**Unst Partnership Ltd.**

**Draft Minutes of Directors Meeting held at Unit 1, Hagdale Industrial Estate, Baltasound**

 **6.30pm on Wednesday 8th January 2020.**

**Present:** G. Thomson (Chair), Sarah (Vice Chair), George Rodger, Joan Bailey, Colin Edwards-Horton, Di Hervey, Frances Browne (Comm Dev.), Kathleen Johnson (Dev Officer).

**Apologies:** June Harrison, Julie Thomson, S. Edwards-Horton.

**Copies to:** Unst CC; Ryan Thomson, Alec Priest, Duncan Simpson (North Isles SIC Councillors).

1. **Minutes of last meeting (4th Dec) – matters arising**.

*Next Skip Day* is Saturday 1st February*.*

*Ceiling mark –* Still to be looked at.

*Parking yard lights –* Ninian is going to look at them. *(He came next day to say they need new heads as they are rusted and letting in water. One has a temporary fixing. Going to send us an estimate, to be shared with other occupiers.)*

*Transition Turriefield* have offered to come to Unst and hold an open day on Polytunnels/Growing Your Own. The proposed date is **Saturday 14th March.** Venue – probably the School; any charge to be decided.

*Shop Report* – all going well, some sofas to be removed to purchasers.

*Finances* – Bank balance at £16,769 (7th January). We normally renew Insurance in January but Gordon is arranging a direct debit to make monthly payments. Approx £1400 per annum. **Gordon** to check on contents cover for fridge, washing machine, dishwasher.

*Halligarth* – Maintenance contract signed and sent back to NTS. They have a Thistle Camp Group coming here on 6th-15th April and 31st August-9th September to work on Halligarth and any other local projects. The Easting Kirkyard was suggested.

**Clea Warner, NTS Manager,** is coming here on **4th February** to meet with interested local people.

*“Big Hanna”* - the Composter purchased by COPE and stored in Weisdale is still there and still available. Ingrid Webb (COPE) is the contact if we are interested.

*Welcome Guide 2020* – has been edited for this year and put on our website. Only a few changes.

*Minute approved* by Sarah, sec. George.

1. **Main Item Recycling Centre Project**

The rest of the meeting was devoted to the Recycling Centre Project

Frances began by asking us what excited us by such a project.

*Kathleen* thought it would be something new for Unst. We are limited by small premises at present. Unst people have skills to offer e.g. bike maintenance, recycling and repairing. Premises would be not just for men but for various community groups/people. So clothes alterations and a Laundry facility with large washing machines/tumble driers. It could be a meeting place, have a small café, advice centre, have a Food Bank, key-cutting machine. There could be raised beds or Polycrubs outside. Transport e.g. a van would be needed.

*Colin* – keen on a Food Bank, wondered about existing premises e.g. Brewery if it was available. We would need access to a road, parking area, water, power. An insulated shed would reduce running costs.

*Frances* to check with Roads (Neil Hutcheson) about access s for the Blockyard area. It may be that we could vacate the present UP Shop if new premises were found, keeping everything under one roof.

*George* – keen on Up-cycling with a social side to it, repairing and improving existing goods. Waste could generate income e.g. Big Hanna Composter but it could not contain animal or food waste. Environmental Health could be quite strict on this. Worm Farm also suggested.

*Joan* – agreed with Kathleen, a Laundrette for B&B and Self-catering houses would be good. Visitors would also see what went on locally. Cleaning businesses in other areas had done really well. Anyone could wash curtains, duvets, sheets, etc. that were often too big for washing machine. We know local people who have skills that could be used in a centre.

*Frances*- Men’s Shed in Yell generates income through construction projects eg picnic tables. There could be income from repairing bikes, lawnmowers. It may even require fund-raising events to keep going. Social Centre – could be place for cards, whist or bridge?

Sites: a site that was accessible, in the middle of the island, near main road with room for expansion would be best. Show Park area south of Hagdale could be suitable. A dirty and clean area might be best, possibly two separate sheds. Disabled access would be required.

*Sarah* – we already have a track record with Skip Scheme and Shop so we could build on that. We need to create a Hub with a variety of different areas, possibly business unit areas. Renewable Energy could reduce costs: solar panels on roof, good insulation, ground source heat pump. College classes a possibility. We need things that are valuable to the island eg Laundrette.

*Gordon*- Uyeasound Galley Shed was quite a good example- workshop area but with toilets, kitchen, meeting room, freezers, loft storage, shed outside, parking. COPE building also a good example, with some fenced off area for wood pile/scrap goods. The building would need to be flexible to take account of new technology or new business ideas. Eg if Broadband was better, businesses could be based around that.

**Next Steps**

**Kathleen** to ask about the show shed, approximate costs and companies that supplied the shed/or quoted. Kathleen to pass the companies names on to Directors.

**Kathleen** to find out who owns the land beside the fire station and the land by the Garage.

**Sarah** to find out more about Big Hanna- how she works, how much needs to be inputted, where it needs to be kept, what regulations there are (some of this is just a refresh?)

**Di** to phone companies for quotes for sheds

**Frances** check with roads about access for block shed and look at funding

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5th February, 1.30pm, Unit 1**