

Unst Community Council

Chair

Patrick Fordyce
Annsbrae
Burrafirth
Haroldswick
Unst, Shetland

Clerk

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Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st June 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
Ryan Thomson, North Isles Councillor (ex-officio)

Attending:

Frances Browne, Community Involvement and Development Officer
Steven Laidlaw, CEO, Shetland Recreational Trust
Andrew Lyall, Head of Assets and Business Support, Shetland Recreational Trust
Josie McMillan, Clerk

01/06/21 Apologies

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

02/06/21 Declaration of Interest

Claire declared an interest in agenda item 06/06/21 Health Centre G.P. Vacancies. Janice declared an interest in agenda item 07/06/21 Shetland Space Centre.

03/06/21 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 10th May 2021 were proposed by John and seconded by Claire.

04/06/21 Matters Arising from last minutes

There were no matters arising.

05/06/21 Unst Leisure Centre Park Proposal – Steven Laidlaw and Andrew Lyall, SRT

Patrick welcomed Steven Laidlaw and Andrew Lyall, SRT, to the meeting. Mr Laidlaw explained that Shetland Recreational Trust (SRT) has identified the need to improve their financial sustainability. They have identified the potential for developing the land adjacent to the Unst Leisure Centre and are investigating the feasibility of developing this unused land into a Holiday Park. This will not affect the existing football pitch. Mr Laidlaw said that the proposed Holiday Park will enable more visitors to enjoy the isles. This will improve SRT's financial sustainability, whilst also having a positive impact on the

community. He said that the staff in Unst lead the way with engaging the local community. Mr Laidlaw explained that he was attending the meeting to find out what the community thought of the plan. It is still very much in the early stages of planning. The feasibility study will look at economic, technical, legal, community and scheduling considerations. Mr Laidlaw asked what the views of the community were. Patrick said that Unst is very dependent on tourism. He said that the general views he had heard had been positive. He opened the floor for anyone to ask questions or express views. Mr Laidlaw was asked how many pods were SRT planning to build to begin with, as the plans showed 13 or 14. Mr Laidlaw said it would all depend on usage. There will be two accessible pods built among the first. There was a suggestion that less pods would make the Park more exclusive. SRT are looking at getting the pods built in Shetland, as these would be sturdier, better insulated and more suited to conditions here. Mr Laidlaw was asked about the cost of the project: he said that they were completing a feasibility study and then they would be looking at the costings. SRT were looking at different funding streams. Mr Laidlaw was asked if there would be any money to improve the accessible toilets in the centre and to repair the leaky roof and doors. He said that there was funding over the next three years to bring Leisure Centres in Shetland back up to standard. This was not the same funding that would be used for the Holiday Park. He said that the repairs would be dependent on getting contractors to do the work. Mr Laidlaw was asked if there were any plans to open the centre for longer hours. He said that it was a case of use it or lose it, SRT hope there would be more demand, which would extend opening hours. SRT hope by opening the Holiday Park this will also increase usage. He was asked what would be the minimum size of the Park which would be commercially viable. Mr Laidlaw said that there would be no minimum size as the land belonged to SRT. Patrick thanked Mr Laidlaw and Mr Lyall for attending the meeting. Mr Laidlaw said that if there were any further questions to get in touch with him directly.

06/06/21 Health Centre G. P. Vacancies

Claire said that, after the job vacancies were advertised earlier in the year, there were now 4 doctors signed up for the Health Centre, on various contracts. This means that the Health Centre is now fully staffed. None of the doctors are moving to Unst. Two of them have been working here for a while now. Members were happy that the Health Centre was now fully staffed.

07/06/21 Shetland Space Centre

Patrick had spoken to Frank Strang, who had been hopeful that the planning permission would be granted on the 21st June. Patrick had contacted Ian O'Brien, SIC Planning Officer. He had told Patrick that this is a complex planning application which takes time to work through. A point raised was that there are over 300 documents accompanying the application to work through. There was also a discussion about whether to set up a meeting with Frank Strang/Shetland Space Centre. It was felt that it would be better to wait until the planning application is approved. There was a question asked about whether the SIC, if they had set a date for the planning application to be discussed, did they have to stick to that date. Patrick explained that he believed no date has ever been set, the application will take as long as it takes. SSC is proceeding with an appeal against Historic Environment Scotland's objection. The final planning decision might be called in by the Scottish Government. Patrick will try and get further updates before the next meeting.

08/06/21 Lund Road

Gordon emailed the Unst Partnership report for the meeting. He said that UP Directors had met with representatives from the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) on the 4th June. They are considering quotes from SIC Roads about repairs to the Lund Road but have not made a decision as yet. Neil Hutcheson prepared a cost estimate for two options, adoptable and non-adoptable. He explained that "the adoptable option would need to comply with the current policy and the construction standards referred to in the "Roads Development Guide." Therefore, the road would need two layers of asphalt (total depth of 100mm), the replacement of the existing gates with grids and the provision of additional passing places. The total cost of this, given that the road is 800 metres long, would be in the region of £200K plus VAT. The non-adoptable option would be for the "blinding" of the existing road with a layer of type 1 followed by double coat surface dressing. The gates would be retained, and no additional passing places

provided. The total cost of this option would be in the region of £27K plus VAT. This could be reduced by £3K if there is already a suitable cut-off ditch to prevent surface run-off from reaching the road and to lower the water table.”

