

# Unst Community Council

## Chair

Caroline Hunter  
Shirva  
Uyeasound  
Unst  
Shetland

## Clerk

Lynette Spence  
36 Settershill Estate  
Baltasound  
Unst, Shetland  
Tel: 07908 872 562  
Email: [clerk@unstcc.shetland.co.uk](mailto:clerk@unstcc.shetland.co.uk)

## Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 6.30 pm in Room 2, Baltasound School and by MsTeams

### Present

Caroline Hunter, Chair  
Adam Doull  
Alec Priest  
Janice Priest  
Ingram Thomson  
Brydon Johnson  
Robert Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio) Ms Teams

### Attending

Frances Browne  
Gordon Thomson  
Lynette Spence, Clerk

#### 1. Apologies

John Peterson  
Ryan Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio) MsTeams

#### 2. Declaration of Interest

None

#### 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Proposed – Adam Doull  
Seconded – Janice Priest

#### 4. Matters Arising from last minutes

New dates for UCC meetings:  
9<sup>th</sup> March  
20<sup>th</sup> April  
1<sup>st</sup> June  
13<sup>th</sup> July  
31<sup>st</sup> August  
12<sup>th</sup> October  
23<sup>rd</sup> November  
14<sup>th</sup> December

#### 5. Appointment of Vice Chair

Adam Doull was appointed as Vice Chair.  
Proposed by Ingram Thomson  
Seconded by Janice Priest

## 6. Brakefield Crescent Area

Members of the community have pointed out that the Brakefield Crescent housing Estate is looking rundown. Fences are rotten (past the point of painting), there are abandoned cars, and some houses need external work done. It was also noted that other housing estates were in a similar situation.

Gordon gave details of two companies that people can report cars to – Car Take Back and Auto Green/Rewarding. It was agreed to make a social media post and advertise in local shops to make people aware of these options, which are free to use.

**Lynette will contact the SIC to ask about renovation plans for all SIC housing estates, especially Brakefield.**

## 7. Ferries/Fixed Links

The previous update was that the SIC would be in talks with MCA to discuss the ferry lashing situation.

**Lynette will contact Andrew Inkster for an update.**

There have been issues with the single ferry timetable. It would be useful if the dates for ferry work could avoid local events such as Up Helly Aa, Unstfest, Sheep sales, and the Unst Show. There are also concerns about what happens when it is a single vessel timetable and the ferry breaks down – the UCC would like to know the contingency plan. **Lynette will contact Ferry Services to request information about this.**

It was also discussed, on a positive note, that there has been an improvement by having bookings available during times when there have been a problem with ferries.

### Fixed Links

There was a recent fundraiser (Burns Supper) that was a big success.

The SIC has announced potential funding from the Scottish Government, this is very positive but due to the election next year may affect this.

## 8. SIC North Isles Councillors Update

The Roads department are looking at taking away the 20mph zone outside the old Uyeasound School. The Uyeasound Community do not want the 20mph zone to change. The road is not clear, there is a school bus stop and playpark in that stretch of road. The Community Council members agree.

**Ryan and Robert will discuss this with the Roads Department.** The UCC members also discussed whether a speed limit should also be in place at the Haroldswick hall, Heritage Centre and playpark – this road is also not clear and there could be young children in the area.

There has been news that the Dales Lees road will have weight restrictions until the end of May but councillors are waiting to hear more information about this. It is a concern for several businesses in the North Isles, as well as bus timetables. There may be a compensation scheme – **Robert will look into a compensation scheme. The UCC may complain to SSE.**

There will be a committee meeting soon regarding Bus timetabling – **Robert will keep UCC informed.**

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

- The next community Skip Scheme day has been moved on to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February, at the slightly later time of 11.30am-1.15pm with the SIC Bulk Uplift the following Thursday, the 12<sup>th</sup> February.
- Housing. We met recently with Orkney housing consultant Luke Fraser to discuss Housing in Unst. There are various properties in Unst with potential for development but it all depends on the owners' wishes. UP is still trying to get funding for a Development officer.
- Viking longhouse site. UP are still waiting for a quote for the "knee" repairs as suitable oak has still to be sourced. Some bookings have already been made by tour companies wishing to visit the site this summer.

- UP secondhand shop The UP shop is not taking donations at present as storage space is limited. UP have purchased a storage unit but are having issues in finding a suitable site for it.
- Halligarth There is still no word from the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) on the structural survey of Halligarth. Angus Murray, the NTS officer responsible, has just come back after paternity leave, so we should hear shortly.
- Supper/Dance for Senior Citizens This went well, with around 70 people taking part. UP still has grant funding for another Senior Citizens' event, either a supper/dance or a trip to another part of Shetland.
- Due to weather and other events, the UP AGM is now scheduled for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 4.15pm in Baltasound hall. Anyone is welcome to attend and new directors are welcome, as one or two are stepping down.

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

Frances informed the members about Community Conversations, which is feedback for the Corporate Plan. There is an opportunity for communities to put together a Local Place Plan, which would result in community wishes being part of the Local Development Plan, and becomes a material consideration for planning. Frances suggested that Pete Mogridge could attend a meeting to help with the Local Plan Plan, and he would also look at work done previously. The plan can change over time, as and when required.

The next Pop-In event will be at Nordalea 26<sup>th</sup> February 11am-2pm. Agencies come to Unst to speak to community members. Soup and sandwiches are provided and is also a social opportunity.

Community Led Housing – there has been some momentum around this issue.

Community Resilience – leaflet is almost finished. There was discussion about halls not being suitable for older people if there is no power/heating, so generators would be required. The local halls need to be improved but there is a lack of funding available. Coastal Communities gave up to £100k, which was good at the time but prices for everything have gone up substantially. The Charitable Trust can help with bridging loans.

Training is available for Community Council members. If members would prefer online training, fill it in on the form. Also, Michael Duncan may be able to come to Unst for some training.

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

Lynette will inform David Copper of UCC meeting dates for 2026 so he can keep members updated.

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

#### **15. Correspondence**

N/A

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

Finances up to date, print out provided.

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

There have been some concerns in the community about various issues, as well as police response times. Some of these concerns involve the MOD and the lack of military personnel to deal with security issues.

**Lynette will contact Alastair Carmichael and the Community Safety Partnership for advice. Lynette will also contact MOD to request an email address for contacting when issues arise.**

**Lynette will contact the police again regarding a social media post about driving safety, as well as requesting someone visits the school to give a talk on the issue.**

There was a discussion about areas that may require a bus shelter.

The Unst Partnership is looking for someone from the UCC to be co-opted on to the UP Board. It was agreed to discuss this again at the next meeting.

There was a recent accident on Settershill, which has resulted in the community requesting the road to be widened. The road currently is not officially fully wide enough for two vehicles to pass, which local people know about, but there are now bigger and faster vehicles, there is increased traffic and there will be more tourists due to the spaceport. If the road is not widened, there is a fear there will be more accidents. At the very least, there should be appropriate signage for the road. There was also discussion about whether the spaceport should carry out the work.

Ingram, who works for the Roads Department, suggested the UCC could propose the work to be done in stages to spread the cost over a few years. **Lynette will invite the Roads Department to visit the area.**

There has been a request for late ferries for a wedding on 17<sup>th</sup> July. The late ferry runs would be 18<sup>th</sup> July 1am and 2am. **Lynette will contact ferries about this request.**

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

The date of the next meeting is on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_