

Minutes of meeting
Tuesday, 18th March 2025
At Brora Community Centre

Present: David Andrews DA (Vice Chair), Gina Stewart GS (Secretary), Robbie MacLennan RM, Ruwan Uduwera-Perera RUP, Peter Fassen de Heer PFDH (Treasurer) & Dawn DeHavilland DDH (Minute Secretary)

Also Attending: 11 members of public.

Apologies: Russell Rekhy RR, Becky Clay BC, Richard Gale (Councillor)

Welcome: The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes meeting 18th February 2025:

The minutes of last meeting were circulated and accepted on the proposal of Robbie RM and seconded by Peter PFDH.

Police Update:

Unfortunately, no report from the Police has been received. Contact to be made to reiterate the need for timely updates & to request an in person visit to one of the BCC meetings.

Action: Email Police **Responsible Member:** Gina GS **Review Date:** 15.04.25

Matters arising:

Ongoing from September: Diana Royce DR the red barriers at the bridge are an eyesore, who is responsible for the repair work?

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions)

As there hasn't been any movement with this Gina will get the information from Becky & try to get some resolution.

Action: Contact Becky Clay **Responsible Member:** Gina GS **Review Date:** 15.04.25

Action: Face to face visit with SSE **Member:** Russell Rekhy **Review Date:** 15.04.25

Ongoing from September: Handrails / white fence opposite the Royal Marine Hotel are dangerous.

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) Gina GS has been in contact with Billy McKenchnie who advised he would need to pass it onto his manager, he has previously said this. From the floor a resident had emailed Kenny McMillan (managing director) his reply stated that Billy McKenchnie would attend this evening's meeting. As no representation was made following discussion Gina GS will contact Kenny McMillan for an update & request assistance from the Highland Council Health & Safety department.

Action: Contact Kenny McMillan & Highland Council **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.04.25

Ongoing from October: A member of the public has asked if the Jackie MacLennan memorial stone can be cleaned?

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) Following a discussion it was agreed once a quote for the work has been received the BCC will apply for a micro grant to pay for the work. Gina GS has received an email stating the work could possibly be carried out over the summer.

Action: Update information from stonemason **Member:** Russell Rekhy **Review Date:** 15.04.25 Stonemason contacted – awaiting date & cost

Ongoing from September: Fountain Square repairs are still to be carried out.

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) Following a discussion it was agreed that Gina GS will liaise with Becky BC to discuss how this can be moved forward.

Action: Chase up repair work **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.04.25

Ongoing from October: Reports of a dog attacking other dogs and wildlife has been received.

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) Richard Gale has advised all matters of this nature should be reported directly to the police. David DA (Acting Chair) This matter is now closed.

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 trees are now dangerous.

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) Not discussed. Still awaiting update from Richard RG

Action: Update on Highland Council Response **Member:** Richard Gale not in attendance 18.03.25

Review Date: 15.04.25

Ongoing from August: Russell RR asked Leslie-Anne if the budget cuts would impact Brora Primary School.

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) Not discussed.

Action: Update on Primary School **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** Ongoing

Ongoing from September: A road off Cemetery Road (does not have a name) Mosshill, is rarely gritted & has no yellow salt bin. From the floor, graffiti on signs at the top of Academy Street.

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) Not Discussed.

Action: Update on Highland Council Response **Member:** Richard Gale not in attendance 18.03.25

Review Date: 14.04.25

Ongoing from October: Diana Royce reported the handrail at Manse Park needs urgent repair.

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) Awaiting feedback from Richard RG.

Action: Request Repair **Member:** Richard Gale not in attendance 18.03.25 **Review Date:** 15.04.25

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

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) Not discussed.

Ongoing from January

Action: Police Email Address **Responsible Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.04.25

Ongoing from October: Nick Lindsay there are no AGM minutes for the last two years.

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) Not discussed.

Action: Update Facebook **Member:** Russell Rekhy & Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.04.25

Ongoing from January: 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?

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) & BESS Sub Group.

Action: Make representations **Member:** Russell Rekhy & BCC **Review Date:** Ongoing 18.03.25

Ongoing from February: From the Floor: Where are the historical minutes held & are they available for viewing?

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) Response: Copies are held at the Highland Council offices in Inverness viewing is free of charge, there is a fee for printing etc. Copies are also available Brora Library, Brora development Trust Website & when the BCC Website is live a section where the past & present minutes will be held for public perusal. Gina will obtain copies of past minutes going back to 2020 most probably over the summer holidays.

Update on Website going live. Not Discussed.

Contact Highland Council to clarify the procedures for the storing & accessibility of minutes. Not discussed

Action: Contact Highland Council to clarify the procedures for the storing minutes **Member:** Gina Stewart & Russell Rekhy **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

Action: Update on Website going live **Member:** Ruwan Uduwera-Perera **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

Ongoing from February: From the Floor: What if any other correspondence had been received?

Ruwan (RUP) advised Stewart Anderson has reported the Back Shore sewage pipe has yet another hole in it, he has reported it to Scottish Water, Gina GS to contact Richard Gale to chase Scottish Water as this is a health hazard. If no action is taken BCC to contact SEPA.

Correspondence has been received asking if the Lorry Park is designated for Lorries only, following a discussion it agreed although lorries do park there so do other forms of transport & at present this isn't causing any issues.

18.03.2025 Not discussed

Action: Contact Richard Gale **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

Ongoing from February: From the Floor: What is the timeline for the Website & the Facebook page to be live? Ruwan (RUP) refused to be held to a timeline due to other commitments.

