

Unst Community Council

Chair

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Clerk

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Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th May 2021 at 6.30 pm using WebEx Phone Conferencing

Present:

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

Attending:

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

01/05/21 Apologies

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

02/05/21 Resignation

Gordon has resigned from the Community Council. He felt that with Unst Partnership getting busier with the Recycling Centre etc, he didn't want there to be a conflict of interest. Patrick wanted it minuted that Gordon had served the Community Council for many years, with several of those as Chair and Vice Chair. The Community Council noted its appreciation for all his service to the community. It was agreed to write and thank Gordon for all the voluntary time and effort he has put into working for the community. The Clerk has notified the vacancy to Anne Cogle, SIC. There are planned elections in August for Community Council that still have vacancies. Gordon has also said he will stand down as a director of Shetland Community Benefit Fund and as the UCC representative for Energy Isles.

03/05/21 Minutes from the Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 29th March 2021 were proposed by John and seconded by Claire.

04/05/21 Declaration of Interest

Claire declared an interest in agenda item 07/05/21 Health Centre G.P. Vacancies. Julie declared an interest in agenda item 08/05/21 Shetland Space Centre and 09/05/21 SCBF Grant Funding.

05/05/21 Matters Arising from last minutes

There were no matters arising.

06/05/21 Neil Grant, SIC Director, Development Services

Gordon welcomed Neil Grant, Director, Development Services and Neil Hutcheson and Colin Gair, SIC Roads to the meeting. Patrick had sent Mr Grant a list of questions which have come up in previous meetings. Mr Grant started by speaking about the Shetland Space Centre. He said that SSC was hugely important to Shetland. It was very important to get a balance between the economy/jobs/community and the environment. The SIC are trying to get the biggest value for Shetland from the project. They have set up the Space Centre 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. SIC are keen to encourage young person to get the skill bases for this new industry, and to maximise the benefit to local companies. Mr Grant said that this is a brand new industry for Shetland and the UK. They will be looking at safety and security. SIC will have to manage "Space tourism" and make sure the infrastructure can cope with it all. Mr Grant was asked about the SSC planning application. He said that the time usually allocated to planning applications is 4 months. There are certain criteria that the SIC need to assess the application against. One of the statutory consultees, Historic Environment Scotland, has objected. Mr Grant said there are various processes that need to be worked through. Patrick had met with Frank Strang, SSC, who is hopeful that the application will be approved at the June meeting of the Planning Board. Mr Grant believed that was being optimistic with the amount of material that still has to be worked through.

Road at Northdale, Haroldswick

Colin Gair explained that the SIC, as a statutory consultee, had put in their response to this application. Patrick said that the Community Council had raised concerns about the existing road being suitable for the heavy traffic associated with building the Space Centre. Mr Gair said that these issues had been covered in the SIC response to the planning application. There are concerns about the whole road from Belmont to Saxavord. Mr Gair said that the SIC had been looking at the road from the Skidbladner, Haroldswick to Lambaness, not from Haroldswick to Belmont. They need to know vehicles movements, i.e. if resources used for building was being sourced locally. Mr Grant said that for any road improvements it is a requirement that the developer will pay for these. Mr Gair said that all sections of the public road in Unst that are to be utilised in the delivery of this project will need to be subject to a Section 96 agreement between the Council and the developer to ensure that the cost of any repairs required due to the use of the roads by construction traffic for this project are covered by the developer. Mr Grant was asked how the project will be monitored and what guarantee would there be that SSC follow the approved plan. Mr Grant said that the project will be monitored and that there are conditions which must be met, SSC will be legally responsible to adhere to their plans. The SIC will hold SSC to the planning application conditions..

