

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 26th September 2022 at 6.30 pm in the Baltasound School Music Huts and by WebEx

Present

Claire Priest, Chair
Caroline Hunter, Vice Chair
David Cooper
Janice Priest
Hazel Spence
Julie Thomson
Ryan Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio) – (WebEx)

Attending:

Frances Browne, Community Involvement and Development Officer
PC Dana Jamieson, (WebEx)
Josie McMillan, Clerk

01/09/22 Apologies

Patrick Fordyce
John Peterson
Robert Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio)
Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer
Gordon Thomson, Unst Partnership Ltd

02/09/22 Declaration of Interest

Janice declared an interest in 05/09/22 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP).

03/09/22 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 22nd August 2022 were approved.

04/09/22 Matters Arising from last minutes

18/08/22.2 Shetland Strategic Tourism Development Plan

Claire attended this online workshop. There were people from all over Shetland. The consultants have been involved with tourism development in Orkney. Claire said a lot of the sites mentioned were in Unst. They only had two days in Shetland and one of those was spent with a liner visit to Lerwick.

11/08/22.3 Childcare Provision

There has been no further progress with this.

16/08/22.1 Shetland Amenity Trust – Skidbladner/Longhouse maintenance and Geopark Signage

Ryan had also contacted Shetland Amenity Trust, about the condition of the Longhouse and Skidbladner. He was told that the Amenity Trust are planning maintenance in the near future.

16/08/22.2 Hogweed

John Duncan, SIC Roads, said that he would check the areas mentioned. There was also another report of hogweed near the school. The Clerk will email the Roads Department about this.

05/09/22 Frank Strang, SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP)

Frank Strang was unable to attend this rescheduled meeting. It was agreed to invite him to the meeting on the 24th October. If he is unable to attend that meeting, UCC will take Mr Strang up on his suggestion of organising a separate meeting. Members drew up a list of question to ask Mr Strang.

06/09/22 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.

Gordon emailed in the UP report. He said that the UP shop is open usual times of 2-4pm on Thursdays and Saturdays. The next Skip Day is Saturday 1st October, 11-1pm. The final one for this year is on 20th November. Gordon said that with the rising cost of living, fuel and energy costs, UP has applied for Community Led Local Development (CLLD) funding for £6000 to cover food and fuel vouchers for the 5 months from November to March. He says that there is no guarantee UP will get funding but if they do, they would request referrals from Social Work, Housing, CAB, the Community Council, School or Health Centre before issuing any payments. Gordon also said that NTS have not given any more information on the property that they had asked “expressions of interest” on back in June. (Roselea, Houlland, Laggans cottage). They also said they would give UP more information about a Development Officer for the Halligarth estate but, again, nothing has happened, despite several requests from UP for information. UP have been asked about developing a Community Woodland area on Unst, to plant trees and perhaps put in paths and fencing. They have not been able to locate any suitable land but welcome any suggestions. A similar project was started in Bressay recently, with funding from the Woodland Trust. Claire said that there are plans to plant trees at the back of the Health Centre as well, in partnership with RSPB.

07/09/22 Community Involvement Update

Frances said that she had been working with the Wild Skies Shetland group at its development day. She is going to organise a meeting to discuss the Emergency Ferry timetable. Frances spoke about the Unst Social Club which meets every second Saturday afternoon at the Leisure Centre. It is open to all ages and abilities. Frances can now help complete benefit checklist on behalf of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). There was a discussion about CAB and who the vulnerable groups are in Unst. Many older people will not ask for help. CAB used to have regular sessions at the Health Centre but not many people attended. Claire said that after they offered home visits they had more of an uptake. Frances asked members which group they thought would be best to host a visit from CAB. The Lunch Club was suggested, Frances will ask their committee if she or CAB could attend to speak about the Benefits Check form. Claire said about Red Cross volunteers being recruited in areas to deliver medicines. There was a discussion about the cost to older people, who don't drive, that need to go to the Health Centre for an appointment or to collect medicine. No-one was sure if the senior citizens weekly shopping trips were still running. Some older people had used these runs to go for appointments at the Health Centre. Frances and Caroline will look into this.

