

# Unst Community Council

## Chair

Caroline Hunter  
Shirva  
Uyeasound  
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Shetland

## Clerk

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## Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 6.30 pm in the Baltasound School Music Huts and by MsTeams

### Present

Caroline Hunter, Chair  
David Cooper, Vice Chair  
Adam Doull  
Alec Priest  
Janice Priest  
John Peterson  
Gary Betney  
Robert Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio) Ms Teams  
Ryan Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio) MsTeams

### Attending

Frances Browne  
Gordon Thomson  
Lynette Spence, Clerk

#### 1. Apologies

Ingram Thomson

#### 2. Declaration of Interest

Robert Thomson declared an interest for Item 12 - Planning Application at Millagord.

#### 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Proposed – Adam Doull

Seconded – John Peterson

#### 4. Matters Arising from last minutes

White lines painting – Neil Hutcheson - The lashing points issue has been resolved. Markon Ltd will be in Shetland from the end of July through to the end of the first week in August. The length of road at Hagdale is on the programme as is the length of the A968 between Uyeasound and Caldback.

**Action Point – Lynette to ask Neil for dates of white line painting so UCC can advertise it, and ensure they have booked ferries.**

Elaine Park was contacted to request she attends an UCC meeting but there was no reply.

**Action Point – ask Elaine if there will be any further consultation regarding bus service with UCC before final proposals are put to the council. (Lynette)**

#### 5. Ferries/Fixed Links

Letters were sent out to relevant parties concerning the requirement for lashing vehicles on Bluemull Sound ferries, and the ferry report has now been received by the UCC. Various discussion about the contents of the report, and questions about the lack of mention of vehicles over 3.5 tonne requiring

to be lashed down. It's possible this has been omitted through error, or possibly it is in a separate MCA report.

**Action Point: Adam will contact Andrew Inkster and John Smith to ask for more information about the MCA report.**

**Action Point: Robert will also contact Andrew Inkster for further information.**

**Action Point: Lynette to send Ferry report to Ryan and Robert.**

### **Fixed Links**

Norwegians have been to do physical checks, and also met councillors. There are some conflicting technical assessments concerning depth and routes.

Sonar and seismic studies are to be done around January 2026.

## **6. Community Action Plan**

Gordon discussed the Community Action Plan, which is a large document split into themes. There is varying ideas but it was felt to carry most of these things forward would require a development worker.

Some of the items from Theme 1 discussed:

- Halls using renewable energy
- Men's Shed
- Places for young people to go, such as Leisure Centre, halls etc.
- Beach huts and toilets at beach locations, public toilets
- Play parks – **Action Point: Lynette to contact Magnus Malcolmson about updates to Unst playparks.**
- Visiting Dental service – extremely unlikely to happen.

**Action Point: Theme 2 will be discussed at the next UCC meeting.**

## **7. What3words**

**Action Point: Janice will find out more information about what they are looking for for What3words.**

## **8. SIC North Isles Councillors Update**

Ryan Thomson

### **Unst Housing**

Ryan has been contacted by several people looking for council housing in Unst. These include individuals and couples/families who have either secured employment on the island and now require accommodation, or are currently living in temporary accommodation or commuting and are looking to become permanent residents in Unst.

The Housing Department has confirmed that there are currently six void properties in Unst, all at varying stages of repair:

- 4 general needs
- 1 sheltered
- 1 very sheltered

There are no confirmed timescales for completion, as progress depends on multiple factors, including resource sharing with other Council departments (such as School Services) and the availability of contractors.

The vacant properties are located at:

- Nikkavord Lea
- 2 in Brakefield Crescent
- Brucehall Terrace
- Springpark Road
- Daisy Park

Ryan shall continue to liaise with the Housing Department to ensure these properties are brought back into habitable condition as quickly and effectively as possible.

### **Inter-Island Transport Connectivity Strategic Business Case**

The draft Strategic Outline Case was approved this week. Councillors agreed to progress with fixed links between:

- Unst and Yell
- Yell and Mainland
- Whalsay and Mainland
- Bressay and Mainland

Unfortunately, the proposal to retain the Fetlar - Yell fixed link for future consideration was outvoted. While it was argued that the capital and operational cost of maintaining a Fetlar ferry and related infrastructure would reach into the tens of millions, the majority felt it should be excluded at this early stage. This was a motion led by Robert and supported by the three North Isles Councillors.

