

Unst Community Council

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Baltasound
Unst
Shetland

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Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd January 2023 at 6.30 pm in the Baltasound School Music Huts and by WebEx

Present

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

Attending:

PC Dana Jamieson (WebEx)
Gordon Thomson, Unst Partnership Ltd
Josie McMillan, Clerk

01/01/23 Apologies

Gary Betney
Patrick Fordyce
Julie Thomson
Duncan Anderson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio)
Robert Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio)
Frances Browne, Community Involvement and Development Officer
Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer (WebEx)

02/01/23 Declaration of Interest

Janice declared an interest in 05/01/23 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP).

03/01/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 5th December 2022 were proposed by Janice and seconded by Hazel.

04/01/23 Matters Arising from last minutes

There were no matters arising, that aren't on the agenda for this meeting.

05/01/23 SaxaVord Space Port (SVSP)

There has been a lot of publicity in the media for the Space Port. The SaxaVoice Newsletter was published online in December. There were also hard copies available in shops. The Oot an About group for over 60s, visited the launch site at Lamba Ness. They watched a presentation and had refreshments at the Saxavord base. There has been a lot of positive feedback about the event.

Community Councillors discussed this and decided to ask Frank Strang, Elizabeth Johnson or Bryden Priest, SVSP Community Liaison Officer, if a similar visit to the site could be arranged for Community Councillor.

06/01/23 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.

Gordon said that the next Skip Day is the Saturday 28th January 2023. He said that the Oot an About days are proving very popular. The next one is planned for 2nd February; this is a visit to the Shetland Reel Distillery and the Heritage Centre. Gordon said that representatives from the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) are coming up shortly. There have been several applications for the fixed term NTS Development Officer job. There has been no further progress with the sale of their properties, most of the which are in a poor state of repair. A paper about the properties was to be presented to the Board on 15th December. UP are producing a paper tourist map again this year.

07/01/23 Community Involvement Update

Frances sent her apologies as she is attending the Yell Community Council meeting. She sent in her report. She is currently working with the Unst Boating Club on putting together a funding package for the development work they are doing to the clubhouse. Frances has also been working a little with the Unst Heritage Trust on some grant vouching. She explained that there was an update with regard to the Baltasound Pontoon. The project has had to be recorded as capital spend, which means it has to be put forward to the Capital Programme. It might be accepted on the Capital Programme and go ahead this year, it could be accepted, but not be a priority for this year, or it may not be accepted. She asked if members could discuss the emergency timetable and get back to her with proposed dates for a meeting with Fetlar and SIC officials.

12/01/23.1 Shetland Active Travel Plans

Caroline explained that the preferred schemes to be put forward for the funding bid are the path from Nikkavord Lea to the school, suitable for cycling and walking. Upgrade the existing path, build sections of missing path with Hunter's Road. And build a path linking the road to the leisure centre and school. Caroline said that the SIC now has to apply for funding for this, so progress will be slow.

Claire asked Dana if she wanted to go next, she did.

13/01/23 Correspondence

13/01/23.1 Police Report

PC Jamieson said that there had been 3 incidents recorded for Unst recently. These were:- Fraud; Sudden Death and a Minor Road Traffic Collision. The Sudden death was on a boat of the coast of Unst. She also said that she had been contacted about the speed of lorries driving past Setters Hill Estate. She said that there would be Road Traffic Officers coming up soon to monitor this.

Claire Thanked Dana for attending the meeting, Dana left the meeting.

08/01/23 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)

08/01/23.0 SCBF – Advance Grant Scheme meeting

David said that there was nothing new to report. There had been an online short meeting which he had been unable to log into. He said that SCBF are offering to host an online meeting for any new community councillors and clerks who may have any questions regarding the Advanced Grant Scheme. Existing community councillors would also be very welcome to join.

Cemetery Benches David said that the benches are in Lerwick, waiting for RS Henderson to take up. They will be stored in the Cooke Aquaculture yard until they are ready to be placed in the Kirkyards. This will not be done until the weather improves.

09/01/23 Ferries/ Fixed Links

09/01/23.1 Emergency Ferry Timetable

Members discussed the need to get the Emergency Ferry timetable sorted as the present situation of using the Saturday timetable, with no bookings, when the service goes down to one vessel is not working very well. Members were told that the reason there were no bookings was so the ferry could fit in extra runs if they were needed. Members said that there were no extra runs and vehicles were being left at busy times. If there had to be a choice of extra runs or being able to book, everyone would go for being able to book. People needing to get to work were having to catch early ferries, some school staff and care workers were unable to get to work on time. Andrew Inkster, SIC Ferries, sent through a list of requirements which have to be followed when preparing a timetable. It was agreed to get back to Frances to suggest the meeting could be scheduled for the week beginning the 13th February, but not on a Wednesday.

09/01/23.2 Ferry Docking Schedule

The docking schedule was discussed. The Bigga is scheduled to go between the 21st August and 18th September. This is over Unst Show time again. The Community Council have previously requested that the Bigga isn't taken out of service over this really busy weekend. Ryan will follow this up, but the Clerk will also write about it.

