

Unst Community Council

Chair

Claire Priest
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Baltasound
Unst
Shetland

Clerk

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**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22nd August 2022
at 6.30 pm in the Baltasound School Music Huts**

Present

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

Attending:

Robert Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio)
Frances Browne, Community Involvement and Development Officer
Gordon Thomson, Unst Partnership Ltd
Josie McMillan, Clerk

01/08/22 Apologies

Patrick Fordyce
Hazel Spence
Ryan Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio)
Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer

02/08/22 Declaration of Interest

Julie and Janice declared an interest in 05/08/22 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP).
Robert asked that it be minuted that he can take no part in Planning application discussions, agenda item 12/08/22, as he is on the SIC Planning Committee.

03/08/22 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 20th June 2022 were proposed by David and seconded by Janice.

04/08/22 Matters Arising from last minutes

There were no matters arising.

05/08/22 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP)

It was agreed to invite Frank Strang to the next meeting for an update on how the Space Port is progressing. There has been a lot of work going on locally and also a lot of media coverage. There was a discussion about the funding that SVSP has given to local groups, including Unst Partnership for the Skip Scheme. Members thought it would be good to get an update on how this scheme works. Bryden Priest is starting work for SVSP as their Community Engagement Officer.

06/08/22 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)

David said that the professional review of SCBF is still ongoing. He has joined a Zoom group of local representatives to feed into the review. The group has been discussing what the big issues are in each area. Some of the review suggestions have already been put in place. The FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) section has been split into two sections – Individual applications and Shetland Wide applications. The number of words required on the application form have also been reduced. David said that once the Windfarm is fully operational the amount of funds for distribution will be vastly increased. SCBF might then need professional advice on awarding funds. At the moment funding awards are non-contractual. Community Councils will continue to get their annual allocated funds. SCBF award funding for capital projects and do not want repeat applications. David said that they have to be careful about raising hopes.

06/08/22.1 Cemetery Benches

David has finally got the forms returned from the Council about siing the benches in the kirkyards. He has now completed the SCBF application, the total cost of the project is £4,889.23. The Community Council will contribute 10% of the project costs, if the application is successful.

07/08/22 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.

Gordon said that the UP shop is trading well, with a good number of donations recently. UP has a stand at the Unst Show on Saturday. There was a skip day last Saturday, the next one is the 1st October. The skip scheme has been well supported with over 50 subscribers. Gordon had attended the Tunnel Vision meeting in the Baltasound Hall on Tuesday night, with Alistair Carmichael, MP and Beatrice Wishart, MSP. There was a discussion about setting up a local steering group, as suggested at the meeting. It was felt that this would add weight to the argument for fixed links if communities campaigned as well, this is happening in Western Isles. Robert said that the community has to push the SIC for fixed links as they will be the ones to take this forward. He said that it will cost about £5,000,000 to develop a Business Case, this is just the first stage of the process. The case has to be made as a Shetland project as fixed links will benefit the whole of Shetland. Gordon will organise a time and a place to hold the first meeting to set up a steering group. Frances asked if it should be an Unst group or a North Isles group. Robert said that it would be better to have a group for each island and then be able to also work together. Frances said that it will be within her role to support this group. Gordon will publicise this initial meeting. Everybody agreed that it is important that young people are encouraged to attend this meeting.

08/08/22 Community Involvement Update

Frances said that she had been working with the Unst Boating Club, which had been successful in getting funding. She will follow up on organising a meeting to discuss a new Emergency Timetable for Bluemull Sound. Frances explained about the Scottish Government initiative for free period products. These are available at the Unst health Centre and Leisure Centre.

09/08/22 Ferries/ Tunnel Vision meeting

The Tunnel Vision meeting on Tuesday 16th August was hosted by Alistair Carmichael and Beatrice Wishart, in attendance were SIC councillors Robert Thomson, Allison Duncan and Arwed Wenger and 50+ members of the community. Everyone present supported fixed links. There was a discussion about which sound should be done first. The panel was asked who the community should push to get fixed links made a priority. They were told to start with SIC Councillors and the Council. Costs for fixed links would be high. There was a discussion about the follow up actions from the Bluemull Sound ferries meeting on 27th June. None of these appear to have been done. The Community Council has not received information on crewing procedures, bus timetables, signage at Gutcher and updates on progress for the business case. And also, whether it is possible to add maps of ferry terminal to the emails received when booking. Robert will be attending a Teams meeting with SIC Ferries this week so will bring up these points. The Clerk will email him a copy of the minutes from the ferries meeting held in June. Frances said that nobody had got back to her about the emergency timetable. A meeting needs to be arranged with Unst, Yell and Fetlar to discuss this. Robert explained that SIC Councillors can't get involved in operational issues. There have been problems with bookings for people travelling up to the Unst Show at the weekend.

