**Unst Partnership LTD**

**Minutes of directors meeting held at Unit 1, Hagdale Industrial Estate on**

**Thursday 1st September 2016 at 6.30pm**

**Present**

Gordon Thomson, Jane Macaulay, Alison Foyster, Susan Edwards-Horton

**In attendance**

Bridgette Thomason, Admin Officer

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting and passed around agendas and minutes of the previous meetings. Apologies were noted from Sharon Calladine, George Rodger, Sarah McBurnie, Les Sinclair, Selina May Miller., Kellie Naulls.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting –** approved by Jane and Alison

**3. Matters Arising:**

**Grants and staffing:** Gordon apologised for being late in applying to Coastal Communities Fund for the most recent round. Our bid was not accepted. This means that we need to look elsewhere for funding in 2017-18. LEADER Shetland looked a good prospect but match funding would also be needed, possibly from HIE, SIC or other Big Lottery Funds. Kellie is hoping to attend a Big Lottery seminar in Lerwick next week (7th Sept). We had received legal advice from Harper Macleod about State Aid and how they felt that our previous (and future) funding was unlikely to break State Aid rules as (a) it did not involve economic activity and (b) did not conflict with other Member States. (EU rules still remain despite Brexit.) We discussed how to best meet the different criteria for Funders (including referring to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) and agreed to a meeting ***purely on Funding on Wed 14th Sept at Unit 1.***

**4. Skip scheme** - Bridgette outlined the present Skip scheme funding. Taking out an UP Management fee of £250, the project is still about £1200 short. We received £1400 funding from SIC Community Development Fund and so far about 45 Annual Memberships at £50 plus occasional user payments of £20. But the total cost is just under £5000. Various possible sponsors or funders were suggested: Sandison Trust, Community Choices Fund, Participatory Budgeting fund which is used by some Community councils. The latter two had both closed but could be looked at next year.

***Next Skip date is Saturday 24th September – Gordon and Susan were away. We would need two or three Directors or Monitors present. (Gordon to check.)***

**5. Hydrogen project** -Baltasound JHS parent Council has given outline approval for a Hydrogen project to provide low cost energy for the School. Gordon to contact Ross Gazey (PURE) and Ross Jones (Local Energy Scotland) on the next steps. As a Prototype Project this could attract funding, although at present SIC have not committed any money to this. We would need funding to follow this up using “expert” advice. Possible sites were discussed and other possible users who might be interested in such a project.

**6. Tourism report** (Gordon reported for Kellie & Selina) Support for UnstFest had been good this year, with Kellie and Selina promoting events through Social Media and Kellie getting good publicity through her articles and photos from Desley Stickle in the local press.

Kellie and Selina are both busy preparing the FestiYell programme with a full weekend of events planned for 9th-11th September. Transport was also going to be provided if anyone required it.

Out of season events planned include the Food Tour of Unst in November and another writers Retreat weekend. The Yummy Mummy event is postponed due to uncertainties about Hotel ownership; the Winter Festival is not taking place but there will still be several Winter time events taking place.

Selina and Kellie are visiting Westray, Orkney later in September to look at their Tourist promotion, continuing the links with Westray in the past.

“Paths for All” grant had been secured to improve the Coastal path between Clibberswick and Norwick. Some stiles need repairing.

**7. Financial Report**. Bridgette reported that Reserves remain healthy with £7,800 in the bank. The Turbine is now up and running but we lost several months downtime from January-May. Next reading and payment due mid-September.

The CCF budget will need to be spent by the end of 2016 or returned to the funders. This appears to be on track. We agreed to purchase a small digital camera for event publicity.

**AOCB**

The **Promote Shetland** webcam was to go up outside the Tearooms at Haroldswick but has been held up due to Broadband issues.

**“Far North” exhibition** – no sign of this taking place. It may that they have decided not to use Unst as a venue.

**10. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14th  September, 7.15pm at Unit 1.**