

# BRORA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Tuesday 12th January 2021**  
*Conducted via online platform – Zoom*

**Chair:** Russell Rekhy

**Attendees:** Ruwan Uduwera-Perera (Secretary), Margaret Mackintosh (Treasurer), Lynne Paterson, Cllr Deirdre Mackay, Ellen Lindsay (Brora Antivirus Group), George Gunn (Minute Secretary)

**Apologies:** David Andrews

	Item	Action	Responsible member	Review Date
1	<b>Welcome and apologies</b> The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from David Andrews.			
2	<b>Police Update</b> No updates were received from Police Scotland.	Obtain update from Police Scotland	Ruwan Uduwera-Perera	
3	<b>Minutes of last meeting</b> The minutes of last meeting were accepted on the proposal of Ruwan Uduwera-Perera and seconded by Margaret Mackintosh.			
4	<b>Matters Arising</b> No response has been received from Malcolm Macleod to (5) BCC communications sent regarding Glen Loth Hydro Scheme. Another letter will be sent.  Ruwan Uduwera-Perera now sits on the Brora Resilience Group.  The Chair has spoken to Golspie Community Council. Pending approval by their members, a joint copy of the same letter as sent to Maree Todd MSP will be sent by BCC and GCC to Jamie Stone MP.	Contact Malcolm Macleod      Send letter to Jamie Stone MP	Ruwan Uduwera-Perera      Russell Rekhy	
5	<b>Reports</b> <b>Local Councillor</b> Cllr Mackay provided an update on the following:			

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Victoria Crescent parking issues:</u> There is no easy answer to the issue as there is no room to make adaptations. Cllr Mackay will set up a meeting with BCC, Josie Sutherland (Highland Council) and Police Scotland to discuss possible solutions.</li> <li>• <u>Town Centre Regeneration Project:</u> Applications received and are now being processed.</li> <li>• <u>Coastal Communities Fund:</u> This fund has been heavily oversubscribed. Applications are currently being sifted.</li> <li>• <u>Community Partnership:</u> Mental health was taken as a single issue on their recent agenda – a Sutherland Mental Health Working Group will be established. The Food Resilience Group is still meeting – a food sustainability action plan for Sutherland is now being developed. Fuel poverty work is ongoing with a holistic Sutherland poverty action group to be set up when Covid-19 restrictions subside. A dedicated Sutherland Sustainable Tourism group will be established due to local demand.</li> <li>• <u>Covid-19:</u> The current situation in Highland is ‘not good’ due to the new virus variant, which has caused virus hotspots in the Inner Moray Firth area. Highland Council staff remain seconded to NHS Highland and so the council is not running at ‘business as usual’ capacity. To date, 5,956 Covid vaccinations have been administered in Highland, including 3,609 healthcare workers and 950 care home staff. Community vaccinations begin this week at GP surgeries. Surgeries will contact patients when they are eligible to receive the vaccine – they should not contact their practice to request one. NHS Highland continues to cope well.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked Cllr Mackay for her update.</p> <p><b>Brora Antivirus Group</b> Ellen Lindsay provided an update on the work of the Brora Antivirus Group.</p>			
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Street buddy’ volunteers are now back on standby.</li> <li>• Brora Antivirus Group Facebook page is still operational.</li> <li>• The group currently has sufficient funding to feed people and support fuel poverty but demand is high. More funding applications will now be made.</li> <li>• Fuel poverty is an extreme issue, particularly owing to the weather being experienced.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked Ellen Lindsay for her update. He explained that BCC currently holds ringfenced funds for supporting social isolation, and a small amount of this may be made available if required. The Chair confirmed that BCC will assist with applications when they are made.</p> <p>Ellen Lindsay will return to BCC to present the group’s mental health plans once restrictions subside.</p>			
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>Correspondence had been received regarding resilience and gritting which has been circulated to members.</p> <p>NHS information had been received recently to be shared with members.</p>	Share NHS information with members	Ruwan Uduwera-Perera	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b></p> <p>Margaret Mackintosh circulated a report to members detailing the current financial situation.</p>			
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Community Feedback</b></p> <p>The Chair received feedback regarding pavement signage being an issue for wheelchair users, however on inspection did not notice any issues at present.</p> <p>Ruwan Uduwera-Perera received feedback from Steps Emporium regarding the windfarm convoys. On ‘convoy days’, the business has observed a reduction in footfall. Cocoa Skye has observed a similar reduction. Other businesses will be consulted, and feedback discussed with SSE. It has been noted that receiving ‘live’ updates on convoy arrival times would be useful to residents and businesses.</p>	Discuss convoy issues with other businesses. Discuss feedback with SSE and request live convoy updates.	Ruwan Uduwera-Perera	

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	The Chair reported that grit bins are available from Highland Council for placement where BCC wish to site them. The Chair will check the liability surrounding the bins and confirm that no reduction in pavement gritting services will be made because of any new bin placements.	Contact Highland Council	Russell Rekhy	
<b>9</b>	<b>Planning Issues</b> Nothing to report.			
<b>8</b>	<b>AOCB</b> Gower Street Public Toilets – window glass in the gents which was cracked during the November inspection by BCC members is now completely missing. Ruwan Uduwera-Perera has asked Highland Council to fix the window.			
<b>9</b>	<b>Date, time and venue of next meeting</b> Tuesday 16 March at 7pm via Zoom. There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.55pm.			