

Unst Community Council

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 24th October 2022
at 6.30 pm in the Baltasound School Music Huts and by WebEx**

Present

Claire Priest, Chair
David Cooper
John Peterson
Janice Priest
Hazel Spence
Ryan Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio) – (WebEx)

Attending:

Frances Browne, Community Involvement and Development Officer
Gordon Thomson, Unst Partnership Ltd (arrived 7.45pm)
Josie McMillan, Clerk

01/10/22 Apologies

Caroline Hunter, Vice Chair
Patrick Fordyce
Julie Thomson
Robert Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio)
Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer

02/10/22 Declaration of Interest

Janice declared an interest in 05/10/22 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP) and 12/10/22 Application for Donations - Uyeasound Hall. Frances declared an interest in 05/10/22 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP) and 12/10/22 Application for Donations – 1st Unst Rainbows.

03/10/22 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 26th September 2022 were proposed by Janice and seconded by Claire

04/10/22 Matters Arising from last minutes16/08/22.2 Hogweed

Ingram Thomson, SIC North Isles Roads, has checked out the reports of hogweed and found many of the plants to be Angelica (keksies) which is similar to hogweed but is not poisonous. He has removed the plants from around the school/galley shed/East Road area and will spray there in the spring.

14/09/22.1 Shetland Active Travel Audits

There is an online Stakeholder meeting on Thursday 27th October to discuss the Baltasound Active Travel Routes. Robert Thomson, Frances and Caroline are all going to attend. There was a discussion about whether improved pavements would mean that school bairns would not be entitled to free bus travel if they live near the school. Ryan said that school bairns get a bus pass which makes them eligible for free

bus travel, so it does not matter where they stay. There needs to be better street lighting especially if new pavements and walkways are put in.

05/10/22 Frank Strang, SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP)

Frank Strang was unable to attend this meeting. It was agreed to invite him to the meeting on the 5th December 2022, which is the first meeting of the new Community Council. It was also agreed to email Mr Strang the questions which members had discussed and drawn up at the last meeting.

07/10/22 Community Involvement Update

Frances said that she had been working with the 1st Unst Rainbows on an application for funding to help with restarting the Rainbows unit. She said that there is a "Winter Activities Scheme" which groups can apply to for funding. Frances is also trying to set up the Emergency Ferry Timetable meeting, she is proposing the 3rd week in November. Once she has consulted with everyone, she will circulate the date.

08/10/22 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)

David said that the next SCBF meeting is next week. He is concerned with the length of time it is taking the SCBF Officers to decide on the Unst Community Council application for Cemetery benches. He thinks that the prices for the benches, carriage etc. will increase. David asked if Councillors would authorise him to accept the grant if it came up between meetings. Everyone agreed.

09/10/22 Ferries/ Fixed Links

09/09/22.1 Festive Timetable 2022

There has been no word back about the Festive Timetable and whether any of the suggested changes have been incorporated. Ryan had not heard anything either, he will follow this up with SIC Ferries and get back to the Community Council.

09/10/22.2 Fixed Links

Frances attended the Unst Tunnel Action Group meeting on the 5th October and took the minutes as Gordon was away. She said that the group is planning to do a **feasibility study**, so they discussed what needs to be included in the study, e.g. methods of financing, (including private companies undertaking work, borrowing and recouping spend through charging for use), a geological survey and further technical issues. The group also discussed approaching the Shetland Islands Council (SIC) Economic Development Department for match funding towards the study. The SIC Coastal Communities Funding was also mentioned as a possible source of funding, which could also cover some paid hours for the group if need be. Alec Priest is going to contact Transport Scotland and Shetland Islands Council for information needed for a feasibility study. Frank Strang will speak to Stuart Black from HIE and Neil Grant from SIC Economic Development informally to sound them out about funding a feasibility study. Once the group knows what needs to be in the study the next stage will be to work out what it will cost. Frank stated that the Saxavord Spaceport would be happy to offer some funding towards the feasibility study. Alice stated that North Yell Development Council would also be happy to do so if it is a feasibility study for the North Isles. The group discussed the possible merits of a private company building the tunnel and implications that might have for charging once the tunnel is operational. If the tunnel was built under this model the company would have to form agreements with SIC, although the SIC might continue to operate ferries depending on whether a satisfactory agreement could be reached. Sue Gray, who has been involved with the UK Government Levelling Up fund, is visiting the Saxavord Spaceport in November. Mr Strang said this might be a good chance to find out more about how the levelling up fund works. The group discussed what structure would be best going forward. They agreed that an action group for the North Isles would be best. It was proposed this group would focus on progressing fixed links for Yell Sound and Bluemull Sound simultaneously and the best possible ferry service for Fetlar. The group will need to decide on its structure but may benefit from support from local Development Companies like Unst Partnership and North Yell Development Council. The group also discussed contacting the Western Isles Action Group to see what structure they have and how they have lobbied. The Group agreed upon a name, The Unst Tunnel Action Group, and a logo that Cheryl Jamieson has designed. Initially the group will form as an unincorporated organisation. Potential office bearers were discussed. Alec agreed to be Vice Chair, with