08/09/22 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)

David said that the consultation to find the strategic priorities for SCBF is still ongoing. It is being carried out by consultants - IBP Strategy and Research. They have published an initial discussion paper “Shetland Today” which outlines the issues and challenges for the islands as well as the

strengths and opportunities. SCBF is holding the consultation to identify the community's ideas and priorities for the £2.2m a year it will receive from the Viking Community Fund once the wind farm is operational in 2024. David said that SCBF are still struggling with how to manage Shetland Wide applications.

08/09/22.1 AGS – Improving Poverty or Welfare Criteria – 2nd Application

David explained that SCBF had discussed the current cost of living at one of their meetings. In a change to the published AGS Guidelines for Applicants, it has been agreed to allow a second application from applicants within 12 months from their last grant award where this would meet the criteria of improving poverty or welfare.

08/09/22.2 Promoting the Viking Community Fund - AGS

Eleanor Gear, SCBF, emailed to say that they are promoting SCBF on their Facebook page, which has updates on the scheme and links people to their website where their supported projects are listed. Promoting the scheme will hopefully encourage local groups to apply and raise awareness of the funding scheme.

06/08/22.1 Cemetery Benches

The application has been submitted to SCBF. They had some additional queries about the application which Claire has now answered. This decision on this application will be made by SCBF Officials.

09/09/22 Ferries/ Fixed Links

09/02/22.1 Festive Timetable 2022

Claire, Janice and Ryan attended an online meeting to discuss the festive timetable. There was very little notice for this meeting. One suggestion from the Ferries Department was to use the extra crew from Yell Sound to give an improved service for Bluemull Sound over the Festive season. Members agreed this seemed like an excellent use of resources and would be appreciated by the Unst community. The timings for extra runs on Christmas/Boxing Day and the 1st/2nd January would need to meet a sailing on Yell Sound in the morning, slightly later than the 9am run last year. This run could be done after the Fetlar run, it could collect from Belmont and then go to Gutcher and on to meet a ferry on Yell Sound. It was discussed and decided that if UCC are adding a second run that ties in all the way in the morning, UCC should probably ask for a second one later in the day too. In previous years there was a problem for anyone heading to Northlink, they had to leave Unst at 9am for a 5pm sailing! But this shouldn't be an issue this year as it is a 7pm sailing, the later run will be in time for this. There were serious issues last year when the festive timetable started before the school term ended because there are so many teachers travelling between Unst and Yell.

The next meeting of the Fixed Link Group is on Wednesday 5th October in the Baltasound Hall. It is hoped for a good turnout. At the last meeting Alec Priest explained a lot of what has happened with the Council and fixed link discussions so far. Beatrice Wishart, MSP, has invited Ministers to the Isles to see for themselves what happens.

10/09/22 Lund Road

Patrick has drafted a reply to a letter about Lund Road to Maggie Sandison, SIC, which was circulated before the meeting. There has still been no reply from the National Trust for Scotland who received the same letter as the Council. Emails have been sent to Clea Warner, NTS, but so far there has been no reply. The Community Council suggested that SIC and NTS discuss the Lund Road and come up with a joint solution. There has been no progress made on this. Ms Sandison replied to the original letter and asked why the Community Council thought it was up to the SIC or NTS to repair the road and not a third party. Unst Community Council do not have the funds for repairs. NTS received a

bequest from the late Joy Sandison's estate, but members believe none of this has been spent on their properties or land in Unst.