09/06/21 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.

Gordon said that UP have a Skip Day on Saturday 26th June from 11am-1pm. This is the start of the new annual scheme and users can still join up by paying a yearly subscription of £50 or make a one-off drop for £20. The shop is trading as usual, Thursdays and Saturdays 2-4 pm, with drop-offs on Monday night 6-8pm or when office is open. UP received £3750 from Shetland Charitable Trust, when matched with £1250 from UP funds, will mean another £5,000 in the Unst Fair Food and Fuel fund, which should allow it to run until near the end of the year at the rate of approximately £1000 per month. The National Trust for Scotland have an agreement with Sandisons to do basic maintenance on properties that are part of the Joy Sandision bequest - Halligarth, Roselea, Houlland and the Laggans. UP Directors have suggested they put some of these properties up for sale but the NTS have not made a decision on this yet. In the meeting with UP Directors and NTS staff, NTS agreed to fund grass cutting at Halligarth for another year.

10/06/21 Community Involvement Update

Frances has working with the Uyeasound Hall committee on a funding application to Crown Estates/ SIC to upgrade the roof, doors and windows. They have progressed through stage 1 of the funding process and hope it will be ratified by the SIC at their meeting at the end of the month. Frances was also involved with the Community Conversations earlier in the month, where they were discussing opening up facilities in the North Isles. She said it had been a positive conversation, with some facilities having decided to be open. The Heritage Centre and Boat Haven have both been open on reduced hours. It had taken a lot of work, but they were finding it a positive experience. Frances left the meeting at 7.30pm to attend the Yell Community Council meeting.

11/06/21 Applications for Planning

There were no applications for planning.

12/06/21 Unadopted Roads

12/06/21.1 Robert Thomson, Creek, Haroldswick

It was agreed to give a grant of up to £220, towards the top-dressing repair of the road to the Creek. This will be paid on receipt of paid invoices.

12/06/21.2 Aaron Foord, Quoys, Burrafirth

It was agreed to give a grant of up to £220, towards the top-dressing repair of the road to Quoys, Burrafirth. This will be paid on receipt of paid invoices.

12/06/21.3 Charlie Clark, Millfield, Norwick

It was agreed to give a grant of up to £450, towards tarring the road to Millfield, Norwick. This will be paid on receipt of paid invoices.

13/06/21 Application for Donations

13/06/21.1 Shetland Community Benefit Fund – Grant Application – Dogs Against Drugs

It was agreed to approve the Dogs Against Drugs application to the SCBF for £1000.

14/06/21 Correspondence

14/06/21.1 Fabien Kuntz – Old Uyeasound Pier

Mr Kuntz contacted the Community Council to ask if he could attend a meeting to give an update on what he has been doing with the old Uyeasound pier. Members said that Mr Kuntz has created a picnic area across from the house, which can be used by the community. It was agreed to contact Mr Kuntz to ask for an update on his project.

14/06/21.2 Community Ferry Hires 2021

Unst has been allocated four community ferry hires this financial year. There was an application in for a community ferry hire from Chelsea Jamieson and Conor Thomson, for their wedding in July. This is for the early hours on Saturday 24th July, 2am, from Belmont to Gutcher. The application was approved. The Clerk will contact SIC ferries and put in the request.

14/06/21.3 SIC Training and Support Needs for Community Councillors and Clerks

A list of training and support needs events was circulated to all Community Councillors. Anyone wanting to do training has to put their names down before the 30th July 2021.

15/06/21 Community Council Finances

15/06/21.1 Community Development Funding 2021/2022

The application for Community Development Funding for £3,000 has been awarded. This funding can be applied for by groups and organisations.

15/06/21.2 The Sandison Trust

The Community Council were awarded £2,200 from The Sandison Trust, to distribute to groups and organisations as donations for completing Da Voar Redd Up.

16/06/21 A.O.C.B.

16/06/21.1 Shetland Amenity Trust (SAT) Correspondence

Patrick has been contacted by Sandy Middleton, Shetland Amenity Trust. She said that SAT are looking to rationalise their assets, and SAT is looking for help from community organisations to look after community assets, and act as key holders/security. After a discussion it was agreed that Patrick go back to Sandy Middleton to ask for clarification as to what SAT's plans for the future are.

16/06/21.2 Scrap Cars

There is another abandoned car at Belmont. A black car sitting on blocks, the wheels have been taken off. No one knew who owned the car. This will also be reported to SAT for collection.

16/06/21.3 Dockens at the side of the Burrafirth Road

A member of the community has asked if anything can be done about the dockens at the sides of the road into Burrafirth. They believed that all the ditching and verging that had been done by the Council had worsened this problem.

16/06/21.4 Road Signs

There is still no sign at the Crossroads near Nordalea, showing the way to the school. This has been on the list for several years. There are also still signs up for Saxavord Resort which isn't opening this year. The sign at the end of Hunter's Road shows a food sign. This is misleading. Patrick said if there were any more road issues to contact the Clerk and they would all be sent to the Roads Department.

Patrick thanked Ryan for attending the meeting.

17/06/21 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is set for Monday 2nd August 2021

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____