

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 11th September 2023 at 6.30 pm in the Baltasound School Music Huts and by MsTeams

Present

Claire Priest, Chair
Caroline Hunter, Vice Chair
Gary Betney
David Cooper
Patrick Fordyce
John Peterson
Janice Priest - MsTeams
Julie Thomson
Robert Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio)
Ryan Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio) - MsTeams

Attending:

Gordon Thomson, Unst Partnership Ltd
Frances Browne, Community Involvement and Development Officer
Josie McMillan, Clerk

01/09/23 Apologies

Hazel Spence
Duncan Anderson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio)
Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer
PC Dana Jamieson

02/09/23 Declaration of Interest

Janice and Julie declared an interest in 05/09/23 SaxaVord Space Port (SAXA)
Frances and Julie declared an interest in 15/09/23.2 Planning - UnstFest.
Janice, Julie and Ryan declared an interest in 15/09/23.3 Energy Isles Update
Robert is on the SIC Planning Committee, he needs to leave the room while 11/09/23 Application for Planning is discussed.

03/09/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 31st July 2023 were proposed by David and seconded by Caroline.

04/09/23 Matters Arising from last minutes

16/06/23.1 Unst D Day 80 – 6th June 2024

The Haroldswick Hall has been booked for this. More details will about the event will follow nearer the time.

14/09/23.1 Unadopted Roads

Frances will follow up this enquiry with the Church and see if there are any other funding streams that could be applied to.

05/09/23 SaxaVord Space Port (SAXA)

Elizabeth Johnson, Project Manager, explained that the Space Port work is ahead of schedule. Hangar A is coming on really well, the cladding is almost complete and the aim is to make it wind and watertight by the end of October. Elizabeth explained that the Space Port licence is almost there. This will be a historic moment for the Space Port, Shetland and the UK. Paul Bate, the Chief Executive of the UK Space Agency has been up visiting the site. Lord David Willetts, Chair of the UK Space Agency's Board, has also been up. Both were very impressed and positive about the Space Port project and how it is all coming together. In addition, the Chairman of Rocket Factory Ausburg's Advisory Board (former CEO of the European Space Agency), the CAA and various launch companies have visited SAXA during the last couple of weeks. Elizabeth was asked if there was any progress on the North Dale Road. She said that they were nearly ready to start work on this section. Elizabeth said that the UK Government is looking to support the Spaceport development via various funding initiatives. The secretary of State for Scotland, Alister Jack, has been lobbying for the Space Port and the proposed tunnels within Westminster as he sees the two projects as being linked. Elizabeth was asked several questions about some of the rumours which are circulating concerning their financial position. She explained that she couldn't comment on any of these issues as it does not fall within her remit. Elizabeth was asked if there had been any progress with the planning application for the new hotel. She said that everything is still moving ahead. There is an Airport Strategy document which is being worked on. Claire asked if there were any further questions, there weren't. Claire thanked Elizabeth for attending the meeting. Elizabeth left.

06/09/23 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.

Gordon said that the next Skip Day is on Saturday 30th September 2023. He said that the UP shop has now been trading for 5 years. UP is planning to have another Participatory Budget event soon. Gordon said that the plan would be to award up to six groups a share of £3,000. The UP AGM is on the 23rd September at 4.15pm in the Baltasound Hall Library. Gordon said that UP have put up posters about Abandoned Cars and how to get them collected. Anyone can get in touch with UP about this. Gordon explained that UP is acting as banker for the Unst and Yell Tunnel Action Groups. Monies are deposited in a separate charity account.

07/09/23 Community Involvement Update

Frances has been working with the Unst Boating Club on its funding application. She had attended to Unst Youth Club AGM, which she said was well attended. She was at the Unst Tunnel Action Group (UTAG) AGM and said this had gone well. Frances said that Andrew Inkster, SIC Ferries, had been back in touch about the Emergency Timetable. There was a discussion about the meeting about Ferries which was held 27th June 2022. Members felt that none of the issues which were flagged up have been sorted. A discussion about ferry issues followed. There have been problems with unbooked cars being taken on before booked cars. This had happened to Community Councillors as well. Another issue was when the online booking system said that the ferry was fully booked but when getting to the ferry there were only 5 cars in the booked lane. Ryan said there was a system of invoicing repeat offenders, who block book the ferry then do not turn up. He didn't know if this was still being implemented. There was a discussion about whether there were enough ferry runs for Unst and how many vehicles/people were travelling into Unst and Fetlar. Frances said there had been a study done in 2016 for the SIC and this had shown there were the right number of ferries for Fetlar. Ryan said that all this information is on the SIC website. He will email Andrew Inkster, SIC Ferries, and ask for updated statistics as well.

08/09/23 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)

David said that there is a meeting on Wednesday, when the committee will get the interim report on the consultation. He said that the Unst Community do well out of the funds, as many Community Councils are saving their allocated funds for bigger projects. David said that there will be more funds available which will help with bigger projects, e.g., undertaking/commissioning surveys. He said that we need to wait for the new details from SCBF.

