**Unst Partnership LTD**

**Minutes of directors meeting held at Unit 1, Hagdale Industrial Estate on Wednesday 8th June 2016 at 6.30pm**

**Present**

Gordon Thomson, Sarah McBurnie, Jane Macaulay, Sharon Calladine, Alison Foyster, George Rodger.

**In attendance**

Kellie Naulls, Selina-May Miller, Alan Grieve, SIC, Bridgette Thomason

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting and passed around agendas and minutes of the previous meetings. Apologies were noted from Susan Edwards-Horton.

**2. Election of New Board – Chair, Vice-Chair, Company Sec**

Gordon then discussed with the group the election of a new board. Sarah proposed Gordon Thomson as new Chair of Unst Partnership, Jane then seconded and Gordon agreed to taking on the role of Chair for another year.

Nominations were then heard for vice-chair. Gordon nominated Sarah McBurnie as new Vice-Chair of Unst Partnership, Alison seconded this proposal. It was then agreed that Sarah would take over as Vice-Chair from Steve Swan.

Company Secretary had already been agreed as George Rodger from the AGM meeting.

Gordon said that he had informally invited Annette Jamieson and Shona Skinner from Yell to join in on UP directors meetings.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Matters Arising**

Gordon discussed minutes from Thursday 31st March. He said to the group that there is no LDO in post as Verona’s funding ended for her contract. Gordon invited directors to use the desk space available if it was needed. Composting, broadband and other projects have lost the person working on them. GT said that he would follow up with Halligarth on the project for the area there. This would be with the National Trust. The damaged Inverter means that we received over £7,000 back in compensation from insurance. The group thanked Gordon for his hard work on this.

Poly tunnels, Gordon said that he would chase up debtors. Gordon said he had spoken to Nigel Stickle about getting the fence repaired as there had been complaints about debris. He said that Nigel had quoted around £1,000 for the work needing done, which could be aided be the excess insurance money. Piping/taps near the polytunnel needs fixed too – George and Gordon will follow up on this.

Group agreed that minute from 31st March was correct. GT signed the minutes.

**4. Tourism Development Update (Selina, Kellie) and LEADER bid**

GT then introduced Selina and Kellie to the group to give an update on Tourism Development. Kellie gave a brief overview to the group of both posts. Kellie had been in post for 20 weeks, Selina had been in post for 12 weeks. Selina is Unst Tourism Development Officer and Kellie is the North Isles Tourism Development Officer. Kellie said that herself and Selina had been extremely busy and had made very good progress to date.

Kellie then gave an update of progress to date including visitors, Yell and Unst Map updates. The group then gave Selina changes to the Unst Map too. Electronic Boards at Ferry terminals have been updated with VIP opening and closing times. Kellie & Selina were working on the board at Belmont and also new tour packages including UHA and Creative Writers Weekend. They also updated the group on the young person’s work experience has also been good. Kellie also updated the group about the creative Yell festival and her Isles View column.

Social Media: in June both Visit Yell and Visit Unst had been viewed over 30,000 times. Information pack will be sent out to accommodation providers throughout the islands too. World Host Training will also be piloted in the North Isles in Unst with the school.

Kellie then ran through the tourism progress to date including: 60 North Radio, Robina Barton, Working with Promote Shetland, Selina updated the group on a display cabinet in Islesburgh Community Centre in Lerwick for North Isles products which will run for the months of July & August.Promote Shetland are intending to make some North Isles short films, which will be focussed on North Isles residents.

GT asked about progress for the webcams and Kellie said the Unst one was due to be working hopefully soon at Victoria’s Tearooms.

Selina updated the group on a possible exhibition that could be taking place at Saxa Vord called the ‘Far North’ as part of Visit Scotland’s year of Architecture.

Gordon then moved on to discuss the future of Unst Partnership and its funding. GT informed the group that there was **no funding at present** for any posts after 31st December 2016. He said that they had met with Fiona Stirling of HIE about this, however HIE were only willing assist in funding one position Tourism Development post. LEADER funding however was an option for the project, and GT had hoped that this would be the way forward with the project.

Kellie told the group that she and Selina were working on an expression of interest for LEADER however a match funder would need to be sourced to support the LEADER application. (Sharon said that LEADER had been really positive about funding for Belmont.) Kellie then ran through the three aims which were in connection with both the UP project and LEADER. Both Kellie and Gordon gave a brief summary of de minimis funding and state aid and how this could be an issue for Unst Partnership gaining future funding.

