

**Minutes of meeting**  
**Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025**  
**At Brora Community Centre**

**Present:** Becky Clay BC (Chair) David Andrews DA (Vice Chair), Gina Stewart GS (Secretary),  
Robbie MacLennan RM, Peter Fassen de Heer PFDH (Treasurer), Ruwan Uduwera-Perera RUP,  
Russell Rekhy RR, Richard Gale RC (Highland Councillor) Dawn DeHavilland DDH (Minute Secretary)

**Also Attending:** 26 members of public.

**Apologies:** None

**Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting & advised unfortunately The Murphy Group representative would not be attending.

Becky BC passed over to Ruwan RUP to give an update with regards to The Murphy Group visit being cancelled, they had said they felt the poster produced by BCC was misleading as SSEN would not be attending, Peter PFDH advised this evening's visit had been in the planning for at least six weeks.

Following a discussion, it was confirmed the Murphy Group had been at an event on 21<sup>st</sup> July at the Royal Marine Hotel hosting an exhibition to talk about jobs, training, early careers, and supply chain opportunities in the area, three members of the community attended, no vacancy information was on show, indeed it was felt it was a public relations exercise speaking about engagement with schools, benefits to the community such as football pitches, vegetable gardens etc, they were told that both SSEN & the Murphy Group would be attending the BCC meeting. Ruwan confirmed BCC had not been informed about the event, which at the very least was discourteous. Gina GS asked for community members to email her with their specific experience & grievances with the situation.

All present were extremely disappointed by the way The Murphy Group had treated the local community, thirty-six people attended expecting The Murphy Group to be in attendance.

Following a discussion, it was agreed BCC would contact the Media, follow up any verbal conversations with SSEN & The Murphy Group with an email to ensure there is a paper trail of evidence.

Peter PFDH felt BCC & the community need to find a way to engage with SSEN & The Murphy group in a meaningful way to achieve suitable outcomes for the local area.

Richard RG advised he has taken notes & will pass those on when a planning application is received.

Peter PFDH pointed out it is not only what is happening but how, road closures for example, what about public safety? Richard RG advised that conditions can be attached to planning applications these should mitigate the adverse effects of developments. From the floor it was felt that the conditions that are already in place are not being adhered to by the Murphy Group, Richard RG asked for specific breaches to be reported to him & he will pass them onto the planning enforcement department. From the floor a Welfare unit has been erected at Achrimsdale, for which the single-track road was closed without any notice, in addition there does not seem to be any information available about how the hygiene aspect of the site will be managed, & indeed what the site is being used for specifically, Richard RG to investigate. Peter PFDH reiterated the importance of BCC attending the Community Councils renewables event on the 12<sup>th</sup> August held in Inverness.

From the floor: It was felt BCC should work with The Murphy Group to produce a Village Charter for the behaviour expected of their employees whilst in the area, it should also include an email address to enable residents to contact The Murphy Group directly with any issues.

Diana Royce very disappointed with the way the Highland Council are dealing with retrospective planning applications, although she has been told any infrastructure will be temporary, she does not believe this will be the case, she is extremely worried about the environmental impacts on the private water supply.

From the Floor: Ewen Pryde said he had intended to convey his personal statement to Murphy's at the meeting in his capacity as a resident of Doll, as it outlines serious safety concerns regarding what he understood to be Murphy's proposed transmission line access route through a residential area of the Doll

community to Carrol Rock. In Murphy's absence, Ewen requested permission to read the statement aloud to the Community Council and attendees. Please see appendix 1 for full statement.

**Action:** Engage with Murphy & the Media **Responsible Member:** Planning Sub-group **Review Date:** ongoing

**Action:** Achrimsdale site info **Member:** Richard RG **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

### **Co-Option of New Members:**

Becky BC (Chair) advised Billy Buchannon has resigned.

Kirsty Roseveare & Mhairi Burd have expressed an interest, Becky BC (Chair) advised there would be a seven day period then BCC would vote, co-opted members need to be voted in by at least two thirds of the elected community council members.

Peter PFDH nominated Diana Royce as an associate member, BCC agreed to this as Diana DR has a specific knowledge set not held by any other member of BCC. Becky BC (Chair) thanked Diana for all the work she has & continues to provide for BCC.

### **Police Update:**

An email report received, no local issues, the report will be uploaded the BCC Facebook page.

**Action:** Police Report FB **Member:** Ruwan RUP **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

### **Minutes meeting 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025:**

#### **Matters arising:**

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

Russell RR advised BEAR Scotland have agreed to complete the repairs, Peter PFDH asked for a timeline, BEAR are working on the specifications, Russell RR will contact BEAR for an updated timeline

**Action:** Russell to update **Responsible Member:** Russell RR **Review Date:** 19.07.2025

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

Russell RR advised a contractor has been given the work.

**Action:** Update on timeline **Member:** Russell RR **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

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

Richard Gale will take this onboard as the Highland Council carried out the last update to Fountain Square

**Action:** Chase up repair work **Member:** Richard RG **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

**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).

Richard RG advised John MacLean Highland Council is having issues in sourcing a suitable contractor, Richard RG will chase this, Nick Lindsay asked if Richard could also give a timeline at the next meeting.

**Action:** Highland Council Update **Member:** Richard Gale RG **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

**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

Richard RC not aware of any budget cuts. Item closed.