support from Duncan Gray. Neither a secretary nor treasurer were suggested at the meeting. The group discussed having a Facebook group initially, which anyone can join and also to set up an email address for the group. They discussed content for this and thought the finalised objects might be a good starting point. They agreed to let Cooke Aquaculture know about this group. Contacting businesses from across Shetland for their support was also suggested. The group thought it would be useful to update Beatrice Wishart and Alistair Carmichael on progress. It also discussed keeping in touch with an Action group on Whalsay.

10/10/22 Lund Road

Maggie Sandison, SIC Chief Executive, replied to the Community Council's letter of 3rd September. She said that she had an update from the Council's Burial Services in connection with the matter raised. Ms Sandison said that "inquiries are ongoing in terms of producing a wider strategy for burial grounds approaching capacity across Shetland. Part of this process will include examination of burial ground access roads, any issues in connection therewith and the formulation of options to resolve historical difficulties surrounding their maintenance. On completion of this process, it is intended that a report will be produced and thereafter brought before the relevant committee(s) outlining the options available to the Council in this regard." Ms Sandison stated that "at national level, the UCC may also be interested in following the work of the Burial Regulations Working Group. This Group was formed to help give suggestions and direction on the scope of future subordinate legislation concerning Scottish burial authorities and burial grounds. The Council is currently represented on the Group. Of particular interest to the UCC in this matter may be agenda item 3 in the Group's July 2022 meeting minutes. Section 6(2) of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 empowers the Scottish Ministers to bring forward regulations in connection with various matters including, at section 6(2)(c), "access to and within burial grounds, including the construction, repair, maintenance and improvement of roads and paths". It is Ms Sandison's understanding "the Group are currently looking to ensure this is something which receives further legislative attention as part of the development of future prospective regulations and burial authority guidance. The Council, as burial authority, will naturally ensure it complies with any regulations brought forward by the Scottish Ministers." In the interim, Ms Sandison has also considered further the UCC's suggestion that the Council and NTS come together to discuss on a without prejudice basis the options available to either or both in connection with undertaking repairs to the condition of the Lund Road. Given your suggestion touches on a matter which is due to be brought before members in due course, you will appreciate it would be inappropriate for me to respond to that suggestion. Ms Sandison hopes that the Council's work on the Strategy and the engagement that is happening nationally to develop Scottish Regulations reassures UCC about the opportunity for solutions to be developed in the longer term.

11/10/22 Applications for Planning

There were no applications for planning.

12/10/22 Application for Donations

12/10/22.1 Baltasound SWI

It was agreed to give a donation of £420 towards the costs of hosting a Bairns Christmas party.

12/10/22.2 Uyeasound Hall

It was agreed to give a donation of £96 towards the costs of hosting a Bairns Christmas party.

12/10/22.3 Unst Under 5s

It was agreed to give a donation of £72 towards the costs of hosting a Bairns Christmas party.

12/10/22.4 1st Unst Rainbows

After a discussion it was agreed to give a donation of £1,000 towards the costs of resources and fees needed for restarting the Rainbows Unit.