GT told the group that he was working on this. Kellie then told the group that the next date for Expression of Interest for LEADER was the 10th of August. Kellie said that she and Selina were both looking into other options for match funders.

**5. Hydrogen Project – Alan Grieve, SIC**

Gordon then moved on to discuss the Hydrogen Project and the Hydrogen Report that had been discussed at the previous meeting. He then introduced Alan Grieve to the group from the Shetland Islands Council. Gordon told the group that the SIC were very in support of hydrogen projects; however there was no funding to help these projects move forward from them. Alan would be the main point of contact for these projects at the SIC for advice etc.

Alan then discussed the hydrogen project and the benefits of this project. Alan said that the report discusses lots of potential uses for hydrogen. Alan used the example of Orkney who he said have been really active in the use of hydrogen projects in the last couple of years. He said that they were doing at least two hydrogen projects at present.

Alan said that the utilisation of community halls was a brilliant idea- having the combination of heat and power together; this would be a really unique project.

Alan then said that he would like to see a hydrogen project being done in Baltasound School. He said that there could be potential there for this project through renewable energy sources. Gordon asked if the school was a possible project, then they would need to discuss this with the school, the community council and find a potential site for a wind turbine to go up. Alan said that the first part of the project would be getting the wind turbine up and the second part of the project would be getting the hydrogen, the third part of the project would be using the hydrogen. Nothing can happen unless a turbine goes up.

Bridgette then asked if this would be utilised as a pilot project to show good example, which Alan agreed with. Jane asked if it were to be based within the Baltasound School, could this be a potential argument for the school to stay open. The group agreed that this would definitely be a benefit. Alan said that his main focus was to reduce the council’s carbon and energy usage, so if this can be done then it will be beneficial to everyone. Alan explained that hydrogen can be split up two ways either through fuel cells or combustion. Combustion produces heat, fuel cells produce electricity. Combined heat and power would provide a small amount of electricity.

Jane then asked Alan if his department would support this project going ahead which Alan agreed to. Jane then said that the actions for Unst Partnership would be to source funding, speak to the school and find land for the wind turbine itself. Local Energy Scotland wold be an organisation which UP could approach to get help with the energy project. Alan said that he would happily sign-post and advise on this project.

Jane asked who we would need to have on board for a school project. Alan said the Education Department of the SIC and mentioned his boss, Carl Symons. Alan said that ideally a development officer would be in post however this project could be run with volunteers. GT then mentioned a feasibility study and a plan for how this would all work.

Alan said that he didn’t think that the wind turbine would need to be near the school at all, and that the hydrogen could be transported on the back of a lorry. The location of potential wind turbine sites was then discussed too by the group, including any local land owners who are in support of the school or an energy project.

Gordon discussed the next steps which were to speak to Ross Jones of Local Energy Scotland and speak to the school to see if they are interested in the project too. Actions: speak to the school, Fiona, Ross and try to locate some land as well as look into funding.

Map: Alan asked if Selina could add the EV charging point on at the school to the map, and Selina discussed other Unst Map changes. The map would be out shortly.

**6. Skip Scheme**

GT then ran through the Skip Scheme and said that Sarah had put out notices around Unst with the Yellow Pages. GT updated the group and said that they had had about 10 or 11 people signed up so far; however for the scheme to run it realistically needs to have 50 people signed up.

Sarah suggested holding a meeting with as much of the island as possible to explain the skip scheme and to try and encourage more people to join in on the skip scheme itself. Bridgette asked if businesses could sponsor the skip scheme and Sarah also suggested collection buckets for this.

**7. Financial Report and core-running funding**

Bridgette outlined the financial report as circulated prior to the Meeting.

**8. Forward planning**

* Funding and De Minimis (Gordon looking for legal advice; Kellie and Selina and working on LEADER application)
* BJHS Hydrogen Project – discuss with BJHS and LES (Gordon)
* UnstFest – Kellie and Selina working on raising media profile
* FestiYell – plans for this being made by Kellie and Selina
* Skip Memberships – encourage people to join. (Next Skip Day Sat 20th August, 9.30-11.30)

**9. AOCB None**

**10. Date of next meeting Wednesday 1st September 6.30pm at Unit 1.**