

# Unst Community Council

## Chair

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## Clerk

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## Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 at 6.30 pm in the Baltasound School Music Huts and by MS Teams

### Present

Patrick Fordyce, acting Chair  
Janice Priest  
Julie Thomson  
Claire Priest (online)

### Attending:

Scott Hammond, Operations Director, SVSP  
Elizabeth Johnson, Project Manager on Site, SVSP  
Debbie Strang, Chief Operations Director, SVSP  
Frances Browne, Community Involvement and Development Officer, arrived at 7.15pm  
Josie McMillan, Clerk

### 01/04/23 Apologies

Caroline Hunter, Vice Chair  
Gary Betney  
David Cooper  
John Peterson  
Hazel Spence  
Duncan Anderson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio)  
Robert Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio)  
Ryan Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio)  
Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer  
PC Dana Jamieson  
Gordon Thomson, Unst Partnership Ltd

There were technical issues, the MS Teams link didn't work.

### 02/04/23 Declaration of Interest

Janice and Julie declared an interest in 05/04/23 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP). Janice also declared an interest in agenda item 15/04/23 Energy Isles.

### 05/04/23 SaxaVord Space Port (SAXA)

Patrick asked the SaxaVord Space Port (SAXA) representatives if they wanted to go first, and to explain their roles. Elizabeth Johnson is the Project Manager on Site. She explained that the public road from the agriculture shed to Hamar Skaw should be completed by the end of May and that most of the public road improvements would be finished by June. The North Dale Road section will start once the documentation is in place. Elizabeth said that they have been given permission by the owners to strip

turf before the archaeologists leave and before the bird breeding season starts. On the Lambaness site they are working with concrete for hangar A and the steel erection starts in June. Stripping and recording has started for hangar B while the archaeologists are here and before the bird breeding season starts. The planning applications for SaxaVord Space Centre are to be discussed later in the meeting.

Scott Hammond is the Operations Director. He explained that SVSP had applied to the Civil Aviation Authority for Range and Spaceport Licences, these take about 6 to 18 months and should be granted this summer. SAXA have applied for an Air Space Change for above and to the north of the Unst. This should be in place by March 2024. It has to go out to consultation again. The Space Port is hosting visits from politicians. Douglas Ross, MSP, will be visiting tomorrow. And there is a visit planned from Keir Starmer in the near future. There will also be visits from American and German clients. The French company, Latitude, will be here during April. Shetland Coastguard have met with SVSP and arrangements are now in place. Elizabeth said that the Coastguard, Ambulance and Emergency Helicopter crews had all been issued with keys. The local Coastguard team have had site inductions for Lambaness and have had an exercise there. Mr Hammond said that SAXA are planning to bring the airport back to life. They are not sure of timings as yet. He was asked about the planning application (agenda item 11/04/23). He explained the radomes cover satellite tracking dishes, protecting them against the weather. Elizabeth said that the SAXA are going to refurbish the hangar starting in May. This will be a major piece of work.

Debbie Strang is the Chief Operating Officer for SAXA. She said that the latest newsletter came out in March, they plan to publish them quarterly. She had taken copies to the meeting and said that they would also be available online and in local shops. Ms Strang said that they were working with SIC about the visitor potential especially on launch days. She said that they will be reconvening the Visitor Management Group. She spoke about the Outdoor Access Plan. Mr Hammond said they had no intention of fencing off all of the entire site, although various sections will be fenced including the launch pads. The site will work on a traffic light system:- green – all open; amber – closed to the public and red – launching, site empty. Mr Hammond said that they would give as much notice as possible, starting from six months down to a two-week window. There will be a flag system at the ferry terminals so that everyone knows what is going on. Ms Strang said that one of the planning conditions was an interpretation of the site. This is being done by Chris Dyer, Shetland-based archaeologist and military historian. Ms Strang explained that there is also a contingency planning group working with all the relevant agencies on how they would deal with a major incident. Elizabeth said that designs are being drawn up and a planning application prepared for the hotel at Saxavord. Ms Strang said that SAXA will need accommodation, they are using existing buildings at the moments. The “Airman’s Mess” buildings will need to be brought up to standard as well. There are also solar panels being installed soon. Elizabeth asked if Community Councillors still wanted to visit the site. It was agreed that they did. She will co-ordinate dates and details with the Clerk.

Patrick asked if there were any questions. There were none. He thanked them all for attending the meeting. They then left.

