

**Minutes of meeting  
Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 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 Uduwerage-Perera RUP, Diana Royce DR, Richard Gale RC (Highland Councillor) Dawn DeHavilland DDH (Minute Secretary)

**Also Attending:** 8 Members of public.

**Apologies:** Becky Clay BC (Chair), Mhairi Burd MB

**Non-Attendees:** Russell Rekhy RR

**Minutes meeting 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025:**

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

**Welcome:** The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Police Update:**

Eight motorists have been detected speeding on the A9 between Navidale and Dornoch, which included both cars and goods vehicles. The highest detected speed was 93mph within a 60mph Zone. Additionally, officers on patrol within Ward 4 have arrested three motorists for drink driving, again on the A9.

During October, local officers investigated three reports of assault, these included an incident where a recorded police warning was issued after a neighbour dispute in Dornoch. A domestic dispute in Golspie resulted in the suspect being arrested and released without charge, pending further enquiries. There have been a few vandalisms reported in Ward 4 during the period, but those numbers are in single figures and there are no consistent areas being targeted.

Officers executed a misuse of drugs search warrant at a residential address in Brora. This resulted in the recovery of what are suspected to be controlled drugs and other evidence to suggest the occupant is involved in drug dealing. Enquiries are ongoing. Local officers will continue to act on intelligence provided by the public regarding drug misuse and will use all powers at their disposal, including

**Ongoing from August 2025:** Police reports to be uploaded to Facebook.

**Action:** Police Report FB **Member:** Ruwan RUP **Review Date:** 18.11.2025

**Matters Arising:**

Gina GS read out an update from Becky BC "Apologies for been unable to attend for a second time, my health has been all over the place but glad to report I am getting better." Other updates have been added to the relevant sections.

Gina & Becky have completed the Micro Grant posters.

Becky BC (Chair) & Gina GS to publish posters & advertise on social media

**Action:** Publish Posters **Member:** Becky BC & Gina GS **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

18.11.2025: Not discussed

Preparing an information leaflet outlining the roles and goals of the Development Trust, Brora Community Enterprises Group & Brora Community Council.

**Action:** Produce Leaflet **Member:** Becky BC & Russell RR **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

**Ongoing from September 2024: Red Barriers**

Russell (RR) has contacted BEAR who will not be able to carry out the work until early next year, therefore BCC will contact John Duncan directly & ask him to carry out the work & invoice BEAR. Richard RG advised BEAR must be kept informed of the work as the pavement will need to be closed.

18.11.2025 (See previous minutes for past actions).

**Action:** Contact John Duncan **Responsible Member:** Russell (RR) **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

18.11.2025: Not discussed

**Ongoing from September 2024:** Fountain Square repairs are still to be carried out.

16.09.2025 Richard RG advised the amenities Team said they are not responsible. BCC to investigate who is responsible.

18.11.2025 (See previous minutes for past actions).

**Action:** Chase up repair work **Member:** BCC **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

18.11.2025: Not discussed

**Ongoing from September 2024:** 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.

19.08.25 (See previous minutes for past actions).

Gina GS advised Richard RG (Highland Councillor) hasn't moved any further forward with the issues in sourcing a suitable contractor, Historic Scotland will need to be involved & trees need to be assessed.

Ellen Lindsay EL advised BCC that a report was carried out by Historic Scotland in 2008, it's very disappointing that the information is given time and again with no action being taken, Ellen EL will once again ask Nick Lindsay to pass the information onto BCC.

**Action:** Highland Council Update **Member:** Richard Gale RG **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

18.11.2025: Not discussed

**Ongoing from October 2024:** Nick Lindsay there are no AGM minutes for the last two years.

19.08.2025 (See previous minutes for past actions).

Ellen EL advised Nick Lindsay still has not received copies of the minutes, Becky BC (Chair) asked if he could check his spam folders as she is sure they were sent, if Nick NL has not received then Becky BC (Chair) will resend, past AGM minutes will be sent to Sarah Morrison to publish on the Discover Brora website.