08/09/23.1 Viking Energy Fund AGS – Funding and Projects supported

A report from Eleanor Gear, SCBF, explained that since the AGS began in February 2021 Unst Community Council have supported 21 projects and awarded a total of £28,151.73 in funding. The final year of the

Viking Community Fund AGS begins on the 1st of September 2023 where Unst will be allocated £10,000. Unst Community Council have £1,848.27 of unspent funds from previous years which will be added to the 2023/24 allocation giving a new balance of £11,848.27. Some of the projects supported were:- Wild Skies Shetland; Unst Junior Netball Association; Unst Football Association; Shetland Cattle Herd Book Society; Ability Shetland; Shetland Care Attendants Scheme and Shetland Junior Netball Development Group.

09/09/23 Ferries/ Fixed Links

09/09/23.1 Tunnel Vision meeting with Beatrice Wishart, MSP and Alistair Carmichael, MP

Patrick was at this meeting, he said that it was well attended and that Michael Craigie, ZetTrans and Robert was there from the SIC. Alistair Carmichael, MP, had said that there had been an awful lot of progress since the last meeting a year ago. Robert said that these meetings were also semi political. The SIC have allocated £700,000 for a complete Transport Review. The project manager has been employed. He said that both the Unst and Yell Tunnel Action Groups are raising funds. Representatives of the groups are meeting with Alister Jack, Secretary of State for Scotland. He said that having the Space Port opens doors as well. Committee members from the tunnel groups are going to Faroes on a self-funded visit to gather information and speak to communities. Robert was asked if the Transport Review would be reviewing bus services, he explained that this would be looked at next year when the Bus Contracts are awarded.

09/09/23.2 SIC Ferries – Festive Timetable

The festive timetable has been circulated to all members. All comments/suggestions have to be submitted to the SIC by 25th September 2023.

10/09/23 Community Council Review Scheme

Robert said that the SIC are working on the review scheme and that a draft will be available soon. Robert left the meeting to catch the ferry.

11/09/23 Applications for Planning

11/09.23.1 Sandisons (Unst) Ltd

Planning Ref:	2023/194/MIN
Proposal:	Extension of existing talc quarry
Address:	Cross Geo, Haroldswick, Unst, Shetland ZE2 9EF
Applicant:	Sandisons (Unst) Ltd
Date of Consultation:	10 August 2023

There were no objections to this application. Members were happy that the quarry is being extended.

11/09/23.2 UnstFest

Planning Ref:	2023/197/PPF
Proposal:	Proposed Demolition of existing storage building and replace with new storage building
Address:	Unstfest Storage Facility, Off A968 (Baltasound), Unst, Shetland
Applicant:	c/o (Chairperson) Pat Burns
Date of Consultation:	1 September 2023

There were no objections to this application. Members were glad the old building is being replaced.

12/09/23 Application for Donations

12/09/23.1 SCBF – Shetland Ladies Netball Association - £400

This application is for funding towards the costs of traveling and competing in the inaugural Netball Island Games, on the Isle of Man. There are two netball players from Unst in the group. It was agreed to give the donation of £400.

13/09/23 Community Ferry Hires

13/09/23.1 Shetland Accordion and Fiddle Festival – Cullivoe – 6th October 2023

Unst Music and Dance Club have booked a community ferry for the early hours of Saturday 7th October at 00.30am. All ferry bookings for this event have to be made through the booking office as normal.

14/09/23 Unadopted Roads

There were no applications for donations.

15/09/23 Correspondence

15/09/23.1 Dental Services – Mid Yell

A letter was received from Antony Visocchi, Director of Dentistry, NHS Shetland explaining the situation of Dental Services in the North Isles. He gives reassurance that NHS Shetland is fully committed to maintaining and developing the dental service on Yell. Mr Visocchi states that the service has been reduced over the past 12-24 months due to unforeseen and difficult circumstances. He explains that NHS Shetland is currently working at almost 50% less capacity than pre-Covid figures. Mr Visocchi says that a 3-Phase Strategy has been proposed to the Scottish Government in order to change delivery and funding of dental services on Shetland. He explains the first phase is to get NHS Shetland Public Dental Service back to pre-Covid levels. He doesn't explain what Phases 2 and 3 are. After a discussion it was agreed to write to Mr Visocchi and ask what Phases 2 and 3 are. And to ask how far we are away from being able to get a routine dental appointment in the North Isles. And if they are running at 50% less capacity how much money are they saving. Another question was to ask if the dentist travel time to Yell is included in his work hours.

