

# Unst Community Council

## Chair

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## Clerk

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## Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 6.30 pm in the Baltasound School Music Huts and by WebEx

### Present

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

### Attending:

Elizabeth Johnson, Project Manager on Site, SaxaVord Spaceport  
Gordon Thomson, Unst Partnership Ltd  
Frances Browne, Community Involvement and Development Officer  
Josie McMillan, Clerk

There were technical issues with the WebEx connection.

### 01/05/23 Apologies

Gary Betney  
Janice Priest  
Duncan Anderson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio)  
Robert Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio)  
Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer  
PC Dana Jamieson

### 03/05/23 Declaration of Interest

Julie declared an interest in 06/05/23 SaxaVord Space Port (SAXA), 12/05/23 Application for Donation – UnstFest and 13/05/23 Application for Community Ferry Hire - UnstFest. Claire and Frances declared an interest 12/05/23 Application for Donation - 1<sup>st</sup> Unst Brownies.

Claire asked Elizabeth Johnson if she wanted to go first. She did.

### 06/05/23 SaxaVord Space Port (SAXA)

Elizabeth Johnson, Project Manager, said that work is continuing on the public road from the corner at the top of the Holsens Brae to the launch site. This section will be tarred, starting the 15th May and finishing by 15th June. The SIC put a the temporary traffic regulation in place to accommodate this work. The number of tar trucks per day are determined by ferry capacity. Elizabeth said that they are hoping to be able to start on the North Dale Road soon. All the foundations for Hangar A are in place at

the launch site. The steel erectors will be coming up the second week in June. The steel will be arriving on a series of arctic trucks in June. The archaeologists need to watch and record the stripping of soil for all areas of the development and will arrive back on site prior to further excavations: this is part of the planning conditions. The RFA launch area is being finalised. HyImpulse carried out very successful engine testing at Scatsta. HyImpulse will launch, vertically, from the UK and from SaxaVord Spaceport. There has been no update on the application to the Civil Aviation Authority for Range and Spaceport Licences since the last CC Meeting. Frank Strang has been away and met with Rishi Sunak, Prime Minister and Jeremy Hunt, Chancellor of the Exchequer. This was a very constructive meeting. Elizabeth said that there are several groups visiting shortly, the UK Transport Minister's Team, Civil Aviation Authority, UK and European Space Agency representatives and SIC Members and Officials. She said that the Transport Ministers are very willing to help. Saxavord Spaceport have completed a major funding round. The plans for the new hotel are being finalised and have been presented to various SIC Representatives. Elizabeth was asked about some of the existing buildings, she explained that some of the buildings would be demolished but several would be refurbished. Elizabeth said that every household in Unst would receive a flyer explaining about the consultation on "SaxaVord Spaceport Airspace Change Proposal Progresses to Stage 3 "Consult."" Everybody is invited to "Have your Say." Elizabeth said Medivacs would be accommodated but there would be no drones allowed over the Spaceport as per regulations for any UK airports. She was asked who would be erecting the steel structures and confirmed that it would be a specialist steel erection company. She was asked about the hangar at the airport, she said there are plans to refurbish this and there are also plans to extend the runway. Elizabeth will organise a site visit for Community Councillors once the tarring is finished. Claire asked if there were any further questions, there weren't. Elizabeth left the meeting.

#### **02/05/23 Appoint Chair/Vice Chair**

After a discussion Claire agreed to be Chair for the remaining term of this Community Council. She was proposed by Julie and seconded by John. Caroline agreed to be Vice Chair for the same time. She was proposed by Claire and seconded by Hazel.

#### **04/05/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 were proposed by Julie and seconded by Claire.

#### **05/05/23 Matters Arising from last minutes**

There were no matters arising. Several outstanding items are on the agenda again.