13/10/22 Correspondence

13/10/22.1 Police Report

There were 2 incidents recorded for Unst, which were a concern for a person and a dog bite.

14/10/22 Community Council Finances

The finances were discussed and are on target to be spent within the financial year.

06/10/22 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.

Gordon gave the Update when he arrived. He said the UP shop is doing well, mainly due to visitors from outwith Unst over summer months. The shop needs a continual supply of 'quality/decent' goods to attract the regular visitors and to maintain interest in the shop. UP will be advertising another Pre Xmas declutter challenge with a free raffle ticket for anyone donating goods during November. The next **Skip Day** is on Saturday 19th November 11-1pm. UP were too late to apply for **Community Led Local Development (CLLD) funding** for Food and Fuel vouchers as described in last month's minutes. Instead, UP is considering applying to the National Lottery Fund, who have a similar scheme. There was a discussion as to whether there is a need for this type of funding. He said that if they applied for the funding, they would run it as before with anyone requiring assistance needing to be referred by Social Work, Housing, CAB, the Community Council, School or Health Centre before issuing any payments. So far this year, UP have not actually received any referrals from these agencies for assistance - so it may be that the need is being met by other groups, e.g., Shetland Foodbank. UP have received £1400 from AGE Scotland to support a **Winter Activity programme for Senior Citizens**, involving trips to various places on the island of a social nature, a Xmas Dinner at the Balta Light, a trip to Victoria's café, Unst Heritage Centre etc. Part of the idea behind this programme is to encourage older people to go out again and socialise. One of the items on the next UP agenda is a Warm Welcome hub, somewhere on the island e.g., a local hall where people of all ages can go to meet, chat, keep warm, get tea/coffee, lunch possibly. Issues around insurance and volunteers/supervisions were discussed. There are several clubs and groups that are already running, the Senior Leisure Club which meets at the Leisure Centre every fortnight, the Lunch Club also meets every fortnight, the Spinning and Knitting club which meets weekly and also card nights in the local halls. There is also a Christmas meal organised annually and held in the Baltasound Hall. One of the needs identified was to provide a service for older people to go shopping, Christmas shopping etc. Many people are still phoning in their shop orders and getting it delivered. **National Trust for Scotland** have still not given UP any more information on the property that they had asked for "expressions of interest" on back in June. (Roselea, Houlland, Laggans cottage). They have a meeting of their Property Committee on Thursday 27th October so UP may hear more then. Gordon spoke about the job description for a Development Officer post for Halligarth but UP have been unable to find anyone suitable. This post is a fixed contract for 24 hours a week.

15/10/22 A.O.C.B.

15/10/22.1 Community Council Elections

Unst Community Council has a full complement of Community Councillors after the elections.

15/10/22.2 Roads

Concerns were raised by members of the community about a drain which has been set up along the shore road in Haroldswick, which is draining directly on to the road. This stretch of road is prone to icing over in colder weather. Ryan was asked when the streetlights that were meant to be reinstated would be done. The streetlight opposite the Post Office is also not working, it has rusted through. He said he hadn't heard but would email Neil Hutcheson, SIC Roads, to find out and get back to the Community Council. There was a discussion about the very slippery road at the top of the Setters, coming out of the quarry, in both directions. Members believe that there needs to be more signage showing that the road is very slippery. Local people know to slow down, but there were concerns raised that anyone unfamiliar with the road might have an accident. The verges at the side of the Ministers Road around Easterloch have fallen away leaving a dip. The white give way lines at the top junction of the road have been painted across where the draw off is. It was agreed to email again about the Baltasound School sign and also the signs for the Setters. The Clerk will email SIC Roads Department about all the issues raised.

15/10/22.2 Damaged Sign at Belmont

The big tourist sign at Belmont, which was designed and put up by Unst Youth Group, was damaged in the last gales. The three panels need to be taken down and stored until the struts are replaced, these are rotten.

This is the last meeting of this Community Council. Claire thanked everyone for their help and support while she has been chair. The next Chair and Vice Chair positions will be appointed at the first meeting of the new Community Council on Monday 5th December 2022.

16/10/22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is set for Monday 5th December 2022

Chair: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____