

Unst Community Council

Chair

Caroline Hunter
Shirva
Uyeasound
Unst
Shetland

Clerk

Lynette Spence
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Baltasound
Unst, Shetland
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Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th December 2025 at 6.30 pm in Room 2 Baltasound School and by MsTeams

Present

Caroline Hunter
Adam Doull
Alec Priest
Janice Priest
Ingram Thomson
Brydon Johnson

Attending

Gordon Thomson
Lynette Spence, Clerk

1. Members stand down, Elect Chair and Vice Chair

Chair: Caroline nominated by Ingram, seconded by Alec
Vice Chair: not currently decided, will be decided at next meeting

2. Ex-officio members (i.e. SIC councillors, MPs, MSPs and MYSs)

Ryan Thomson and Robert Thomson

3. Associate Members

Caroline Hunter
Alec Priest
Janice Priest
Ingram Thomson
Brydon Johnson
John Peterson

4. Number of Vacant seats, Co-opt members

Adam Doull to be co-opted in
2 vacant seats

5. Process to promote vacant seats

Members will canvas locally.

6. Apologies

John Peterson
Robert Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio) Ms Teams
Ryan Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio) MsTeams
Frances Browne

7. Declarations of Interest

N/A

8. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Proposed – Alec

Seconded – Ingram

9. Matters Arising from last minutes

Information from Neil Hutcheson from the Roads Department:

Westing Road

The resurfacing of roads in Unst has been postponed due to the ferry situation and the need to avoid adding eight tarry trucks per day (for a two week period) to the traffic crossing on the Bluemull ferry. The intention at the moment is to programme resurfacing in Unst for May 2027. The priority in Unst has changed since the works began in the Westing and our thoughts are that the A968 between the ferry terminal and the Loch Of Snarravoe is more in need of an overlay. The Westing and/or the Norwick road would follow in May 2028.

- Members expressed their disappointment that nothing is happening in 2026 at Westing.

Gutter Street

The reinstatement of the streetlighting at Gutter Street, as approved by the Environment & Transport Committee, is an action that we have to progress. The project to replace all conventional streetlight lanterns with their LED equivalent was our priority with the reinstatement of removed lighting to be done on completion of this work. Unfortunately, the LED replacement project took longer than expected only being completed in 2024.

The intention now is to prepare a business justification case for the reinstatement of the Gutter Street lighting. This follows the “gateway” process required for all of the Council’s capital projects. This would be presented to the Council’s Policy & Resources Committee for its approval. The work, should the required budget be approved, would be done in summer 2026.

Verges

The Council’s verge cutting policy, approved on 6 June 2012, states “Grass verges on all rural roads are not cut on a routine basis; they are only cut as required, between June and September, to address safety related problems. These problem areas include but are not restricted to:

- *verges at road junctions where growth obstructs visibility;*
- *verges on single track roads where growth restricts the usable width of the road for vehicles;*
- *to prevent obstruction of traffic signs;*
- *verges in villages or on sections of road where the verge is used by a significant number of pedestrians on a daily basis”.*

The issue with snow is not mentioned in the policy but it does state that “problem areas” are not restricted to those that are listed. Therefore, there would be some scope to increase the lengths of roadside verge to be cut to address your Council’s concerns. While there is nothing that we can do about this now we could address this issue in future years. Were there any lengths of road that give your Council particular concern?

- Members suggested the following areas of concern: Muness, Ramnageo, Bunes, Pier to Kelda, White Hall, Burrafirth.

SIC/Hjaltland Housing

The Community Councillors would like more information about how many SIC houses are currently empty, and when they will be available for renting. There are some properties that have been empty for a substantial

length of time, and there is some concern they will be deteriorating further. Local people know if there are is no housing available so they don't apply, which hides actual demand for housing in Unst.

Hjaltland Housing Association has asked for a list of local contractors that would be available for carrying out work in Unst.

Meeting dates 2026

Members requested 6 weekly meetings rather than monthly.

10. Ferries/Fixed Links

SIC have said they will discuss with MCA to look for a compromise regarding the lashing of large vehicles on Bluemull Sound ferry.

Fixed Link auction raised approx. £11500

Sismic assessments will start at Bluemull sound summer 2026, delay due to permissions required around fish farms.

11. SIC North Isles Councillors Update

N/A

12. Unst Partnership Ltd (UP) Update.

- The next community Skip Scheme day is on January 24th 2026, with the SIC Bulk Uplift the following Thursday, the 29th.
- Funding is still being sought to fund a Development worker post. The intention is to fund a part time post from April 2026 for three years.
- Viking longhouse site. At the meeting on 27th November, the "Friends of Skidbladnir" agreed to look to extend their lease/licence for the site for one more year from April 2026, with a view to taking the site over from the Shetland Amenity Trust in April 2027.
- UP secondhand shop UP has put in for Planning permission to site a portacabin on Hagdale, near the entrance road to the UnstFest Shed, to store shop goods and furniture, some of which is too big for the shop to display.
- Halligarth There is still no word from the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) on the structural survey of Halligarth.
- Supper/Dance for Senior Citizens With funding from AGE Scotland, UP is advertising an "Auld Christmas" Supper and Dance night on Saturday 10th January in Baltasound hall.

13. Community Involvement Update

N/A

14. Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)

N/A

15. Applications for Planning

N/A

16. Application for Donations

N/A

17. Unadopted Roads

N/A

18. Correspondence

N/A

19. Community Council Finances

Print out provided. Accounts up to date.

20. A.O.C.B.

- The car that was parked along the Uyeasound Road has been removed by SIC
- A new policeperson is soon to be appointed to the North Isles.
- Discussion about police talks in schools regarding driving safety.

21. Date of next meeting – 26th January 2026

Chair: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____