#### **07/05/23 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.**

Gordon explained that the UP shop recorded sales of £13,500, with over 5,000 people through the door this past year. He said that this was a slight improvement on last year, with £13,400 income and 4,200 through the door. Gordon said that the next Skip Day is on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023, 11-1pm. The overall cost of the contract for skip hire is £4,800. UP received £1800 sponsorship from Shetland Spaceport but still needs to raise £3,000. New members are needed for the new scheme. 50 members at the unchanged rate of £60 would secure that. The "Ootnaboot Club" for the over 60's has concluded its Winter programme, with a Chip Supper and Dance night at Baltasound Hall and an Easter Mystery Tour. UP applied to Voluntary Action Shetland (VAS) and AGE Scotland to continue with a Summer programme and has received £3,650 from VAS and £1,000 from AGE Scotland. Planned activities include a trip to Fetlar, the Old Haa in Burravoe, Cullivoe Lunch Club and possibly the Tall Ships in Lerwick in July. Full details are still being worked out with people from the locations involved and the local bus company. UP directors are meeting with Sheona Leonard, National Trust for Scotland (NTS) and Stewart Douglas, Halligarth Development Manager, on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The house belonging to NTS at Roselea has been put up for sale, this is one of several properties that NTS own and plan to sell. UP and UCC have both been approached by Shetland Nature, who are keen to buy the property to house visitors who come to Shetland on their tours. They no longer have use of the accommodation they used in previous years.

After a lot of discussion, it was agreed to write a letter of support, but with a caveat that if there was a local family who put in an offer for the house, they should take priority.

### **08/05/23 Community Involvement Update**

Frances has been working with the Unst Boating Club. She said that the Youth Services are planning to make cuts to their Shetland Wide service. Martin Summers, SIC Youth & Employability Services, will present different options, one of which is to work a hub model with some clubs covering a wider catchment area. Members were concerned that this will be taking away services from bairns in rural areas.

#### Skidbladner/Longhouse

Julie and Frances spoke about the meeting with Hazel Sutherland and Jacqui Birnie about the Amenity Trust's assets in Unst, which Julie and Patrick attended on behalf of UCC. The meeting had been positive, and they Amenity Trust are looking into maintenance. SAT had thought they might need to lock the longhouse, but at the meeting the community explained that they liked having it open, so SAT were happy to accommodate that. SAT thought that once maintenance has been undertaken on the Skidbladner, they will cover it over winter to help protect it. Signage for parking was also spoken about. Members said one suggestion was a community buy out of the Skidbladner and Longhouse. The Skidbladner is in a really poor condition and deteriorating all the time. Members said that they would need to employ a caretaker to make sure the Longhouse/Skidbladner and the surrounding site is clean. Ryan said that he had emailed Hazel Sutherland about the condition of the Skidbladner in July last year. She had replied to say that a maintenance team would visit the site and carry out maintenance. This hasn't been done. Ryan will email again and the Clerk will email as well.

#### Emergency Timetable

There was a lot of discussion about the emergency timetable. Frances had printed copies of the two suggested timetable options which had been discussed in previous meetings with Fetlar. It was agreed to go with the suggested timetable 2. This would increase the number of linking runs into Unst and also include an extra run into Fetlar if the service went to Emergency Timetable. Some ferry timings would need to be slightly amended. Frances said that there is a meeting next Tuesday in Fetlar. John Smith, SIC Director of Infrastructure, will be at the meeting. Members thanked Frances for all her hard work dealing with this.

### **09/05/23 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)**

David said that he is concerned about the SCBF grant condition that groups can only make applications for funding once a year and this has to be for new projects, submitted by fully constituted groups. He said that SCBF's budget will be expanding massively, so it was important to get their procedures right. David has been asked to produce an A4 sheet to explain his point about changing the application criteria. Even development companies, like Unst Partnership Ltd, can only apply once. He did explain that a group can put in an application over 5 years, getting funding in stages. It is important to make people aware of the extra funding which will become available. Frances said that for rural communities' transport costs are always a big issue. There used to be an SIC scheme where groups could reclaim their mileage costs, but this was stopped years ago. David said that the next SCBF meeting is on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Gary had organised volunteers, so the benches have now been put in the Kirkyards and extensions. David and Gary will check that they are all on the agreed sites. There was a query about the screws which were used in the benches and whether they were stainless steel or not.

#### Viking community fund consultation – input from voluntary and community groups

Claire will complete this on behalf of the Community Council.

