

Minutes of meeting
Tuesday, 21st April 2026
At Brora Community Centre

Present: David Andrews DA (Vice Chair), Gina Stewart GS (Secretary), Robbie Maclennan RM, Russell Rekhy RR, Ruwan Uduwera-Perera RUP, Peter Faassen de Heer PFDH (Treasurer), Richard Gale RG (Highland Councillor), Dawn DeHavilland DDH (Minute Secretary)

Also Attending: 6 Members of public.

Apologies: Becky Clay BC (Chair), Mhairi Burd, Diana Royce DR.

Minutes meeting 17th March 2026:

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

Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Police Update:

Please see appendix 1a

The police report will be available on the Brora Development Trust website.

Peter PFDH asked what proportion of traffic is speeding when travelling through the village?

Richard Gale advised that BEAR could set up a speed check, he will contact Bear, he asked Gina to send him the preferred locations.

Action: Update **Member:** Richard RG, Gina GS **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

Matters Arising:

21.04.2026: (See previous minutes for past actions)

Ongoing from September 2024: Fountain Square repairs

Richard RG confirmed the Highland Council are responsible. The planning department will have a survey completed before any work commences. The fountain in Dornoch was repainted by a resident.

21.04.2026: (See previous minutes for past actions)

Ongoing from September 2024: Clyne Kirkton, Old Parish Church Richard RG (Highland Councillor) hasn't moved any further forward with the issues in sourcing a suitable contractor, following discussion Richard RG will contact Chambers Stonework Golspie.

Action: Highland Council Update **Member:** Richard Gale RG **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

21.04.2026: (See previous minutes for past actions)

Robbie RM reported a sunken drain in Johnson Place, Richard RG will raise the issue.

Action: Update **Member:** Richard RG **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

21.04.2026: (See previous minutes for past actions)

Ongoing from April: Richard RG advised that The Friends of Clyne War Memorial in Brora have a tender progressing to restore and maintain the war memorial.

On Hold Awaiting response from Marine Scotland

Red Barriers: (See previous minutes for past actions)

Action: Contact Marine Scotland **Responsible Member:** Becky BC **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

21.04.2026: (See previous minutes for past actions)

No response has been received from the Brora Heritage Trust, BCC will make further contact.

Action: Respond to Brora Heritage **Member:** Gina GS **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

21.04.2026: Ongoing (See previous minutes for past actions)

21.04.2026 Peter PFDH asked when will the Place Plan be ready, in time for it to help inform the Highland Council Local Development Plan, no Information available, although it is believed the work is progressing, an update will be given at the next meeting.

Becky to explore the possibility of delivering copies of the questionnaire to residents.

Action: Publicise questionnaire **Member:** Becky BC & Gina GS **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

21.04.2026: Ongoing (See previous minutes for past actions)

Not discussed: Public: Could something be done to improve the front of Captain Crabbs as it is unsightly when driving or walking through the village. Gina GS will write to the owners.

Action: Write to owners **Member:** Gina GS **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

21.04.2026: Ongoing (See previous minutes for past actions)

Not discussed: Diana DR asked if a separate meeting could be set with property owners in the square to discuss how the area could be improved. BCC will contact owners to discuss.

Action: Contact owners **Member:** BCC **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

21.04 2026:

No response has been received from the owners of the Bears Den about the sign being taken down of it has not been open for several years. The matter is now closed.

21.04.2026: Ongoing (See previous minutes for past actions)

No response has been received Gina to write to the manager Ross Lewin again and ask for an update on the light pollution from the Heritage Centre in the evenings and the solar panel issue.

Action: Write to Ross Lewin **Member:** Gina GS **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

Diana DR and Anthony Urquhart have repaired the sign on the Sutherland Inn Gina GS will write a letter of thanks.

Action: Write letter **Member:** Gina GS

21.04.2026: Ongoing (See previous minutes for past actions)

Not discussed: Gina GS will contact the Highland Council to ascertain what buildings they own in Brora.

Action: Write to owners & Highland Council **Member:** Gina GS **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

Councillor Update:

Richard RG advised Jim McGillivray has retired, Richard will be covering six Community Councils until the By-election in June so may not be able to attend all the BCC meetings.

21.04.2026: Brora Cemetery

The Highland Council are carrying out work to confirm the surface water is caused by the new ground levels settling.

Robbie RM The bin is missing from outside Harry Gows. Richard RG to investigate.

Action: Update **Member:** Richard RG **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

Peter PFDH asked who should be contacted about the Old Heritage Centre, has passed the details to Gina.