10/08/22 Lund Road

It was agreed to ask Patrick to write to Maggie Sandison, Chief Executive, SIC answering the questions she raised in her reply to UCC original letter.

11/08/22 Childcare Provision

There is no registered childcare for under threes in Unst or after school care. The Nursery provides places for 3 year olds and over and also for entitled two year olds. The lack of childcare is creating problems for families needing to return to work and it is putting young families off moving to and settling on Unst. There was a discussion about how this is already affecting businesses, i.e., Spaceport, Care Centre, Schools etc. Robert said that the lack of childcare in Yell had resulted in young families moving away, and also their extended families moving with them. Frances said that community solutions to this issue were difficult as many funders will not fund project which they believe statutory funding should cover. Claire agreed to a follow up meeting with Chloe Kerr, SIC, to explore potential local funding options or community-based solutions. The Council is keen to help work towards a sustainable solution for non-statutory childcare in Unst. Frances will follow this up as well. It was also explained that a Childcare business is not a viable business, with the nursery providing free places for all three year olds.

12/08/22 Applications for Planning

Planning Ref:	2022/212/PNT
Proposal:	Prior Notification for the installation of a proposed 7 metre-high mast accommodating 1No. dish antenna along with ancillary equipment.
Address:	Saxa Vord MOD Base, Unst, Shetland, ZE2 9EQ
Applicant:	Telent Technology Services Ltd
Date of Consultation:	5 August 2022

There were no objections to this application.

13/08/22 Application for Donations

13/08/22.1 SCBF – Shetland Recreational Trust - £300

It was agreed to approve this donation towards the costs of engaging the services of someone to work one to one and with groups to get them more active and access SRT facilities. Members asked that Unst be included in the Action Plan for this service.

It was also agreed to email Steven Laidlaw, SRT, and ask if there has been any progress on their plans to build the pods at the Leisure centre.

14/08/22 Application for Community Ferry Hires

14/08/22.1 Unst Show Committee – 27th August 2022 – Shuttle service on Bluemull Sound

These ferries have now been approved by SIC Ferries Department.

15/08/22 Unadopted Road Grants

There were no applications for Unadopted Road Grants.

16/08/22 Correspondence

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

There was a discussion about these attractions. There have been a lot of concerns raised in the community about the state of the Skidbladner and the Longhouse. There has been no maintenance done on either of these Shetland Amenity Trust assets in the last few years. The Skidbladner is deteriorating and will soon not be safe for visitors. The Skidbladner and Longhouse are great assets for all of Shetland, and are some of the most visited attractions on Unst. It was agreed to write to Shetland Amenity Trust to ask what their plans are for these. Geopark signage is also in a poor state with nothing being done to it for several years.

16/08/22.2 Hogweed

Concerns were raised about this by a member of the community, who asked the Community Council if anything could be done about the hogweed in Uyeasound. The Clerk will write to the SIC Roads Department.

16/08/22.3 Police Report

The Shetland Policing report for June/July was circulated before the meeting. There were 7 incidents reported In Unst. These were 2 neighbour disputes, 3 vandalism incidents, 1 assault and a concern for person.

16/08/22.4 SIC – Consultation on Energy Development Principles

SIC circulated the draft "Energy Development Principles" in January 2022. They are now looking to round off the consultation so any further comments on the draft can be reported back to Council. They would like to include any views from members of the Shetland Partnership and Community Councils in that. The target for feedback is the 19th of September so any comments would be appreciated before then.

17/08/22 Community Council Finances

The accounts for the last financial year were audited by Voluntary Action Shetland and were signed as a correct and true record.

18/08/22 A.O.C.B.

18/08/22.1 Hermaness Information Board

This will be carried forward to the next meeting. An update from Patrick will be circulated before the next meeting.

18/08/22.2 Shetland Strategic Tourism Development Plan

Claire will attend this online workshop.

18/08/22.3 Norwick Beach

A member of the community raised concerns about a landrover racing up and down Norwick beach. This is concerning after the problems with the burn changing course recently. Members wondered if there were signs at the beach. This will be followed up after we have more details.

18/08/22.4 Environmental Eyesores

There have been queries to ask if anything can be done about "environmental eyesores" at the side of the road. The Clerk emailed Ian Isbister, SIC, to ask about this. He said that if it is on private property their legislation doesn't apply. If vehicles become dangerous and it is likely things might blow and damage other people's property or even individuals themselves, it may be possible to look at other legislation which could be used but they would need to be in a pretty poor state and close to another property. There was also a query about boats parked on the road at Setters Hill Estate. The Clerk will email Hjalmland to ask what can be done about this.

19/08/22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is set for Monday 19th September 2022

Chair: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____