# Unst Partnership Ltd

### **MINUTES OF A MONTHLY MEETING HELD IN UNIT 1, HAGDALE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE**

### **ON Thursday 31st March 2016 at 6:30pm.**

**PRESENT**

Susan Edwards-Horton

Jane Macaulay

Sarah McBurnie

Steve Swan

Gordon Thomson

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Bridgette Thomason

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were noted from Fiona Stirling, George Rodger, Hazel Spence, Les Sinclair and Paul Thomson. Selina-May Miller at meeting in Lerwick, Kellie Naulls on leave.

**2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (24th Feb 2016)**

Food Waste and Composting- With no LDO in position any more, there had been no further progress.

Broadband – No further progress. Gordon spoke about a recent public meeting in Lerwick with HIE, BT, EE and Tavish Scott. Plans are afoot to provide 4G to the Isles through EE and BT who have now joined forces, but no time had been given. Broadband was no nearer, but a £350 voucher was available to pay for satellite if the household signal was less than 2Mbps. This applied to most properties in Uyeasound/Westing and many at the North end. Some Providers will come to Unst asnd set up a satellite – for about £350. The Individual applies for the voucher and then yses a code to pay the installer. They then have to pay a monthly rate (Bronze, Silver, Gold) depending on the download amount per month. This is still quite costly, depending on which service you went for.

Halligarth – no new development. The House project was not going ahead but NTS and SAT would probably do some basic development to create a parking area, paths and possibly a Hut/toilet for visiting groups.

Damaged Inverter – Two Quotes had been sent to Access Insurance but we had still not received any word on a payment. **(Gordon to contact them again.)**

PolyTunnels – The Container has been righted and tidied up. One of the tenants is interested in putting a second tunnel between the Container and their present one, thus making it unnecessary to repair the fence in that area. The gate is still damaged and other fencing needs repair.

**3. TDO REPORT AND UPDATES**

Unst TDO Post – Selina-May Miller was now in post instead of Toby, who is now working with Community Broadband Scotland. Megan Burns’ contract has also come to an end and Directors thanked her for her work for the Partnership over the last two years.

(Selina is working 28 hours per week Mon-Wed and Thursdays from home in Lerwick. There may be scope for more hours if the budget allows.)

Directors discussed other funding routes as the Coastal Communities Funding ends in December 2016. This would mean no further funding for the Office or UP, beyond income from the Turbine, Trailer and Polytunnels.

Tourism Survey – there has still not been much response to this although it would be useful to judge how many more visitors are coming to Unst and how long they are staying. It could also help to judge how effective the Tourism Development Officers were in bringing more visitors in. There were various “out of season” weekends being planned. “An Island parish” was also providing a lot of good publicity (despite Gordon’s dancing).

Bridgette explained that Fetlar had some success with a visitor survey form at places on the island.

Steve pointed out that “more visitors” could also be down to more Marketing by the providers themselves, e.g the Hotel was advertising in various European countries to expand their customer base.

Sarah explained that the Shetland Heritage Trail day on Sun 24th April had been cancelled due to low numbers.

Tourism Meeting Kellie and Selina had hosted a Tourism Providers’ meeting in Yell last week to which there was a good turnout. Andy Steven of Promote Shetland was there. One thing he was looking for was a vantage point to place a webcam in Unst, near enough to a decent broadband connection. This would probably have to be in the Baltasound area.

LDO Support With no further funding for an LDO, Gordon said that he would try to come in a few times a week to check email, phone calls etc, but was presently teaching 4 days per week until May. Kellie and Selina were usually in the office through the week to handle calls and visitors.

Directors discussed possible short term cover for the LDO post as there was still some funding for a few hours per week April – June in the budget. A suitable candidate could look into the costs of the Recycling Project – premises spec, foundations, water, electricity costs for example. And more funding could be available after the Scottish elections, e.g. Climate Challenge Funding.

**4. COMMUNITY SKIP SERVICE**

Unst Community Skip Service The last skip of the present scheme is on Saturday 16th April 2016. We would still need nine more “Pay per use” payments to break even. Sarah, Steve, Susan and Gordon thought they could attend. Sarah was going to review the poster to stress how important it was to get more users on board. We planned to deliver a notice to every house in Unst – even some people with Holiday homes here could be interested.

Gordon had put in a bid to the SIC Community Development fund of £1485 for 2016-17. We should receive confirmation of this shortly – but we were told that there would be no funding beyond 2017 from this fund as it was meant to make us “sustainable” in the long term. Victor Jamieson Ltd thought they could provide skips on much the same basis as last year i.e. two skips for six Saturdays through the year, with the Shetland Amenity Trust providing their smaller skip for metal and white goods. The total cost of the skips project last year was £4950. We received £1722 from CDF, £500 from the Community Council, £2250 in User Subs =£4749, leaving us some £200 short which has to come out of the UP management fee of £450. It is a popular service but is barely covering costs. We need to encourage more take-up next year or provide fewer skips.

**5. UNST ON/OFF GRID REPORT**

Hydrogen report – Directors discussed the Report from PURE. Food All the Options proposed in the Report for Hydrogen cars/vans, buses, ferries, green fertiliser and Community Hall heating/cooking by Hydrogen were deemed feasible and worth further investigation – but all at a cost. The Report is also to be discussed by Unst Community Council. The latest funding window has just closed so we will have to wait until the next Funding Window for Phase 2 projects to open again.

Questions were asked about the expense of Hydrogen cars against the presently low price of diesel or electric vehicles. There were significant environmental benefits -although all the schemes seemed expensive to implement. If Community Halls had Solar panels and/or Wind Turbines, why not take them directly into the Hall heating or lighting system and do without the expensive Hydrogen cell? What would Unst Partnership’s role be in future development? If it was a Halls Project, would UP benefit in any way financially, aside from the Community Benefit?

**It was agreed to invite PURE to our next Ordinary Meeting to discuss this report.**

At present, UP lack the capacity to take a large project like this forward but they will try to do so if and when possible.

**6. AGM**

The AGM date was set for Thursday 21st April. **Bridgette** to book Baltasound Hall. AGM notices to be emailed to Members and Notices put up in shops, etc. Gordon stated that he wished to step down as Chairman.

**7. AOCB**

Unst Tourist Map for 2016. Some advertisers still due payments. Decided only to allow this year’s adverts to go in if both last year and this are paid in advance. Sarah suggested a £10 fee for B & B providers, giving them a place on the Map and a one line mention in a section on the back. **Sarah to discuss with Selina.**

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**AGM on Thursday 21st April.** Next Ordinary Meeting to be decided by new Board.