

# Unst Community Council

## Chair

Patrick Fordyce  
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## Clerk

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## Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 6.30 pm using WebEx Phone Conferencing

### Present:

Patrick Fordyce, Chair  
Claire Priest, Vice Chair  
David Cooper  
Caroline Hunter  
John Peterson  
Janice Priest  
Hazel Spence  
Gordon Thomson  
Julie Thomson  
Alec Priest, North Isles Councillor (ex-officio)  
Ryan Thomson, North Isles Councillor (ex-officio)

### Attending:

Frances Browne, Community Involvement and Development Officer  
Josie McMillan, Clerk

### 01/01/21 Apologies

Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer  
PC Angela Manson  
Duncan Anderson, North Isles Councillor (ex-officio)

### 02/01/21 Minutes from the Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were proposed by Janice and seconded by Gordon.

### 03/01/21 Declaration of Interest

Claire declared an interest in agenda item 05/01/21 Health Centre G.P. Vacancies. Janice declared an interest in agenda item 06/01/21 Shetland Space Centre and 12/01/21.3 Energy Isles. Julie declared an interest in agenda item 06/01/21 Shetland Space Centre. Alec declared an interest in 12/01/21.3 Energy Isles.

### 04/01/21 Matters Arising from last minutes

#### 13/12/20.3 BT Payphone Removal Consultation

The Community Council wrote and objected about the removal of the payphone in Uyeasound as it is being used on a regular basis. There has been no reply.

### 05/01/21 Health Centre G. P. Vacancies

Patrick asked Caroline if the Unst Community Health Support Group had received any updates about the G.P. situation in Unst. Caroline said that there had been nothing new, but they understood that there was a lot of pressure on NHS Shetland at present. She said that NHS Shetland are currently refreshing the Clinical Strategy for Shetland and are keen to find out about the community's experience of using their

health and wellbeing services, and to identify areas for improvement. Link to form is [insights@dhi-scotland.com](mailto:insights@dhi-scotland.com). The Community Council wrote to Michael Dickson, Chief Executive, NHS Shetland after the last meeting. There has been no reply. It was agreed to write again.

#### **06/01/21 Shetland Space Centre**

Patrick said that he had had a lengthy conference call with Frank Strang on Auld Newer day, Wednesday 13th January. Patrick is writing up a Memo/Bulletin Points from the meeting along with Elizabeth Johnson for circulation to members. Patrick said that Mr Strang is very positive about Space Centre Progress. They are busy planning a big event for June 2022. Mr Strang is keen to attend a Community Council meeting in the future. Patrick said that Mr Strang had said the planning application was going in and would be accessible online. The application went in tonight, just before this meeting, so no-one has had a chance to look at it as yet. It can be accessed on the Shetland Islands Council website, by following the link. <https://pa.shetland.gov.uk/online-applications>. There are 311 documents along with the application. There was a lot of discussion about how to publicise the application so that everyone who wants to make comments on the application can. There will be a lot of publicity about this in the national and local media. It was agreed, unanimously, to put a link to the application on the Community Council Facebook page, with no option to put on comments. But with the following explanation – “The Community Council has a statutory right to represent community views. We are keen to hear what you think of these plans. You can email the clerk at [clerk@unstcc.shetland.co.uk](mailto:clerk@unstcc.shetland.co.uk) who will circulate all councillors. You can also comment through the Public Comments section on the Planning Applications site.” Frances also said that advice on representing the community could be gained by speaking to Planning Aid Scotland. Patrick agreed that he would contact them for advice. It was agreed that this is one of the biggest issues to affect Unst since the closing of RAF Saxavord. Patrick said that another meeting would be arranged at short notice to discuss the Community Council’s response to the application. The planning application has not been sent to the Community Council for comment as yet. The planning application, agenda item 09/01/21, “Proposed internal and external alterations to redundant brewery building to form a Launch and Range Control Centre for the Shetland Space Centre” will also be looked at by councillors in more detail before they make a decision.

#### **07/01/21 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.**

Gordon said that the shop will be closed during January and a decision about opening will be looked at again at the end of January. The next skip day is the 20th February. UP was awarded Crown Estate funding, this is to fund a development officer to take the recycling centre project forward. The job has been advertised. UP’s AGM was held in December. Their office bearers remains the same.

#### **08/01/21 Community Involvement Update**

##### 08/01/21.1 Unst/Yell Community Council meeting re Energy Isles

Frances explained that she had been asked by Yell Community Council (YCC) to co-ordinate setting up a meeting between Unst and Yell Community Councils. The purpose of this was to discuss the Energy Isles Community Benefit Fund and how it should be disbursed. Patrick said that he had spoken to Annette Jamieson, Vice Chair, of Yell Community Council. She said that YCC wants the benefit to stay in the North Isles as was originally stated by the developers. There is a meeting next week which Gordon plans to attend. Frances said that the Community Conversation events were finished and that one of her colleagues was collating the information. Frances will feedback on this research when it becomes available. Frances left the UCC meeting as she needed to attend the Yell Community Council meeting as well. Patrick thanked her for all her contributions.

