

Unst Community Council

Vice Chair
Claire Priest
Engistou
Baltasound
Unst
Shetland

Clerk
Josie McMillan
Rockfield
Haroldswick
Unst, Shetland
Tel: 01957 711554
Email: clerk@unstcc.shetland.co.uk

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th March 2022
at 6.30 pm in the Baltasound School Music Huts and by WebEx Phone Conferencing**

Present (Music Hut):

Claire Priest, Vice Chair – Chaired the meeting
Patrick Fordyce
John Peterson
Janice Priest
Hazel Spence

(WebEx)

Ryan Thomson, North Isles Councillor (ex-officio)

Attending (Music Hut):

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

01/03/22 Apologies

David Cooper
Caroline Hunter
Julie Thomson
Alec Priest, North Isles Councillor (ex-officio)
Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer

02/03/22 Elect Chair

Claire asked if there were any nominations or volunteers for the position of Chair. She said she does not want to do it. There were no volunteers. The Clerk will ask Michael Duncan what the procedures are when this happens. There are 5 more meeting until the Community Council elections take place in November.

03/03/22 Declaration of Interest

Janice declared an interest in 06/03/22 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP). Hazel and Claire declared an interest in 15/03/22.2 SCBF – Unst Football Club

04/03/22 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 21st February 2022 were proposed by Claire and seconded by Patrick.

05/03/22 Matters Arising from last minutes

15/02/22.1 SIC – Local Development Plan

There is an additional meeting organised to discuss the Local Development Plan, which has been requested by Alice Mathewson, North Yell Development Group. This meeting is on Wednesday 30th

March 2022. Patrick will attend and Gordon on behalf of Unst Partnership. One of the concerns are that there are no sites down for development in the North Isles.

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

This item will be carried forward to the next meeting, as Julie and Caroline are going to follow this up with the SIC. Neither of them were at the meeting.

17/02/22.1 Bottle Banks, at Skibhoul Stores

The bottle banks at Skibhoul Stores have been set back up. There was a discussion about whether this is the best locations for the bottle banks, as they are very exposed, and have been blown over before. One suggestion was moving them to the Baltasound Hall. They used to be sited there, where the rubbish compound is now. Frances will check with the committee and get back at the next meeting.

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

David has written to the SIC Burials Department to ask for permission to site benches in all the cemeteries in Unst, including the extensions. The Clerk contacted the company that David got the quote from to ask if they would let the Community Council know if their bench prices rise. This information is needed for when the funding application goes in. David said that a very welcome letter of support was received from Unst Partnership. Frances will contact David once he gets back from south to discuss the application.

06/03/22 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP)

Shetland Space Economy: Visitor Potential Study – Patrick has spoken to Tom Matthew, Refecon, who is conducting part of this study. He said that he had been asked a lot of questions about tourism in Unst. He had also been asked to what extent he thought that the Spaceport would affect tourism or would tourism increase because of it. Patrick said that there was no deadline for the research. There is another meeting of the SVSP Tourism group in May. Patrick had emailed Elizabeth Johnson, SVSP, to ask for an update on construction progress. She said that there are various companies now working onsite on the predevelopment work. Along with a team of archaeologists. Elizabeth said they are transporting aggregate from Sandisons and from the cargo boat coming over from Bergen.

07/03/22 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)

David sent an update by email. He said that SCBF continue to meet online by Zoom. There is no significant new business on their agenda. David also said that the Advanced Grant Scheme is now one year old, and a review is under way. Recipients of grants will receive a questionnaire to complete as will Community Councils.

08/03/22 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.

Unst Recycling Centre project. The Feasibility Study from Malcolmson Architects has been completed but the estimated costs are much higher than expected. Phase one (larger shop, garage/drop – off area, laundry and “Changing Places” toilet) came in at £1.4M. Phase 2 – Repair and Recycle workshop and meeting space £700k. The total project with polycrubs would amount to over £2.5M. Directors felt this was a huge task for fund-raising and likely to lead to high running costs, including insurance and heating. The Development Officer and Directors are now looking at cheaper options: a smaller scale building or buying existing property on the island and renovating it. The Partnership will then look at these various options before taking any further decisions. The UP shop will continue to trade as normal in the meantime. UP still receive a steady stream of donations but are unable to display or store larger household items, these can be advertised on the “UP Charity Shop” Facebook page and sold online. Gordon was asked if the UP Shop hours could be extended especially during very busy times like UnstFest. He said that they do try to extend the hours then. The present Community Skip

Scheme came to an end on Saturday. There was some spare capacity at the end, in contrast to last month when UP had to turn people away. A new scheme will start when UP receives quotes from skip contractors and gathers in memberships. Skip Membership will be slightly higher next time, but still at £10 or less per day for the six days on offer. With the Tourist Season getting going again, the "Visit Unst" website is being revised. If anyone with accommodation wishes to put in an entry, they should get in touch with UP. UP hopes to produce a new version of its tourist map this year, online and possibly in paper format too. It also continues to run the "Unst Walkers are Welcome" website. Patrick asked if there was any update after the meeting with the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) on Thursday. Gordon said that Citizen Science project for Halligarth is out for consultation. He said that NTS are willing to spend £40,000 on Halligarth. They had various suggestions about walking boards through the woods and blocking off the graveyard, which gets guttery in wet weather. Clea Warner, NTS, was asked about their other properties at Houlland, Roselea and Laggans. She said that Houlland contained artefact's belonging to Joy Sandison. NTS had been waiting for the National Museum of Scotland to decide if they wanted them or not. They do not. Ms Warner didn't seem against the idea of selling these houses. She had told Gordon that NTS has yet to receive Joy Sandison's bequest and that all money spent so far was NTS's. The heating in Houlland had been turned off as it was thought leaving it on was a fire risk.