**Action:** Email Past AGM Minutes **Member:** Becky Clay **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

28.10.2025: Not discussed

**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

18.11.2025: (see previous minutes for details.)

Gina will ask Richard RG (Highland Councillor) to chase the Countryside Rangers to obtain posters like the ones in Golspie. From the floor: Signs should also be put up at Loch Brora.

**Action:** Contact Countryside Rangers **Member:** Gina GS, Richard RG **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

18.11.2025: Not discussed

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

16.08.2025: Becky BC (Chair) has downloaded a poster from OFCOM.

18.11.2025: (See previous minutes for past actions)

**Action:** Arrange deliveries **Member:** Becky BC & Gina GS **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

18.11.2025: Not discussed

**Ongoing from May:** Royal Mail.

19.08.2025: (See previous minutes for past actions)

**Action:** Contact Jamie Stone **Member:** David Andrews on behalf of BCC **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

Becky BC (Chair) now has access to access to the Facebook page.

**Ongoing from August 2024: Place Plan**

From the Floor: What is happening with the revamped questionnaire? As Becky BC was absent this will be addressed at the next meeting.

18.11.2025: Becky BC (email) the survey has been forwarded to Russell RR for printing.

**Action:** Place Plan update & Paper version, Engage with young people **Member:** Becky BC & Gina GS **Date:** 20.01.2026

**Ongoing from September:**

Defibrillator positioned in Gordonbush, Becky BC emailed to advise there is a Defibrillator in place at The Gordonbush Lodge.

**Councillor Update:**

Richard RG advised:

The Salt Bins will be installed as requested.

The 40mph speed sign near Dunrobin is now facing the correct way.

The bushes at Johnson Place are ongoing work plan.

Signs are to be erected in the cemetery to prevent people from exercising their dogs in the area.

Richard RG advised the retrospective planning for the Murphy compound next to the recycling centre will be discussed at the planning meeting Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Action:** Planning Update **Member:** Richard RG **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

The issue with vehicles parked in the lorry park at the Scout Hall:

The cars are on private ground therefore no action can be taken by the Highland Council, BCC will contact the landowner directly to discuss a solution for the removal of the cars.

A written notice to collect the boat has been issued.

Richard will investigate further the lorry with a trailer.

**Action:** Update Richard RC **Member:** Richard RG **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

Robbie RM asked Richard to investigate abandoned vehicles in the Golspie Cemetery

**Action:** Update Member: Richard RG **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

David DA asked about BCC legal indemnity for Community Councils, Richard RG advised that all members of the Community Council are liable individually & responsible for the decisions that they take, he is working to get the Highland Council to ensure Community Councils have adequate funding to get the insurance cover required, he advised that Community Councils are advised not to hold assets/property.

Peter PFDH will review the current Insurance policy to find out if legal indemnity is included (Gina GS will send him the password to gain access to the document)

**Action:** Update **Member:** Richard RG **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

**Action:** Update **Member:** Peter PFDH **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

**Action:** Password to Peter **Member:** Gina GS **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

18.11.2025: Not discussed

**Ongoing from May:** 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:** 20.01.2026

18.11.2025: Not discussed

**Ongoing from August:** 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:** 20.01.2026

18.11.2025: Not discussed

**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:** 20.01.2026

**Action:** Email information to Richard RG **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

18.11.2025: Not discussed

**Ongoing from October:** Diana DR advised Helmsdale Community Council hold their monthly meeting in various venues in the locality of the village & asked if it was something the BCC could do, as this would reach a wider audience for example residents who live in Doll, a resident from Doll said the Community Hall would be happy to host BCC for a meeting. John JM agreed this is a good idea, but the BCC should be mindful of letting the public know of any venue changes as not everyone is on Facebook. BCC to discuss & update at the next meeting.

**Action:** Update **Member:** BCC **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

**Planning Issues:**

Diana DR Highland Council has lodged a comprehensive objection to SSEN Transmission's pylon project. The next meeting of the Joint Planning Committee will be in February 2026, Diana DR feels there is a lot more work to be done, Coriolis Energy Pollie Hill Wind Farm application has been postponed until March 2026.