#### **09/01/21 Applications for Planning**

There was a discussion about the delays in the planning application process, which is currently running at 12 weeks. It was agreed to write about this as the situation does not seem to be improving at all. Patrick will draft a letter to be sent to Iain McDiarmid, Executive Manager – Planning Service; Maggie Sandison, SIC Chief Executive; Neil Grant, SIC Director of Development, and the local SIC Councillors.

Planning Ref: 2020/261/PPF
Proposal: Erect a 10m Telecoms Mast and associated equipment
Address: Belmont Ferry Terminal, Unst, Shetland, ZE2 9DW
Applicant:
Date of Consultation: 11 January 2021

There were no objections.

Planning Ref: 2021/002/PPF
Proposal: New section of access road with passing places and associated drainage
Address: Land at Northdale, Haroldswick, Unst
Applicant:
Date of Consultation: 15 January 2021

This application was discussed in detail. There were no objections to the application but there was a lot of concerns expressed about the existing road. A part of the road leading up to this new section is not stable and runs between very boggy land on both sides. This stretch of road already causes problems for the “Essy Kart.” Members felt it was not built to carry artic vehicles, transporting heavy loads especially in the construction stage of the Space Centre.

Planning Ref: 2021/003/PPF: Limited
Proposal Proposed internal and external alterations to redundant brewery building to form a Launch and Range Control Centre for the Shetland Space Centre
Address: Valhalla Brewery, Haroldswick, Unst, Shetland ZE2 9TJ
Applicant: Shetland Space Centre
Date of Consultation: 18 January 2021

It was agreed that Councillors would look at this application in more detail before making a decision and get back to the Clerk with comments. There was a request that the whole site should be tidied up. Patrick will pass this on to Mr Strang.

### **10/01/21 Unadopted Roads**

There were no applications for donation.

### **11/01/21 Application for Donations**

#### 11/01/21.1 Unst Junior Netball Development Group

It was agreed to give a donation of £100 towards the costs of sanitisers and antibacterial cleansers.

#### 11/01/21.2 Ability Shetland

An application for £700 from Ability Shetland was received and circulated before the meeting. This was to help with the costs of setting up a weekly club for older people and adults who are less able, to join with their existing Children’s Saturday Club to take part in physical activities and games. The funds would be used to pay for resources and some of the costs of transport. It was agreed to ask for more details on about this application before awarding funding.

### **12/01/21 Correspondence**

#### 12/01/21.1 SIC – Restricted Ferry Timetable

The Community Council has received complaints about the restricted ferry service. One member of the community said that it is the same ferry timetable that was introduced in the full lockdown last year. People travelling are finding it difficult to make bookings; they are being told the ferry is fully booked. One person, who had a hospital appointment, was told the ferry was fully booked. When they went to Belmont there were only three booked cars for the ferry. There were two SIC employees up from Lerwick to do work at the Baltasound Pier, because of coronavirus restrictions they had to travel up in two

vehicles, taking up valuable spaces on the ferries. The timetable is not suitable for shops bringing in fresh goods, as they have to wait for later ferries. Ryan explained that ZetTrans are proposing to iron out any issues businesses and travelers are having. They are concerned about service resilience, if any crews have to self-isolate. Ryan said that ZetTrans will be in touch with Community Councils, businesses and other users to make sure their suggestions are taken into consideration. He said there would be an opportunity to adjust the timetable in the near future. Ryan said that NHS Shetland are concerned about the increase in cases which have no links to the current outbreak in the north mainland or travel. Gordon has been involved in correspondence with Michael Craigie, ZetTrans, he sent him an email with a copy of the timetable, which was introduced in June last year, which increased the sailings from 12 to 19. He agreed to send a copy of this email to Patrick and the North Isles Councillors. Ryan said he would put a message on his Facebook page reminding people to cancel bookings they are no longer using, especially now with restricted sailings.

#### 12/01/21.2 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) – Revised Grant Scheme

Gordon explained that this grant scheme will be open to applications shortly. Application forms will be available on the Shetland Community Benefit Fund website. There will be two forms – one for grants up to £500 and another for grants over £500. Applications will be sent to SCBF, who will collate them and send them to the Community Council for approval. There will be an 8-week turnaround.

#### 12/01/21.3 Energy Isles

Gordon will be attending a meeting of Energy Isles on the 25<sup>th</sup> January. Yell Community Council would like the funds to be retained in the North Isles as was originally proposed by the developers. Gordon will feedback on the meeting at the next Community Council meeting.

#### 12/01/21.4 ASCC – Agenda Items for meeting 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021

This was noted.

#### 12/01/21.5 Community Assets Transfers Webinars 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January

This was noted.

#### **13/01/21 Community Council Finances**

There was a discussion about the current budget. There is still money available in the Community Development Fund for community groups.

#### **14/01/21 A.O.C.B.**

There was no other business.

#### **15/01/21 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is set for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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