### **10/05/23 Ferries/ Fixed Links**

#### 10/05/23.1 Belmont & Gutter Linkspan Work – May/June 2023

The times for these works are:-

**Belmont** – from 1900 hours on Friday 26th May to Sunday 28th May 2023 – this will be a foot passenger service operating from Uyeasound.

**Gutcher** – from 1900 hours on Friday 16th June to Sunday 19th June 2023 – this will be a foot passenger service operating from Cullivoe. The foot passenger timetable is available on the SIC Ferries website.

### **11/05/23 Applications for Planning**

#### 11/05/23.1 Saxavord Spaceport Airspace Reservation Application (ACP-2017-079) Stakeholder Consultation

A leaflet explaining all about this application is going to every household in Unst this week.

### **12/05/23 Application for Donations**

#### 12/05/23.1 Ability Shetland

This application was discussed at length. Ability Shetland were looking for £4,732 from the Community Council. UCC have a limited amount of core funding, of which £1,500 is earmarked for donations. UCC has applied for a Community Development Grant of £3,000 but there has been no word about that yet. It was agreed to write to Ability Shetland and explain UCC do not have this amount of funding at present. The Clerk will advise them to apply to the Shetland Community Benefit Fund, The Sandison Trust and also SaxaVord Spaceport.

#### 12/05/23.2 Unst Festival Committee

It was agreed to give £1,400 towards this application if UCC are awarded the Community Development Funding. This will go towards advertising, leaflets and promotional materials. The week of UnstFest events benefits the economy and community of Unst.

#### 12/05/23.3 1<sup>st</sup> Unst Brownies

It was agreed to give £500 towards costs, including hall hire, trips and a sleepover at Gardiesfauld Hostel.

### **13/05/23 Community Ferries Hires**

#### 13/05/23.1 Unst Festival Committee

It was agreed to allocate a Community ferry hire to UnstFest, times to be confirmed then the Clerk will book it.

#### 13/05/23.2 Unst Show

It was agreed to allocate a Community ferry hire to Unst Show Committee.

#### 13/05/23.3 Sail Yell

After a discussion it was agreed to allocate a community ferry hire to Sail Yell for Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July. The Clerk will contact Sail Yell to get times, so the Community Ferry can be applied for.

### **14/05/23 Unadopted Roads**

#### 14/05/23.1 Aaron Foord, Wester House, South Quoys, Burrafirth

It was agreed to approve the road grant of up to £220 to Westerhouse, South Quoys. This will be paid on receipt of paid supplier invoices.

### **15/05/23 Correspondence**

#### 15/05/23.2 National Trust for Scotland (NTS) – Unst Development Manager

The National Trust for Scotland have appointed the Halligarth Development Manager, it is Stewart Douglas. He and Sheona Leonard, NTS, have asked for a meeting with the Community Council on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May when they are in Unst.

#### 15/05/23.3 Community Consultation – Reimagining Burials in Shetland

A document and PowerPoint were circulated to explain the options for discussion on Reimagining Burials in Shetland. SIC Burial Services are consulting with Community Councils, they outlined their suggestions on how to reimagine their service. These are:- provision will be within Community Council

areas, not wards; new burial grounds could have lower specifications, such as post and wire rabbit proof fencing, possibly with tree planted borders. Their focus will be on newer burial grounds where ownership and access are already established. For information the Burial Service state that “Local authorities no longer have to provide a burial ground within each community or parish and there is now a statutory duty to provide only one burial ground within the local authority area, with the caveat that other burial grounds may be provided.” SIC maintain 70 separate burial grounds and have one of the lowest burial cost charges for interments. This means that “Shetland Islands Council heavily subsidises all burials across Shetland. The situation is further complicated by the fact that Shetland Islands Council does not hold land titles for many original burial grounds but do have deeds for some recent extensions. This presents significant challenges in maintaining fit-for-purpose access roads and tracks. Regulations and guidance is being developed by the Scottish Government on access to and within burial grounds, including the construction, repair and improvement of roads and paths. This will place further burdens, and costs, upon the Council in meeting its statutory obligations. There has been lack of clarity on who is responsible for burial ground access road and track maintenance where the Council does not hold title, servitude or land registry. Significant resources will be required to progress this matter to ensure that unadopted roads and tracks leading to burial grounds are being maintained to an acceptable standard which meets current and proposed legislation.” The Capacity for Burial grounds (New Sections) in Unst are: - Baliasta 75 years; Norwick 84 years; Lund 142 Years and Easting closed to full (body) burials once existing right of burials have been fulfilled. Members decided to write about the maintenance of the access road to Lund and access for people with disabilities to the kirkyard extensions. David suggested the SIC could look at alternative methods of burials e.g. Green Burials or Body Composting. Members also suggested that the contract for grass cutting and general maintenance should go to a local business. This would reduce the costs of travelling from mainland Shetland. The Clerk will write to Burial Services.

