

Unst Partnership Ltd

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE BALTASOUND HALL,
LIBRARY ROOM ON TUESDAY, 17 APRIL 2012 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT

Murray Brown
Frances Browne
Hannah Eynon
Willie Henderson
Dave Howitt
Jennifer Howitt
Jane Macaulay
Minnie Mouatt
Maggi Reyner
Steve Swan
Bridgette Thomason
Gordon Thomson
Paul Thomson

1. APOLOGIES & PROXIES

Chas Hollis & Julie Thomson.

No proxies received.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Minutes of the previous AGM on 17th November 2010 had been circulated and were taken as read & adopted. Proposed by Gordon, seconded by Paul.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Gordon welcomed everyone to the Meeting & presented the Chairman's report – attached as Appendix 1 to the Minute; this was discussed & approved by those present.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

A financial report to 31st March 2012 had been circulated to Directors before the Meeting & Bridgette gave an update on the financial situation during the course of the year. Accounts were approved for onward submission to Bon Accord Accountancy.

5. Election of Directors

Kelda Hudson & Chas Hollis had stepped down previously.

Nominations forms for Directorship were received from Murray Brown, Dave Howitt and Steve Swan.

5. Election of Directors (cont)

Election of Directors then followed:

Murray Brown

Proposed by: Steve Swan

Seconded by: Dave Howitt

Dave Howitt

Proposed by: Murray Brown

Seconded by: Steve Swan

Jane Macaulay

Proposed by: Dave Howitt

Seconded by: Paul Thomson

Minnie Mouatt

Proposed by: Paul Thomson

Seconded by: Gordon Thomson

Gordon Thomson

Proposed by: Dave Howitt

Seconded by: Paul Thomson

Maggi Reyner

Proposed by: Paul Thomson

Seconded by: Minnie Mouat

Paul Thomson

Proposed by: Maggie Reyner

Seconded by: Minnie Mouat

Steve Swan

Proposed by: Murray Brown

Seconded by: Dave Howitt

It was agreed to elect office bearers at the next Meeting of the Partnership and anyone interested in joining the Board as a co-opted Director was asked to contact Gordon.

Gordon thanked everyone for attending & since there was no further business, the Meeting was brought to a close.

APPENDIX 1

Unst Partnership Ltd – Chairman’s Report – 17th April 2012

Our last AGM was in November 2010. We moved the AGM from 2011 to the end of the financial year so I will comment on events since then.

2010 – The Spinning Mill Feasibility study showed an investment of just under £1M was required to set up Mill and café area in Uyeasound. Directors felt the level of investment required for 1 full time and 2 p/t posts was not justifiable. Nor was there universal support from the crofting community – they said it would still depend on price and if wool was fetching a better price elsewhere they would go with it. The majority of the Directors decided not to pursue the Mill project at this time.

We had 1 employee then – Mike Smith, Community Powerdown Officer, paid through Keep Scotland Beautiful and Community Energy Scotland. Mike helped to set up the polytunnel project at the school, with assistance from URGE and the Moving On project. There are 6 tunnels now in operation, although 3 took some storm damage this winter and are awaiting new polythene covers. All tunnels are occupied. UP were also involved in advising with the recent Govt “Changeworks” scheme where 2 local people were involved in advising North Isles residents on heating grants and loft insulation. Fuel poverty is still a problem in Unst but some householders were able to receive loft insulation and advice on reducing energy costs.

Mike’s contract ended in March 2011. We had applied to KSB for further funding to look into a District Heating scheme but the bid was rejected. We would like to thank Mike for his work over those two years.

With assistance from Community workers Helen Bradley and Julie Thomson, the Partnership embarked on a Community consultation to see what Unst residents wanted in their community. Several meetings took place and questionnaires were sent out to gauge public opinion on the subject. The main headings for the study were: Housing, Transport, Economy/Industry (including agriculture), Arts and Heritage, Health and Social Care, Environment and Renewables, Education and Training.

Some of the suggestions made were ones that the partnership could follow up; others were for other lead bodies such as the SIC, SNH, North Isles Childcare and the NHS to follow up. The projects that the Partnership were to be most involved with were based around Tourism promotion, Renewable Energy, Re-Cycling and the Polytunnels development.

On the strength of the initial findings, we were able with the help of HIE to fund a Community Development Worker and a part time Admin Assistant on 9 hours a week to support us complete the final plan. We were also able to have an office for the first time in three years.

This final Community Development Plan document was completed recently and secured funding for a further two years development work for Hannah and Bridgette. Hannah Eynon has now been in post since June 2011 and has started to make a lot of valuable contacts here and around Shetland.

In November, the Partnership helped to broker the Tasty Tour of Unst with the SIC Economic Devt Dept, and with support from Julie Thomson, Frances Browne, Jane Macaulay and assorted food and drink producers, not to mention Uyeasound UHA squad, they provided a very successful tour event which is likely to be repeated.

APPENDIX 1 (cont)

Unst Partnership Ltd – Chairman's Report – 17th April 2012

As a result of local requests to re-open the Bistro, we have been able, with the help of a local donation, to assist Marie Hallam and Bob McIvor to open the Northern Lights Bistro on a six month lease. Hannah is also in the process of putting together a free 3D map of Unst for visitors, drawn by local artist Ted Harrison and it will be appearing shortly as an A3 leaflet with the map on one side and adverts/information on the back panels.

One of our Directors, Chas Hollis has been heavily involved with Tourism promotion and has set up a Walkers are Welcome status for Unst, the first island in the UK to have this. Chas is also busy getting going with his Unst Cycle Hire business next door to the Chocolate Factory and is standing down as a Director. We thank him for all his work in this past year.

We are continuing to pursue a renewable energy project and with the apparent go-ahead for Viking Energy. we have been asked if we wish to be involved in the NINES scheme being run by SSE. NINES basically involves setting up a large energy storage battery near Lerwick which will store energy produced by local groups. We are still interested in siting a turbine on Unst on a suitable site, to provide cheaper energy and an income for community benefit. One suggestion recently has been that we supply energy to the School and Leisure Centre, helping to reduce their running costs, making them more attractive to the SIC and less likely as a target for closure or reduced opening. Using the income to reduce fuel poverty in the community is another option.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Hannah and Bridgette for their work in the past year. And with Kelda Hudson and Chas Hollis both stepping down, I would like to thank them and the other Directors for their work over this period. We are keen to recruit at least two new directors and if you are interested in the work of the Partnership, please consider it. We meet roughly every 4-6 weeks and while the work is entirely voluntary, the tea and homebakes are good.

Gordon Thomson
Chairman
17th April 2012