

Minutes of meeting
Tuesday, 20th May 2025
At Brora Community Centre

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

Also Attending: 4 members of public.

Apologies: Russell Rekhy RR, Richard Gale RG (Highland Councillor)

Welcome: The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes meeting 15th April 2025:

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

Police Update:

No updated received

There will be quarterly online meetings with the police, no visit to BCC meeting unless specific issues need addressing.

Matters arising:

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

20.05.25 (See previous minutes for past actions)

Action: Russell to update **Responsible Member:** Russell RR **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

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

20.05.25 (See previous minutes for past actions)

Action: Update information from stonemason **Member:** Russell Rekhy **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

Stonemason contacted – awaiting date & cost

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

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

Action: Chase up repair work **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

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.

20.05.25 (See previous minutes for past actions)

David DA (Chair) advised BCC is still awaiting the report from a survey carried out by the Highland Council, Gina GS will chase Richard RG for the information.

Action: Highland Council Report **Member:** Gina Stewart & Richard Gale RG **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

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

As no update Becky BC will contact Leslie-Anne

Action: Update on Primary School **Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

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

Gina GS advised she had emailed some minutes over; Becky BC will email the last two years AGM minutes over to Nick Lindsay.

Action: Email Past AGM Minutes **Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

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.

20.05.25 Not Discussed

Action: Update on Website going live **Member:** Ruwan Uduwera-Perera **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

Ongoing from February: From the Floor: 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. Richard RG will contact Transport Scotland & BEAR to request the signs are corrected.

Richard RC not in attendance no update.

Action: Contact Transport Scotland & BEAR **Member:** Richard Gale RG **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

Ongoing from March: From the Floor: Upgrade of the Sub Station in progress although no prior notification has been received. David DA will investigate & report back at the next meeting.

20.05.2025 Not Discussed

Action: Visit Sub Station **Member:** David Andrews, BCC **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

Ongoing from April: Concern about campfires, BBQs etc especially on the beach near the Harbour given that Wildfire Alerts have been issued across the Highlands

20.05.25: Not discussed (see previous minutes for details.)

Action: BCC & Gina to produce Posters & Signs **Member:** BCC, Gina GS **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

Councillor Update:

Richard RG not in attendance.

Ongoing from April: Richard RG advised that regarding the War Memorial a survey had been carried out by Fairhurst Consulting and Structural Engineers. BCC has past information that may be useful Gina GS to forward the relevant emails to Richard RG.

Action: Update BCC with report details **Member:** Richard Gale RG **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

Action: Email information to Richard RG **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

Correspondence:

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

Planning Issues:

Bess Sub Group meeting:

BESS nothing significant to report.

Pollie Hill confusion still exists about the boundaries, although there is an interactive map available on the Highland Council website, it seems to have incorrect information, Peter PFDH to liaise with Liam Clancy (Highland Council) for more details.

Transmission Lines; Peter PFDH is going question SSEN regarding the placement of the pylons in front of Carol Rock.

Peter PFDH had received an email 20.05.2025 from SSEN stating they would be starting work, however the work at Killin has already started approximately two weeks ago. It was agreed by all this was very discourteous of SSEN.

Ruwan RUP is meeting with landowners to arrange a site visit to Ben Armine Lodge which is of great historical significance & one of the last wilderness areas on the East Coast. Hopefully a site visit can be arranged before the next SSEN consultation meeting on 19th June. Ruwan RUP will ask Nick Lindsay to join the site visit as he has a wealth of knowledge on the area.

Action: Arrange site visit **Member:** Ruwan Uduwera-Perera **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

Action: Corresponding with SSEN **Member:** Peter Fassen de Heer **Review Date:** Ongoing

Treasurers Report:

£11,707.85

Grant received from SSEN £3000

Donation from the Thrift Shop £1000

Payments: ISO Fee, Admin, Micro Grants.

Peter PFDH asked what the ISO payment was for? This will be asked again when Russell RR is in attendance.

