

Unst Partnership Ltd

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE BALTASOUND HALL,
LIBRARY ROOM ON TUESDAY, 23rd APRIL 2014 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT

Colin Edwards-Horton, Susan Edwards-Horton, John Gill, Paula Goddard, Jane Macaulay, Sarah McBurnie, Minnie Mouatt, George Rodger, Steve Swan, Gordon Thomson (Chair).

IN ATTENDANCE

Verona Shaw, Bridgette Thomason.

1. APOLOGIES & PROXIES

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered an introduction to the aims and objectives and background of the Partnership.

Apologies were received from Paul Thomson, Alison Foyster and Dick Foyster.

No proxies were received.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Minutes of the previous AGM on 23rd April 2013 had been circulated and were taken as read and adopted. Proposed by: George Rodger, seconded by John Gill.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Gordon summarised the Chairman's annual report (attached as Appendix 1). Several discussions arose around the subjects of the Northern Lights Bistro, waste management services, Halligarth house and gardens and community broadband. Questions were taken from the floor and the Partnership's core funding situation was also clarified.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

A financial report to 31st March 2013 had been circulated to Directors before the meeting and copies available at the meeting. Bridgette gave an update on the financial situation, including Feed in Tariff income, project funds, assets and a healthy Reserves figure. Anyone keen to see these figures in greater detail should contact Verona at the Partnership office, where copies are also available. The Directors agreed to sign off the presented accounts for last business year. The core running budget for the Partnership has been set for the next three years however funding is only secured until June 2015.

5. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Gordon explained that Murray Brown is no longer a Director as he stepped down from the Committee last year and stated that Chris Dumont had also noted his resignation from the Board of Directors.

Discussion followed on what is involved in being on the Board and on the roles and responsibilities of Directors. Nominations for Directorship were received for Sarah McBurnie and Colin and Susan Edwards-Horton. Colin and Susan also signed up to membership of the Partnership at this point.

Election of Directors then followed:

Co-opted Director for specific projects, Sarah McBurnie: -
Proposed by: Steven Swan
Seconded by: Paula Goddard

Colin Edwards-Horton: -
Proposed by: Sarah McBurnie
Seconded by: Gordon Thomson

Susan Edwards-Horton: -
Proposed by: Gordon Thomson
Seconded by: Steven Swan

It was agreed to elect office bearers at the next Partnership meeting.

6. AOCB

Verona noted that a forthcoming training session for new and current Directors would be at the end of May/start of June and would cover roles and responsibilities alongside the delivery of the UP business plan.

The date of the next UP meeting is Tuesday 6th May at 6.30pm in Unit 1.

Gordon thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close.

APPENDIX 1

Unst Partnership Ltd – Chairman's Report – 23rd April 2014

A summary of the main activities of the Partnership over the past year:-

Tourist map

The updated and printed tourist maps were distributed locally, on the ferries and in the Tourist Information, Sumburgh Airport and Northlink Terminal in April 2013. This year's map is being prepared and will go out shortly. This is free to visitors and costs are now covered by advertisers. Many thanks to Ted Harrison for updating the design for us each year.

Northern Lights Bistro, Haroldswick

The Partnership had the property valued at the start of April 2013 and offered negotiations with the owners on the price. HIE have supported and assisted with research and the development of a business plan for exploring the viable options for the Partnership taking on the Bistro and running it as a community asset. The premises remain up for sale (April 2014) and at the valuation price but it is unlikely that UP can source suitable tenants to take the business on this summer. Chefs/cooks are in short supply all over Shetland and it is doubtful that we can take out a lease this summer. However, we are still looking at purchasing the property, with a view to opening in 2015.

NTS property - Halligarth Woods, Baltasound

The National Trust for Scotland hired AB Associates of Scalloway to do a feasibility study on these premises as a Visitor Centre, with a focus on natural heritage. Costs are predicted to be in the region of £1m and it remains to be seen whether NTS can raise funding for this. They are keen that a local group of Trustees take on to run the property when and if it is completed.

Community Allotments

Five of the six allotments are currently occupied but winter gales did severe damage to the polythene skins. We have two spare that we intend to erect shortly but we have informed the allotmentees that in future UP cannot pay for covers; it will therefore be up to the allotment holders to decide how they wish to use their plot, either as a basic allotment or with a net or polythene cover. There is still a good site there, with a supply of tools and other equipment that can be used. We are grateful to the Baltasound Junior High School for the provision of a water supply.

Asset management

The Ifor Williams trailer continues to be hired out occasionally and has brought in a small income. The wind turbine at Hagdale also gives us an income of about £1500 per annum. We gave up the other 6Kw turbine as it was beyond economic repair and it is now back in generation and managed by the Pure Energy Centre.

North Isles Community Broadband

Meetings between Shetland Broadband, Shetland Telecom and LDOs from Unst, Fetlar and Northmavine resulted in the coming together of all the Community Councils and Development Companies in the North Isles to discuss options for the provision of better broadband. Surveys to gather user information were distributed to businesses and consumers/residents in order to establish current coverage, provision and user needs. www.ni4cb.com was set up to disseminate information to the communities. Community Broadband Scotland have supported and funded the community partnership to undertake a scoping exercise and technical options appraisal. Shetland Broadband LLP were appointed to undertake the technical options appraisal to present the all the options available for the target areas in the North Isles, North Mainland and Skerries.

Promotion and communication

We have communicated our activities through our quarterly newsletters and communication continues through the Facebook page. Most members are now on email, greatly reducing mailing costs. We would like to increase membership from 80 to over 110 in this coming year. We also manned a small stall at the Unst Show to publicise the group's activities. UP reports to Unst Community Council as a standing item on their agenda. Two UCC members are on the Board of

Unst Partnership. Membership is open to any island resident over 18 and on the Unst Electoral roll. Associated members from out with Unst are also welcome.

North Atlantic Native Sheep & Wool Conference 2013 - tour

The Partnership assisted with this event when it visited the Haroldswick Hall last October, arranging for stall holders to be present and organizing a raffle to cover costs. A small fundraiser took place at Unst Show to support this.

Waste Management Survey

In September we received grant aid from the SIC Community Development Fund for a 3 month study into Waste Management on the island. The study was completed by Paula Goddard and copies are available here tonight. We are keen to move this forward with some community skip provision, a Recycling Centre and if possible, an anaerobic digestion project.

Business Start-Up/Planning course

Staff and three Directors attended this Business Gateway course (which was hosted by UP) on 22-23 February 2014. This was to help the Directors in planning for future business requirements regarding the Bistro or possibly North Isles Broadband. It explained how to prepare a business plan and made us think about the considerations in starting up any business venture.

Core Funding

We held several meetings with HIE re core funding for 2014-17. Unfortunately, HIE could only provide 50% of this and the SIC Economic Development Department withdrew their funding entirely. This effectively means that we have funding until June 2015 only, with the remaining £70K to be sourced elsewhere if we are to continue with our three year plan. We now have to approach various funding bodies to see if they can assist with this; we will also need to try to raise some funding locally, either from events that we organize or our own business projects.

And finally...

I would like to thank our staff (Verona and Bridgette) and Directors for their work and support over this past year, including Murray Brown, who resigned earlier this year. Chris Dumont is also stepping down and we would be glad to see some others in the community willing to put their name down as a Director. No pay and few perks but we believe that we can continue to stimulate development and projects on the island.

Gordon Thomson
Chair
April 2014