09/01/23.3 Belmont Ferry Terminal

The Clerk will also write about the state of the car park, especially near the ramp. This is very guttery and the water stands there. Members asked when the big turbines would be moved as this really limits parking at the terminal.

09/01/23.4 U-Tag Tunnel Meeting

Janice had attended the last meeting. She said it had been a positive meeting. They discussed how much the feasibility study would cost. Ryan explained that in terms of getting SIC funding, this would be impossible as there isn't any money in its budget for this. He said that the group shouldn't get fixated on tunnels but should also look at the bridge option. Bridges are quicker to build. David said that he believed that there was less maintenance on tunnels than bridges. The next U-Tag meeting is on 21st February 2023.

09/01/23.5 Ferries

Members are frustrated that there has been no progress made to ensure that there is a working ferry service in future. The ferries are getting to the end of their working lives and there have been no replacement ferries ordered. Members are concerned that it will take something catastrophic happening with a ferry before the SIC will act. Ryan said that the Scottish Government believe it is up to the SIC to fund the ferries. It always comes back to who is going to pay for the new ferries. This is important to the whole of Shetland. Members believe that this has to be resolved as it has an effect on people not wanting to work or settle here if they can't depend on the ferries.

10/01/23 Lund Road

An email was received from Philip Long, National Trust for Scotland. He explained that that they are working on trying to resolve what has clearly been a long-standing issue. He states that his understanding is that for many years the Trust and Shetland Islands Council have been in communication about the matter of the graveyard, access to it and parking. Mr Long says that he understands that the level of funds required to improve the surface of the access track would be substantial and so will have made this difficult to resolve. Unfortunately, constraints on funding in the current economic climate will add further to this difficulty. However, NTS understand the Council is hoping to review the access arrangements to the burial ground this year, and NTS will be clear in

working with them on this, and they would like to see the matter resolved. NTS representatives are coming to Shetland in mid-February and visiting Unst, he believes which will be a good opportunity to discuss and update then. They also plan to meet with the Community Council.

11/01/23 Applications for Planning

There were no applications for planning.

12/01/23 Application for Donations

12/01/23.1 SCBF – Unst Boating and Swimming Club - £6,000

This was discussed and agreed. The group are upgrading the clubhouse facilities.

12/01/23.2 Wild Skies Shetland - £941.80

It was agreed to give Wild Skies Shetland £941.80, unless they were awarded travel costs from Northlink, in which case the grant would be reduced by that amount. The donation is towards the costs of bringing a ranger up from the Dumfries and Galloway Dark Skies site. She will provide training and expertise in leading dark skies walks.

13/01/23 Correspondence

13/01/23.2 ZetTrans Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) for Shetland

The Draft Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) for Shetland has now been published alongside the SEA Environmental Report Draft and Equalities Duties Report Draft. Summary information on the strategy along with links to all three documents can be accessed at the following website: <https://www.zettrans.org.uk/about/consultations>

14/01/23 Community Council Finances

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

15/01/23 A.O.C.B.

15/01/23.1 Streetlight at Beach Road

Ryan was contacted about this, and he followed it up with Neil Hutcheson, SIC Roads. This light should be repaired soon. The streetlight at the Baltasound Post Office has not been fixed yet. There are also two not working at Springpark Road in Baltasound. The streetlights at Gutter Street, Baltasound and East Road, Uyeasound are scheduled to be reinstated later this year.

15/01/23.2 ASCC Agenda Requests for Meeting 14/03/23

There was a discussion as to whether the Community Council should put the issue of ferries on to the agenda for the ASCC meeting. Ferries and ferry issue dominate Community Council meetings without making any progress at all.

15/01/23.3 Steven Laidlaw, Shetland Recreational Trust Presentation – Unst Holiday Park Study

It was agreed to email Mr Laidlaw and ask what progress had been made with this study.

15/01/23.4 Dental Service, Yell

Antony Visocchi, Dental Director NHS Shetland, replied to our email saying that the dentist is now back working in Yell. The dental therapist will be back there this month as well.

15/01/23.5 Damaged Sign at Belmont

Frances spoke to the Unst Youth Group. They would like another group to take responsibility for getting funding and repairing/replacing the sign.

15/01/23.6 Gritter

Members of the community have asked if there is a problem with the gritter as it is only spreading grit in the middle of the road and not out to the sides. The Clerk will email about this.

15/01/23.7 Emergency Helicopter landing site

Ryan had been contacted by a member of the community to ask about this. He had followed it up and the SIC has an agreement that the emergency helicopter can use a section of the airport. It needs to have access 24 hours a day and the ambulance has to be able to get to it. Ryan is going to follow this up.

15/01/23.8 Dog Fouling

Members are still concerned about the quantity of dog owners who are not cleaning up after their dogs. There have been incidents in Haroldswick and Baltasound. The Clerk is going to contact SIC Environmental health about this.

16/01/23 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is set for Monday 20th February 2023

Chair: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____