Other Unst Roads

Neil Hutcheson said that there was a programme of resurfacing/reconstruction for Unst for the next few years. In 2021 the plans are that the Newgord Road, Westing and Alma/Westbreck roads would be resurfaced. The following year the Newgord Junction to Burragarth, Westing and the Minister's Road/Easter Loch, Uyeasound would be resurfaced/reconstructed. The proposed Surface Dressing Programme for 2022 includes Mailland, Mailland Bend, Baltasound; Setters Quarry to Brookpoint; Old Post Office to Fyeal; Shore Road, Uyeasound; Galley Shed to Easting Junction; Clibberswick; Shore Station Road, Burrafirth; School/Leisure Centre Road, Voesarth/Greenside, Westing Junction to turning head, Lund; Hannigarth, Easting, Upper Sotland, Burrafirth and Gerratoun. Patrick asked if anything further had been done about the Burrafirth Brig. Mr Hutcheson said that it hadn't gone

any further. It would need to go on the list of minor capital improvements. Mr Hutcheson said it would be added to the list but would only be done for safety reasons or when funding becomes available. Patrick asked about the Lund road, which is owned by the National Trust for Scotland. Mr Gair said that to get a road adopted by the SIC, an application has to be made by the majority of landowners alongside to the road, more than 50%. The road has to be brought up to an appropriate standard, i.e. width, passing places, surfacing. This is usually at a significant cost. The SIC would then be legally obliged to adopt the road. Patrick asked if the Lund road could be brought up to a standard, could the SIC be a contractor for that job. Mr Hutcheson said that the SIC do not compete with local contractors. Patrick asked if the Council would be able to provide a quote for what it would cost to get the road to an acceptable standard. Mr Hutcheson said that the SIC could provide an estimate. There was a question about another two roads issue in the Westing, the first was the passing place at the steep brae where camper vans etc. park and this makes it difficult for vehicles passing or using the stand off place. The other road issue is at the end of the Westing road at the beach, where it is difficult to turn if there are vehicles parked there. Mr Hutcheson said he would add the passing place query to the list and that the beach turning place was already on the list. Members asked if it would be possible in future years to avoid doing major road work in Unst during UnstFest, when Unst is busy and so are the ferries. Mr Gair said that they would check for future years and try and avoid that time. Patrick asked about the splits in the verges where the fibre cable was laid. Mr Grant said he would take this information back and pass it on to the project team. He suggested getting Marvin Smith, SIC to attend a future UCC meeting to give an update on the roll out of R100. After a discussion it was agreed that Mr Grant would arrange for Mr Smith to give an update to a future UCC meeting. Patrick thanked Messrs Grant, Hutcheson and Gair for attending the meeting. It had been very informative. Mr Hutcheson left the meeting at 7.30pm, Messrs Grant and Gair stayed for the Shetland Space Centre item on the agenda.

07/05/21 Health Centre G. P. Vacancies

There have been no further updates as yet from Michael Dickson, NHS Shetland. Caroline said that NHS Shetland had advertised GP posts for Unst and Yell and there had been applicants. Caroline agreed to keep the Community Council updated on this.

08/05/21 Shetland Space Centre

Patrick had met with Frank Strang and Elizabeth Johnson earlier today. He said that Mr Strang is very positive and confident that SSC is close to reaching an agreement with Historic Environment Scotland. Mr Strang said that he is in direct communication with Fergus Ewing, Minister for Rural Affairs, Scottish Government and also with the Westminster Government. Mr Strang said that the Space Centre is extremely important to Shetland and the Scottish and Westminster Governments. He believes that if SIC refuse planning permission, the Scottish Government will call in the planning application. There was a discussion about whether UCC should write in support of the Space Centre. Patrick said that UCC are in a delicate position as we have to represent the whole community. There were differing views about writing. Mr Grant said that anything put in by the Community Council has to be representative of the community, so would need to be very carefully worded. Patrick will draft short communications to HES/SIC. This will be circulated to everyone to get their opinions before deciding whether to submit or not. Patrick said that Mr Strang is hosting a visit from Ivan McKee, MSP, Minister for Trade, Innovation and Public Finance. Neil Grant and Colin Gair left the meeting at 7.55pm.

09/05/21 SCBF – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Shetland Community Benefit Fund Ltd and Unst Community Council and SCBF AGM (12th May 2021)

The MOU has been signed and returned. Gordon is planning to stand down as a director of SCBF at its AGM. The Community Council will need to put forward another representative in his place. There were two grant applications forwarded from SCBF for approval. Unst Partnership applied for £500

towards the costs of providing skips. This was approved. There was an application from Wild Skies Shetland for £500 towards the costs of a film they are producing. This was approved. There is still £9,000 in this fund. This funding is administered by SCBF with approval for grants decided by the Community Council.

