact and environmental impacts. In some places fire stations are based in prior industrial areas which are no longer valid. We are directing people to yet another survey, which is important to frame the future. The Fire Brigade estate needs funding to bring it up to standard, firefighting too carries a huge health risk with high rates of cancer at a lower age. The estate currently does not support the kind of staff decontamination necessary. It is not about saving money but using it in better, more appropriate, ways. The survey will run for a couple of months and the result will feed into a public consultation. There will not be a huge impact in Shetland although there are a number of areas, for instance there are three fire stations "not fit for purpose" which includes the one in Bressay, with no toilet, asbestos sheeting, no showers, decontamination etc. The survey is important to highlight peoples needs for example more fire prevention and third sector responses, e.g. for cardiac arrest. Currently there is no mechanism to get those out to their need. The survey is to highlight what is needed in the community. There is a paper version and an online version and as many varied voices as possible would be appreciated.

10. Planning Applications: None

11. Finance: Grant & SCBF applications & Financial position.

There are no grant applications. The draft end of year figures has been circulated. Applications for all the next years funding has been submitted. Michael could confirm the core fund has been allocated.

12. Bressay Groups Update (Hall, Sports Club, Boating Club, BDL etc.)

The Sports Club teas was a big success, with a lot of visitors as well as locals, boosted by a FB group for Sunday Teas. The Boating Club is planning a fish and chip night in June.

13. Any other business:

The Chair confirmed that Richard has tendered his resignation and passed on his thanks to his colleagues and to the previous Chairman, Alistair Christie-Henry for his support and guidance. The Chair expressed his regret at Richard leaving as he has contributed well and will be missed. This now leaves a vacancy to be filled and it would be worthwhile to target a younger person.

14. Meeting Review: no comments

15. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on the 27th May. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.45 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.

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

Summary of new and outstanding actions

Continued AP1 Community Resilience plan **Action: Chair**

AP1: Feedback on Ferry timetable and other issues **Action: Chair/Shirley/
SIC ferry Operations/Transport**

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

AP3: Enquire with Hall as to a T loop System **Action: Clerk**

AP4: Advertise CC member vacancy **Action: Clerk**