

Unst Community Council

Chair

Claire Priest
Engistou
Baltasound
Unst
Shetland

Clerk

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Rockfield
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**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th December 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
John Peterson
Janice Priest (MsTeams)
Julie Thomson (MsTeams)
Ryan Thomson, SIC Councillor (ex-officio) (MsTeams)

Attending:

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

01/12/23 Apologies

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

02/12/23 Declaration of Interest

Janice declared an interest in 05/12/23 SaxaVord Space Port (SAXA).

03/12/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 30th October 2023 were proposed by David and seconded by Claire.

04/12/23 Matters Arising from last minutes**15/10/23.6 SIC Street Lighting Gutter Street**

This was discussed at the last meeting. Robert was to follow up with Ryan before tonight's meeting. Ryan asked the Clerk to forward the emails from 2020 about replacing the Gutter Street and East Road Street lights. He will then discuss this with Robert and get back to the Community Council. He said that it was agreed to replace these lights so that should have been done along with the others which have just been completed.

05/12/23 SaxaVord Space Port (SAXA)

Elizabeth Johnson, External Affairs Manager, emailed in the following report. She said that “the cooling off period for the Spaceport licence is complete. They expect to have an update this week but have been informed that there have been no major issues. The final licence is being prepared for signature. SaxaVord was represented at the recent Global Investment Summit where Frank Strang met the UK Cabinet and King Charles. There is great awareness of the Spaceport, the progress that has been made and also the huge benefit that fixed links would bring. A third space day was held at the beginning of November at UHI Scalloway, ‘the journey of a Satellite’. A number of speakers attended both face-to-face and virtually, including Rocket Factory Ausburg (RFA) and Skyrora. It was an excellent example of the Shetland educators working together to encourage everyone to understand more about opportunities within the industry. A meeting of the Contingency Planning Group was held recently with all members of the blue light organisations attending. Another Emergency Planning Desktop Exercise is planned for February/March. Rocket Factory Ausburg (RFA) teams are working up on site during December and will have on site teams up here working regularly during the coming year to prepare for a launch.” There was a discussion about what exactly would be on a satellite. It was agreed to email Elizabeth and ask for more details about exactly what would happen in the build up to the launch and the actual launch itself. And also, when exactly the Spaceport licence will be signed.

06/12/23 Unst Partnership (UP) Update.

Gordon explained that as there were only six applications for the UP2U funding event, so directors agreed just to share the money amongst the six groups. Payments of £500 went to Haroldswick Hall for a floor cleaner, Unst Brownies for running costs, Unst Boating Club for dinghy repairs, Unst Youth Centre & Uyeasound Hall for dehumidifiers and £293 to Baltasound Pupil Council for out-of-school swimming lessons. The next Skip Day is on Saturday 27th January 2023, 11-1pm. £25 for a one-off drop of goods. There will be an Auld New Year Do in Baltasound hall for the over 60's on Saturday 13th January, the last event under the “Ootnaboot Club” grant. It will take the form of a social evening and supper, with music from Peter Woods. Gordon Said that there has been no further word from Stewart Douglas, Unst Development Manager, NTS, about the National Trust for Scotland's properties and also Halligarth. There was a discussion about social housing. The Housing survey forms are now out in local shops. UP would encourage as many people as possible to fill them in, particularly anyone who may be thinking to move house in the next five years. The last SIC houses to be built on Unst were at Nikkavord Lea in the 1980s.

07/12/23 Community Involvement Update

07/12/23.1 Early Adopter Community Update

Mairi Keith, Graduate Project Officer – ELC, SIC emailed to ask about coming to the next Community Council meeting to speak about the project to be piloted in the North Isles and West Mainland. These two areas are becoming early adopter communities for “Best Start, Bright Futures: tackling child poverty funding.” The SIC propose developing community-based school aged childcare in these areas. It is anticipated that the funding will begin from January 2024 and that learning from this project will inform the government's plans for future out-of-school care provision in Scotland, particularly in other remote and rural areas. It was agreed to email Mairi and ask whether they need to come to the meeting in January or could it be put back until the February meeting. They have since decided to attend the February meeting.