BCC has not received payment of the grant awarded for admin fees; Peter PFDH is using the unallocated funds to cover these payments. Peter PFDH noted that it is useful to have these funds.

Peter PFDH asked what the Post Covid 2019 Fund is for, is it ring fenced, or can it be used? Other BCC members felt it was ring fenced & only to be used for specific purposes, Russell RR will be asked to clarify at the next meeting.

Peter PFDH advised the annual audit is due & Christine Ross will carry it out, before the AGM in July.

Ruwan advised there is approximately £400,000 in various accounts such as the Endowment Fund. Questions from the floor requested more information on funds held by BCC & what they are used for.

The windfarm fund £250,000 is available for community-led projects in the community council areas of Brora, Golspie and Rogart. David DA (Chair) initial applications are submitted to BCC then passed onto the windfarm.

David DA (Chair) thought the endowment fund may have come from Kilbraur.

The endowment fund has interest on the account of £48,000, the public felt this money should be used for the community, food sheds, hubs etc. David DA (Chair) advised BCC have several projects in the pipeline, from the floor: it was felt the public should have a say in what projects the money is used for, David DA (Chair) agreed & said once BCC had discussed in more detail it would be shared with Brora residents who could discuss their preferences. Ruwan RUP asked for a question to be added to the place plan, Becky BC agreed to do this.

From the floor more sharing of information is required between the members of BCC & Russell as it was felt he is the only member who holds certain information & when he is not available questions cannot be answered, it was agreed that BCC would be transparent and clear & where possible publish information.

Ongoing April: Richard RG advised there may be a discretionary fund available to help support the Annex, Gina GS to contact Liam Clancy for more information. Not Discussed

Action: Add question to Place Plan **Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

Action: Contact Liam Clancy **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

Community Feedback

From the floor: Does BCC have closed meetings, David DA (Chair) advised the Micro-Grant applications are closed & BCC do communicate by email. The public are welcome to submit ideas at any time, for example by emailing the secretary.

Gina GS advised she is working with Becky on the Micro Grant posters to inform residents what grants are available & encourage applications.

From the Floor: Nicky Knight enquired if BCC could help residents who will be affected by the RTS (Radio Teleswitch Service) switch off, which is starting on the 1st June 2025 and should be completed by 20th September 2025. It was discussed & agreed BCC would produce an information leaflet, Ruwan RUP suggested the youth club could make the deliveries & an application for a grant could be made to cover the printing fees. Gina GS & Becky BC will work on this. Peter PFDH advised information was available on the Home Energy Scotland website: <https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/RTS-switch-off>

Action: Produce Leaflet **Member:** Gina Stewart & Becky Clay **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

Robbie RM The land by the Old Bakery is very overgrown & encroaching on to the public pavement. Following discussion Becky BC will contact James Wilson to ask for the land to be maintained.

Action: Contact James Wilson **Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

From the Floor: Place Plan: Becky BC advised the place plan is well under way & that she & Gina GS are working on a questionnaire for residents to complete, BCC welcome suggestions from residents of Brora. David DA (Chair) will discuss with BCC & ensure the Place Plan is an ongoing & updated item which will be added to future agendas.

Action: Ensure Place Plan is added onto the agenda **Member:** Russell Rekhy or stand in Chair **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

From the Floor: There has been an ongoing issue with Royal Mail deliveries going back to October 2024, this is causing some residents not only stress but financial implications as well, David DA (Chair) advised BCC would contact Jamie Stone MP to get his assistance in resolving the matter, Richard RC will be copied into the correspondence. Information has been received by BCC with regards to this matter. David DA (Chair) will ensure that the Royal Mail is added as an agenda item for future meeting until the issue is resolved.

Action: Contact Jamie Stone **Member:** David Andrews on behalf of BCC **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

Action: Ensure Royal Mail is added onto the agenda **Member:** Russell Rekhy or stand in Chair **Review Date:** 15.07.2025

Micro Grant Applications: Discussed in Follow on Meeting.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 15.07.2025 7PM (AGM), BESS Sub Group Monday 09.06.2025