10/05/21 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.

Gordon emailed in the UP report.

Skip scheme: New scheme starting up in June probably, assuming UP get roughly 50 people signing up. Fee increase from last year to £50 or £55, depending on whether UP receive £500 grant support from SCBF. Quote received from Garriocks Ltd, only slightly above last year's price, at just over £594 per skip day. For 6 Skip days this would come to £3566. 50 memberships @ £50 = £2500. UP removed 23.3 tonnes of bruck last year. That is not counting all the white goods and metal taken away by SAT. Recycling Centre: after the recent survey, main requests were for a bigger secondhand shop with drop-off area; a workshop area for wood/metalwork; sewing/repairing and artwork projects; a laundry facility; a scrap wood compound; and a gardening facility with polycrub if possible. Outline plans have now gone out to architects for tender, replies due in by 14th May.

Second-hand Shop: trading as usual with openings on Thursday and Saturdays 2-4pm and drop off on Monday nights 6-8pm. Some online sales through Facebook for larger household items.

UP applied to SIC CDF for £3000 for a Participatory Budget event but withdrew it as the SIC said a grant to distribute funds to local groups was going to Unst CC.

11/05/21 Community Involvement Update

Frances has working with the Haroldswick Methodist Kirk on researching funding for solar panels for the roof. She has helped the Community Council with its application for Community Development Funding. She has also been working with halls, organising Covid Risk Assessments training.

12/05/21 Community Council Constitution Amendments

The amendments were discussed and accepted. Proposed by David, seconded by Claire. It was unanimously agreed.

13/05/21 Applications for Planning

There were no applications for planning.

14/05/21 Unadopted Roads

There was one application for an unadopted road, Nigel Stickle for the road at Stove. The road measures 120 metres. It was agreed to offer a grant of £220, once he submits his paid invoices.

15/05/21 Application for Donations

There were no applications for donations.

16/05/21 Correspondence

16/05/21.1 Gunnister Road

It was agreed to send a letter of support to Colva Peterson and Christopher Ritch to go along with their application to get their road adopted. This road is used by people visiting the Gunnister stone as well as access to their house.

16/05.21.2 Autogreen - Scrap Cars Removal

Patrick has emailed April Pearson, SIC and Mr Exton, Autogreen to try and resolve the long-standing problem of getting cars uplifted from Unst. Ryan said that he had contacted Autogreen, nationally as well. He will get back to the Community Council if he hears anything back.

16/05/21.3 The Sandison Trust funding available for Da Voar Redd Up

It was agreed to apply to The Sandison Trust for funding to sponsor groups who want to do Da Redd Up.

Shetland Recreational Trust – Park Proposal

Stephen Laidlaw, Shetland Recreational Trust, has asked if he can attend the next Community Council meeting to speak about this proposed development. It was agreed to invite him to the meeting on the 21st June.

Shetland Tourism Association – Request for Comprehensive Public Toilet Information

There was a discussion about this. The toilets at Uyeasound are run by Gardiesfauld Youth Hostel but are public toilets, these are closed for refurbishment. The toilets at P& T Coaches are public toilets but are closed just now because of Covid restrictions.

ASCC Meeting – 8th June 2021

Patrick will attend this meeting.

17/05/21 Community Council Finances

17/05/21.1 Community Development Funding 2021/2022

The application for Community Development Funding has been submitted, but there has been no word as yet.

17/05/21.2 Core Funding 2021/2022

This has been applied for and paid. The Community Council received £8,423, which is the same as it has been for several years.

18/05/21 A.O.C.B.

18/05/21.1 Ferry Timetables

Ryan said that they were working on the ferry timetables: trying to get some improvements on the Monday timetable. He said that there had been a commitment to fixed links from the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, in the run up to the election. Ryan was asked about card machines on the ferries. He said that this should have been rolled out by now but because of staffing issues it had been delayed. He said that all connectivity issues had been resolved so this should be happening very soon. Ryan said he would update the Community Council at the next meeting about plans for island residents' fares.

Patrick thanked Ryan for attending the meeting.

15/05/21 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is set for Monday 21st June 2021

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____