

BRESSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Bressay Community Council meeting:

Held on Monday 30th September 2024, in Bressay Hall.

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

Present:

Lindsay Tulloch (Chair)
Matt Mason
Margaret MacDonald
Katrina Gifford
Ruth MacKenzie
Stephen Leask
Gary Robinson
Arwed Wenger

In Attendance:

Joanna Fraser
Tom Wills (VOAR)
Janice Jones (Clerk)

Agenda Items

1. Introduction and Apologies:

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

Apologies were noted from:

Shirley Gifford
Alistair Christie-Henry
Kath Duffus
Michael Duncan
Andrew Inkster

2. Declarations of interest:

The Chair asked for declarations of interest – Gary noted his interest in the later agenda item regarding the NHS transport.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The Chairman reviewed the draft minutes of the meeting and sought their approval, proposed by Margaret and seconded by Matt.

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

AP1: Feedback on Ferry timetable and other issues

**Action: Chair/Shirley/
SIC ferry Operations/Transport**

Currently the SIC are in negotiations with the crews which may address some issues – we will keep ongoing and await further information.

AP2: Follow up in funding for Ferry and NHS appointments

Action: Chair

This is on the agenda so we will visit in more detail later in the meeting.

AP3: Enquire with Infrastructure regarding Bus Shelters and the winter roads provision

Action: Clerk

The clerk has emailed Neil Hutchinson and had hoped for an update before tonight, as yet there has been none. She will follow up and, if necessary, escalate

AP4: Feedback to Andrew Inkster the Community Council concerns regarding the date of the Linkspan upgrade.

Action: Complete

Concerns were raised and we did get a response explaining why that weekend had been selected. There had been a further update from his assistant to let us know they are in discussions with Sinclair taxis to look at providing a shuttle bus service for residents who have had to leave their vehicles in Lerwick overnight. When they have more information, they will let us know. The weekend is still the same one although it is noted that it will be weather dependant and crane, health and safety dependant. If cancelled it cannot be scheduled again until spring. We are still waiting an update on additional ambulance provision. It is hoped this will be similar to last time and a multi-agency approach. Matt could confirm an additional fire appliance will be available.

AP5: Explore alternatives to a diesel generator for resilience.

Action: Chair

The chair has again tried to contact DH Marine and again had no response. He is looking at alternatives. Meanwhile they will explore the system the Walls Hall has installed; this would also tie in with the VOAR project and with the Solar panels the hall had looked at doing previously. There would be a need to assess the actual power requirements and a simple option could be just to have a battery which could be charged off the grid if necessary.

AP6: Pass on details of the deterioration of the Bill Deacon Memorial to the History Group.

Action: Completed

This had been passed to the history group who have decided that over the winter was not an ideal time to look at it and they would revisit in spring.

5. Member and Visitor Reports: Stephen has attended various committees and boards the most pertinent one the Employees Joint Consultative Committee in which the ferry resilience review was discussed with all stake holders, including unions. A big discussion was on retainment of ferry sea staff. Growing more of our own to facilitate retention with programmes for trainee seafarers. Pay grading and marine comparatives to look at supplements and the use of agency staff, all while maintaining alignment with council policies, fair ferry funding and budgeting. Cruise ship timetabling came under discussion. The union representatives were mainly in favour of the proposals although more consultation with the staff representatives will be required. Some discussion ensued especially in regard to ferry crews. Some measures have already been implemented, for instance recruitment – others will take longer with significant difficulties. This led to a wider discussion especially regarding the proposed development and retention of staff. Gary and Arwed could echo Stephens actions for the month.

Joanna has been running her Pop Ins at the hall for the last five weeks and they have been well received and worthwhile. They are now looking at their winter programme and hoping to do some more. Funding has been approved and later this month will have a better plan put in place. Building a community spirit back in Bressay is of great importance and good to see.

6. Cruise Cycle Route – Carole Smith. PC Carole Smith was due to attend, however has had to send her apologies. She wished to discuss the proposal from AIDA (Cruises) to extend their passenger cycle tours across to Bressay with tours of up to 40 cyclists..

Meanwhile BDL who had also been consulted had replied detailing why this would not be suitable, specifying congestion and safety issues, notwithstanding a strain on the Bressay infrastructure. In many places the dug-out ditches make passing a cyclist difficult and 40 would not necessarily fit in a passing place. In reality the organisers have not looked at the routes, whilst we do not wish to be un-welcoming to visitors more planning is required. The right kind of risk assessment is needed and work back from there, as the benefits could be greater than the negatives, especially if there could be a spin off on road/pavement infrastructure. A subsequent email from Carole had asked for our thoughts on groups of ten cyclists. We would prefer to have a consultation with the cruise organisers (along with BDL) to see what could be accommodated and what provision could be put in place with engagement with roads department. The current infrastructure illustrates that Bressay does not have the infrastructure suitable to welcome guest to our island safely. The government has now cut funding for foot and cycle paths so support from elsewhere would be necessary. Groups of ten would be more manageable – ten could fit into a passing place and would be a more reasonable number for Speldiburn to cope with. If people want to come, we need to be accommodating and prepared as at the end of the day we cannot prevent them from coming. The clerk will update PC Smith with details of tonight's discussions.

