

Minutes of meeting
Tuesday, 21st January, 2025
At Brora Community Centre

Present: Russell Rekhy RR (Chair), Becky Clay BC (Secretary), Robbie Maclennan RM, Gina Stewart GS & Dawn DeHavilland DDH (Minute Secretary)

Also Attending: 4 members of public.

Apologies: David Andrews DA, Peter Fassen de Heer PDH, Ruwan Uduwera-Perera RUP
Billy Buchanan BB

Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

Russell RR expressed thanks to the volunteers who worked extremely hard with the dazzling firework display & the celebratory Christmas lights.

Police Update:

Unfortunately, no report from the Police has been received

Action: Email Police **Responsible Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 18.02.25

Ongoing from August: Callum to investigate the possibility of providing an email address for members of the public to use for non-emergency issues. Becky BC to chase for information.

Action: Police Email Address **Responsible Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 18.02.25

Minutes meeting 29th October, 2024:

The minutes of last meeting were circulated and accepted on the proposal of Robbie Maclennan RM and seconded by Gina Stewart GS

Matters arising:

Ongoing from October: Reports of a dog attacking other dogs and wildlife has been received, 21.01.24 Becky has emailed the Police no reply Becky BC will chase.

Action: Pass information on to the police **Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 18.02.25

Ongoing from September: Clyne Kirkton, Old Parish Church and churchyard 40m N of Balranald, Ellen Lindsay reiterated that Clyne Kirkton is a listed building & the tress are now dangerous, other members confirmed the area has been taped off & safety notices put up, Richard Gale RG will take this up with the Highland Council.

Action: Update on Highland Council Response **Member:** Richard Gale not in attendance 21.01.25

Review Date: 18.02.25

Ongoing from August: Russell RR asked Leslie-Anne if the budget cuts would impact Brora Primary School, no answer could be given at this time, Leslie-Anne LN will ask for more information to feed back to Brora Community Council. BC to contact for information. 21.01.25 Becky BC has advised Leslie-Anne will respond shortly.

Action: Update on Primary School **Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** Ongoing

Ongoing from September: Handrails opposite the Royal Marine Hotel are dangerous Becky BC will contact the Hotel to resolve the issue. No response from Royal Marine Becky BC to chase.

21.01.25 Billy the manager from The Royal Marine Hotel has advised Becky BC that he is awaiting information from head office, Becky BC will telephone 22.01.25 for an update.

Action: Email Hotel **Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 18.02.25- Awaiting Response

Ongoing from September: Fountain Square repairs are still to be carried out. 21.01.25 Becky BC to chase.

Action: Chase up repair work **Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 18.02.25- Awaiting Response

Ongoing from September: The Bank of Scotland branch in Golspie closing permanently on February 4, issue with the digitally excluded not having access to bank facilities. BCC to contact Jamie Stone to see what help is available.

21.01.25 Becky BC has received an email from Jamie Stone confirming receipt, however nothing tangible as yet.

Action: Contact Jamie Stone **Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 18.02.25- Awaiting Response

Ongoing from September: A road off Cemetery Road (does not have a name) Mosshill, is rarely gritted & has no yellow salt bin. BCC to ask Richard Gale RC to deal with the issue.

From the floor, graffiti on signs at the top of Academy Street, BCC to ask Richard Gale RC to deal with the issue.

Action: Update on Highland Council Response **Member:** Richard Gale not in attendance 21.01.25

Review Date: 18.02.25

Ongoing from October: Diana Royce reported the handrail at Manse Park is in need of urgent repair.

Action: Request Repair **Member:** Richard Gale not in attendance 21.01.25 **Review Date:** 18.02.25

Ongoing from September: Diana Royce DR the red barriers at the bridge are an eyesore, who is responsible for the repair work? Becky Clay BC to contact BEAR & SSE to find a resolution.

21.02.25 Becky BC has emailed both BEAR & SSE three times with no response, in addition Diana Royce has also tried to contact both BEAR & SSE in vain. Russell may have a contact he can try to get some information from.

Action: Email BEAR & SSE **Member:** Russell Rekhy, Becky Clay **Review Date:** 18.02.25

Ongoing from October: A member of the public has asked if the Jackie MacLennan memorial stone can be cleaned? Becky BC has contacted the stonemason and is waiting on a response.

Action: Update information from stonemason **Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 18.02.25 Stonemason contacted – awaiting on price

Councillor Update:

Richard Gale not in attendance.

