

Unst Community Council

Chair

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Baltasound
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Clerk

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**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022
at 6.30 pm in the Baltasound School Music Huts and by WebEx Phone Conferencing**

Present (Music Hut):

Claire Priest, Chair
Caroline Hunter, Vice Chair
David Cooper
Patrick Fordyce
John Peterson
Julie Thomson

(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

01/05/22 Apologies

Janice Priest
Hazel Spence
Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer

02/05/22 Chair Position

This item had been on the agenda since Patrick stepped down as Chair. Claire said that she was happy to chair meetings but with family commitments and her husband working shifts away from home it was very difficult to take part in other Community Council related meetings. Frances explained that the Chair doesn't need to do everything, tasks can be delegated to other members. This is already happening – Patrick is liaising with the Space Centre and is corresponding with NTS/SIC about the Lund Road. David is the Community Council director on the Shetland Community Benefit Committee. They both agreed to carry on dealing with these matters. Claire agreed to take on the role of Chair until the Community Council elections in November. After a discussion Caroline agreed to take on the role of Vice Chair.

03/05/22 Declaration of Interest

Julie and Frances declared an interest in 07/05/22 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP). Ryan declared an interest in 13/05/22 Application for Planning – Derek Thomson.

04/05/22 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 28th March 2022 were proposed by Patrick and seconded by John.

05/05/22 Matters Arising from last minutes

15/02/22.1 SIC – Local Development Plan

Patrick and Frances both attended this online meeting. There were concerns raised about the 20 minute neighbourhoods, i.e. housing developments no more than a 20 minute walk to facilities. This guideline comes from Scottish Government Planning, although the SIC would not be adhering to that rule. Patrick said that it will be a while before there is an updated Local Development Plan and though the consultation is officially closed, the SIC would still take recommendations.

17/02/22.1 Bottle Banks, at Skibhoul Stores

Frances said that she had spoken to the Baltasound Hall Committee and they weren't averse to the Bottle Banks being put back there again. They just needed a lot more information. The Clerk will contact Brydon Sinclair, Recycling Dept, SIC and find out more about this and will pass their response on to Frances and the hall committee.

12/05/22.1 Lund Road

Patrick met with Clea Walker and Sarah Swanson, NTS, in March. They told him that NTS had received the letter about Lund Road which had been sent to the Chief Executives of SIC and NTS. They thought the letter would cause a debate to be opened up about the road. Maggie Sandison, SIC Chief Executive, has now replied to the letter as well. She has asked for further information, her two questions were to ask

- 1) What specific works the UCC wishes the Council or NTS (or both) to undertake in relation to the access road to the Lund Burial Ground (in whole or in part); and
- 2) Why the UCC considers the Council or NTS (or both) are liable to undertake such works (e.g. the reasons why the UCC has assessed that such liability does not rest with a third party).

Patrick will draft a response to Ms Sandison's letter and circulate it for comments before the next Community Council meeting.

06/05/22 Broadband Update - Marvin Smith

Marvin Smith had forgotten about the meeting. The Clerk will ask him for an update before the next meeting.

07/05/22 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP)

Frank Strang is away just now so couldn't attend the meeting. Patrick had met with him and Elizabeth Johnson several weeks ago and had suggested they attend this meeting. What Frank has suggested is that when he gets back, he will setup a meeting with the Community Council in the boardroom at Saxavord. There was a discussion about setting an agenda for this meeting, a list of things members would like to ask him about. Patrick said that Frank is very happy to meet with the Community Council. He is still speaking about building a hotel at Saxavord. Patrick will organise the meeting with Frank Strang.

08/05/22 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)

08-05-22.1 AGS Annual Review Survey

SCBF circulated the Annual Review Survey which needs to be completed by the Community Council on its experiences of the SCB funding scheme. David said that there was nothing to report from SCBF. Frances said that Community Councils award this funding in different ways, some do not give funds to Shetland wide applications. One Community Council had awarded its first funding allowance to one group. SCBF do not accept repeated applications as the funding cannot be used to maintain projects. The Clerk will complete the Annual Review Survey.

09/05/22 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.