Action: Clerk

7. Community Led Energy – Tom Wills

Tom has been working with BDL to set up a feasibility study into community energy provision. Currently there is provision for funding for an initial study, narrowed down into battery energy storage and solar panels out past Pelagia at Heogan. Currently this funding is for a narrow focus however we will expand this and make it as relevant as possible for Bressay. Yell has provided a model as to what can be achieved, whilst things have changed in the fifteen years since they started there are still benefits for the community. Tom outlined the developments that are in the pipeline and the scale for those, especially offshore. Within the confines of the narrow funding, they will explore the initial battery and storage from which Pelagia are interested in purchasing energy, and within that expand their investigations into wider options. Wind turbines are unlikely to be popular in Bressay with no obvious site for multiple devices but there are a number of alternative options. The Community Council is keen to support this project and invited Tom to have a monthly slot on the agenda to update on progress.

8. Infrastructure: Andrew Inkster, SIC Ferry Operations: Andrew has sent his apologies as he is unable to attend, however the Chair could pass on an update in relation to the Patient Travel option. Brian Chittick has announced the implementation of a pilot scheme to issue a ferry ticket to patients who are returning to Bressay after an appointment at the Lerwick Health Centre. This pilot will feed into the ferry fare review, and will provide information as to whether or not it is workable. Although it is not underpinned by the legislation of the Highland and Islands travel scheme this has been undertaken as part of their work scheme to tackle inequalities, working in partnership with the community. The pilot is focusing only on Bressay as most of the other islands have access to residential nurses/health support workers whilst Bressay only has a monthly visiting service. Much thanks in achieving this is down to the work done by Magnie Stewart in highlighting the issues to Brian Chittick. At the moment it is unclear if this extends to hospital appointments or just the Health Centre and the length time the pilot will run. As this goes live tomorrow, we will publicise on FB and noticeboards.

Action: Clerk

9. 2024-2025 Project: The sub group met and looked at what could be done within the budget and the timescale. The first area they are looking at is the "Shipwreck Trail". The leaflet can be resurrected and updated and along with the current Bressay/Noss leaflet (which has a lot on it) linked with links to pertinent websites. There is no digital knowledge about this route so that could be added. Costs needs to be assessed and can work with the

history group on funding for the maintenance of boards and such like. This would tie in with digital promotions etc.

10. Ella's Park Garden Project: A committee has now been established and a draft constitution prepared. A bank account application is in progress. Focus is now on the opening, possibly a soft opening tying in with something for Halloween. Signage is ready to go up. Quite a few ideas are being floated e.g. a herb garden that people can come along and help themselves. Katrina has seen a number of projects along Speyside where people could come along and have produce, doing some weeding etc. With a bank account in place, they can apply for funding – bigger grants, e.g. for a poly tunnel etc.

10. Correspondence no new correspondence that hasn't been circulated or discussed.

11. Planning Applications: None

12. Finance: Grant & SCBF applications & Financial position. No new applications.

13. Bressay Groups Update (Hall, Sports Club, Boating Club, BDL etc.) The boating club are still hoping to have their fish and chip night but have no suitable date yet. The Hall AGM will be at the end of October.

14. Any other business: Some discussion took place on the use of social media and whether we should be extending our on-line presence, particularly to embrace a younger age group.

Matt is discussing with a number of people about the potential of a Bressay regatta who seem keen so will continue to progress that.

The Clerk presented the members with the "Tree of Life Interrupted" plaque which has been sent to the Community Council for public display. Some discussion ensued as to where it should be displayed. The preferred option was to the History Group as it is part of our social history, however as the Heritage Centre will be closing for the winter it was decided to offer it to Speldiburn for temporary display until spring. Ruth was delegated to discuss with Speldiburn.

Action: Ruth

15. Meeting Review: no comments

16. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on the 28th October 2024. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.15 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 with Infrastructure regarding Bus Shelters

Action: Clerk

AP3: Explore alternatives to a diesel generator for resilience.

Action: Chair

AP4: Provide feedback to PC Smith on cruise cycle routes

Action: Clerk

AP5: Advertise the NHS appointment/ferry ticket pilot scheme to the Bressay public via FB and posters.

Action: Clerk

AP6: Arrange for the display of the "Tree of life Interrupted" plaque.

Action: Ruth