### **03/04/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were proposed by Patrick and seconded by Janice.

### **04/04/23 Matters Arising from last minutes**

#### **15/01/23.3 Shetland Recreational Trust Presentation – Unst Holiday Park Study**

Robert Geddes, Head of Operations, replied to the query about this project to say that all Development Projects have been stopped. It was agreed to write and say how disappointed the Community Council are that this project isn’t going ahead.

#### **06/04/23 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.**

There was no update from UP.

#### **07/04/23 Community Involvement Update**

Frances arrived in time for this agenda item (7.15pm). She said that she had been working with the Unst Heritage Trust and also the Unst Boating Club on their Coastal Communities application. Frances is involved in the Shetland Amenity Trust meeting at the Heritage Centre tomorrow. This meeting is to discuss SAT property on Unst, including the Skidbladner and the Longhouse. The Community Council are invited to attend between 12.30 and 2.30pm. Frances is also involved with the UnstFest committee which is organising the visit of the Tall Ships in July. Patrick asked if the Community Council were involved with the Tall Ships visit to Unst. The original contact from Emma Miller, Tall Ships coordinator, had come to the Community Council who had discussed it and decided to pass the details to the UnstFest Committee and the Boating Club. Frances said that there was no progress on the marina/pontoon. SIC Ports and Harbours will not be able to fund it from their revenue scheme so an application has to be submitted to the capital scheme. Andrew Inkster, SIC Ports and Harbours, says that there is no guarantee it will go ahead.

#### **08/04/23 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)**

David wasn't at the meeting but had put in an update. He said that because of the snow, the 8<sup>th</sup> March meeting was held entirely by Zoom. David said that a good deal of preparatory work is being done in advance of significant funding coming on stream and reports on this will follow. The present consultation process will see the posting of a questionnaire to every Shetland household. Replies can be on paper, online or by telephone and must be submitted by the beginning of May. The cemetery benches are in Unst, ready to be installed.

#### **09/04/23 Ferries/ Fixed Links**

##### **09/04/23.1 Emergency Ferry Timetable Meeting**

Claire said that Frances and her had attended this meeting in Fetlar, Caroline had joined by video link. Claire said that it had been a really constructive meeting. They found that it was really difficult to change the timetable. There were several suggestions to improve timings, including an extra run for commuters into Unst in the morning. The run for school bairns on a Sunday afternoon comes out of Fetlar into Unst, then onto Gutcher. This is only done on a Sunday, if it was changed to this way every night it would give another linking run out of Unst in the evening. Frances will circulate the proposed changes to timetables, that was discussed at the meeting. There was a discussion about how difficult, if not impossible, it is to get the Ferries Department to change anything.

##### **09/04/23.2 Belmont and Gutcher Linkspan works**

Fiona Farquhar, Resources Manager, Marine and Air Operations SIC, emailed to confirm the details about the linkspans works. This is:- **Belmont** – from 1900 hours on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – this will be a foot passenger service operating from Uyeasound.

**Gutcher** – from 1900 hours on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – this will be a foot passenger service operating from Cullivoe. It was agreed to email and ask when the foot passenger timetable would be published. And when the Linkspan work would be advertised so that travellers can make alternative arrangements if they need to.

#### **10/04/23 Lund Road**

The Clerk will email Clea Warner, NTS, and ask if there has been any progress on this.

### **11/04/23 Applications for Planning**

There were no applications for planning.

Planning Ref:	2023/050/PPF
Proposal:	Proposed installation of buried fibre communications cable in road
Address:	Road between Saxa Vord crossroads and Lamba Ness, Unst, Shetland,
Applicant:	Shetland Space Centre Limited
Date of Consultation:	8 March 2023

There were no objections to this.

Planning Ref:	2023/052/PPF
Proposal:	Formation of antennae compound comprising eight radomes and associated infrastructure
Address:	Radomes, Baltasound, Unst, Shetland
Applicant:	Ministry Of Defence
Date of Consultation:	22 March 2023

There were no objections to this.

#### 11/04/23.3 Cooke Aquaculture Scotland (CAS) Pre-application: Winna Ness, Uyeasound

Cooke Aquaculture Scotland (CAS) intend to submit a retrospective planning application to Shetland Islands Council for their long established salmon farm at Winna Ness, Uyeasound. The Community Council were notified of this before the application goes in.

### **12/04/23 Application for Donations**

#### 12/04/23.1 SCBF – The Outpost - £1000

After a lot of discussion, it was agreed not to support this application. There are limited funds available left in Unst's SCBF allocation for this year. There are local projects which are in the process of applying to SCBF for funding..

