

Unst Community Council

Chair

Patrick Fordyce
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Clerk

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Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st February 2022 at 6.30 pm in the Baltasound School Music Huts and by WebEx Phone Conferencing

Present (Music Hut):

Patrick Fordyce, Chair
Claire Priest, Vice Chair
David Cooper
Caroline Hunter
Julie Thomson
Alec Priest, North Isles Councillor (ex-officio)

(WebEx)

John Peterson
Janice Priest
Hazel Spence
Ryan Thomson, North Isles Councillor (ex-officio)

Attending (Music Hut):

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

(WebEx)

Gordon Thomson, Unst Partnership

01/02/22 Apologies

Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer

Patrick welcomed everyone to the meeting.

02/02/22 Chair Resignation

Patrick explained that he had been chair for over 3 years and thought that it was now time for him to stand down and someone else take over. He said that No-one had volunteered to stand as chair, although two members had said they would not stand. It was agreed to carry the election of a new chair forward to the next meeting. Claire agreed to chair the next meeting.

03/02/22 Declaration of Interest

Julie declared interest in agenda item 06/02/22 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP). Janice declared an interest in 06/02/22 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP) and 15/02/22.3 Energy Isles Meeting. Frances declared an interest in 14/02/22.2 Uyeasound Waterfront Trust.

04/02/22 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 10th January 2022 were proposed by David and seconded by Claire.

05/02/22 Matters Arising from last minutes

13/12/21.1 Belmont Trust

Patrick said that the closing date for the sale is 24th February 2022, if sold Belmont House will then be privately owned. This was also discussed at the informal Tourism/Visitors to Unst meeting on 7th February 2022. It was felt that the Community Council had done everything it could.

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

Frances had attended this meeting and circulated an update before the Community Council meeting, this was discussed. She said that the Consultants talked through a presentation, which will hopefully be shared. The consultation for this is open till the end of March, so there is opportunity for the Community Council to feedback. As well as the consultants and community representatives, representatives from SIC Transport Planning and Roads also attended the meeting.

Baltasound Initial discussion of road and pavement between Baltasound Junior High School and the Unst Leisure Centre. This included the placing of the railings, where the pavement finishes, the informal path to the Health Centre at the multi court, and the width of the entrance to the Leisure Centre Car Park. Main discussion about all the roads around Baltasound, discussed certain points and were asked to prioritise the top three areas for improvement (at this stage without worrying about cost/land ownership etc):

1. Path by road or off road from Nikkavord Lea to Health Centre. With Caveat around continued provision of school transport.
2. Pathway/pavement on Hunters Road.
3. Path/pavement from Setters Hill Estate to Final Checkout.

There was discussion about the crossing between Skibhoul and Gutter Street and whether it was in the right place and felt safe to cross. The people present couldn't really answer this.

Haroldswick The consultants asked if the Play Park was in the right place? It was thought that being next to hall for parking was good and stated it was used by whole island. The consultants asked if it might be possible to pedestrianize one of the roads between the Heritage Centre and Beach Road. None of the Community representatives at the meeting could comment on that. It is worth noting that this was phrased as ideas, so not necessarily something to take action on. The consultants thought the Community Council had asked them to check the 'Green Road' between the Methodist Kirk and Skeggie. No Community Councillors could remember asking for anything to be done with the Green Road. Community Councillors also agreed with where the Play Park is situated now. Patrick said that members could look at these suggestions and get back to the clerk with any feedback before the end of March. Patrick had emailed Robina Barton and asked that the Community Council be kept up to date with this.

13/01/22.2 Tourism/Visitor to Unst Meeting – 7th February 2022

The Community Council held an informal meeting about this with Steve Mathieson, Visit Scotland; Tommy Coutts, Project Manager, Economic Development, Shetland Islands Council; David Nicol, Chief Executive, NB Communication who manage Promote Shetland and Fiona Stirling, Development Manager, Highlands and Islands Enterprise. The meeting was arranged to follow up on several issues which had been raised at Community Council meetings in the past. The main issues discussed were about traffic congestion – big caravanettes/caravans parking at Burrafirth, Hermaness, Norwick Beach, Westing, Uyeasound – really all over island. Many of these drivers do not understand single track roads. Uyeasound Hostel has the only waste facilities on island, they only have 5 caravan pitches. There is a need for a second waste facility. There has been a massive increase in wild camping/caravan staycations. Another big issue is that there are not enough public rubbish bins at beaches, ferries, hostel or halls. Black bag bins are only emptied fortnightly – emptying more often will have cost implications for SIC. Alec has spoken to Brydon Gray, SIC about the problem with overflowing bins. He said that Mr Gray is coming to Unst, they are looking at providing bigger bins. Alec gave him a list of all the areas that were discussed as having problems with overflowing bins. There was also a discussion about the lack of places to eat in the evening. And also, whether tourists were being given misleading information about transports etc. Julie said that there needs to be more bins provided for dog poo. This is a problem on the road at the back of the school, with several

people no longer walking their dogs around there because of the problem. Patrick said this will be discussed again at the next meeting.

