

# Unst Community Council

## **Chair**

Patrick Fordyce  
Annsbrae  
Burrafirth  
Haroldswick  
Unst, Shetland

## **Clerk**

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## **Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 6.30 pm by WebEx Phone Conferencing**

### **Present:**

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

### **Attending:**

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

### **01/01/22 Apologies**

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

### **02/01/22 Declaration of Interest**

Janice and Julie declared interest in agenda item 05/01/22 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP). Caroline and Hazel declared interest in agenda item 12/01/22 Application for Donations – Unst Football Club.

### **03/01/22 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were proposed by Caroline and seconded by Janice.

### **04/01/22 Matters Arising from last minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **05/01/22 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP)**

Patrick had received an email update from Elizabeth Johnson, SVSP, before the meeting. Patrick told Councillors that she said things are progressing well. There are now 30 plus employees, 1 new business startup and several students working with their team. SVSP and SIC representatives are in discussions regularly and are also speaking with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) about their planning application. SVSP is hoping that the planning permission comes through by the end of the

month. Patrick said that Frank Strang is in Unst just now, he asked Councillors if he should meet with him to discuss progress. It was agreed Patrick should meet with Frank Strang and report back to the next meeting. He was asked to get more details about the jobs that have been created and whether these jobs are based locally.

### **06/01/22 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)**

David had attended a meeting last month and said that there is another meeting on Wednesday night. He asked if the groups that hadn't got their grant funding in December, had now been paid. None of the three groups have received their funding yet and they have been asked to contact SCBF directly. David said that there had been a discussion about applications from groups who apply to all Community Councils for funding. There are often Community Councils who do not approve funding for these. He said that there is going to be a revision of the rules for these applications. Community Councils will be asked for their opinions on how things have gone so far. SCBF believe that there will be a lot more applications as publicity increases.

### **07/01/22 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.**

Gordon emailed in his report.

Recycling Centre. UP are still waiting for Malcolmson Architects (MA) to come back with their completed Feasibility Study which should now be completed mid-January. Highland and Islands Enterprise has funded two consultants from Delfinity Ltd (Hazel Allen and Fiona Smith) to assess the project and help prepare a Business Plan, Outline Funding Plan and Action Plan. They can't really get started until they have the MA study but have had initial discussions and received UP accounts and the plans for the centre. The study was originally due to be completed by the end of February. The "UP2U" Participatory budget project received two late requests from Uyeasound Hall for assistance in purchasing a deep fryer and Gardiesfauld Hostel for support in purchasing laundry equipment. Both were granted £500 so the full £3k has now been allocated. The Fair Food and Fuel fund has now ended. Anyone needing help with food is now being referred to Shetland Food Bank who will send up a food box. Shetland CAB can advise on energy costs but there is no longer financial assistance for this either. The UP shop will open again from this Thursday 13th January from 2-4pm. The next Skip Day is now Saturday 19th February, not the 26th as was said last month.

### **08/01/22 Community Involvement Update**

Frances said that it had been quiet over the Festive period. She has emailed Andrew Inkster, SIC, asking if there is any progress with getting the quotes for the pontoon for Baltasound Marina. The pontoon is needed for visiting cruise liners and yachts. Frances will update the Community Council about this. She is also working with the Unst Heritage Trust on a small funding application.

### **09/01/22 Ferries**

Minutes of the Ferries meeting from the 9<sup>th</sup> November, were received and circulated mid-December. There was a correction to Patrick's name, which has been notified. Members who had looked at the Issues Log, which was discussed at that meeting and circulated with the minutes, found that it was really difficult to complete. Another issue which was discussed was the messages on voicebank and sent out by text/email. These are confusing and often do not give a time when the next update will be, this can result in having to constantly phone for updates. The community would be more understanding if the message said, for example, covid related problems. Ryan said that he will bring this up at the Ferries meeting next week. There needs to be better communication and maybe a set format for disruption updates. Patrick asked when the next Ferries meeting with Community Councils would be. Ryan said that the original plan was for the meeting to be in May, but he explained why this would need to be brought forward to the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March. It needs to be early if suggestions for alterations to the summer timetable are to be included. The proposed summer timetable for Yell Sound will be the same each day from Monday to Friday. It is planned to run the same weekday

timetable on Bluemull Sound. The Saturday/Sunday timetable on Bluemull Sound still needs to be looked at. The number of Community Hires from April will also be increased from 4 to 8 per financial year. These can be used at the discretion of the Community Council. Ryan explained that the problems of having to suspend bookings when the service goes down to one vessel, should be sorted shortly. He had been told about ferry users from Unst and Fetlar having to leave several hours early to make appointments in Lerwick when bookings were suspended to make sure they could get on the ferries. Ryan said that the SIC had originally asked the software suppliers if the program could be amended to incorporate that but were told that it would cost a six-figure sum to make amendments. The SIC went back to the software suppliers recently, after weeks of disrupted sailings, and they have now been told that it can be sorted relatively easily. Ryan thinks the amendments to the software might be in place within the next few days. He said that the SIC had followed up with the software suppliers after constant “pestering” by Unst Community Council.

