

Unst Community Council

Chair

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Clerk

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Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd August 2021 at 6.30 pm using WebEx Phone Conferencing

Present:

Patrick Fordyce, Chair
Claire Priest, Vice Chair
David Cooper
Janice Priest
Ryan Thomson, North Isles Councillor (ex-officio)

Attending:

Frances Browne, Community Involvement and Development Officer
Gordon Thomson, Unst Partnership
Josie McMillan, Clerk

01/08/21 Apologies

Caroline Hunter
John Peterson
Hazel Spence
Julie Thomson
Duncan Anderson, North Isles Councillor (ex-officio)
Alec Priest, North Isles Councillor (ex-officio)
Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer
PC Angela Manson

02/08/21 Declaration of Interest

Janice declared an interest in agenda item 05/08/21 Shetland Space Centre. Patrick and Frances both declared an interest in agenda item 09/08/21 Application for planning as they are both Trustees of Unst Heritage Trust.

03/08/21 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 21st June 2021 were proposed by Janice and seconded by Claire.

04/08/21 Matters Arising from last minutes

There were no matters arising.

05/08/21 Shetland Space Centre (now SaxaVord Space Port)

Patrick said that there had been a press release from SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP) about the dome which had been constructed at the west end of the airstrip. The antenna will shortly start downloading and uploading data to client satellites. Frank Strang emailed to say that SVSP is leasing the airstrip from the SIC. They are going to put up signs showing restricted access, no unauthorised vehicles. Patrick had an update from Mr Strang saying that he had just returned from a series of meetings. SaxaVord Space

Port will be submitting an application for a Spaceport Licence, which they need before the project proceeds further. The Government's Space Industry Act 2018 regulates all spaceflight activities carried out in the United Kingdom, and associated activities. Mr Strang said that there is a team of 5 working full time on this application. He said that the UK Government and SIC support Unst as a Spaceport site. He is hopeful that SVSP will hear from the SIC Planning Department one way or the other about their Planning Application. Mr Strang told Patrick he believes that Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is going to withdraw its objection. They have been invited to visit the site but haven't taken up the invitation yet. Some work is planned to begin next month. It was agreed that Patrick should carry on liaising with SVSP.

06/08/21 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)

Unst Community Council does not have a director on this committee after Gordon resigned. SCBF meetings are held monthly on the second Wednesday. Patrick is happy to attend as an observer, but he doesn't want to be a director. After a discussion it was agreed to put this on the agenda for the September meeting. Everyone will have had time to decide whether they want to be a SCBF director or nominate someone to attend meetings and report back to the Community Council. Frances explained that Fetlar Community Council do not have a director but have been advised they can nominate someone from the community who can report back to them.

07/08/21 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.

Gordon explained that the next community Skip Day is on Saturday 28th August. The shop continues to trade on Thursdays and Saturdays but is not open for donations on Monday nights during July and August. Goods can be handed in to the office during the day when open. Gordon said that draft plans for the Recycling centre have been made by Malcolmson Architects and directors are now studying these to decide on the best way forward. Building costs are difficult to estimate in the present climate, so it is likely that a fairly cautious approach is going to be taken as these costs are set to rise, which would put up the grant funding required, the community contribution and associated costs such as fittings and insurance. The Fair Food Fund is being supported with a Charitable Trust grant and UP funds until the end of this year. If anyone requires assistance with food or electricity, or knows someone who does, please contact the UP office (01957 711495), email up@unst.org or contact the Community Council clerk.

08/08/21 Community Involvement Update

Frances said that the Uyeasound Hall Committee have been successful in their bid to the Coastal Communities Fund and had been awarded £50,000. The Uyeasound Waterfront Group's application has passed stage 1 and will now be put forward to stage 2 of the Coastal Communities application process.

09/08/21 Applications for Planning

Planning Ref: 2021/207/PPF
Proposal: Class 1 - shop. The Hamars shop will showcase art and fine crafts made by Shetland artists and artisans, and offered for sale to visitors.
Address: Hamars, Haroldswick, Unst, Shetland ZE2 9ED
Applicant: Mr Fred Schlomka
Date of Consultation: 13 July 2021

There was a lot of discussion about this application. Concerns were raised about traffic management at the site, especially parking. This is already a very busy stretch of single-track road. Parking at Victoria's Vintage Tearooms is often congested through the summer months. Ryan said that after concerns were raised to him directly about this, he has organised with the Roads Department to come up and check what can be done. This might involve putting the lines back to show what is private parking and what is the SIC road. There was a discussion about what would be sold in the planned shop and whether it would be competition for existing businesses and organisations. Ryan explained that competition is not a factor which affects the Planning Department's decision. It will be ultimately the SIC who decide whether the

road is suitable, and the parking area is safe. Patrick will compose an email, to SIC Planning and Mr Schlomka, summing up the points raised.

