

Unst Community Council

Chair

Patrick Fordyce
Annsbrae
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Unst, Shetland

Clerk

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Rockfield
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Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29th March 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
Gordon 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

01/03-2/21 Apologies

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

02/03-2/21 Minutes from the Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 1st March 2021 were proposed by Claire and seconded by John.

03/03-2/21 Declaration of Interest

Claire declared an interest in agenda item 05/03-2/21 Health Centre G.P. Vacancies. Janice declared an interest in agenda item 06/03-2/21 Shetland Space Centre.

04/03-2/21 Matters Arising from last minutes

There was a correction to the date in agenda item 07/03/21 Unst Partnership (UP) update. The date of the next skip should have been 24th April 2021, not the 25th April. There were no other matters arising.

05/03-2/21 Health Centre G. P. Vacancies

There have been no further updates from Michael Dickson, NHS Shetland. He did explain that it would be first May/June before this would happen. Caroline said that there had been an article in the Shetland Times about recruiting GPs on a Shetland Wide basis. She is meeting with representatives

of the Discover the Joy GP project and will report back at the next meeting. Claire said that Dr Karen Bissett, who is working at the surgery at present, has signed a contract for 15 weeks a year. Members were happy that a doctor has committed to the Health Centre.

06/03-2/21 Shetland Space Centre

Patrick had spoken to Elizabeth Johnson, Shetland Space Centre, before this meeting. She will email the update to the Clerk who will circulate it to everyone. She said that the planning process is in progress but would take time to go through. SSC is planning a comprehensive response to all the objections. Elizabeth had explained that SSC is speaking to contractors so that they are ready to start once permission has been granted. Local contractors will be given preference, if no local contractors bid for the work, then it will go out to Shetland wide companies, then to companies outwith Shetland. Shetland Islands Council has appointed a group with an active interest in the Space Centre – the Space Leadership Project Board, which has 4 Sub Committees i.e. Education/Employment led by Robin Calder; Economic Group led by Tommy Coutts; Resilience and Planning led by Ingrid Gall and Promotion and Tourism led by Steve Mathieson. There was a discussion as to whether the Community Council should have representation on these groups, but it was decided that as long as they got copies of the minutes of these meeting. SSC is working with two schools, Baltasound and Sandwick Junior Highs. They are also collaborating with Wild Skies Shetland in an activity planned for summer. Patrick said there was also talk about an International Children's summer camp. He said that Elizabeth had said that the Scottish Government had pledged £1 million pounds towards upgrading Unst Airport. Ryan suggested inviting Neil Grant, SIC Director of Development, to the next UCC meeting. This was agreed. Patrick said that Frank Strang had also said he would be available to attend a future meeting. After a discussion it was decided to wait with inviting him to a meeting until the planning process was complete. Patrick was asked if there had been any more information about the SSC's Community Benefit Fund, he said that he would follow that up with them.

David asked if it could be minuted that there had been an objection lodged with the SSC planning application by Corrie Arnold which contained totally wrong information about him. He has written to the SIC Planning Department to state that he did not carry out the ornithology survey work for the Space Centre and had been on committees for many years and knew perfectly well about declaring an interest when he needed to.

07/03-2/21 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.

Gordon said that both skips on Saturday 27th March were full. The next skip day is the 24th April 2021. He reminded everyone to complete their recycling questionnaire. The return date for this has been extended to the 5th April. It was suggested that UP put up notices in the shops encouraging people to return their forms. A reminder has also been put on Facebook.

08/03-2/21 Community Involvement Update

Frances said that she had attended the Unst Heritage Trust meeting on whether to open the centres this year. She asked Ryan when the Ferry Service would be changed from essential travel back to normal. He explained that the next Government lifting of restrictions is planned for the 26th April 2021, however, SIC are actively engaging with NHS and other public health colleagues to see if they can open the ferries up to normal use. Ultimately it is a health issue, and the SIC will be guided by their data. There was a discussion about the Scottish Government survey which was circulated asking for people's views on whether Shetland should go down a tier or stay in the same level as the rest of Scotland. Alec asked what were the view of the Community Council about tiers? Patrick explained that the Community Councillors would have very mixed views, as would the rest of the community. Frances has also been working with the Haroldswick Methodist Kirk on researching funding for solar panels for the roof.