07/12/23.2 Locality Profile Planning

Frances explained the background to the Shetland Partnership and how they gather information from various agencies in Shetland and create a ten year plan for the whole of Shetland. Frances handed out the information sheets for Shetland and for Yell/Unst/Fetlar. There was a discussion about the information on the Yell/Unst/Fetlar sheet. There were several suggested alterations which Frances will feed back to the Shetland Partnership. These were:

- Buses do not run to isles on Sunday, there are no buses to Yell, Unst or Fetlar on a Sunday.
- Can the schools section show that there are primary schools in the junior high schools.

- Can the Unst Health centre be added
- Can more be made of community activities/spirit section
- Can Gardiesfauld Youth Hostel be added to the community managed buildings section
- Whilst understand there isn't statistics around Data, would be really useful to include this in future if possible.
- For the sites of Special Scientific on the Yell/Unst/Fetlar sheet could it say, "29 sites of special scientific interest of the 78 in Shetland."

Frances was asked if it would be possible to have an Unst only locality profile. She explained that wouldn't be possible this time, and that some of the data isn't broken down into small enough areas, but she would pass it on. The information from these Locality Profiles can be used when applying for funding. Frances said it was also used when campaigning the Scottish Government about fuel poverty. There was a discussion about the cost of living, which shows that Yell/Unst/Fetlar is up to 13% higher than the Shetland average and up to 62% higher than the UK average. Heating and fuel costs are both a lot higher than the mainland. It was agreed that it would also be good to compare connectivity as well. Frances will feedback all this information to the Shetland Partnership. More information can be found about the Shetland Partnership on their webpage www.shetlandpartnership.org

08/12/23 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)

David said that there was nothing to report. He said that although there were significant changes to the grant scheme next year, groups can continue to make applications. Everything will be honoured under the current agreement.

09/12/23 Ferries/ Fixed Links

09/12/23.1 Ferry Issues

There has been no reply from Andrew Inkster, SIC Ferries, to the email outlining all the issues which were raised as a result of the Facebook post asking for comments. The issues which were raised at the ferries meeting held in Unst 27th June 2022 still haven't been sorted yet. Ryan was asked if he knew that the books of prepaid ferry tickets had expiry dates on them and what would happen once that date was past to unused tickets. Ryan said that he didn't know but he would follow it up and get back to Community Council.

09/12/23.2 Emergency Timetable

Frances is trying to organise the meeting with Andrew Inkster, SIC Ferries, to discuss this.

10/12/23 Community Council Review Scheme

Frances was at the Drop in Session in the Mid Yell Junior High School on the 20th November 2023. The consultation starts in January. Claire completed the Community Council survey form.

11/12/23 Applications for Planning

Planning Ref:	2023/279/PPF
Proposal:	Erect dwellinghouse with attached garage and air source heat pump
Development Type:	3b. Housing - Local
Address:	Muness, Unst, Shetland
Applicant:	Mr & Mrs Lee and Elizabeth Jamieson
Date of Consultation:	24 November 2023

There were no objections. Unst Community Council are keen to encourage and support young families who want to stay in Unst.

12/12/23 Application for Donations

There were no applications for donations.

13/12/23 Correspondence

13/12/23.1 Housing Questions for SIC Housing and Hjaltland Housing Association Meeting

There were several questions raised about social housing on Unst, which would need to be answered before the Housing meeting. These are:- how many houses do the SIC and Hjaltland have on Unst, what level of insulation is in the houses and have they had energy efficiency tests done. What type of heating is used in social houses as the cost of heating houses is very high. These questions will be sent to SIC Housing and Hjaltland Housing Association and copied to Beatrice Wishart, MSP, Alistair Carmichael, MP and the Whalsay, Yell and Fetlar Community Councils.

13/12/23.2 Association of Community Councils Meeting – 7th December 2023

Caroline is going to attend this meeting on Thursday night.

13/12/23.3 RNIB Event - Shetland

This is a new community service for Shetland funded by the Scottish Government, to support people who are deaf or have hearing loss, or tinnitus. The group is offering support and basic maintenance on NHS hearing aids. There are events planned in Lerwick and Bressay in early December.

14/12/23 Community Council Finances

There has been no expenditure since the last meeting.

15/12/23 A.O.C.B.

15/12/23.1 Gritting

There was a query as to whether there was enough grit being spread on the roads. The gritting crew said that spreading grit on hard ice takes a lot longer to start working. The more traffic that goes over the grit the more effective it is.

16/12/23 Date of next meeting

The meeting dates for 2024 were agreed. The Clerk will send these to Michael Duncan, SIC.

The next meeting is set for Monday 15th January 2024.

Chair: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____