### **10/01/22 Lund Road**

The Community Council received a long email from Clea Warner, National Trust for Scotland (NTS), after Patrick had a phone conversation with her. Patrick would like to clarify the approach to discussing the problems with Lund Road. He suggested setting up a separate meeting with representatives from UCC/UP and Frances to meet with the NTS and SIC Roads. Patrick thinks this will be a way to thrash out a way forward. Gordon emailed a document showing all UP’s correspondence to date about the Lund Road. Members would like to get something sorted as the problems have been going on for so many years. Neither NTS, who own the road, or SIC, who own the Kirkyard and carpark, are willing to fund repairs. Some of the potholes had been filled in recently, members thought it was the grave diggers who had done this work. It was agreed to set up a separate meeting to discuss this. The Clerk will circulate suggestions for meeting dates.

### **11/01/22 Applications for Planning**

<b>Planning Ref:</b> 2021/025/WL
<b>Proposal:</b> To install a subsea telecommunications cable associated with the R100 Scottish Isles Fibre-optic project (Shetland Region)
<b>Address:</b> Gutcher, Yell to Belmont, Unst (Route 2.1)
<b>Applicant:</b> Mr D Wallace
<b>Date of Consultation:</b> 17 December 2021 <b>Date Valid:</b> 17 December 2021

There were no objections to this application.

### **12/01/22 Application for Donations**

#### 10/12/21.4 Unst Football Club

Unst Football Club is planning a variety of events to celebrate their centenary year. The application was discussed at the last meeting, members asked then for further information about what other funding sources had been applied to. The amended application was discussed in detail. There was a suggestion that the club apply to the Shetland Community Benefit Fund as well, if the Community Council didn’t fund the full amount. After further discussion there was a proposal to pay the full amount, £1730, as the club is open to everyone and runs activities all year. This was agreed. There is a programme of different events over the coming months to celebrate the centenary.

### **13/01/22 Correspondence**

#### 13/12/21.1 Belmont Trust

Patrick wrote again to Belmont Trust and had an email acknowledging receipt. There has been no further correspondence. Patrick said there had been no consultation with the community before the

Trust decided to sell Belmont House. Members said that there is a misconception in the wider community that the community of Unst do not care that Belmont House is being sold. Frances volunteered to follow this up with one of the trustees and pass on the Community Council concerns and ask them to contact Patrick directly.

13/01/22.2 Tourism/Visitors meeting update

Patrick has contacted Steve Mathieson, Visit Scotland, about rescheduling this meeting. Mr Mathieson asked Patrick to suggest a date and time and he would then ask David Nicol, Promote Shetland and Tommy Coutts, SIC if they were available. After a discussion it was agreed to suggest Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm in the Uyeasound Hall.

13/01/22.3 SIC Active Travel Audits – Community Consultation

Robina Barton, SIC Transport Policy and Projects, has organised a meeting to discuss Active Travel Audits. This is to be on Microsoft Teams on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February from 2-4pm. A lot of years ago the Community Council suggested a pathway between Nikkavord Lea and Baltasound Junior High School. This was to make walking or cycling to facilities in that area safer, as the existing road is single track and narrow. This is the pathway that the SIC is now looking at on Unst, along with 7 other different areas in Shetland. The SIC have employed consultants who have already been and looked at each of the areas. Frances has asked Ms Barton, if representatives from the School, Leisure Centre and Health Centre could also be invited as this would link to them as well. Frances will feedback to the Community Council. Representatives of Unst Partnership have also been invited.

**14/01/22 Community Council Finances**

There has been no expenditure since the last meeting.

**15/01/22 A.O.C.B.**

15/01/22.1 Unst's Christmas Tractor Run 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021

It was agreed to write and thank Heather Gray and Christie Dougherty for organising Unst's Christmas Tractor Run. The event was well organised and attended by members of the community of all ages. The highly decorated vehicles, including some with trailers, drove from the Leisure Centre to the Baltasound Hall carpark. Councillors also wanted to thank all the folk that took part and decorated their tractors and trailers.

15/01/22.2 Patrick stepping down as Chair

Patrick has decided to stand down as chair at the next Community Council meeting in February. He had circulated his intentions prior to this meeting. Patrick has been the chair for three years and thinks it is time for someone else to take over. He intends to carry on as a councillor and is happy to keep working on the issues he has been involved with in the past. He thanked everyone for their help over the last three years, including Frances and Ryan.

**16/01/22 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is set for Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

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

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