### **Cullivoe Road - Full Business Case**

The Full Business Case was unanimously agreed, with construction most likely beginning in the Summer, and construction finishing in 2027. While it doesn't directly impact Unst, it does indirectly affect residents and businesses in varying ways. The road is also likely to become the main access route for any future fixed link infrastructure.

### **Early Adoption Childcare Meeting**

Robert and Ryan attended a meeting with representatives from Education and the Scottish Government regarding the Early Learning and Childcare Programme in the North Isles, and West Mainland. It was a very informative session.

The programme is being led by the Education Department with Scottish Government funding and runs until March 2026. However there are only a few Education & Families Committee meetings remaining before then, so it's vital that we see properly evidenced plans on paper to drive progress ASAP.

**Action Point – Ryan will continue to chase up Housing work and look into another joiner being employed and/or local contractors being given the work.**

### Robert Thomson

Robert has asked for more detailed information about Reserves spending, he will keep pushing for this. Crane for the pier – CCTV running too slowly, the crane cannot be used until the CCTV issue is sorted. Training is being arranged so there will be no delay in using the crane.

Childcare – a study will be required to know costs involved, staffing requirements, and ensuring a suitable location. It is critical to keep what already exists, but if possible increase this to 1-2 year olds. These issues will be discussed at the next Education Department meeting.

### **9. Unst Partnership Ltd (UP) Update.**

- The next skip day will be 9<sup>th</sup> August. 54 people have now signed up for the skip scheme.
- Housing Needs Assessment has been done and it ties in with the Community Action Plan.
- Longhouse – donations are doing well, the new signage and QR code have helped towards this. The site is very popular with tourists.
- Mid site – is now in a very bad condition due to vandalism. Currently UP haven't been able to locate the owner (John Scott Murray). Gordon has contacted Alan Goudie SIC, who will be coming to Unst soon and will visit the site. Their response will be limited as it is privately owned, but it is hoped they will fence off

the area and put up signage, as the area is becoming dangerous. There are also questions whether there is power to the site.

#### 10. **Community Involvement Update**

Community Resilience Plan – the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> has been postponed, it is being rescheduled for August.  
Community Pop In – A Pop In was held on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Next Pop In will hopefully be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September at BJHS 4-6pm. CAB are also booked to attend.

#### 11. **Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)**

VJ Event Funding Request for £833 agreed.

David informed everyone about the AGM and added that it is the biggest such fund in Britain, and is being viewed as a pilot for funds in other areas.

#### 12. **Applications for Planning**

Application for Millagord – No objections. Everyone agreed this was a very positive application.

#### 13. **Application for Donations**

UnstFest Application for funding for £1450 was agreed.

#### 14. **Unadopted Roads**

None

#### 15. **Correspondence**

- Draft Housing Report – will be discussed more when theme 3 of the Community Action Plan is discussed.
- Ferry Hire Request 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – it was agreed to request late ferries for the event.  
**Action Point – Lynette to email Sheena Summers and Fiona Farquar.**
- Lund Road was discussed - John added that he had spoken to a local landowner, who felt two gates were sufficient. **Action Point – Lynette to discuss Lund Road with John for more details before sending correspondence to NTS and Neil Hutcheson at SIC.**  
**(Lynette to discuss with David Cooper about National Trust Scotland letter – Lund Road/carpark/gates, Halligarth etc need updates for all)**

#### 16. **Community Council Finances**

Running balance as of 30/06/25 is £14,290.40

#### 17. **A.O.C.B.**

**Action Point – Anthony McLaughlin, Station Commander with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to be invited to next meeting. (Lynette)**

Road to Brondhus, Uyeasound – cattle grid is not fit for purpose and could be filled in as no longer required.

**Action Point – Lynette to contact Roads Department about cattle grid towards Brondus.**

#### 18. **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Caroline Hunter \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 25/08/25

Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_ Lynette Spence \_\_\_\_\_