09/03/22 Community Involvement Update

Frances said that she had been working with Unst Partnership and Unst Heritage Trust on applications. She has also been involved in emailing Tourist providers about their contact details. Frances is going to contact Andrew Inkster, SIC Ports and Harbours, asking for an update on the pontoon for the marina.

10/03/22 ASCC Meeting 9th March 2022

Patrick had attended this meeting. He said there had been a long agenda to work through. There had been a presentation about the Census and an update from the Planning Department. There was a discussion on road issues, also an update on the Winter Roads gritting policy: gritting on Saturdays will now be the same as the service on Sundays. Patrick said that Yell Community Council were unhappy with this. The next meeting is on the 14th June 2022. Patrick asked if the Community Council should ask Neil Hutcheson, SIC Roads, for an update specific to Unst Roads. It was agreed to do this. Marvin Smith had also given an update on the Broadband project, R100. It will first be late in 2023 before households in Unst will be connected. After a discussion about this it was agreed to Invite Marvin Smith to the next meeting.

11/03/22 Ferries

Frances had attended this meeting. Ryan wasn't allowed to attend because of the upcoming SIC elections. There are going to be no changes to the summer timetable. Ryan had been told by Community Council representatives that it hadn't been a productive meeting. He said that a request from Robert Jamieson to tweak the time for the Anderson High School bairns travelling from Fetlar on a Sunday night was hopefully going to be put in place. There had been a discussion about Community Ferry Hires. There had been plans to increase these to 8 for Unst. Ryan said that the costs of fuel had gone up so much in the last month or so, this would affect the ferries. Michael Craigie, ZetTrans, will be contacting all the relevant Community Councils to ask what events they will need Community Ferry hires for. After a discussion members thought there would be at least 7 community hires needed this year. Ryan said that there had been a discussion about scaling back these Ferry meetings to just Unst, Yell and Fetlar Community Councils because they felt that the meeting weren't achieving anything. There was a suggestion that the three Community Councils meet and then invite representatives to their individual meetings. There needs to be a consultation about the Festive timetable this year, in recent years there has been none. There have been a lot of breakdowns/staffing issues on the routes when the service has had to go to the Saturday timetable,

often with no bookings. This timetable does not work well for either Unst or Fetlar. There was a discussion about reinstating an emergency timetable, which would provide a better service.

12/03/22 Lund Road

Patrick wrote a letter to both the Chief Executives of NTS and the SIC about the Lund Road. The letter was circulated to members before it was sent. He met with Clea Walker and Sarah Swanson, NTS, on Thursday 24th March. He said that they would need to consult with colleagues, but thought the letter would cause a debate to be opened up about this. There has been no response from the SIC.

13/03/22 The Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2nd June 2022

The subcommittee of Claire, Julie, Caroline and Frances have met to discuss preparations for this. They outlined their plans to Councillors. They have already spoken to the Haroldswick Hall committee and asked about the beacon/bonfire site. The plans are well underway, they will update members again at the next meeting.

14/03/22 Applications for Planning

There were no planning applications.

15/03/22 Application for Donations

15/03/22.1 SCBF - Ability Shetland

It was agreed to approve this SCBF grant to Ability Shetland for £812.50. This is a Shetland Wide application for funding for their Additional Support Needs (ASN) Holiday Club.

15/03/22.2 SCBF - Unst Football Association

It was agreed to approve this SCBF grant to Unst Football Club for £4,500. This is to buy all-weather benches for players and spectators at the Unst Leisure Centre.

16/03/22 Correspondence

16/03/22.1 Da Voar Redd Up

Da Voar Redd Up is taking place this year after a two year absence. It is from Saturday 23rd to Friday 29th April. It was agreed that the Community Council will sponsor Community Groups that want to do a stretch. The Clerk will write to groups.

16/03/22.2 Tall Ships Race – Cruise in Company

Emma Miller, Project Manager, The Tall Ships Races Lerwick 2023, has been in contact asking if Unst would like to take part as a guest harbour for the Cruise-in-Company. It was agreed to contact Ms Miller and pass on details for groups that might be interested in pursuing this.

16/03/22.3 Ukrainian Response

Caroline had sent her apologies for this meeting, so this item was deferred. There is a fund raising event in the Baltasound Hall this weekend for the Ukrainian appeal.

16/03/22.4 Shetland Way Stakeholder Engagement

A feasibility study is underway which will consider the case for developing a long-distance walking, and potentially cycling, routes across Shetland. Stantec UK Ltd has been commissioned to support Visit Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Shetland Island Council, Nature Scot and Shetland Tourism Association by undertaking this feasibility study. The Shetland Way walking and potentially cycling route would run for circa 79 miles from north to south along the spine of Shetland. The route through Unst is from Belmont, Collaster, Woodwick to Hermaness. They are asking for comments by 31st March 2022.

16/02/22 Community Council Finances

The budget spreadsheet was discussed. All monies for 2021/2022 have been allocated and spent.

17/03/22.1 Community Council Core Funding

Core Funding for this financial year is remaining the same, £8,423. This has been applied for.

17/03/22.2 Community Development Fund

Frances is going to help completing this form, applying for £3,000. It is hoped to get this application in by 22nd April. That is the date for the first round for applications.

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

17/02/22.1 Road Matters

There is still no sign for the Baltasound School at the crossroads near Nordalea. The verges below Gritquoy on the south side of the road are in a poor state. There are potholes on the road at Easter loch and the sides of the road are getting worn away. The road at Seafield, Burrafirth has potholes on it. Patrick said that this road is to be done this summer. There was also a discussion about the poor state of the barrier post reflectors all over Shetland. The Clerk will email Neil Hutcheson, SIC Roads, about all these issues.

18/02/22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is set for Monday 9th May 2022

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____