A discussion as to why all the objections lodged with the Energy Consensus Unit are not on the website.

Diana DR & David Baines attend the public consultation event about the proposed Murphy Camp, there will be five blocks each two stories high, there is no extra provision for doctors or dentists for the 250 workers they plan to bring in from elsewhere and house in temporary accommodation, they will be accessing services where many are already struggling to gain appointments.

Albyn housing were granted planning in 2008 however due to issues with the sewerage system this was not completed, the question has not been answered as to how The Murphy Group will overcome the sewerage disposal issue.

There will be facilities provided within the workers camp such as a bar, shop, gym, cinema and restaurant, a decision has not been made as to whether a bar will be included. Another consultation event will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

Diana DR advised Clyne Kitchen (Brora Heritage Centre) have submitted a planning application for the erection of kitchen extension, a general discussion ensued, why was this not done at the time of the original application? Agreement the current kitchen does seem a bit small for the needs of the cliental. The issue of the Solar Panels was raised the glare effect can be quite distracting from East Clyne especially when driving, could a non-reflective coating be applied if the extension work is carried out?

**Action:** Contact Brora Heritage re non-reflective for solar panels **Member:** Gina GS **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

18.11.2025: Not discussed

Diana DR suggested producing an A4 information sheet to assist residents in making planning objections. It should be black & white with precise clear information. Robin Ward RW agreed to produce a map to be added to the document.

**Action:** Produce Document **Member:** Becky BC, Diana DR & Robin RW **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

**Correspondence:**

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

**Treasurers Report:**

Current Account: £6,916.49

Foundation Scotland account: £180,699.69

Administration Fund is -£75.00 as no money has been received from the Highland Council, Richard RG will look into this as Golspie Community Council have reported the same issue.

£250.00 driving lessons payment awaiting invoice from the instructor.

## Community Feedback

Diana DR The Sutherland Arms closing is a great loss to the village, a general discussion was held: Can the BCC do anything to help promote the sale for example putting up posters in the menu boards outside the building "Hotel in need of a good owner" type of thing. Could BCC facilitate a community buy out, an obvious issue would be attracting volunteers. From the Floor: Steps should be taken to ensure there is no change of use.

**Action:** Update **Member:** BCC **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

Diana DR The Angels Breath is an issue Residents living close to the old whisky storage warehouse, many residents have said their properties are being affected by whisky fungus. Diana advised the warehouse is owned by Glenmorangie Company Ltd which is a subsidiary of Louis Vuitton Möet Hennessy. Following a general discussion, it was agreed BCC will contact industrial chemist Michael Taylor and ask for his advice as he has been of assistance in the past.

**Action:** Contact Michael Taylor **Member:** Gina GS **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

From the Floor: Disappointment was expressed about the local vaccination program, in previous years there has not been any issues, however, this year appointments have been cancelled at late notice, indeed residents from Brora who had appointments cancelled & rebooked at Helmsdale on arrival were advised the vaccine would not be arriving until after one thirty or later in the afternoon, this after being given an appointment time of nine o'clock in the morning. The local pharmacy did have two dates available, but these were very quickly booked up. David Baines advised that both the Covid & Flu vaccines were available at the Vaccination Centre in Inverness, ideally an appointment should be booked but they do take walk ins. Richard RG asked if the Community Bus could be used to alleviate the situation & take a group of residents to the Vaccination Centre & claim a micro grant for the fuel. BCC will discuss this option further & if possible, arrange for vaccination trips.

**Action:** Update **Member:** BCC **Review Date:** 20.01.2026

From the Floor: Thanks was expressed for the excellent work that Diana Royce has done on the planning subgroup, especially as Diana is not a full member of the Community Council. All present agreed Diana is a great asset to the Community Council.

From the Floor: In several past meetings the issue of the Draw Down fund has been raised, indeed at the last meeting it was agreed it would be added to the agenda, BCC have previously stated they have a plan for the funds and it would advise the community this evening, David DA hoped that more information would be available at the next meeting when more Community Councillors were in attendance.

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

**Date & Time of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 20.01.2026 7PM, BESS Sub Group To Be Confirmed