Planning Ref: 2021/224/PPF
Proposal: To erect a small stone plinth and interpretation
Address: Hermaness National Nature Reserve, Unst, Shetland
Applicant: Mr Juan Brown
Date of Consultation: 16 July 2021

There were no objections to this application.

10/08/21 Unadopted Roads

There were no applications for unadopted roads.

11/08/21 Application for Donations

11/08/21.1 Shetland Community Benefit Fund - Grant Application - Shetland Classic Motor Show - £400

It was agreed to approve the Shetland Classic Motor Show application to the SCBF for £400.

12/08/21 Correspondence

12/08/21.1 Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd - Marine Farm - Turness, Skuda Sound, Shetland Consultation

This consultation was discussed. The application is for the renewal of the existing licence, and no changes or new deposits are anticipated. The Community Council is happy with this.

12/08/21.2 Draft Sullom Voe Harbour Area Masterplan and Sea – Public Consultation

This consultation was noted.

12/08/21.3 Baltasound Airfield Security

SaxaVord Spaceport is leasing the airstrip from SIC. They will be putting signs up advising that there is restricted access. Mr Strang explained that they can't bring the airport back to life and create jobs without having to implement some rules.

12/08/21.4 ASCC Meeting 14th September 2021

Patrick will attend this meeting. It was agreed to bring up the extra pressure put on community facilities by tourists.

12/08/21.5 Old Uyeasound Pier Developments

Mr Kuntz emailed an update on his progress with developments at the Old Uyeasound Pier. He has set up "The French Café" and "Da Peerie Rock Shop." The Café has picnic tables which anyone can use. His projects in progress are holiday accommodation and an office, workshop and visitor centre for the society WW Meteorites. Mr Kuntz is also exploring other possibilities, pop-up café for the winter in the Westside Shop and a cinema in the Wester Warehouse. There was a lot of discussion about this and whether these developments need SIC planning permission. Patrick will draft an email to Mr Kuntz.

12/08/21.6 Tourists, Campervans and Disposal of Rubbish

There was a discussion about what could be done about campervans, caravanettes etc. parking all over Unst, and often not in designated parking places. It has also been brought to the Community Council's notice that some tourists are leaving their rubbish/black bags beside public waste bins. These bins are only emptied every two weeks, so bags left are being torn by birds etc. Ryan said that he had been contacted directly about this, and has asked the SIC to empty public rubbish bins every two weeks, when they are collecting household non-recyclable rubbish. There were also reports of personal household recycling bins, fixed beside the road, also being filled with rubbish. Ryan said that this has been an issue all over Shetland. It is usually just a problem for a short while in the summer. He said it was also good to see tourists moving about, many more than had been expected. It was decided it would be good to flag

up all these issues in preparation for next year. Patrick will contact Steve Mathieson, Promote Shetland and also bring it up at the ASCC meeting. Ryan will speak to the Roads Department about all the road issues raised.

13/08/21 Community Council Finances

13/08/21.1 Accounts have been audited by Voluntary Action Shetland

The accounts have been independently audited by Voluntary Action Shetland and found to be correct. A copy of the accounts will be sent to Michael Duncan, SIC.

14/08/21 A.O.C.B.

14/08/21.1 Ferries on Bluemull Sound

Several ferry matters had been raised by the community. These were – why could there not be a booking system in place when the Bluemull ferry goes down to a single vessel and a Saturday timetable; the lack of information on which lane to queue in; the information board was still showing the normal sailing times and the need for the lines to be repainted at Belmont ferry terminal. Ryan said that since the Covid pandemic started ferries have been a constant worry. He said that SIC Officers have made more progress on fixed links discussions with the Scottish Government in the past six weeks than in previous years. Ryan explained that the online booking system software can't be changed to all Saturday timetables. It would be a mammoth undertaking. Ryan is attending a meeting on Thursday with both SIC Roads and Ferries Department. He will bring up all the matters that have been discussed and will report back to the Community Council.

14/08/21.2 Community Council Membership and Vacancy

The Community Council vacancy will be advertised in mid-August.

14/08/21.3 Cutting Grass between Daisy Park and Skibhoul/Post Office

This was raised by a member of the community. It was discussed, but this right of way is on private land. The Council has no responsibility to cut the grass. Gordon said that he would follow this up on behalf of Unst Partnership.

14/08/21.4 New Grant Application Form

The Clerk has checked this form and it is straightforward to complete. There needs to be amendments to the payment section for Community Councils who still pay grants by cheque. The Clerk will feed this back to Sandwick Community Council, who amended the original form.

14/08/21.5 Face to Face meetings

Patrick asked Frances if she could check with Michael Duncan, if there was any word of meetings going back to a face to face format. She said she would check with Michael Duncan and Anne Cogle.

Patrick thanked Ryan and everyone for attending the meeting.

15/08/21 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is set for Monday 13th September 2021

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____