15/09/23.2 Housing Questions for SIC Housing and Hjalmland Housing Association Meeting

There was a lot of discussion about this. It was agreed that the Community Council needs to find out a lot more information before organising the meeting with Anita Jamieson, Executive Manager SIC Housing, and Bryan Leask, Chief Executive, Hjalmland Housing Association. Frances has been liaising with Anita Jamieson and has come up with several questions the Community Council need answers to before the meeting. These questions are :- what information do we need from both associations; what are people saying to Community Councillors; who is struggling to find housing – is it people wanting to move back, or buy their first home, or looking to rent social housing. There was a discussion about whether all social housing was rented at the same monthly cost. Older Council house take a lot more to heat than the newer ones. There was a suggestion that the SIC could use some of their Reserve Fund to help people with money for mortgages. Ryan explained that the SIC is not "sitting on" its reserves. At the moment it is taking £50,000 each day from this fund to plug the funding gap from the Scottish Government. Robert has done a lot of work with housing in a previous job and has attended lots of housing conferences. He said the Scottish Government's "Housing Needs and Demand Assessment" is not suitable for rural areas. Robert said that many people applying for social housing do not tick the option for a house in Unst, they usually select areas they think they will get a house in. Frances has done a lot of work on the "Shetland's Islands with Small Populations – Locality Plan" project and has a presentation she did for that which contains a lot of relevant information. It was agreed to put that on the agenda for the next meeting. Gordon said that UP had done surveys in the past but these target people on Unst. It was agreed to put a post on Facebook asking for comments on the housing situation. Members decided that it would be best to postpone the meeting with Anita Jamieson and Bryan Leask until next year to give the Community Council time to gather all the information and to have this as a separate meeting.

15/09/23.3 Energy Isles Ltd update

Doug Wilson, Energy Isles Ltd, emailed about an Energy Isles advert that will be published in the next few days. They are republishing the legal notices for the project, as due to a clerical error, they were published in the name of Energy Isles Shetland Limited not Energy Isles Limited. This is required to ensure that everything complies with legal regulations.

15/09/23.4 Police Report

The Police report for Unst for June/July shows that there have been 9 incidents recorded which can be summarised as follows: Road Safety and Road Crime - Careless Driving (2) - Driving with No Insurance - Driving with No Licence - Other Road Traffic Offence, Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder - Assault - Neighbour Dispute Acquisitive Crime - Fraud Other - Sudden Death

15/09/23.5 Shetland Citizens Advice Bureau AGM – 20th September 2023

The Annual General Meeting of Shetland CAB is to be held on Wednesday 20th September. This was noted.

15/09/23.6 Important Update on Crofting Application process

Information was received from the Association of Shetland Community Council for circulation. This was to say that from the 1st September crofting applicants and their agents would get one opportunity to provide any missing information requested or to resolve mapping issues. If the case is closed applicants must resubmit the application.

15/9/23.7 SIC Emergency Plan

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

16/09/23 Community Council Finances

There has been no expenditure since the last meeting.

17/09/23 A.O.C.B.

17/09/23.1 SAT Skidbladner, Haroldswick

UP had an update from the Shetland Amenity Trust about the Skidbladner from Chris Gadsby, SAT Maintenance and Facilities Manager. The Trust has just received an inspection report from a marine surveyor and have carried out their own survey with the assistance Dr Marc Chivers. Mr Gadsby says that these investigations and the wealth of local information has allowed him to pull together a 2 phase approach to stabilise the vessel and prepare for its future. The first phase will be about ensuring the boat is safe for folk to visit and for them to continue to enjoy going aboard. He will be working on the Skidbladner for 4 days in September.

Immediate works to be completed during this time is:-

- Capping sections removed and replaced with treated soft wood (rotted sections only)
- Current Oak Decking patch repaired and resecured as required (reusing current decking)
- Deck beams (that can be accessed or deemed to require opening up) to be patch repaired with treated soft wood
- 4x Knees labelled, removed and kept secure for patterns (SAT workshop)
- Strings/lower rail removed and made good (not being replaced)
- Mast stocks screwed in place to prevent removal
- s/s Tie downs replaced
- Props repaired/replaced as required (treated soft wood)
- Oars removed with a view to reinstate some/all in the spring (reinstated in a way that allows them to be safely played with but not injure a passer-by)
- Drain holes drilled to lower hull to allow water to drain (holes covered with grill to prevent bird/animal access)
- All loose timbers removed from site, anything that looks like it might be required as a pattern will be kept in SAT store for assessment
- All fixings will be stainless or tropicalized screws or galvanised nails.
- Sign erected to inform folk about potential risk

The 2nd phase will start in Spring 2024. Mr Gadsby states that he hopes SAT and the Community can use the winter months to arrive at a satisfactory agreement and that they can work together on the details of physical activities required for the site and how this will be sustainably managed for the future.

17/09/23.2 NHS Shetland

Claire explained that the Health Board and Ambulance service are looking at making changes to the emergency call out service. Under these proposals in “life or death” situations people will call 999 first, they can then talk them through CPR. Other emergencies would follow existing procedures of phoning the Gilbert Bain Reception who will then contact the doctor on call. The proposed changes are not “live” yet.

18/09/23 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is set for Monday 23rd October 2023. A list of proposed dates for 2024 will be circulated for comments before the next meeting.

Chair: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____