06/02/22 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP)

Patrick said there had been a lot of media coverage lately, including about the delay in their application being discussed by SIC planning. Ryan said that they hoped that it would be at a Planning meeting on 2nd March 2022 at the latest. Ryan and Alec have both been working on this. When the planning application is approved there is a 28 day period when it will be called in by the Scottish Government. There is a concern that the planning will come through to close to the bird nesting season, when no work can be carried out on the site. The reason for the delay in the application being put to the planning committee was that some of the work on the application hadn't been finished by the Planning Department. It was agreed to write to Maggie Sandison, SIC Chief Executive, expressing the Community Council's concern and disappointment that the SVSP application has been delayed again. Claire had attended the lunch with Iain Stewart, MP, Minister for Scotland, on behalf of the Community Council. There had been no updates from that event.

07/02/22 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)

SCBF emailed to ask the Community Council to nominate someone as a director of Shetland Community Benefit Fund Ltd. David has to stand down as a director at the next AGM, scheduled for May, but he can stand again. It was agreed to nominate David again. He was agreeable to this. The Clerk will email his nomination to SCBF. David asked if the Community Council would be the applicant to SCBF for a project to provide benches in all the cemeteries in Unst, including the Kirkyard extensions as well. This would be a total of 7 benches. He has already costed the project and contacted a company that supplies substantial recycled plastic benches which do not need a concrete base. These benches have armrests and are guaranteed for 25 years. Everyone thought this was a good idea. The SIC Burial department has to approve where they are sited. It was agreed that the Community Council will apply for funding to SCBF. David will write up the application and Frances agreed to help as well.

08/02/22 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.

Gordon said that Malcolmson Architects (MA) have now come back with their completed Feasibility Study for the Recycling Centre and the two consultants from Delfinity Ltd (Hazel Allen and Fiona Smith) are now assessing the project. He said that the Directors are also looking at the study and the costs, with a view to holding a public meeting on the findings. They are also planning to meet with Suzanne Malcolmson on Thursday 3rd March. Gordon said that it was a very expensive project. The Laundry survey returns have now been analysed by Peter Sandison. Just over 80 replies were in favour of a Laundry, with only 17 saying they would not have a need for it. The UP shop is open as usual, 2-4pm on Thursdays and Saturdays with donations welcome. The Skip Day on Saturday 19th February was very busy. The next and final one for this season is on Saturday 26th March 11-1pm. Gordon said that UP is reminding people that fridges and freezers should be completely emptied of foodstuffs before being dropped off, in order to discourage vermin. There has been some storm damage to the north wall at Halligarth graveyard. UP has contacted NTS about this and they have approved a local contractor to repair the wall. There is still no word from NTS about their "Citizen Science" project for the area around the woods. This went out to consultants in May 2021. UP has chased this up twice already. UP has not received any requests or referrals for financial assistance.

09/02/22 Community Involvement Update

Frances said that there was still time to make comments on the SIC Local Development Plan, this has to be done by the end of March. This can be done online as at the "Virtual Consultation" <https://planshetland.consultation.ai/mir/> Frances spoke about the R100 broadband project. It was agreed the Community Council will also email Marvin Smith, SIC to ask for an update about this. Frances

has been working with the Unst Heritage Trust and the Uyeasound Waterfront Trust, helping the groups with funding applications.

10/02/22 Ferries

Ryan said that there is another ferry meeting with North Isles Community Councils planned for early March. This will also include representatives from Whalsay and Skerries. The funding from the Scottish Government for internal ferries covers the existing service. Ryan said that it is planned to run the same timetable each weekday on Bluemull Sound. Any changes to the service need to be consulted on with the unions. Ryan was asked about the single vessel service on Bluemull Sound using the Saturday timetable and could there not be a better "Emergency" timetable if this has to happen again. Frances said that Unst and Fetlar Community Councils will need to be consulted on this. Ryan said that this will be discussed at the meeting in March.