18.03.2025 Not Discussed

Action: Update on Website going live **Member:** Ruwan Uduwera-Perera **Review Date:** 15.05.2025

Ongoing from February: From the Floor: What is happening with the Brora Place Plan

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) Not discussed

Action: Complete Place Plan **Member:** Brora Community Council **Date:** Review 15.04.25 - Ongoing

Ongoing from February: From the Floor: Can BCC please get action on the mounting number of Pot Holes specifically Academy Street, the Road with no name by the Cemetery & Gower Street? Gina (GS) will contact the Highland Council. 18.03.25 Gina GS Pot Holes in Johnson Crescent & the Co-Op have been filled.

Can something be done about the 30 Mile sign when entering Brora from the North as it looks unsightly, due to the fact it has been stuck over the previous sign. Not Discussed

Action: Contact Highland Council **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

Councillor Update:

Richard Gale not in attendance.

Ongoing from September: Robbie MacLennan RM reported that a manhole cover has not been repaired & a broken lamppost at 16 Johnstone place.

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) Not discussed.

Action: Highland Council Repairs **Member:** Richard Gale not in attendance 18.03.25

Review Date: 15.04.25

Correspondence:

All correspondence has been circulated & discussed with the whole committee by email apart from David DA who had not received the correspondence email, this will be investigated.

Email received from Brora Development Trust with regards to Local Energy Scotland request a meeting be set up between BDT & BCC. Gina to contact Sarah to arrange this.

Action: Contact BDT **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

Planning Issues:

Bess Sub Group meeting:

BESS nothing significant to report.

Power Lines, members of BCC who attended the consultation event on 06.03.2025, although a different set of employees present nothing had actually change, vague answers to questions, not confirmed information on a worker's village being located in or near Brora. Peter DFDH reiterated the need for factual information being gained from SSEN to this end he will continue to communicate with them by all means available.

Peter PFDH received an acknowledgment email with regards to the questions from the webinar, he will chase this if no reply in the next 7 days.

Pollie Hill Wind Farm Ruwan RUP confirmed a site visit to Balnacoll has been arranged for 14.00 on 25.03.2025 followed by a public meeting with SSEN at the Community Centre at 19.00, Diana DR will make a poster to advertise the event with any interested parties given Ruwan's RUP phone number.

From the floor: An attendee made an eloquent speech reinforced by holding a Pitchfork with regard to the general feeling of residents being that of helplessness, anger, that the will of government & wind farms is

imposed upon the people rather than through discussion. Following discussion, it was agreed the Sub Group would take this on board & work with the community to set up a campaign to encourage Brora to be informed & working together to have a valid say.

Action: Campaign **Member:** Sub Group **Review Date:** 15.04.25

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.

18.03.25 (See previous minutes for past actions) Not Discussed

Action: Contact Clynelish Distillery **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

Ongoing from October: BCC to approach Golspie Fire Department for their view on the BESS proposal.

Action: Contact Fire Department **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

Treasurers Report:

£8874.85

Good News: A recipient of a micro-grant has successfully passed their driving test.

Community Feedback

From the Floor: There is an upgrade of the Sub Station in progress although no prior notification has been received. David DA will investigate & report back at the next meeting.

Action: Visit Sub Station **Member:** David Andrews, BCC **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

Peter PFDH has been contacted by Friends of the Far North Line as to why people don't use the line? Following discussion, it was identified that the inefficiencies in train travel, make the service unattractive for local trips, whereas buses are perceived as more frequent, reliable, and cost-effective for local travel, especially as buses are free for the over 60's. Ruwan RUP will liaise Rogart to glean more information & David DA will contact Frank Roach to gain information as well.

Action: Liaise with Rogart CC & Frank Roach **Member:** David DA, Ruwan RUP **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

Peter PFDH the Fascally Park bench is in a state of disrepair, after discussion it was agreed no action could be taken as the bench was donated by a private individual & it won't be replaced.

Peter PFDH the benches on the golf course have been removed? After discussion it was gleaned that one bench had been removed for its yearly varnishing & has now been put back, the other was removed due to ground erosion caused by last year's storms & has been removed for safety reasons.

Gina GS question from a resident: Who is responsible for hedges over hanging the public pavement, preventing easy passage of prams & pushchairs? Following discussion BCC's advice is for the resident to contact the home owner directly. Gina GS will update the resident.

Action: Contact resident **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

Gina GS question from a resident: A garden at Muirfield Court is open plan & the resident wish to erect a small fence to enable her ill child to have access to outside space. Following discussion BCC's advice to the resident is to contact the Highland Council Housing Department directly. Gina GS will update the resident.

Action: Contact resident **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

From the Floor: Clyne Kirkton, Old Parish Church and churchyard historically Clyne Heritage have maintained the grounds three times a year trimming trees etc, since the major tree fall access is not allowed & the churchyard is becoming increasingly overgrown. Following discussion, Nick Lindsay & a colleague have been liaising with the Highland Council but not getting a satisfactory response. David DA to discuss this with Richard Gale & the Highland Council. If ownership or a course of action can be agreed upon maybe existing Heritage funding can be utilised or an application made for specific funding applied for to enable the work to be undertaken.

Gina to contact Nick Lindsay to get up to date information.

Action: Contact Nick Lindsay **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

Action: Contact Richard Gale & Highland Council **Member:** David Andrews **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

Robbie RM The land opposite the EV charges by the Co-Op is very overgrown & encroaching on to the public pavement. Following discussion Gina GS will contact the owner to ask for the land to be maintained.

Action: Contact owner **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

BCC Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) have asked for assistance in fund raising. Following discussion, it was agreed it’s a very worthwhile charity, Ruwan RUP thought maybe windfarm funding would be available. David DA asked Gina GS to invite them to the next BCC meeting.

Action: Send invite **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.04.2025

Micro Grant Applications: Discussed in Follow on Meeting.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 15.04.25 7PM, BESS Sub Group Monday 07.04.25