Ongoing from September: Robbie MacLennan RM reported that a manhole cover has not been repaired, Richard Gale RG apologised for the delay & will ensure the work is carried out.

Becky Clay reported a broken lamppost at 16 Johnstone place, Richard Gale RG will chase.

Action: Highland Council Repairs **Member:** Richard Gale not in attendance 21.01.25

Review Date: 18.02.25

Ongoing from October: Nick Lindsay there are no AGM minutes & Accounts for the last two years, Russell RR will investigate this as they should be available.

Action: Update Facebook **Member:** Russell Rekhy & Becky Clay **Review Date:** 18.02.25

Correspondence:

All correspondence has been circulated & discussed with the whole committee by email.

2 notes of interest have been received with regard to the Gordon Bush drawdown.

Planning Issues, BESS Sub Group Report:

Bess Sub Group meeting: No meeting in January 2025, February meeting will be advertised in due course. (Minutes available upon request)

Ongoing from October: Clynelish Distillery BCC to approach Diageo asking for an official response on the prospect of having a BESS so close to the Clynelish distillery.

Action: Contact Clynelish Distillery **Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 18.02.2025

BCC to approach Golspie Fire Department for their view on the BESS proposal.

Action: Contact Fire Department **Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 18.02.2025

Treasurers Report: Not present. Email report available upon request.

Becky BC reported that over £1000 had been collected from the New Year Firework display, Nick Lindsay enquired the cost of the Fireworks, Becky BC the cost was £2000 however this was more than covered by the collections, & money from other sources such as the Charity shop & events throughout 2024.

Community Feedback

Ellen Lindsay disappointed the minutes on the two Facebook pages are in disarray or missing, specifically pre May 2024, Becky BC apologised for the confusion over the minutes, it was due to the restrictions of using Facebook Pages & Groups, the Pre May 2024 minutes are on the Brora Community Page & the Post May 2024 are on the Brora Community Council 2023 – 2027 Group. Due to the confusion this has caused the Brora Community Page will be closed, all future minutes will be available from Brora Library, a copy of the minutes can also be requested by emailing the secretary at: secretary.broracommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Ellen offered to have the minutes published on the Brora Development Trust Website BBC members agreed this was a good idea & will send the minutes to Sara at Brora Development Trust

Ellen Lindsay asked why the meeting hadn't been published, Becky BC advised due to the ongoing issues with Facebook the meeting was posted in the Brora Co-op notice area.

Russell RR advised moving forward Ruwan RUP has taken on the management of the BCC Website there will be a monitored email link which the public can use to contact the BCC, also a section where the past & present minutes will be held for public perusal.

Action: Update Facebook, Send minutes to the Library & Brora Development Trust **Member:** Russell Rekhy & Becky Clay **Review Date:** 18.02.25

Action: Update Website **Member:** Ruwan Uduwera-Perera **Review Date:** 18.02.25

Nick Lindsay As the Pylons route has been confirmed which will be directly in front of Carrol Rock asked if the BCC will make representation against this? Russell RR confirmed this would be actioned by the BCC, in addition the BCC is working with other Community Councils such as Strathpeffer.

BCC will also allocate members to attend the consultation meeting on 6th March 15.00 - 19.00 Brora Scout & Guide Hall.

John McMorrnan advised the area was the subject of a windfarm application at Balnacoil & planning permission was refused by Highland Council as the windfarm would have a severely adverse impact because of proximity to areas of high landscape value, which he felt would support a case for underground cabling.

Action: Make representations **Member:** Russell Rekhy & BCC **Review Date:** 18.02.25

Ellen Lindsay with regard to the two Gordon Bush funding application what is the process for the draw down of funds & the timeline? Russell RR applicant submit application to BCC if acceptable passed onto SSE & the SSE panel make the final decision. The two applications that were received had been submitted to Gordon Bush however further information from the applicants has been requested, the timeline is approximately 12 weeks.

Discussion with regards to the Brora Place Plan, Russell RR advised BCC is currently working on the Place Plan. An application for funding to assist with producing the Place Plan was refused by the Highland Council therefore professional assistance is needed which BCC are looking into at a cost of approximately £2000. Gina GS is putting together a Place Plan questionnaire to circulate to local groups for feedback.

Action: Complete Place Plan **Member:** Brora Community Council **Date:** Review 18.02.25 - Ongoing

Micro Grant Applications: Discussed in Follow on Meeting

Date & Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 18.02.25 7PM, BESS Sub Group TBC