#### 15/05/23.1 Surface Dressing 2023

List of proposed surface dressing below

<b>UNST - PROPOSED SURFACE DRESSING PROGRAMME 2023 APPENDIX B</b>		
<b>Location</b>	<b>Location detail/comments</b>	<b>Length</b>
A968 at Mailland Bend, Baltasound	Smooth, poor texture.	600
A968 at Hagdale (6MM)	Time Expired (more than 5 years since overlay)	725
A968 Setters Quarry to Brookpoint	Poor texture.	1,075
Old Post Office to Feall X-rds, Haroldswick	Dressed to seal patching.	570
Shore Road, Uyeasound (6MM)	Time Expired (more than 5 years since overlay)	900
Muness Road (Galley Shed to Easting Junction)	Worn, fretting, needing some patching.	930
Clibberswick	Worn edges, poor texture.	820
Shore Station Road Junction, Burrafirth (6MM)	Time Expired (more than 5 years since overlay)	70
Mailland, Baltasound	Worn and fretting.	220
School/Leisure Centre Road, Baltasound	Poor texture.	230
Voegarth/Greenside, Baltasound	Dressed to seal patching.	705
East Road, Uyeasound (6MM)	Time Expired (more than 5 years since overlay)	325
Westing Road (Newgord Jcn to Turning Head)	Patching needed.	365
Lund (Westing Jcn to turning head)	Worn, potholes forming.	1,185
Mailland, Uyeasound	Worn.	1,075
Hannigarth, Easting	Worn edges, starting to fret.	1,730
Annsbrae (Not Sotland), Burrafirth	Dressed to seal patching.	520
Gerratown, Haroldswick	Worn, potholes forming.	195

<b>PROPOSED RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME 2023</b>		
<b>Location</b>	<b>Location detail/comments</b>	<b>Length</b>
Newgord Junction to Brae at Broch, Westing	Heavily patched. Crazed and sunk throughout	700
Norwick Beach Road	Rutted, poor shape and ponding	720

#### 15/05/23.4 Energy Isles

Doug Wilson, Energy Isles, emailed to say that Statkraft have purchased the wind farm sites at Beaw Field, in Yell, and Mossy Hill, just outside Lerwick. Developed by Peel NRE, Beaw Field received planning permission in 2017 and Mossy Hill in 2019. These two projects will complement Statkraft's existing development projects in Shetland – the Energy Isles 18-turbine development on Yell, and Lerwick Greener Grid Park, a pioneering project to provide grid stability through importing, storing and exporting electricity. Statkraft's plan is to open an office in Lerwick later this year.

#### 15/05/23.5 National Trust for Scotland – Sheona Leonard meeting

It was agreed to a joint meeting between UP, UCC, Sheona Leonard and Stewart Douglas (NTS). After a discussion it was agreed to suggest meeting at the Baltasound Hall at 11am on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May. The Clerk will email Ms Leonard.

#### **16/05/23 Community Council Finances**

##### 16/05/23.1 Core Funding Application

Core funding this year is £8,423. This has been applied for.

##### 16/05/23.2 Community Development Funding

This application has been submitted for £3,000.

#### **17/05/23 A.O.C.B.**

There was no other business.

#### **18/05/23 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is set for Monday 19th June 2023

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

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