### **13/04/23 Community Ferries Hires**

There were two applications for community ferry hires from Sail Yell for the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July. After a lot of discussion, it was agreed to defer this to the next meeting. The Community Council only gets 4 community hires in total. Two of these are already spoken for. The Clerk will ask Sail Yell for more details on the events and to check if they have asked the Fetlar or Yell Community Council's for community ferry runs.

### **14/04/23 Unadopted Roads**

It was agreed to advertise road grants for 2023/2024.

### **15/04/23 Correspondence**

#### 15/04/23.1 Clerks Meeting 04/03/23

The Clerk attended this meeting. It is always very useful to keep up to date with policies and procedures, and speak to other clerks.

#### 15/04/23.2 Energy Isles

There was a meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023, this was held on Zoom. Energy Isles have applied for a Met mast on the site to record the wind data. This application has been lodged with the SIC. The next meeting will be held in August. There will be public meetings in early June in the Cullivoe and Sellafirth Halls.

#### 15/04/23.3 Meeting with Shetland Amenity Trust

This was covered in agenda item 07/04/23.

#### 15/04/23.4 Reflectors/snow poles from Baltasound to Uyeasound

It was agreed to write to the SIC about the lack of reflector posts/snow poles from Watlee south. This caused a lot of problems in the snowy fortnight in March.

#### 15/04/23.5 Scottish Water – Water leaks

Scottish Water asked the community to check holiday lets and vacant properties for water leaks because of the loss of water from Heliers Water. There were two leaks identified at Saxavord. These have been fixed.

#### 15/04/23.6 Crofting Commission Area Representatives Recruitment 2023

This was noted.

#### 15/04/23.7 Dog Fouling

There have been more reports of dog fouling around Brakefield Crescent and the road to the Methodist Chapel. It was agreed to write to SIC Environmental Services again and ask for posters to be displayed in the area.

#### 15/04/23.8 SEPA 2023 Opinion Survey

This survey was open to everyone to complete.

### **16/04/23 Community Council Finances**

All funds have been distributed. The Clerk will prepare the accounts to be audited independently by Voluntary Action Shetland.

### **17/04/23 A.O.C.B.**

#### 17/04/23.1 Roads and Road Safety

There was a lot of discussions about roads and road matters. Members asked if it was possible to publish the Gritter Routes on Facebook, showing the priorities routes. The parapet at South a Voe has been damaged. There is a gate missing at the first grid coming from Outer Skaw. The Setters Road has a lot more traffic using it, including heavy plant. Members asked if there could be signs asking traffic to give way to oncoming vehicles travelling up the road. Also, on the Setters Road heading north towards the quarry, members asked if there could be a sign showing that there is a blind summit, advising traffic to slow down. There were also concerns raised about the sides of the road on the Setters. There was also a request for the Hunters Road Give Way sign to be changed to a Stop sign, so that all traffic had to stop there before turning left or right. There is also a pothole on the Mailland Road before the cattle grid. The Clerk will write to Neil Hutcheson, SIC Roads, about all these issues.

#### 17/04/23.2 ASCC Meeting – Community Council Review

Claire had attended the ASCC meeting in March. There had been a discussion about the Community Council Review which is ongoing. The ASCC are going to have a dedicated meeting to it in May, hence the need to get replies by the end of April. It was agreed to circulate an email to gather views on the topic of the Community Council Review the SIC are undertaking at the moment. Claire explained some of the examples that were included in the ASCC discussion and discussed at this meeting.

Examples include:

- Boundaries & number of CCs – feelings at the meeting were that Community Councillors were happy with the boundary and most issues were individual to Unst. The agenda is always full, with not much scope to discuss anything else.
- Elections – is the current nominations the correct way to do it?

- Legal rights – should CCs have more powers to do things?
- Funding – do all CCs get the extra £3000 that has to be applied for, if so, can it not be just given to the CCs. Should we be able to allocate our £s as we see fit and not have to tick boxes?
- How do CCs incentivise people to join.
- What frustrations do Community Councillors have.

Community Councillors will need to reply to the Clerk with their views by the end of April so that it can be collated and sent to ASCC.

#### 17/04/23.3 Da Voar Redd Up

It was agreed to support Da Voar Redd Up again this year. The clerk will write to the community groups who took part last year.

#### **18/04/23          Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is set for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_