Gordon said that the Unst Tourist Map is at the printers, paper copies will go out to places in the middle in May. He said that the Skip Scheme is being advertised. They have had to increase the prices of subscriptions to the scheme as costs have increased a lot, yearly subscription will increase from £50 to £60 a year and one off drop use to £25. UP needs enough subscriptions to make the scheme viable. The directors have applied to the SCBF scheme for £1,200 towards the costs of providing the skip scheme. UP might need to apply to other funders in the future. There will be an open day in the Baltasound Hall

Library on 21st May 2022 from 10am to 4pm. Anyone can come along to look at the plans for the Unst Recycling Centre Project. The Directors are looking at the “cheaper” option of a smaller scale building or buying existing property on the island and renovating it. The UP shop continues to trade as normal. The AGM will take place at 4.15pm after the open day on the 21st May 2022. Three directors have to stand down but can be re-elected if they want. This is a public meeting, so everyone is welcome. There was a discussion about the letter of support UP had asked the Community Council for to accompany its SCBF grant application. Members were very positive about the skip scheme but felt providing a letter of support could be viewed as a conflict of interest as the Community Council has to approve the SCBF application, when it comes back to the Community Council meeting. Members are very conscious of how important the skip scheme is to Unst and that all the increasing transport costs particularly affect Unst.

10/05/22 Community Involvement Update

Frances said that she had been working with Unst Heritage Trust and UnstFest Committees. She is going to help David and the Community Council prepare applications to SCBF and the SIC Community Development Fund for the benches for each Kirkyard. Frances has also helped the Community Council with its application to the Community Development Fund. Frances said that representatives from National Lottery Funding are coming to the North Isles to hold individual surgeries. Frances had an update on the Baltasound Marina Pontoon. Andrew Inkster, SIC Ports and Harbours, had said that quotations are in, and are much higher than first expected. He believes that by the time they submit the necessary business cases to get an adequate budget in place, they will have missed this year’s window. Mr Inkster has suggested that they aim to have a scheme in place, ready for installation in the spring of next year, but he cannot guarantee that the Council will approve the increased budget, or if it does, in which year it will come. Frances said that if SIC is unable to fund the pontoon there are other funding options which could be explored. Unst is hoping to be a host for the Tall Ships event in 2023 and, with an increasing number of cruise liners calling at Baltasound, the pontoon is vitally important to Unst. Frances will organise a meeting with all stakeholders to discuss the proposals. Ryan will also speak to Andrew Inkster about this.

11/05/22 Ferries

11/05/22.1 Community Ferry Hires

Michael Craigie, ZetTrans, emailed to say that Unst has four Community ferry hires for this financial year, the same as in previous years. Ryan had thought that this number might have been increased, but several factors including increasing fuel prices meant that the number remained the same. It was agreed to write and ask if this could be increased to seven as there are several big events in Unst this year e.g., Unst Show, UnstFest, Unst Yoal Regatta etc. One ferry has already been allocated to the Shetland Folk Festival event in Yell on 28th April 2022. Ryan was asked if ferry disruption due to crew members isolating because of covid would decrease now the Scottish Government guidelines have been changed. He said the SIC policy is still to isolate if they have covid, but close contacts no longer need to. Ryan was also asked about the ferry timetable changing to a Monday to Friday same timetable which was discussed before the SIC elections. He said that there had been some resistance from ferry crews to this suggestion. Any changes to their working terms and conditions have to be consulted on and is now with their unions. He was also asked if there had been any progress putting together an emergency timetable for when the service goes down to a single ferry, instead of running the Saturday timetable which doesn’t link well for Unst or Fetlar. Ryan said that this is being worked on now.

12/05/22 The Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2nd June 2022

Plans for the Jubilee event have been finalised. Posters will be put up after this meeting, it will also be advertised on Facebook. The plans are to meet at the Haroldswick Hall at 6.30pm, there will be a bus to Norwick beach at 7pm. The Jubilee bonfire will be lit at 7.30pm by members of the two Jarl Squads. Then return to the hall for tea/coffee and cakes. The Fire Brigade will be there supervising the bonfire etc. Claire will welcome everyone, and David will read the official declaration. The hall will be decorated by bairns groups. The BBC have been in contact and are interested in attending. Members will clean up the site after the bonfire.

13/05/22 Applications for Planning

Planning Ref:	2022/100/PPF
Proposal:	To erect a new steel framed building on Concrete foundations
Address:	32 Setters Hill Estate, Baltasound, Unst, Shetland ZE2 9DU
Applicant:	Mr Derek Thomson
Date of Consultation:	13 April 2022

There were no objections to this application.