Action: Update **Member:** Richard RG **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

Peter PFDH a resident has reported ongoing noise issues from the Murphy Yard, Richard RG the planning application was withdrawn, and another has not been submitted. Richard RG will get an update from the planning department.

Action: Update **Member:** Richard RG **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

21.04.2026: Not Discussed (See previous minutes for past actions)

Public: The newly laid tarmac roads have been left significantly higher than the adjacent verges this is creating serious safety hazards, including potential for vehicle accidents and pedestrian falls. Richard Gale will raise the issue with the Roads Department.

Action: Update **Member:** Richard RG **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

21.04.2026: Not Discussed (See previous minutes for past actions)

20.01.2026: Diana DR asked who is responsible for the maintenance of the clock?

Action: Update BCC with report details **Member:** Richard Gale RG **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

Action: Email information to Richard RG **Member:** Gina Stewart **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

Correspondence:

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

No response has been received from the current owners of the Sutherland Inn, in response to asking for confirmation that an offer has been accepted and to advise of the maintenance work that has been carried out. Members of the BCC decided to wait until April to do this

Action: Write to owners **Member:** Gina GS **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

Treasurers Report:

Current Account: £22158.87

Foundation Scotland account: £180,426.00

Payment made to Zurich Insurance. This now includes Directors' cover.

28 Payments have been made through the Energy Fund.

Highland Council had paid the administrative grant, Richard RG advised this will be increased next year.

Calum Goskirk Community Support Officer has requested a copy of the accounts, these are due to be audited in June.

Becky BC has signed the form to process the card application with Virgin Bank.

Public: More Information on the Energy Fund Payments, following a discussion with all present, Richard RG spoke about governance he will send some notes to Gina for guidance, he advised community councils should be open and transparent unless you are talking about protected information. A previous meeting regarding the decision to proceed with the fund was agreed by BCC but no minutes were taken. David DA Vice Chair advised a separate public meeting will be held, minutes of the meeting must be taken, the chair along with Calum Goskirk Community Support Office must be present. All payments from the Energy Fund will be stopped until further notice. Gina to contact all BCC members to arrange a date for the meeting and advertise the dates to ensure the residents in the area are informed.

Action: Arrange next meeting **Member:** Gina GS **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

Planning Issues:

Ruwan RUP Pollie Coriolis cancelled the meeting.

SSEN have started work in Caithness.

The Energy Hustings in Dingwall on 23rd April is open to the public spaces are limited therefore booking is required.

Ongoing from November:

19.05.2026: 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:** 19.05.2026

Community Feedback

Public: Is it possible to have a crematorium in Brora? Grieving families are waiting six weeks to have cremations at Inverness Crematorium. In addition, as the crematorium covers three counties people are expected to travel great distances for example from Bettyhill. David DA asked Richard to contact the relevant department for guidance on what options are available to alleviate the situation.

Action: Update **Member:** Richard RG **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

David Baines asked for an update on the resilience plan.

21.04.2026 Ongoing: Gina advised Sarah Morrison has now resigned from the Brora Development Trust, the plan will be reviewed when a new person is in place.

Becky BC & Gina GS have met with Sarah Morrison & Davie MacDonald, the existing resilience plan only covers electrical outages & Brora Development Trust are not going to expand it, therefore a new plan focusing on snow & storms will be introduced, Becky BC & Gina GS will produce the draft copy then meet with BDT for further collaboration.

Action: Draft Pan **Member:** Becky BC & Gina GS **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

Duncan Phimster asked for assistance to recruit more veterans to attend the Remembrance Day parade, as this year only himself & Dom Turner will be representing the local veterans. Following a group discussion Russell RR suggested an open event at the Community Centre with tea, coffee and cake for local veterans and the emergency services of all age groups, Ruwan RUP suggested inviting a speaker from the Golspie British Legion, also Major General Patrick Marriott, Lord-Lieutenant of Sutherland. Ruwan will organise an event and liaise with Duncan.

Action: Event **Member:** Ruwan RUP **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

Peter PFDH from Jim Gunn: There are several World War II aircraft crash sites located in the hills and moorland surrounding Brora, would BCC support an application for funding to erect a permanent memorial at the crash sites. Images of the memorial at Glen Loth were circulated. David DA advised this would be discussed at the next meeting, Becky BC has information to assist with this. RUW advised that the Heritage Centre could also be of assistance.

Action: Add to agenda **Member:** Gina GS **Review Date:** 19.05.2026

Micro Grant Applications: Discussed in Follow on Meeting.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 19.05.2026 7PM, BESS Sub Group 11.05.2026