11/02/22 Lund Road

The meeting from 15th February 2022 was postponed until Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 6.30pm in the Baltasound School and also by WebEx.

12/02/22 The Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2nd June 2022

There was a discussion about this. It was agreed to set up a subcommittee of Claire, Julie, Caroline and Frances who will look at organising the lighting of Unst's Beacon and report back to the next meeting.

13/02/22 Applications for Planning

There were no planning applications.

14/02/22 Application for Donations

14/02/22.1 SCBF - Shetland Care Attendants Scheme

It was agreed to approve this SCBF grant to the Shetland Care Attendants Scheme for £1000.

14/02/22.2 Uyeasound Waterfront Trust

It was agreed to give a grant of £1050 towards the project of extending existing floating plastic pontoon at the Uyeasound pier owned by UWT.

15/02/22 Correspondence

15/02/22.1 SIC – Local Development Plan

Frances spoke about this in agenda item 09/02/22 Community Involvement Update.

15/02/22.2 SIC – Strategic Transport Project Review 2

All responses to this have to be in before the 15th April 2022.

15/02/22.3 Energy Isles Meeting – 1st February 2022

Gordon attended this meeting, there were no UCC representatives at the meeting. Minutes will be circulated after the meeting.

15/02/22.4 Childcare Provision for Under 3s and after school

There was a discussion about this after members of the community asked for it to be raised at the Community Council meeting. There are a lot of concerns that after April there will be no childcare provision for Under 3s and after school time/holidays. The facility at Ernahoul has been a well used, excellent facility but is closing after the Easter holidays. There have been several factors which have caused this. The nursery is taking 3 to 5 year olds in for longer hours. Frances said that Yell had faced similar problems years ago when the childminder changed careers. It had caused major problems with working parents. There is a concern that families with young children will no longer be able to work so will not settle in Unst. This is already a problem with workers in Social Care, and could affect the SaxaVord Space Port if their workers need to use childcare service. It impacts on the population, families and school

holiday childcare provision. It was agreed that Claire, Caroline and Julie will compose a letter to Samantha Flaws, SIC Executive Manager for Early Years.

15/02/22.5 Police Report

This was noted.

15/02/22.6 Shetland Children's Panel Members

This was circulated and noted.

15/02/22.7 ASCC Meeting – 8th March 2022

Patrick agreed to attend this meeting.

15/02/22.8 Shetland Youth Local Action Group

It was agreed to ask the school to circulate this to all parents.

15/02/22.9 Advocacy Shetland

Advocacy Shetland want to come to Unst to speak with groups. Their funding for this part of the project needs to be spent before the end of March. It was suggested that she contact the Leisure Centre or the Health Centre for suggestions of groups to visit.

15/02/22.10 Community Council Election Date – 24th November 2022

This was noted.

15/02/22.11 Tunnel Vision – Online event

This event was open to everyone, and several Community Councillors attended. It was organised by Alistair Carmichael, MP and Beatrice Wishart, MSP. Patrick attended and said that although there was nothing new, the Faroese prospective was very interesting. The expertise to build tunnels do this already exists. It is the financing of doing this that is the problem. The official SIC policy is to pursue this, but their wording states where "feasible." Alec and Ryan would like this wording changed to be more definite. With all the businesses and now the Space Port on Unst, a tunnel will become more important. There was a discussion about the need for a long road in and out of the tunnel. This had already been covered in the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) Report. There had been also talk about Levelling up, which is a Government policy to spread opportunity more equally across the UK.

16/02/22 Community Council Finances

The budget spreadsheet was discussed. The budget for 2021/2022 has been allocated and spent.

17/02/22 A.O.C.B.

17/02/22.1 Bottle Banks, at Skibhoul Stores

The bottle banks at Skibhoul Stores blew over in the last gale and, although the Recycling Department has been contacted, the bottle banks have still not been replaced and the damaged ones emptied. There was also a discussion about whether this is the best locations for the bottle banks, as they are exposed, and have been blown over before.

17/02/22.2 Norwick Beach

There was a discussion about relocating the burn on Norwick beach, this has been done in the past. The beach at present is really not very accessible and there are safety and environmental concerns about flooding in the mires as well. The beach is very popular with the community and visitors. There needs to be better signage at the beach for big vehicles parking there and people camping. Alec is going to follow the concerns about the beach with the Council.

18/02/22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is set for Monday 28th March 2022

Chairman: _____ Date: _____
Clerk: _____