11/09/22 Applications for Planning

11/09/22.1 Saxavord Spaceport Airspace Reservation Application (ACP-2017-79) – Request for Stakeholder Engagement Response

Shetland Spacecentre Limited seeks to conduct vertical launch operations for orbital and sub-orbital activities from SaxaVord Spaceport on Lamba Ness, Unst, Shetland Islands. The Application has now progressed to the "Develop and Assess" stage (i.e., Stage 2), prompting engagement with UCC as an identified stakeholder. The application outlines Airspace Reservation; CAP1616 Stage 2 – Develop and Assess; CAP1616 Stage 2 Stakeholder Engagement and Timeline. The Community Council had no objections to this application.

12/09/22 Application for Donations

12/09/22.1 SCBF – Mind Your Head - £500

This is a Shetland Wide Application. The funding is needed for the continuation of the "Wellness" Programme for 12 months. This service is free, open access with a low level support programme for anyone aged 18 years and up. This application was approved.

12/09/22.2 SCBF – Unst Community Council (Benches) – £4389.23 – decision to be made by SCBF Officers

Decision on this application will be made by SCBF Officials.

12/09/22.3 SCBF – Shetland Island Games Association -£300

This is a Shetland Wide application. This funding will enable sportspeople from Shetland to participate in the biennial Island Games in Guernsey. This application was approved.

13/09/22 Unadopted Road Grants

There were no applications for Unadopted Road Grants.

14/09/22 Correspondence

14/09/22.1 Shetland Active Travel Audits

Robina Barton, SIC Transport Policy and Projects Officer, emailed the Shetland Active Travel Audits report, which was circulated before the meeting. It is a follow up to meetings with Systra consultants which were held all over Shetland at the beginning of the year. Suggestions for Unst were around the School and Leisure Centre; route from School to Nikkavord Lea and from SHE to the Garage and Hotel; Post Office/play park area; Bus Shelter at Millburn Park to Shop, Church and Care Centre; Haroldswick through Beach Road and around Heritage Centre and the core path to Methodist Chapel. Ms Barton said she is in the process of securing funding to make progress with these developments.

14/09/22.2 ASCC Meeting 20th September 2022

Claire attended this meeting. One of the items discussed was the SIC – Community Council Report to Council. This report addresses the question of whether the Council should proceed with elections for Community Councils this year when there is a review of CC's being undertaken. The three options which the Community Council had to choose from were

Option 1 – Do nothing and carry on with the elections in November.

Option 2 – Extend the current term of elected members for a further two years, holding elections in November 2024.

Option 3 – Proceed with the elections in November but limit it to a two year term, to coincide with the completion of the review. After a lot of discussion it was agreed to select option 2.

14/09/22.3 Shetland Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Annual Report

This was noted. CAB was discussed in agenda item 07/09/22 Community Involvement Update

14/09/22.4 National Power of Attorney Campaign

This has been circulated to all and put on the Facebook page.

14/09/22.5 Police Report

PC Dana Jamieson attended by WebEx. She said there was nothing to report. She was asked about the neighbour disputes that were in last month's report, and how serious they were, PC Jamieson said that these incidents were often minor, and her role was to act as a mediator and offer advice. Members wanted to know about this as they had been asked to comment on a consultation which was circulated about "Antisocial Behaviour - Changing Policies."

15/09/22 Community Council Finances

An updated budget will be circulated with the draft minutes.

16/09/22 A.O.C.B.

16/09/22.1 Hermaness Information Board

There was a discussion about the issues raised in Patrick's email. Members wondered if additional information could be displayed at the site covering the Clearances in Hermaness, which wasn't covered on the main boards.

16/09/22.2 The Belmont Trust

There was a discussion about the issues raised in Patrick's emails. After a lot of discussion, it was felt that the Community Council had done everything it could. And the funders were happy that all conditions on the grant funding had been discharged, so there was no legal reason not to sell. [Unst Tourism Meeting Informal Notes , 07/02/22].

16/09/22.3 Moss on the pavements at Daisy Park and Skibhoul Stores

There is moss growing on the pavements at Daisy Park and Skibhoul, making them slippery. The clerk will write to SIC Roads about this.

17/09/22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is set for Monday 24th October 2022

Chair: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____