09/03-2/21 Applications for Planning

There were no applications for planning.

10/03-2/21 Unadopted Roads

There were no applications for unadopted roads.

11/03-2/21 Application for Donations

11/03-2/21.1 1st Unst Rainbows

It was agreed to give a donation of £300, towards the costs of annual subs, hall hire and materials.

11/03-2/21.2 Baltasound Parent Council

It was agreed to give a donation of £500 towards the costs of buying ukuleles for the school.

11/03-2/21.3 Voxter Outdoor Centre

It was agreed to give a donation of £100 towards the costs of renovating and refurbishing Voxter House.

12/03-2/21 Correspondence

12/03-2/21 Association of Shetland Community Councils Meeting 9th March 2021 Update

Patrick attended this online meeting. He said that there was a discussion about a new grant application form. The Clerk has sent a copy of this to everyone. The form has been changed so that it adheres to Data Protection guidelines. Patrick said there had also been discussions about by-elections for Community Council vacancies. Unst has its full complement of Councillors so this does not affect us. There are also alterations being made to the constitution. The altered constitution will be circulated and needs to be approved at the next Community Council meeting. The next ASCC meeting is scheduled for the 8th June. A representative from the Roads Department will be invited to give information and explain the general process of how road decisions are made.

12/03-2/21.2 Lund Road

This has been discussed for many years at Community Council meetings. Gordon gave a brief outline of the problem with getting the road repaired. Lund Road belongs to the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), who say they have no money to repair it. The Council will not adopt the road, although the Graveyard and parking area belong to them. After a discussion it was agreed that Patrick would draft a letter to SIC Roads to ask how much it would cost to repair the road and then approach NTS with this to see if they will pay to have it repaired. It was also suggested that Patrick contact Goudies Funeral Directors to ask them about their experience using the road. It was explained that before the road was improved many years ago, alternative arrangements had to be made transporting the coffin down to the graveyard. Similar to what happens going to the Easting Kirkyard. Frances said that it would be good to get quotes for improving the road as there would be other streams of funding becoming available shortly, e.g. Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF).

12/03-2/21.2 Scottish Water - Unst WTW – Chloramination

This work has now been completed. Every household received information about this.

12/03-2/21.3 Hjaltland Housing Association – Allocation Policy, proposed amendments

The amendments to the allocation policy include support for single applicants, people working in the area and those suffering domestic abuse. Claire agreed to reply on behalf of the Community Council.

12/03-2/21.4 Hermaness Nature Reserve

This project has been awarded £850,000 towards installing the recycled plastic boardwalk at Hermaness and erecting a visitor hub with information boards and toilets. The Community Council

did not get information about this project going ahead. It was agreed to email Juan Brown, NatureScot, to ask to be included in information about this.

12/03-2/21.5 Baltasound Phone Box

The Community Council had received information about adopting a phone box. There are people in the community already interested in adopting the one at the Baltasound Post Office and the one in Uyeasound. The Community Council had asked previously that the Uyeasound box be retained as people at the Hostel might use it. We wrote to BT when they consulted previously asking for this phone box to be retained.

13/03-2/21 Community Council Finances

The Community Development Funds have all been awarded. The Core Funding budget for next financial year has been set at £8,423, which is the same as previous years. The accounts have to be completed and sent to be audited by Voluntary Action Shetland.

14/03-2/21 A.O.C.B.

14/03-2/21.1 Fibre Cable

Claire said that there are splits in the verges where the fibre cable was laid, near Millbrae and the Health Centre to Block yard road in Baltasound. In some places the green cabling is visible. Janice said that there are splits in the Ministers Road verges as well. Alec said that the Community Council should contact Neil Grant, SIC, about this as the contractors would need to repair the splits. He suggested sending photos of this as well. It was agreed to send photos to the Clerk who will send them onto Neil Grant.

15/03-2/21 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is set for Monday 10th May 2021.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____