Planning Ref:	2022/112/PPF
Proposal:	Erect dwellinghouse with decking and air source heat pump
Address:	Greenfield, Haroldswick, Unst, Shetland, ZE2 9ED
Applicant:	Mrs Jillian Gifford
Date of Consultation:	25 April 2022

There were no objections to this application.

Planning Ref:	2022/013/WL
Proposal:	To install a 25m pontoon extension perpendicular to existing pontoon
Address:	Uyeasound Pier Uyeasound Unst Shetland
Applicant:	Uyeasound Waterfront Trust
Date of Consultation:	6 May 2022

There were no objections to this application.

14/05/22 Application for Donations

14/05/22.1 SCBF – Shetland Family History Society - £500

It was agreed to approve this application for donation, which had gone to all Community Councils.

14/05/22.2 SCBF – Shetland Junior Netball Development Group - £600

It was agreed to approve this application for donation, which had gone to all Community Council that have lasses involved in the Development Group. Unst has three young players.

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

David has contacted the SIC Burials Department about putting benches in all the kirkyards and extensions. The Burials Department is only set up to deal with Memorial Benches and has sent application forms for each of the seven proposed benches. There is a fee for each. Some may require concrete plinths and others not, this is to be determined but clearly affects the total cost. The SIC also need to approve the contractor undertaking this work. Members agreed that David and Frances are to take this SCBF application for funding forward and to also apply for an SIC Community Development Funding grant of up to £1000. They might need to look at other funders depending on the costs involved.

15/05/22 Unadopted Road Grants

It was agreed to advertise that there are Road Grants available.

16/05/22 Correspondence

16/05/22.1 SIC – Burial Ground Historic Structures

Yvonne Scott, SIC Burial Services, has emailed to say that the historic structures in Lund and Baliasta burial grounds will be netted shortly for both safety reasons and to preserve them until they are able to commence remedial works in coming years. Ms Scott states that without netting SIC cannot guarantee user safety in close proximity to the structures when visiting the burial grounds or attending a funeral. The netting will also help preserve these historic structures until such time as SIC can carry out essential maintenance to make them safe.

16/05/22.2 Unst EE 4G Service

Andy Steven copied a letter to the Community Council which he had sent to Beatrice Wishart, MSP, about EE Service provision in Unst. Mr Steven's company has been monitoring the Baltasound EE service from a line-of-site location at Burrafirth. He thinks "that the issues experienced in Unst are unique to Unst." He has provided data for 7 days and covering the latest extended downtime. They can confirm that speed tests throughput is severely restricted – both uplink and downlink. Mr Steven believes there is either a fault on the link or that the link was only ever provisioned with a low-capacity link based on cost or population. Although Mr Steven's company have not seen this on other EE sites. It was agreed to ask Mr Steven if he had had any response from Beatrice Wishart. Broadband problems are discussed regularly at Community Council meeting.

16/05/22.3 Baltasound Marina Pontoon

This was covered in agenda item 10/05/22

16/05/22.4 Police Report

This report was circulated before the meeting.

16/05/22.5 ASCC Agenda Items – 14th June 2022

Claire will be able to attend this hybrid meeting.

16/05/22.6 Community Ferry Hire Allocation

This was discussed in agenda item 11/05/22.

16/05/22.7 Scottish Community Councils – Survey and Informal Chats with Rural and Island Community Councillors – Online Survey

This online survey is for individual Community Councillors to complete.

16/05/22.8 Hermaness Hill Path and Welcome Area – Opening Event

Community Councillors received an invite to the opening of these new facilities. It is on Tuesday 17th May. Patrick and David are both going to attend.

16/05/22 Community Council Finances

16/05/22.1 Community Council Core Funding

The Community Council has received its Core Funding of £8,423. This amount has not changed in recent years.

16/5/22.2 Community Development Fund

The application for £3,000 has been submitted in time for the first round of funding applications.

17/05/22 A.O.C.B.

17/05/22.1 Roadworks from Brookpoint to the White Brig, Haroldswick

The roadworks started this week after a delay of several weeks. Several Community Councillors had been asked about the lack of local information about when the road was going to be closed. Many vehicles had to turn at the White Brig and come back to go along the shore road. It was agreed to write to DITT about this. Signage is now in place.

18/05/22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is set for Monday 20th June 2020.

Chair: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____