**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.

22.07.2025: Nick Lindsay still has not received copies of the minutes Becky BC will resend.

**Action:** Email Past AGM Minutes **Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

**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.

20.05.2025 Not Discussed

22.07.2025 Ruwan advised Facebook page is up & running, reiterated he needs assistance with the Website, Diana DR suggested Dawn DDH may be able to assist. Dawn DDH could not commit at this time. After discussion it was suggested that a simpler hosting platform maybe more effective for BCC.

**Action:** Update on Website going live **Member:** Ruwan Uduwera-Perera **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

**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.

20.05.25 Not Discussed

David DA (Vice Chair) advised site visit confirmed an upgrade was being carried & no planning permission was required. **Item closed.**

**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.)

22.07.2025: Gina will contact the Countryside Rangers to obtain posters like the ones in Golspie, Richard RG will assist with this.

**Action:** Contact Countryside Rangers **Member:** Gina GS, Richard RG **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

**Ongoing from May:** Gina & Becky on the Micro Grant posters.

22.07.2025: (See previous minutes for past actions) Not discussed.

**Action:** Produce Leaflet **Member:** Gina Stewart & Becky Clay **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

**Ongoing from May:** RTS (Radio Teleswitch Service) switch off

22.07.2025: (See previous minutes for past actions) Not discussed.

**Action:** Produce Leaflet **Member:** Gina Stewart & Becky Clay **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

**Ongoing from May:** Royal Mail.

22.07.2025: (See previous minutes for past actions) Not discussed

**Action:** Contact Jamie Stone **Member:** David Andrews on behalf of BCC **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

**Action:** Ensure Royal Mail is added onto the agenda **Member:** Becky BC **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

### **Councillor Update:**

Richard RG congratulated Becky BC (Chair) on her appointment as Chair of BCC & thanked Russell RR for his tenureship of Chair.

With regards to the rabbit issue at the cemetery Pest control will be dealing with the issue.

**Ongoing from September:** From the floor: graffiti on signs at the top of Academy Street Richard RG advised this has now been passed to the roads department.

**Ongoing from:** 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.

22.07.2025: Becky BC has not received a reply from the landowner, Richard RG will ask the Highland Council to contact the landowner.

**Action:** Update **Member:** Richard RG **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

From the Floor: John McMorran asked BCC & Richard RG for information on a consultation taking place by the Scottish Government with regards to BESS applications, neither had any information both would look into it as a matter of urgency as John JM advised he understood the closing date to be within the next seven to eight days.

**Action:** Update **Member:** BCC, Richard RG **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

**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.

22.07.2025: Not discussed

**Action:** Update BCC with report details **Member:** Richard Gale RG **Review Date:** 19.09.2025

**Action:** Email information to Richard RG **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

**Correspondence:**

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

**Planning Issues:****Bess Sub Group meeting:**

BESS nothing significant to report.

Ruwan RUP along with several residents attended an open event held by Corolis Energy, all felt very disappointed by the behaviour of Corolis Energy only one employee out of the seven in attendance had visited the area of concern, in addition it was felt their behaviour was rude & no reasonable adjustments were made for those who are hard of hearing.

Following discussion regarding Pollie Hill Ruwan RUP is continuing to meet with landowners, arranging further site visits to Ben Armine Lodge.

**Action:** Interaction with landowners **Member:** Ruwan Uduwera-Perera **Review Date:** Ongoing

**Treasurers Report:**

£11,033.19

Peter DFDH circulated the monthly report see attached appendix 2 & an information sheet explaining the range of funds that Brora Community Council (BCC) has access to see appendix 3.

£148,000 is held in the Foundation Scotland account.

From the floor: Discussion about the information provided by the Treasurer, Becky BC (Chair) advised that there had been an interest payment of £8,000 made on the Foundation Scotland account in March 2025 & confirmed she & Gina GS have oversight of the account. Peter PFDH requested more oversight of the account, would there be penalties for withdrawals, Russell RR stated a withdrawal charge & or a management fee would be made.

From the Floor: Discussion about the Gordonbush Drawdown fund, Diana DR advised this account was not gaining any interest & therefore should be used in preference to accounts with interest, all agreed present agreed.

From the Floor: Discussion about how to submit a successful application to the Gordonbush Drawdown fund, Beck BC (Chair) advised that the BCC had applications turned down, Peter PFDH will contact Kirsty Partridge to gain more information on the application process i.e. what is required to be successful.

From the Floor: Who owns the community trailer at the harbour, is it a BCC asset? BCC members are not aware of the trailer, David DA (Vice Chair) will contact the Harbour Trust to seek further information as to who owns the trailer.

**Action:** Application advice **Member:** Peter PFDH **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

**Action:** Who owns trailer **Member:** David DA **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

**Community Feedback**

From the Floor: Place Plan: Becky BC advised the place plan survey is going out to residents this week, Sarah SM asked for specifics of the survey Becky BC (Chair) has not seen it yet & will update at the next meeting.

**Action:** Place Plan update **Member:** Becky BC **Review Date:** 19.08.2025

**Micro Grant Applications:** Discussed in Follow on Meeting.

**Date & Time of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 19.08.2025 7PM (AGM), BESS Sub Group Monday 11.08.2025

Attached appendix:

1. Ewen Pryde statement
2. Treasurer Monthly Report
3. Funding Summary