**Unst Partnership Board Meeting minutes**

**5.30pm, 22nd August 2022, Baltasound hall**

**Present:** Gordon Thomson, Sarah McBurnie, George Rodger, Don Craig, Colin Edwards-Horton, Susan Edwards-Horton, Joan Bailey, Frances Browne.

**Apologies:** June, Kathleen, Di.

At the start of the meeting, Directors expressed their best wishes to June on her recent marriage.

**Matters Arising:**

*Key cutting* – still to be advertised. Photos required before going online. (**Gordon, Di**).

*Skip Scheme* – went ahead on 20th August with 50 members signed up. Next Skip day will be held on

**Saturday 1st October.**

*UP Hub, Hagdale* – no further word on alternative premises.

1. **AGE Scotland “Good Connections” fund**

No word yet on our bid to fund a Winter activities programme for senior citizens. Age Scotland should reply in September. We may be able to go ahead with the scheme anyway, if funds permit, or it could be a slightly scaled down programme.

1. **Shop**

The Shop has been busy during the tourist season with a lot of folk through the door, with over 100 on Thursday and about 80 on Saturday. Thursday takings were £346, well up on normal, due to some house clearances.

*NB Gordon forgot to say that we have now taken delivery of an electronic till so should be able to handle card transactions in future. Card machine cost £155 with a payment of 1.96% on each transaction. We will review in a year’s time to see if it is worth keeping.*

1. **NTS visit**

Clea Warner, Sheona Leonard and two other NTS members were here on 2nd August. They were keen to restore the Halligarth house to a reasonable state and were not keen on just boarding up or demolition. (The house is a listed building, so getting permission for demolition would be difficult.) To take this forward would need a Development Officer based in Shetland but they had not received any good contract bids from their recent advert. They said they would send a more detailed spec for the DO post to us but this has still not arrived, despite requests since the meeting.

Sheona Leonard is now working part time but will be charged with overseeing Shetland, so that may improve activity.

Over 30 expressions of interest in the other properties (Roselea, Houlland, Laggans cottage) had been received but it did not appear that anything more had happened with this. One issue with Houlland is that there are still items bequeathed by Joy Sandison in the house and they will have to be stored elsewhere. Most interest seemed to be in Roselea, so we will need to try to press NTS to make a decision on this before it deteriorates any further.

1. **Fixed Links**

At the recent “Tunnel Vision” meeting in Unst, Gordon offered to mention it to UP and the UCC to see if they wished to form a steering group on the topic. Directors agreed to this although they stressed the need for more young people to be involved in this as a fixed link could be a long way off. Frances said that SIC were quite positive now about Fixed links and were trying to get it adopted by the Scottish Government Transport group.

*(At their meeting later that night, Unst CC also agreed for an advert to go up for a local steering group. In Yell and Fetlar, this is being done by the community councils themselves.)*

1. **Tree planting**

We had a request from Fred Schlomka to assist with a tree planting project. He is keen to see a community woodland area or areas on the island, similar to the recent one in Bressay. We agreed in principle to assist if Fred could point us to suitable funding groups eg the Woodland Trust. We would also need land to be made available that was free from grazing animals plus funding for stakes, tree collars and matting.

*Bressay Community Woodland. Volunteers planted 1000 trees during two weekends in early March. The planting days were so successful that we had no trees left for the final Sunday! A mixture of Birch, Willow, Rowan, Common Alder are included and have all been staked with tubes to offer some shelter from the wind. We wish to say thank you to everyone who helped get our woodland planted. The next part of the project will be the re-building of a stone crub near the loch. Work will start in June.(Extract from Bressay Community newsletter, May 22.) https://www.bressay.org/news/news*

1. **Unst Show day**

We are taking a table at the Unst Show on Saturday 27th to display information on the shop, skip scheme including tonnage collected, tourist map, etc.

**11am-12noon** Sue & Colin; **12-1pm** Gordon, **1-2pm** Joan, **2-3pm** George, **3-4pm** Gordon. (Frances may be able to assist at times but is at bairns tent).

**AOCB** Frances highlighted a Development Groups meeting in Bigton on 10th September. This is open to members of any development group in Shetland and travel expenses can be paid. Various workshops are being offered. Frances can provide more details for any Directors interested.

**Date of Next Meeting – Monday 12th September, 5.30pm at Baltasound Hall**

***(Delayed until 25th Oct – GT)***

**Next Skip Day – Saturday 1st October**

**Agenda for 25th October:** 1. Welcome & apologies. 2. Matters arising from Minute of 22nd August 3. Shop 4. Skip 5. AGE Scotland

6. Warm Winter hub. 7. AOCB